



Longboat Key News

August 15, 2025

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

FREE

InsideLook



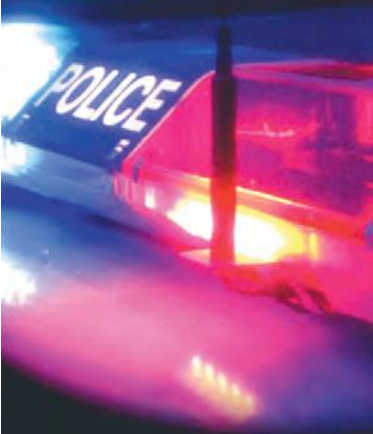
Rest rebuilds mental strength ...page 3



LBK leads at \$4.25 million ...page 11



Return the serve every time ...page 13



Nude in the sun on the balcony ...page 10

Longboat's Endless Summer



A peaceful evening captured by Longboater Richard Buchanan.

Historic St. Armands home hits market at \$17.5 million

One of Sarasota's architecturally significant and culturally rich estates is on the market.

Listed at \$17.5 million, the historic Casa del Carnevale is located at 139 S. Washington Drive just off of Saint Armands Circle.

The estate was originally built in 1936 by Midwestern industrialist Charles E. Leigh, co-founder of the Lavoris Chemical Company and inventor of Lavoris mouthwash.

The residence was added to the National Register of Historic Places



in 1991 by Leigh's daughter, Marion McKennon. The home's original design by Whittington Associates

and construction by Paul Bergman reflected the elegance of John See St. Armands, page 2

FST Receives \$150,000 Grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Florida Studio Theatre has received a \$150,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to support the naming of the Mainstage Sound and Lights Booth in the McGillicuddy Arts Plaza, honoring the legacy of the late Muriel O'Neil. Funding for this project has been provided by the Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts.

"The Mainstage Sound and Light Booth is where all the magic comes together in real time," said Richard Hopkins, FST's Producing Artistic Director. "It's the unseen hub that controls the lights, the sound, and the seamless flow of production. To have Muriel O'Neil's name there, presiding over every cue and every performance, is a beautiful way to honor her enduring passion for the arts."

As part of this gift, a commemorative plaque will be installed in the McGillicuddy Arts Plaza, ensuring O'Neil's story and unwavering commitment to the performing arts remains a visible and permanent part of FST's campus.

Sarasota's Le Colonne to Reopen as Nōnnō Umbertō Italian Seafood & Steakhouse

Founded in 1998, Le Colonne was a perennial choice for upscale Italian food in Sarasota for years. Now, Le Colonne is preparing to reopen with Chef Simone Salustri at the helm, under the new name honoring Le Colonne's founder. Opening in the same location, at 22 S Blvd of the Presidents, St. Armands Circle, it will be called Nōnnō Umbertō Italian Seafood & Steakhouse.

NewsWorthy

Briefs from Town Manager Howard Tipton

Welcome Chief Russ Mager – Town's New Police Chief

Chief Mager was officially introduced to the Town Commission on June 27 and was sworn in on August 4, at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall Commission Chamber. Mager brings nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience - including 29 years of service at the City of Delray Beach Police Department.

Tipton said, "Chief Mager brings strong leadership, deep operational knowledge, and a commitment to community-focused policing. His experience overseeing a larger department and leading complex, citywide initiatives positions him well to support Longboat Key's long-term vision for public safety."

Utilities Undergrounding Project latest

All electrical work is complete. Contractor Wilco has installed all new backlit street name signs and nearly all are activated. Upon completion of design and permitting, Wilco will begin installing new light poles along the multi-use trail on the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Underway

Beachfront lights now glow red or yellow to protect nesting and hatching turtles. Dogs are not allowed on Longboat Key beaches—only leashed, trained service animals are permitted. (note: therapy and emotional support animals are not included under this exception). Even well-behaved pets can disturb wildlife and disrupt nesting. Remove beach furniture, fill holes and leave only your footprints. Learn more at www.longboatkey.org.

GMD Turn Lane Project report

Construction continues to progress in accordance with the project schedule. Superior Asphalt, Inc. is continuing with the installation of base rock. The tree removal work has been completed. Looking ahead, the installation of the structural asphalt course, the drainage structure and the piping are the next expected upcoming construction activities.

Tourist taxes dip

After two consecutive sets of reports showing month-over-month increases in the Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenue, the latest data released by Sarasota County Tax Collector Mike Moran say June collections came in \$24,032.01 less than the June 2024 funds.

Altogether, the revenue for this June added up to \$3,708,305.12, which was approximately 0.6% less than the June 2024 total of \$3,732,337.13.

With three months of collections left this fiscal year, the total Tourist Development Tax (TDT) revenue stood at \$39,036,063.55, which is down by \$1,316,993.71, compared to the figure representing the funds that the Tax Collector's Office took in from Oct. 1, 2023 through June 2024.

The initial reports released for June 2024 put the total revenue at that time at \$40,291,145.79. The figure for the collections through June of this year is about 3.1% lower than that amount.

The 6% tax is charged on accommodations rented for six months or less time.. The revenue is used for beach maintenance, the two Major League Baseball Spring Training stadiums in the county and promotion of tourism.

Airbnb hosts had contributed \$5,468,007.31 in TDT revenue through June of this year. That is about 5.3% lower than the \$5,773,181.04 in June 2024.

Cirque on Lido hosts Kidd Kraddick radio show

Summer fun hit the airwaves when VISIT FLORIDA and Visit Sarasota County collaborated to host the Kidd Kraddick Morning Show – a nationally syndicated radio broadcast reaching 2.6 million daily listeners across 70 markets – to promote local attractions and experiences in destination. The morning show broadcasted LIVE from the new Cirque St. Armands Beachside hotel from July 28 to August 1 as part of its annual KiddNation Family Vacation special broadcast.

Allegiant Air announces new nonstop route from SRQ

The Sarasota Bradenton International Airport announced a new Allegiant flight Tuesday, connecting Sarasota and Rochester, New York, with one-way fares as low as \$59. The route is set to begin flying Feb. 13, 2026.

The announcement comes just two weeks after SRQ announced another nonstop Allegiant

route to Toledo, Ohio. The airline now has 34 nonstop destinations through SRQ.

Allegiant also announced three new routes between Huntsville, Alabama, and Fort Lauderdale, St. Petersburg and Sanford. Additionally, it announced a new route from Orlando to Appleton, Wisconsin.

St. Armands, from page 1

Ringling Estates.

In 2003, a Washington, D.C. couple with expertise in historic restoration undertook a transformative renovation. The update and expansion was led by architect Wm. Thorning Little and builder Pat Ball. The project spanned six years of design and 14 months of construction to preserve and elevate the home's Addison Mizner-inspired Mediterranean Revival style.

In 2021, the current owners completed additional renovations.

The estate has been listed by Realtor Judy Kepez-Hays and her team, Steven Kepez and Leah George of Coldwell Banker Realty.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to own an exquisite piece of Sarasota's history," says Judy Kepez-Hays. "Casa del Carnevale is more than simply a unique home—it's a charming, inviting, living museum of craftsmanship, legacy, elegance, with modern-luxury conveniences."

The home is situated on three lots, with about 170 feet of water frontage in the John Ringling Estates neighborhood.

Ads that work...
 941.387.2200
 ads@lbknews.com



CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHS

YOU CREATE THE DREAM — WE CREATE THE REALITY

LEADING CONDO AND HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST LOCATED ON LONGBOAT KEY!





941-925-3723

Transforming your home, one room at a time — bringing your vision to life on Longboat Key.

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

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

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

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



www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com



SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY

Sandra Smith

| 941.383.3388

VISIT US ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL! 510 BAY ISLES ROAD SUITE 1, LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228

CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

KeyHealth

Rest Rebuilds Thought and Memory

Once again, food, sleep, and activity are linked at the cellular level. The more we think about a subject, the more that part of the brain is used. The more it is used, the more active it is in deep sleep. The better our sleep, the better our memories, and the smaller our waistlines.

