



Longboat Key News

March 17, 2023

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InsideLook



Fusco resurfaces at Mote Marine ...page 2



Life's truly perfect marriage ...page 9



\$4.65 million Longboat sale ...page 7



Resident upset in clear cut case ...page 10

A clear-cut vision for new Longboat property owner

The clear-cutting of a mid-island Gulf-front acre has residents wondering. Soon, a 10,000 SF home will be underway.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Many Longboat Key residents were bewildered to see the hulking stumps of trees after a one-acre property was clear-cut along the waterfront at 3115 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

The developer of the property, Patrick DiPinto, assured Longboat Key News that the large trees were Australian Pines and that soon the site will be transformed into a 10,000 square foot contemporary home built for his friend and business partner, David Hargreaves.

The property, which sprawls with more than 400 feet of Gulf front, is bordered by a town beach access to the south. The lot sold for \$5 million after being on and off the market for years, says DiPinto.

Hargreaves will be moving with his wife, Linda, from Lido Shores and are excited to join Longboat Key as full-time residents.



"Hargreaves had no intention of leaving Westway Drive in Lido Shores," said DiPinto. But DiPinto relates that when the lot came up for sale and after he walked the lot he knew it represented he and his

wife's dream to live on the beach. DiPinto said the Hargreaves are both triathletes and swim and run every day and the beachfront location will be perfect.

See New Home, page 13

Slowing north Longboat traffic gets complicated

Longboat Village residents have long maintained that Broadway Street, the main