MATTHEW EDLUND
 Guest Columnist
 news@lbknews.com

Why sleep? is a question that has been asked for thousands of years. According to the magazine the Economist, a group of researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, may now have a novel answer.

Sleep has long been thought to aid in the control of energy metabolism. Many have argued that eight hours of human sleep only “saves” two hundred calories of energy per night. That figure is now in dispute.

The energy saving has been calculated comparing human sleep with absolute rest. That may be inaccurate, according to sleep researcher Dr. Jerry Siegel of UCLA. A more relevant comparison would be with humans are meant to normal do - moving and walking. Compared with walking or normal human activity levels, sleep indeed saves a large amount of energy.

Yet energy preservation through sleep may occur prominently in a site until recently less studied – the brain. So write Drs. Giulio Tononi and Chiara Cirelli, who have been studying sleep in both humans and fruit flies.

For a long time researchers considered it ridiculous to think that fruit flies “sleep.” Though their brains are very different from humans, flies do indeed have long periods of rest that mimic human sleep. There are also neuro-electrical discharges in their sleep similar to what happens in people.

Unlike humans, fruit flies are the best genetically studied species on the planet. With chromosomes which copy their DNA a thousand fold, the genetics of fruit flies is literally visible under the microscope. Since the work of Edward Hunt Morgan in the 1920’s, the genes of flies have now been extensively mapped for more than eighty years.

Fruit flies have visible chromosomes. They are easy to feed and multiply. Their lives are short. And they can be created in a huge number of mutant types where one can look at genetic changes one gene at a time.

One of the fruit fly mutants studied by Cirelli and Tononi is a very short sleeper. Rather than getting eight to twelve hours of sleep per day, these flies sleep only two to three hours. Rather like their short sleeping brethren human brethren, the short resting flies can at first try new tactics, and appear to learn.

What they can’t do is remember. Recent clinical studies demonstrate that short human sleepers do not remember well. Both deep sleep and REM sleep, two very different but critical parts of sleep, are required for memory. Both states also appear necessary to come up with answers to complicated questions, as when we go and “sleep on” a problem.

What has recently been found discovered in people is something rather novel – activate a part of the brain during the day, and you will then watch the same part activate during deep sleep. Somehow during deep sleep, the traces laid down during the day, the changes in neuronal firing and proteins, are processed so that we learn and remember.

What Tononi thinks is going on is that deep sleep “parses down” the synapses and brain proteins that develop during the day. More activation of a brain region in the day leads to increased activation in the same place during deep sleep. Yet as the night goes on, the level of deep sleep markedly decreases.

Tononi believes the synapses are downsizing. Making new proteins and cell components, which happens when we learn, is expensive. It takes energy, materials and time. The more that’s left, the more you have to maintain. Deep sleep may be part of the process where memories are “downscaled” until some don’t exist at all.



MATTHEW EDLUND



This may explain why you can’t remember the color of the wall of the bank building you passed driving to work the previous morning. We don’t remember everything. We can’t. Sleep may allow us to specialize, to build up memories we need and discard those we do not. It may also economize on brain energy stores. Proteins, sugars, and fats have to be ingested and re-made. Cleaning up synapses and paring them during the night may save us a lot of fuel and materials. Sleep is the time when we resculpt the brain.

Others feel that Tononi is almost exactly wrong. For them, memories are “built up” during sleep, not downsized. But they don’t disagree that sleep is when the process of reinforcing memory and learning takes place.

Once again, food, sleep, and activity are linked at the cellular level. The more we think about a subject, the more that part of the brain is used. The more it is used, the more active it is in deep sleep. The better our sleep, the better our memories, and the smaller our waistlines.

Food, activity, and rest operate together in all the tissues of the body. Now there’s evidence linking energy, sleep, memory, and learning in the same process. It’s a process where the body rebuilds, resets, and resculpts itself, every day of the year. The body’s constant moves between creation and destruction literally create a new body over time. And a new brain configuration.

Rest rebuilds thought. Thinking is not just an active process, but a restful one as well. Getting a proper night’s rest is a good place to start is we want to think well

Fruit flies have visible chromosomes. They are easy to feed and multiply. Their lives are short. And they can be created in a huge number of mutant types where one can look at genetic changes one gene at a time.

Laid-Back Waterfront Living!

744 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY • LONGBOAT KEY
 3BR/2BA • 1,688 SF • \$1,200,000

Fully renovated, furnished coastal retreat includes a single car garage, deeded beach access and two boat lifts with quick access to the Bay and Gulf.

405 BRYN MAWR ISLAND, BRADENTON
 2BR/2BA • 1,392 SF • \$649,000

Never flooded! This POOL home, with a 70 ft. private waterfront dock, is located on a deep saltwater canal with direct bridge-free access to Bay.

CALL FOR YOUR PRIVATE TOUR!
 Teddi Aberle, Realtor • 813.503.6128 • teddiaberle@yahoo.com
 Your Hometown Realty, Inc. • P. O. Box 10367 • Bradenton, FL 34282

Live in Your Home’s Best Light
CALL BRINGLES BLINDS TODAY

SALE! \$500 OFF all Custom Interior Shutters & Shades

Longboat residents and business owners
Chris & Dana Bringle

Bringles Blinds provides affordable blinds, shutters, shades, and master installation services to the Longboat Key, Sarasota, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and surrounding areas.

CALL FOR A FREE QOUTE — 941-320-7019
 BRINGLEBLINDS.LBK@GMAIL.COM
 BRINGLESBLINDS.COM
*Offer valid with minimum purchase of three

EditorLetters



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

Water/Sewer

To: Ray Rajewski
Good morning, Ray. I'd be happy to stop by and answer any questions you have. I am available today at 1:30 p.m. and can meet you at your residence if that works for you. Please let me know. Thank you.
Jessie Camburn
Utility Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Water/Sewer

To: Ray Rajewski
Jessie is copied on this and I'm sure will reach out.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Water/Sewer

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I would very much like to meet Jamie or Jessie! I'm available anytime and place (welcome to host them at my home).
Ray Rajewski
Longboat Key

Water/Sewer

To: Ray Rajewski
I received your note concerning your recent water/sewer bills and have reviewed your correspondence with the Town on that subject. I also spoke this morning with Jessie Camburn, Director of our Utility Department within Public Works.
While Jamie and Jessie are the experts on the utility mechanics and billing practices, I do know that we have increased rates recently due to increased charges from Manatee County water/sewer service, maintenance expenses for our LBK utility infrastructure (especially after last year's storms) and, most important, preparations to finance the replacement of our sewer line under Sarasota Bay, which experienced a serious leak several years ago.
Jamie stands ready to provide you with any further information you may need, and Jessie told me he would be happy to visit with you to discuss the matter. I hope this leads to a satisfactory resolution.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

New TDC Support Liaison

To: TDC Members
This email comes to you with a mixture of emotions as I announce my upcoming retirement. November 13, 2025, will mark the last TDC meeting I will attend. While I am filled with excitement for this new chapter in my life with my husband and family, it is also with a touch of sadness that I say goodbye.
It has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve as the TDC support liaison for the past 17 years. I have cherished my time working alongside so many remarkable community leaders,

and I am grateful for the relationships and experiences we have shared.
Moving forward, all TDC correspondence will be handled by Ann Hinkle, who will be transitioning into and assuming the TDC support liaison duties. I have full confidence in Ann's abilities and know that she will continue to provide exceptional support to the TDC.
Thank you all for your support and friendship over the years. I will treasure the memories and carry them with me as I embark on this new journey.
Anna C. Madden
Business Professional II
Office of Financial Management
Sarasota County Government

2025 Sarasota County Delegation Meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I will be attending as the rep for the Manasota League of Cities - Andrew has sent the note to our new executive.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

2025 Sarasota County Delegation Meeting

To: Longboat Key Commission
FYI from Representative McFarland. As you know, we typically have representation (usually the Mayor and myself) at both county delegation meetings. We will be discussing legislative priorities in an upcoming workshop meeting.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

2025 Sarasota County Delegation Meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Pleased to share an invitation from Representative McFarland for the Mayor and Town Council to attend this year's Sarasota delegation meeting. Note that it will be taking place in Venice. Attached is the presentation request form should the Mayor like to speak at the meeting. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!
Andrew Parker
Legislative Aide to Representative Fiona McFarland
District 73

Selection process for the next Director

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
Last Friday, we closed the door on our advertising for the new Executive Director. It's been a while since we went over the process involved with selecting the Director, and so I figured I'd take the time to go over some details with you about who is doing what, and when. Cheryl will be the day-to-day contact for logistics, but I wanted to provide you with a review of the next steps, based on what we've received.
First off, our advertisement for the new Director was seen by literally thousands of people, based on a combination of social media posts about the job, employment boards, etc. We've
See Letters, page 5

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

LAZY LOBSTER
LONGBOAT KEY

FEATURING:

- Live Maine Lobster
- Fresh Fish • Gulf Shrimp
- Salads • Seafood Favorites
- Ribs, Burgers & More!

• **Early Dining & Happy Hour**
Mon - Sat 3:30 - 5:00

Open for In-House Dining & Take Out
Lunch: Mon - Sat 11:30AM - 2:30 PM
Dinner: Mon - Sat 3:30 - 9:00 PM

Reservations now accepted online! Book a dining room table directly from our website or try our convenient online ordering for easy pick up.

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

Tripadvisor
Travelers' Choice Awards
2024

Growing in Jesus' Name *Inspirational Music*

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

Worship With Us at Our Church
Sunday Service 10:00 AM
Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor
Visitors & Residents Welcome

Watch Our 10:00 AM Service Live:
www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)

6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive • 941.383.8833 • www.christchurchoflbk.org

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

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

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

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

received lots of applications from folks who didn't do their basic homework – some who “applied” without reading our clear language about how to do so. Those applications have not been forwarded for further consideration.

However, six applications meet the basic requirements. Our next step is for the Screening Committee to go through those six and come up with a list of five to be passed on to the Policy Board for their consideration. This step was set up so that the Policy Board would not have to interview what could have been a much higher number of “qualified” applicants.

Once the Screening Committee comes up with its list of five recommended applicants to review, then those come to the Policy Board, which will conduct interviews on September 12th. We have, with your input, allowed the interviews to be conducted either in person or via Zoom or similar. If one of the five applicants cannot make either in-person or Zoom, it is up to the Policy Board to decide whether to consider that person for the position. We understand that plans can change, and people may not be able to dedicate their entire day – perhaps they have an important event or will be on vacation. But that's why we kept the Zoom meeting option. As an aside, I was a pall bearer at the funeral for a good friend's father a few hours before my interview – the timing wasn't ideal for me either. But if you REALLY want the job, you'll find a way to free up the hour or so.

The Screening Committee will not be asking questions of the applicants, but the Policy Board will. I know that many of you are used to hiring people in the private sector, for example. But as a Special Independent District, and being a recipient of Federal dollars, there are certain guidelines on the types of questions that can be asked that need to be considered. This guidance is intended to ensure that neither the Policy Board nor the SBEP will be tripped up by litigation from someone who might think that they were unfairly discriminated against.

For example, and on the advice of our outside counsel, here are questions that cannot be asked during the interview, either directly or indirectly:

You cannot discriminate based on age, so you cannot ask “What year did you graduate high school/college?”

You cannot discriminate based on religion, so you cannot ask seemingly innocuous questions such as “Are you looking forward to Christmas?”

You cannot ask personal questions, such as “Do you have children? Or, “Are you planning to have additional children?”

You cannot ask questions that are related to a protected class.

Questions that can be asked should be based on information provided by the applicant. Since the Policy Board is acting as a panel, the questions should cycle between members, rather than having only one individual ask the question. Relevant questions should focus on education, experience, and getting at questions related to claimed employment or educational experience and background. These can include, for example, the following:

Have you submitted all information requested by the application fully and accurately?

If you do not currently live within Manatee and Sarasota Counties, are you willing to move here within the time frame listed in the advertisement?

Are you able to perform all the tasks required for this position?

May we contact your previous employers?

Can you describe the basic functions of the SBEP?

Its organizational structure

Its priorities

Its funding sources

Major success stories and/or continued challenges facing stakeholders

Situational questions

Describe your experience working with elected officials.

Are you comfortable with your knowledge of Florida's Sunshine Law, and could you advise an elected official that their speech or behavior may violate such?

Describe your experience interacting with members of the public/stakeholders regarding a subject or action.

What do you consider the most difficult management scenario you have experienced as a manager, and why?

Describe your experience with an organization's budgetary process. What was your role?

Have you ever had to terminate, lay off, or place an employee on a management plan? Describe each instance if you have had an experience.

Describe your experience working with contracts for construction and professional services.

What is your experience with public speaking and presentations? Give two examples of recent experience.

Then, you can switch to a sort of post-formal interview mode, with questions like:

1. Do you have anything additional you would like to add?

2. Do you have any questions for any of us?

The exact questions can be modified, but this list represents guidance from Jan, reviewed and modified a bit by me for specificity for SBEP-related issues. It is very important to highlight that while follow-up questions can certainly be asked, the same list of questions needs to be asked of all interviewees. You cannot, for example, ask someone about adhering to Sunshine Law based on a “feeling” that one individual might not know about it. Because it could well be that none of them knows much about it! Similarly, you cannot ask one individual if you can contact their prior employer without asking all of them the same question.

It's important to note that once the Policy Board makes a selection, that may or may not be the final step. The last time, after the selection was complete, the Board gave the Policy Board member from FDEP and SBEP's legal counsel the authority to negotiate a contract, as long as the salary and benefits, etc., are within the range listed in the advertisement. Members from EPA and FDEP share chairing the Policy Board, but since EPA is a non-voting member, it is more appropriate for that task to fall to the EPA member.

During this negotiation phase, the SBEP will conduct a criminal background check and will check on their employment status to ensure that it meets Federal and State criteria.

If the first choice does not agree to the terms, or if there is a red flag raised through the background check, and/or their employment status is problematic, then the Board could pre-authorize the FDEP member and the legal counsel to move to the second-ranked applicant, after informing the Policy Board about the need to do such. This approach, the delegation of authority to negotiate and guidance to be able to move to the second-ranked choice if negotiations fail with the first choice, could be covered in a motion from the Policy Board on September 12th.

This sounds like a lot of steps, but it's not going to be too problematic. Cheryl Dexter onboarded me, and Cheryl and I onboarded Heather, who then assisted when we onboarded Megan, and also Ryan. We're kind of used to the steps, but the decision on who the next Director is going to be – that's entirely on the Policy Board.

Please reach out to me with any questions or comments, and remember – since the SBEP is covered by Florida's Sunshine Law, questions regarding an applicant have to be made in a public forum that is advertised beforehand, with meeting minutes provided and accessible to the public for their review. You cannot discuss applicants among yourselves.

David Tomasko

Executive Director

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

June Tourism Numbers from Visit Sarasota County

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Writing to share our June, 2025 tourism numbers for Sarasota County.

A few notes about this month:

- ADR increased significantly (+8.8%) year-over-year, and occupancy increased (+4.7%) resulting in a significant increase in RevPAR (+13.9%).

- The year-to-date number of visitors from the Central Europe, Other Europe, and Other International regions has increased year over year, while the number of visitors from the United Kingdom and Canada has decreased.

June 2025 Visitor numbers

Here are all of the numbers comparing 2025 to 2024:

Visitors were 130,600 compared to 133,700 in 2024

Visitor direct expenditures were \$138,630,500 compared to \$145,529,700 in 2024

Lodging occupancy was 62.0% compared to 59.2% in 2024

Lodging average room rate was \$286.81 compared to \$263.71 in 2024

There were 244,100 room nights sold compared to 240,600 in 2024

As always, if there is anything we can do for you or your business at Visit Sarasota County,

See Letters, page 6

RINGSIDE
EAT. DRINK. SAVOR

Sarasota's Newest Dining Spectacle - Now Open!

A fresh, inventive dining destination just a short stroll from St. Armands Circle, Ringside balances bold flavors and Gulf seafood favorites in the mesmerizing setting of Cirque St. Armands Beachside.

opalcollection.com/cirque-st-armands 941.388.5555

Ads that work...

941.387.2200

Letters, from page 5

do not hesitate to reach out!

Erin Duggan
President/CEO
Visit Sarasota

Sunset Drive to Bird Key Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

Below is information coming to our attention about a resiliency and capacity project that FDOT is conducting. The FDOT project is located primarily at the east end of the John Ringling Causeway and some work on the west side as well. Below are the details of the work, which is planned to span from January 2026 through December 2026. According to the scope information below, it appears that the goal of the project is to improve resiliency elevations at the signalized intersections, improve transit movement through the intersections, and separate

bicycle/pedestrian mobility from the transit lanes. Town staff will monitor the function of the intersections during construction and contact FDOT reps for any adjustments/improvements to the MOT, as needed, as was done during the Gulfstream Roundabout construction.

Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Sunset Drive to Bird Key Drive

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Please see my responses below, in blue. Please feel free to ask any follow up questions!

Jeff Mednick
Project Manager
FDOT

Sunset Drive to Bird Key Drive

To: Sarasota City Engineer Nik Patel

Nik and Jeff, can you provide an update on this project, please.

What is the existing scope of the project?

The project's construction limits:

SR 789, either side of the Ringling Bridge, but no work on the bridge itself.

East of the bridge: From the west side of the Gulfstream roundabout up to the east end of Ringling Bridge

West of the bridge: From the west end of Ringling Bridge to west of the Bird Key Dr. intersection.

The scope of the project is multi-fold:

Mitigate drainage issues by raising the signalized intersection elevations:

Full re-construction of the Sunset Dr. intersection; overbuild pavement of approaches

Overbuild the pavement at the Bird Key intersection, partial median & outside re-construction, as needed.

Widening of the roadway as needed to extend the transit lanes through the project limits

Separate the bicycle lanes from the transit lanes by adding sidewalk-level separated bike paths adjacent to the concrete recreational trails.

Add fiber in Ringling bridge to add physical connection for signals East & West of Ringling Bridge (currently depending on wireless).

Raise top of seawall section between along Gulfstream between Golden-Gate & the Roundabout

What is the updated timing of the project?

Bids received from contractors: June 11, 2025

Construction Contract Awarded: Late-June

Construction Contract Execution: Expected August 29, 2025 (subject to change)

"Pass-the-Torch" Meeting: Next Week (internal meeting between the Design & Construction teams to discuss many project-specific details; intended to ensure continuity from Design to Construction)

See Letters, page 8

BEACH VIBES? Check PRIME LOCATION? Check
HIGH END RENOVATIONS all completed in 2025? Check, Check & Check!



SIESTA BEACH • 5108 SAINT ALBANS AVE, SARASOTA, FL 34242
3BR/3.5BA • 1,767 SF • \$1,050,000

Whether you are looking to settle in full time or score an amazing **SHORT TERM RENTAL/VACATION HOME**, this one is a **MUST SEE!** Fresh, modern and full of character! The location? Out of this world!




Contact: Brad Wallace, Realtor (407) 375-5994
WEMERT GROUP REALTY LLC

Elevate your leisure time with unparalleled experiences.

As a member you'll enjoy:

- Championship Golf
- Private Beach & Pool
- Deep-Water Marina
- Pickleball & Tennis
- Spa & Wellness Center
- Five Exclusive Restaurants

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




LONGBOAT•KEY•CLUB



LEARN MORE



CLIVE | DANIEL HOME

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

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

DESIGN MATTERS...INSPIRATION STARTS HERE!



2025
HOME OF THE YEAR
SRQ Magazine

Best Overall Interior Design
Designer: Kelli Smith
Rank: Silver
Project: Pindari Model
Builder & Architect:
John Cannon Homes



- ◇ Total Home Creation
- ◇ Design, Renovation, New Build
- ◇ Expert Interior Designers
- ◇ Exclusive Collections

- ◇ Beautiful In-Stock Styles
- ◇ Custom Shop
- ◇ One-of-a-Kind Rugs
- ◇ Outdoor Furniture

- ◇ Accessories, Lighting, Art
- ◇ Unique Gift Boutique
- ◇ Weekly Shipping to Midwest & Northeast
- ◇ Immediate Delivery and much more!

ELEVATING SPACES, DEFINING EXCELLENCE WITH AWARD-WINNING DESIGN!

■ SARASOTA, FL SHOWROOM

3055 Fruitville Commons Blvd.

941.900.HOME(4663)

Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm



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



SYNCHRONY

CLIVEDANIEL.COM

182601785

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

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

Construction Kick-off Meeting with Contractor: Date to be Determined

What is the current construction schedule?

Construction Start: Currently expected January 5, 2026 (it could start sooner if the contractor elects to waive their 120-days of contractually allowed material acquisition time. A decision has not yet been communicated to Construction; I should learn more soon, as we get closer to contract execution.)

Construction End: Currently expected December 14, 2026 (assuming Jan 2026 start).

Lane Closures or other impacts to traffic (MOT)?

To accomplish everything mentioned above, there will be five phases of construction, each with different work zones.

Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be open most of the time, and single lane closures will be allowed only in designated hours:

Lane closure Restrictions:

Weekdays; distance of 600' or greater from the signalized intersections: single-lane closures allowed 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Weekdays; within 600' of the signalized intersections: single-lane closures allowed 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Weekends; entire project limits: single-lane closures allowed 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The existing posted speed limits will remain in effect for the duration of construction (35 MPH)

The contractor shall maintain pedestrian and bicyclist continuity along the corridor, and when required for construction, detour them to existing shared use paths on either side of the corridor using designated crosswalks.

Charles Mopps

Public Works Director, Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for Aug. 5

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

On August 5, the enterococci survey was carried out during a high tide to an outgoing tide,

from 2.25 feet to 1.2 feet. Thick wrack was present at Caples, Indian Beach, The Bay Park, Herb Dolan Park, and Longboat Key Bayfront Park. The water was visibly murky at Caples, Indian Beach, and The Bay Park. Horses were on the shore at Palma Sola Bay at the time of sampling.

Our Southern Region water quality testing started last week! The weekly results are posted on our website and social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) for our new sampling sites, from Siesta Key to Indian Mound Park.

The results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows:

Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): Undetected

Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: Undetected

Herb Dolan Park: 134/100 mL

Palma Sola Causeway North: 246/100 mL

Braden River: 52/100 mL

Palmetto Bridge: 20/100 mL

Emerson Point: Undetected

Terra Ceia Bay: 73/100 mL

Any count exceeding 71 is considered unsafe for swimming, indicating a potential health concern. The standard for enterococci in Class II and Class III Marine waters is "MPN or MF counts shall not exceed a monthly geometric mean of 35 nor exceed the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 in 10% or more of the samples during any 30-day period. Monthly geometric means shall be based on a minimum of 10 samples taken over a 30-day period," (62-302.500 F.A.C.). The two Longboat Key sites are located in Class II waters (<https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::surface-water-class-boundaries-areas/explore?location=27.336358%2C-82.433979%2C10.00>)

We are committed to bringing these critical issues to your attention and believe your active involvement is crucial. The official reports for this week's sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical, are attached to this email. We want to encourage you to direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Dr. Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.org and Pia Ronquillo-See at waterquality@suncoastwaterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

Pia Ronquillo

Water Quality Specialist

Suncoast Waterkeeper

Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thank you for listening. I am beyond my wits-end here with 501 General Harris and 501 Norton Street. The residents here are taking pictures of all the different people and cars that

See Letters, page 12

Blinds & Designs of Florida

SAVE! Up to 35% Off Plantation Shutters

HunterDouglas

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

Visit our Showroom **941-360-9200**
4201 N. Washington Blvd. Sarasota
Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm & Sat 10 am to 2 pm
www.blindsanddesignsofflorida.com

LONGBOAT KEY TENNIS CENTER
Join the fun!

10 OPEN COURTS | TOURNAMENT PLAY | LESSONS
FULL SERVICE TENNIS PRO SHOP
ROUND ROBIN LEAGUE
CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS AND CLINICS

OPEN MON-FRI 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
SAT-SUN 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

SEASONAL AND ANNUAL PASSES ENJOY UNLIMITED FREE PLAY!

590 BAY ISLES ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY, FL
941.316.8367

Place Your Bets!

ONE EYED JACKS POKER ROOM

70 TVS - SIMULCASTING
Watch and wager on thoroughbred & greyhound tracks from across the country

DAILY & MONTHLY TOURNAMENTS
HIGH HAND PAYOUT SPECIALS

Poker
LIVE ACTION CASH GAMES
TEXAS HOLD 'EM
7-CARD STUD - OMAHA

VEGAS STYLE GAMES
ULTIMATE TEXAS HOLD 'EM
WILD STUD 3-CARD
FACE UP PAI-GOW

DINING AVAILABLE - ENTREES, HANDHELDS, PIZZAS, SALADS

4404 BEE RIDGE RD SARASOTA, FL 34233
SUNDAY: NOON - MIDNIGHT
MON-SAT: 10:00AM - 2:00AM
WWW.SKCPOKER.COM
941-355-7744 EXT 1001

Ads that work...
ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

**TOP .5%
IN THE WORLD**

GLOBAL LUXURY

JUDY
KEPECZ
HAYS
Team



Leah George 941-780-0597
Judy Kepez-Hays 941-587-1700
Steven Kepez 941-376-6411

Casa del Carnevale on St. Armands
NEW TO THE MARKET

139 S Washington Drive | \$17,500,000 | CasaDelCarnevale.com

Integrity. Commitment. Excellence. Communication. Knowledge. = Results for the Judy Kepez-Hays Team

L'Ambiance

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

Emerald Harbor

6011 Emerald Harbor Drive
\$2,350,000
6011EmeraldHarborDr.com

Villa di Lancia

2165 Gulf of Mexico Drive #114
\$2,250,000
VillaDiLancia114.com

Sanctuary

575 Sanctuary Drive #A303
\$1,620,000
SanctuaryA303.com

Promenade

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105
\$899,000
Promenade105.com

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #704
\$999,000
Promenade704.com

Golden Gate Point

660 Golden Gate Point #32
\$899,000
MarinaView32.com

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

OnPatrol



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

Aug. 8 Trespassing, talking aggressively

7:15 p.m.

Officer Maple and Sgt. Smith were dispatched to Bay Isles Road regarding a suspicious person call. The call was received from an employee of the temple who contacted dispatch who relayed information about a man walking around the parking lot in the rain with no further description provided. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple made contact with the complainant and she provided more information about the individual. The complainant described the man as wearing dark clothes with shorts and dark colored hair. She further stated that the individual was walking in an aggressive manner around the temple property which had prompted her concern and subsequent call to law enforcement. After receiving the updated description, Sgt. Smith and Officer Maple conducted a thorough canvas of the area surrounding the temple. Despite the officer's efforts, they were unable to locate any individual matching the description provided by the complainant. The search covered the temple grounds and surrounding vicinity but yielded negative results. As a precautionary measure, both Sgt. Smith and Officer Maple remained on scene until all temple goers had safely departed the premises for the evening. Throughout the extended presence, officers maintained surveillance of the property and observed nothing outside of the ordinary. No further suspicious activity was noted during their time on scene. Officer Maple officially closed the case after ensuring the safety of all temple attendees and staff. Case clear.



gave her number to another person. This is an ongoing issue with the man. There has not been a past relationship as the two have only been friends. Officer Tillman called the number she had for the man and advised him of the situation. There have been no threats or violence between the two. The report is on file as a matter of record and for future reference. Case clear.

Aug. 10 Vehicle

1:02 a.m.

Officer Maple while conducting traffic enforcement at the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive received a license plate reader camera regarding a northbound BMW with a driver who had no driver's license. Shortly after receiving the camera notification, Officer Maple located the northbound vehicle at the 6100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Maple initiated a traffic stop with the vehicle and approached the driver who resides in Sarasota and informed him that the reason for the stop was due to the license plate reader returning information about no valid driver's license or identification for the vehicle's owner. The driver spoke minimal English and utilized his girlfriend for translation services. Through the translation, the driver stated he was from Spain and was unable to obtain a driver's license. He further explained that he was working with lawyers to obtain a driver's license. His girlfriend stated she was not feeling well and did not want to drive despite knowing the driver did not have a driver's license. Officer Maple checked the driver through FCIC/NCIC and received a hit indicating no driver's license. The database also showed a June conviction for an expired tag six months or less. After obtaining the information, Officer Maple reapproached the driver to clarify the status of his driver's license, noting that he had recently been stopped. The driver confirmed that he did not have a driver's license and had never been issued one. He produced a Spanish identification card during the interaction. Based on the facts presented, Officer Maple determined that the driver was in violation of operating a vehicle without ever having been issued a driver's license. Officer Maple issued a criminal citation for the violation. Case clear.

Aug. 9 Nude on the balcony

10:39 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 5800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the caller outside the front door of the residence. The complainant stated she had been up on the second story rear balcony, which overlooks the ocean, sitting nude in the shallow kiddie pool with a towel wrapped around her breasts. The complainant said before sitting at the pool she had taken off all her clothes and was walking around nude and skinny dipping. The complainant stated while sitting in the pool she then noticed a worker on the second story rear balcony of the house under construction next door was filming her. The woman described the construction worker as tall, heavy set and wearing a bright orange shirt. The complainant stated she didn't know how long the man had been filming her and was afraid that the man and nude videos of her and she didn't know what he would do with them. Officer Martinson then walked over to the neighboring house and spoke with the man who works for a window company. The worker stated he had been outside on the balconies taking pictures and videos of the glass which had been installed the man said he is required to take pictures and videos of the finished glass installations and send them to his boss. The man said he didn't take any pictures or videos of the woman and offered to show Officer Martinson the photos. The man showed the officer his phone and Officer Martinson didn't see any nude pictures or videos of the neighbor and did see multiple pictures of installed glass outside on the balcony and a video of installed glass in the bedroom and bathroom. Officer Martinson then walked back to inform the caller what he had learned and she said she was a little relieved that the officer said he didn't see any pictures or videos of her on the man's phone, although she still believes he was filming her and not just taking pictures of the glass like he claimed. The complainant stated that since she is alone at the property and does not know if she is safe with the workers next door, that she might go spend the next few days at her sister's house. Case clear.

He is giving out my phone number...

3:42 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to the 3700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the complainant who stated that she is having issues with a man giving out her phone number without her permission. The complainant stated that the previous night her and a friend were at a hotel in Sarasota and the man again

Aug. 11 Door ajar

6:30 p.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to Evergreen Way in reference to an alarm activation. Upon Officer Mathis' arrival to the incident location and met with the caller who advised he is over-seeing the property and advised that the cleaners must have left the door slightly ajar and the alarm activated. The caller spoke with the alarm company and provided the proper passcode. Officer Troyer and Officer Mathis then checked the residence with the caller to verify no criminal activity had taken place. The caller advised everything looked fine and nothing was out of place. The caller then reset the alarm and secured the residence. Case clear.

Aug. 12 Citizen assist

2:18 p.m.

Officer Ericsson and Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Bayou Sound on a public service call regarding a broken water line. Officer Ericsson responded to the scene and Officer Pescuma and he contacted a contract crew working for FPL conducting horizontal underground boring. Officers observed a large amount of water coming from the ground next to the driveway. The worker advised they were boring under a water valve and struck the line. They advised Longboat Key Public Works had been contacted, but were not yet on-scene. Officer Ericsson called the Public Works who stated they were aware of the incident and were enroute as they were speaking. At 2:42 p.m. Public Works arrived and advised and were no longer needed. Case clear.

Aug. 13 Suspicious boat

1:04 p.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a barge that had washed up into the private dock. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos located the vessel in the northeast corner of the property. Officer Miklos was unable to observe the registration due to the damaged dock area. Officer Miklos observed the vessel to be tied off to the damaged dock. Officer Miklos made contact with the complainant who stated the vessel washed ashore at an unknown time on Aug. 12. The complainant advised no one knows who the vessel belongs to and the construction company the complex had hired advised it did not belong to them. The complainant provided the vessel's registration. Officer Miklos conducted a search of the vessel and it returned to the seawall company. The registration on the vessel had expired in June. Officer Miklos performed a Google search and returned with two phone numbers and attempted to contact the company, however, both phone numbers went straight to voicemail. Officer Miklos checked the review and discovered a low rating with several comments saying the owner took their money and won't return hone calls or complete the work. The complainant was also unsuccessful at reaching the seawall company. At the time, Officer Miklos contacted Officer Pescuma and advised him of the call. Officer Pescuma advised to have the complainant report it to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Officer Miklos provided the FWC dispatch number and provided the case number. The complainant advised that the FWC would be having an Officer reach out to her in regards to the derelict vessel. Case clear.

LBK Liquors



941.953.1835

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

Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome

Locally owned & operated

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




See On Patrol, page 11

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

| Address | Sq. Ft. | List Price | Bed/Bath/Half Bath | Days On Market | Sale Price |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 581 KINGFISHER LN | 3,925 | \$4,650,000 | 4 4 1 | 71 | \$4,225,000 |
| 4473 GULF OF MEXICO DR | 2,943 | \$3,995,000 | 4 4 0 | 154 | \$3,300,000 |
| 689 LANDS END DR | 3,254 | \$3,400,000 | 4 4 1 | 140 | \$3,170,000 |
| 455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#407 | 2,410 | \$1,499,000 | 3 3 0 | 104 | \$1,420,000 |
| 565 SUTTON PLACE | 1,278 | \$349,000 | 2 2 0 | 57 | \$302,000 |
| 3806 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#C205 | 1,031 | \$290,000 | 2 2 0 | 5 | \$290,000 |



581 KINGFISHER LN

On Patrol, from page 10

Aug. 14

Citizen assist

9:15 a.m.

Officer Martinson while on patrol when he observed a mobile coffee stand trailer set up in the parking lot in front of the swim store. Officer Martinson stopped in the parking lot and made contact with the owner of the coffee business. The owner stated she had been invited by the owner of the swim store and the owner of the property building to set up her trailer and sell coffee. The owner stated she had been in contact with both the Police Department and Code Enforcement and believed she was in compliance with all of the town's ordinances and codes. While the owner and Officer Martinson were speaking the Code Enforcement officer pulled up into the parking lot. The Code Enforcement Officer stated he had received emails from the owner about the coffee stand and saw the police officer there so he figured he should stop to assist. The Code Enforcement was concerned, the owner was compliant with all the town's requirements except she did not have a permit which is issued by the Police Department. The owner stated according to the ordinance, the owner had been invited and given permission to set up her coffee trailer by the business owner was on private property and had correct signage. The owner stated she had reached out to the Police Department about a permit but had been redirected back to Code Enforcement. Officer Martinson told the owner and code enforcement officer that he could not issue the permit but would go to the police station to inquire about how she could get one. When Officer Martinson arrived at the police station none of the command staff was present because they were still at rifle and handgun training. Officer Martinson spoke to Officer Zunz who advised that Captain Bourque stated they would not be issuing the owner a permit because of accreditation standards in that they can't accept money or run a criminal background without a valid reason or non criminal matters. Officer Martinson then made contact with Captain Bourque over the telephone and he confirmed that the town ordinance is outdated because they can't accept money or run criminal background checks on people without reason. Captain Bourque stated he brought this matter to the attention of the head of Code Enforcement who reached out to the town attorney to revise the ordinance. Captain Bourque stated that since the Police Department cannot issue a permit it would be up to Code Enforcement to decide if the owner can sell coffee from her mobile trainer or not. Captain Bourque said that Officer Martinson should not shut her business down and let code enforcement make the decision if she can sell coffee without a permit. Officer Martinson then drove down to Town Hall and again spoke with the employee from Code Enforcement. The owner stated he would speak with the Planning and Zoning Director and then reach out to the property owners. Officer Martinson then returned to the owner and advised her about the situation. Officer Martinson told the owner for the time being, she can continue to sell her coffee from her trainer and that Code Enforcement will be getting in contact with her in the near future. Case clear.



D R I F T
KITCHEN & BAR

Top-Ranked for a Reason

Perched on the eighth floor of Lido Beach Resort, Drift ranks #1 among 900 Sarasota restaurants on TripAdvisor for its unrivaled views and unforgettable flavors.

opalcollection.com/lido-beach

941.388.2161

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

Letters, from page 8

are exchanging each week. Residents are also picking up the trash every week.

Katherine Girle
Longboat Key

Short term rental

To: Katharine Girle
Thank you for bringing this to our attention, it sounds highly problematic. I will see if I can get some more information and circle back with you.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Commission
To all, I have spoken to John Simmons at code enforcement about the weekly rental at 501 Norton Street. I explained to John that every Saturday 10-15 new people arrive for a week's stay. My backyard has become a campground with 5 canoes, multiple chairs, rock climbing walls, mini golf, ping-pong table, flashing arcade games, floats and towels all spread out and of course the nightly pool gatherings until late night. The residents on Norton have to put up with the 6-7 garbage bins that the raccoons have a blast with. David Woods just ignores my calls and John Simmons told me that there was nothing he could do because it is advertised as a 28-day minimum stay. We have residents who have taken pictures of all the different cars that change each week, and the property manager moves garbage bins in front of vacant homes to look better for him. John Simmons was almost making me defend myself for even complaining, by saying could I not just let it go through the summer?

This is not a residential neighborhood when you have 10-15 New People every Saturday. John told me that I did not understand how difficult it was to make the short-term rental program

stay in line. That's his job and David Woods job. Therefore, if the job can't be enforced (which John claims in cannot) then we don't need a code enforcement division.

I have lived here 32years and at no time did we ever have a situation like this, nor have I ever been told by a town employee that it was my fault for wanting some type of bliss while residing on Longboat Key. Thank you for listening and I hope we can get a resolution to an unhappy situation for many of us in Sleepy Lagoon.

Katharine Girle
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
Thank you for all that you do for us LBK residents. I would like to add my thoughts on changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive and the question of when the name was changed.

We came to LBK in 1963 and the road was called Gulf of Mexico Dr. I realize the 62 years of living on LBK isn't a very long time. However, my research shows that before John Ringling bought his properties on the south end of LBK, what we know as GMD, was a dirt road with no name. John Ringling named it Ringling Blvd. after his land purchases in the 1920s. I dug deeper (AI) and found that the name Gulf of Mexico Drive dates back to the 16th Century when Spanish explorers arrived on our beautiful island. "Early European maps and documents from the 1500s reference the name, long before the establishment of the United States".

I also think it's important to keep in mind that busi-

nesses and thousands of residents will have to change legal documents such as wills, trusts, investment portfolios, bank accounts, condo documents etc. to reflect the new name---inconvenient and expensive.

It seems to me that there are bigger issues to be addressed locally, statewide, and nationally other than changing the name of a street.

Bobbie Banan
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
Thank you Debra. Since I read an article (LBO) and a letter to the editor in support of name changing, I felt I needed to air my thoughts.

Bobbie Banan
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Bobbie Banan
Thanks for your email and sharing your thoughts about renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive. At this time I'm not aware of any significant effort to change the name. You have stated many valid concerns that will be considered if the renaming becomes something that the town is going to address.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT Directive Targeting LGBTQ-Inclusive Crosswalks

To: Sarasota City Commission
My name is Jon Harris Maurer, and I am the General Counsel and Public Policy Director for Equality Florida. We write to bring your attention to a concerning development: Local governments across Florida have received notice from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) ordering the removal of all non-safety-related street markings, including rainbow crosswalks.

This vague directive undermines public safety and intends to create an unconstitutional infringement on free speech by local governments. It has already triggered removals in cities like Boynton Beach without public notice or input. Other local governments are holding off, seeking legal interpretation and exploring alternatives. We strongly advise against rushed compliance.

Here's what we recommend:

Engage your City or County Attorney. The FDOT memorandum expressly deems as noncompliant and subject to compulsory removal any crosswalk markings or pavement surface art "that is associated with social, political, or ideological messages or images." This offends the First Amendment prohibition against regulating speech based on its content or message. Municipal counsel must analyze the legal duty to comply with such a constitutionally dubious directive.

Demand specificity. Local governments should request written clarification about the legal authority for this directive. Is this federal law, state interpretation, or bureaucratic overreach? How is compliance determined for "pavement surface art that is associated with social, political, or ideological messages or images"?

Ask who's paying. If this is a state or federal mandate, is funding provided for removal and repainting? Local budgets should not be hijacked for political posturing.

Insist upon an agency determination. The FDOT memorandum notes that, "Permission to allow non-compliant traffic control devices or pavement markings to remain may be granted at the Department's discretion" upon a city or county demonstrating good cause for any pavement markings. As noted below, studies readily show the safety benefits of painted crosswalks. Request a determination to place the burden on the state to prove why any removal is needed.

Don't capitulate. Until there is clear guidance, cities should pause. This is a moment to stand firm and insist on legal review.

Get creative. Some cities, like West Palm Beach, are reimagining how to show LGBTQ inclusion—such as relocating crosswalk designs to parks or public art spaces. Visibility doesn't have to be erased; it can be reasserted differently.

Of critical importance, the claim that rainbow crosswalks are not "safety related" is not supported by research. In fact, studies show that colorful, nonstandard street markings increase driver attentiveness and reduce speed. In other words: these designs can enhance safety, not diminish it.

This directive appears politically motivated—not safety driven. We know how meaningful a crosswalk can be. We urge you to resist knee-jerk removal and engage your legal teams, city managers, and communities before acting.

We appreciate your close attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions and stay in communication with us as this unfolds.

Jon Harris
Public Policy Director
Equality Florida

Luxury Living out EAST!

LAKWOOD RANCH
3008 TOLMINO COURT

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

2BR/2BA • 1,689 SF

Don't miss out!
Thinking of moving off island? You will want to call this your next home. **CALL US TODAY!**










THE LARSON GROUP
SARASOTA & ISLAND LIVING

941-962-1122

MySRQHomes.com

/TrylaBrownLarson



BreakPoints



How to return the serve every time

I am struggling with my return of serve. Can you help me better understand where I should stand when receiving serve? Any other tips?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

When receiving serve in doubles, the receiver should stand slightly behind the baseline. When the server hits the ball, the receiver should split step. If the serve is hard and the receiver is struggling, they should back up until they can comfortably return the serve. If the server has a weak serve, the receiver should move forward until they can comfortably receive the ball without letting it drop. If you are playing someone significantly better than you, you could potentially stand 10 feet behind the baseline. If you are playing someone much weaker than you, you may stand right behind the service line. You should always adapt to your opponent.



BOHANNON

When the receiver is returning serve the receiver's partner should stand on the service line for three important reasons. Firstly, they need to watch the service line, so they can call the ball out if the serve is long. Secondly, they stand at the service line so that if their partner hits to the net player they have time to react if they are attacked. Finally, the receiver's partner starts at the service line so they can protect the middle. Once the receiver hits a good return of serve (i.e. cross court or a lob over the net player) then the receiver's partner should move in. If the receiver is having difficulty with the serve or the server's partner is poaching it is also acceptable for the receiver's partner to start the point at the baseline. If you are having a difficult time receiving serve, having your partner come back to the baseline can significantly reduce your stress level and

increase your likelihood for success. While it is a more defensive formation, it doesn't matter if it calms your nerves and gives you a greater chance of getting the return back. Some players also report they can see the serve better when their peripheral vision is not obstructed by their partner at the net.

The most important strategy when returning serve is to get it in. Missing a return of serve is equivalent to a double fault. Don't beat yourself! Most of your returns should go cross court. If you hit them well, angled and low, even if they poach you will be successful. Occasionally mix in a lob to keep them honest, and if you find yourself significantly inside the baseline take an offensive opportunity and go for the down the line winner. There are many strokes, strategies, and positions to consider when playing high percentage doubles. Hopefully these tips will help you feel more confident the next time you and your partner are receiving serve.

Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.

Serve Jackie your best shot!



Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: news@lbknews.com

Ads that work...
ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

KeyCrossword



Hot to Trot

Robert Stockton

ACROSS

1. Cry of dismay
5. Member of the first family
9. Blue shade
14. The wise have it?
15. 1993 "Prisoner of Zenda" redux featuring Kevin Kline
16. What he says, goes
17. Stopped sleeping on the floor?
19. Weightlifting maneuver
20. Request to a barista
21. Connect the cars
22. It's usually cured before you get it
23. Tropical tuber
24. Barber's instruction manual?
30. Gallery opening?
34. The true face of Walter Mitty
35. Research org.
36. Certain
37. Eponymous album on the "Heiress Records" label
38. Heart
39. Gets a bronze
40. Unguarded
41. Evening news hr.
42. "Best of Intentions" or "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde"?
45. Impersonates
46. Surrounded by
51. Virgin, in a way
54. Prepare to end an engagement
56. Line of the Times?
57. Prestigious list of ground-breaking axioms?
58. One of the Hindu Trimurti
59. Imbrium or Serenitatus, e.g.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|--|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | 21 | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | 23 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 24 | | 25 | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | | | | 34 | | | | | 35 | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | 37 | | | | | 38 | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | |
| 42 | | | | | 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | | |
| | | | | | 45 | | | | | 46 | | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 51 | 52 | 53 | | | | | 54 | 55 | | | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | 57 | | | | | | | | |
| 58 | | | | | | | 59 | | | | | 60 | | | |
| 61 | | | | | | | 62 | | | | | 63 | | | |

60. Slangy negative
61. Readier to serve
62. Should take the stage
63. Cut
12. Shade of black
13. Being, in Barcelona
18. Pal of Timothy Q. Mouse
21. Champs Élysées sights
23. Trifling
25. Striped African animals
26. Isak Dinesen's real first name
27. Privy to
28. Base number at an auto dealer: abbr.
29. Hold back
30. Attention getter
31. Time of day
32. Present opener?
33. Take a Porsche out without paying, perhaps
37. Sat for a 30 Across
41. Melodic subjects
43. Over the line
44. Triangular sail
47. Collar attachment
48. "Beavis and Butt-head" spinoff
49. Floors
50. Sprocket stand-outs
51. Red letters
52. Radar's quaff
53. Blunder
54. Tijuana wives: abbr.
55. French bread
57. Brief request that a brief be briefer

SARASOTA PAINTING
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / CABINET
FULLY INSURED • OWNER OPERATED
CALL OR TEXT 941-900-9398 TODAY!
OWNER: DON HUBIAK
Instagram Page: @SarasotaInteriorPainting

Longboat Key News
Sarasota City News

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

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher
Melissa Reid

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

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production
Dottie Rutledge

letters@lbknews.com

Business Directory

Professional Home Watch & Concierge Service



CERTIFIED • BONDED • INSURED • TRUSTED



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

Cindy Jessup, Owner



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



Loved again
Boutique
UPSCALE WOMEN'S CONSIGNMENT STORE



HIGH END CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES

- JOHNNY WAS
- CHANEL
- HERMES
- JIMMY CHOO

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



GREENWICH INTERIORS, LLC

Creating beautiful, functional residential and commercial spaces.

- New construction
- Remodeling
- Project management

We bring your vision to life.

NANCY O'ROURKE, Principal
(941) 279-7500
nancy@greenwichinteriors.com
Greenwichinteriors.com



Mesa Aesthetics
wellness

BE WELL WITH DR. MESA!

- Direct Primary Care
- Weight Management
- Anti-Aging Care
- Now Offering: The HydraFacial

Dr. Nathalia Mesa
941-251-0600
www.mesaesthetics.com

Wildewood Professional Plaza
3645 Cortez Road West, Suite 110
Bradenton, FL 34210

Hablo español



Cortez Bait & Seafood

Fresher than Fresh!
Local Florida Seafood
Oysters • Shrimp • Clams
Fish Spread • Smoked Mullet



MON - SAT: 10 AM TO 6:30PM | SUN: 10AM TO 5PM
941.794.1547 12110 Cortez Road West
www.cortezbaitandseafood.com Cortez, FL
SEE US ON FACEBOOK



Call for a FREE Evaluation!

SERVICES

- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Alzheimer's Care
- Light Cleaning
- Med Administration
- Meal Preparation
- Errands & More

ROSA TORRES, OWNER
941-536-6372
epichomecareprovider@gmail.com

KAREN & ANGELO POMPETTI
Two Generations of Master Barbers

Traditional & Cutting Edge Barbering
38 Years in Business



200 CENTRAL AVE. SUITE 11
ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS
484-889-8991 • menshaircutsarasota.com

Steff's Stuff
ANTIQUES AND TREASURES

ESTATES & CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING DAILY
5380 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
IN THE CENTRE SHOPS • 941.383.1901
CLOSED THROUGH MID-OCTOBER
SteffsStuffLBK.com

ANTIQUE ORIENTAL RUGS.COM



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

Visit our Sarasota Gallery
Call Robert Mosby
941.925.1025
By appointment only

DESIGN 2000 Celebrating 27 years on the island!

EXCELLENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN
941-387-9807

JOIN US
at Whitney Beach Plaza for Summer Night Out
Mingle, Shop, Sip & Savor!
Thursday June 19, 4 - 6 p.m.

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

THE FISH HOLE
ADVENTURE GOLF

18 HOLES
OPEN 9am-9pm
7 days a week
COME PLAY A ROUND!

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

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

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

MASSAGE & FACIAL REJUVENATION




AcuMed
Wellness & Acupuncture

- Acupuncture
- Injection Therapy
- Herbology
- Homeopathy
- Massage

941.250.6911
AcuMedFL.com • KCHILL@ACUEMEDFL.COM
2953 Bee Ridge Road • Sarasota, FL 34239

Taxes and Accounting 5370 #202
941-387-0926 **CPA** GMD
Bob and Mary are @
5370 #2020 Gulf of Mexico Dr



Art Ready To Hang Sale



WineTimes



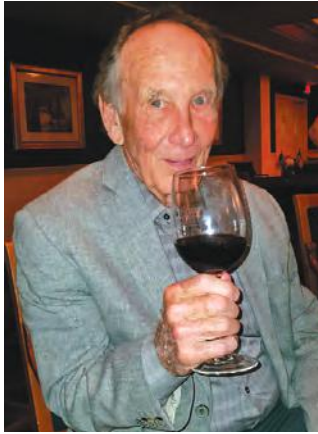
Crafty Cocktail Mixers and Garnishes

When and where possible, we choose seats at a bar close to the area used to prepare drinks. We enjoy the show as much as the drink.

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

Two schools of thought about what makes a good cocktail: the minimalists ask for a specific spirit in the drink, say, Maker's Mark Bourbon or Glenfiddich Scotch or Ketel One Vodka; the craft cocktail crowd has a stronger interest in the mixers and garnishes that the bartender adds to whatever spirits the drink contains.

Please let us elaborate a bit on these stereotypes before jumping to one side or the other. Most of us would agree that a premium spirit should not be subjected to distractions. Rather than drinking a great Bourbon or Scotch neat (as poured from the bottle), a dash of cool water enhances the taste as I've learned drinking Bourbon and brand in Kentucky and good Scotch in a bar in St. Andrews where the natives have no qualms about instructing tourists on how to drink Scotch. On the other hand, with few exceptions, ordering a premium spirit in a craft cocktail wastes money unless the recipe for the drink calls for it, as in Hendrick's Gin in a Gin and Tonic with a slice of cucumber. Often the mixers and garnishes in a craft cocktail mask the tastes of the premium spirit.



Let the taste of a spirit that you are paying dearly for its nuances shine in the glass. Save your money when the bartender asks which premium brand of Tequila (Casamigos?, he or she asks) in your Margarita. Defer to the real Tequila. You won't taste the difference.

Perhaps you should be asking about the mixers and garnishes that the bartender is using to make your mixed drink. In Margarita, is the bartender using fresh lime juice and a quality agave nectar? You can make a Margarita with a Margarita mix at home.

Craft cocktail drinkers usually study the recipe for a drink on the menu. The recipes may call for muddling of fresh fruit, say blackberries in a Bramble, small quantities of liqueurs or fortified wines such as Vermouth, Cointreau, and bitters, and garnishes such as charred orange peel, sugar cane stirrers, and fresh herbs. The fusion of these aromas and tastes. The show of preparing the drink and serving it plays a major role in crafting cocktails.

Because much of the appeal of a craft cocktail comes from the mixers and garnishes, it makes sense to hold the bar and bartender to high quality standards for these ingredients in these pricy drinks. Hoses connected to tanks under the bar should be used for still and sparkling water only, not for tonic, cola, ginger ale/beer, and other mixers. Spirits infused with fruit should be made in house in most instances, as should the simple syrup ubiquitous in many drink recipes.



Agave nectar, honey, or molasses may prove to be better choices in many drinks. Fresh herbs, berries, and citrus slices garnish an artful cocktail. Recipes often include special spices and bitters to enchant the nose and tongue.

Glassware must match the drink. Martini, Old Fashioned, Highball (Tonics, Mojitos, Bloody Mary), and Coupe (Champagne cocktail, Fizz, Spritzer) glasses have shapes designed for specific types of cocktails. A craft cocktail bar must have those and more. This web site shows a gallery of cocktail glass shapes: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/types-of-cocktail-glasses/>

When and where possible, we choose seats at a bar close to the area used to prepare drinks. A good mixologist will explain why each step in a recipe contributes to the resulting magic potion. We enjoy the show as much as the drink.

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.

You Can STOP Crime in Your Community

CRIME STOPPERS
 Of Sarasota County
pd by CSTF

Report Criminal Activity - Anonymously
Cash Reward up to \$5,000.00
(For tips that lead to an arrest)

TIP LINE 941-366-TIPS (8477)

Download our FREE mobile app

Pd by CSTF

Give the Gift of Tennis Lessons

AFFORDABLE - PROFESSIONAL - DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
 Give your children or grandchildren professional tennis instruction at the City of Sarasota's Payne Park.

Foam Ball:
 Ages 4 to 6, Tuesdays 4 to 5 p.m. kids learn proper contact and swing using soft foam tennis balls to develop confidence. \$20

Red Ball:
 Ages 6 to 10, Tuesdays 5 to 6 p.m. Focus on , preparation, foot work, hand-eye coordination and contact. \$20

10 And Under High Performance:
 Mondays 5 to 6 p.m. Focus on biomechanics, technique, footwork, agility, shot-making and rallying. \$20

Middle and High School Tennis Prep:
 Wednesdays 4 to 6 p.m. complete tennis training to bring the game to a match-ready level. \$30

Individual Junior lessons \$60 per hour.

Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
 Call Payne Park Tennis center at 941-263-6641 to schedule.
 Payne Park Tennis Center, 2050 Adams Lane, Downtown Sarasota, 34237

BEACH LIMO
 941-320-1120 • beachlimosfl.com

Experience first-class luxury transportation

AIRPORT, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, NIGHTS OUT, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MORE!

RELIABLE • SAFE • LICENSED • INSURED

I'm Chris Pinto, and together with my wife, Tiana, we've been happily serving Long Island, New York, for the past 20 years. We recently moved to Sarasota with our four adorable puppies, and we're beyond excited to bring our passion for service to your community!



HURRICANE DAMAGE?

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

- Improper Damage Assessment
- Inaccurate Evaluations
- Rushed Claim Assessments



WE CAN HELP

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

Mr. Moskowitz has handled thousands of Property Damage Claims against all the major insurance companies. He has helped hundreds of business owners recover millions of dollars for business interruption claims resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and claims arising from the catastrophic Hurricanes Wilma (2005), Super Storm Sandy (2012), Matthew (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018), Laura (2020), Sally (2020), Tropical Storm Eta (2020), Hurricane Ian (2022), and Hurricane Beryl (2024).

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

**NO RECOVERY • NO FEES • NO COSTS
CALL 844-88-WINDY (94639)**



WINDYLAW.COM

**LARRY MOSKOWITZ, PA
PROPERTY DAMAGE LAWYERS**

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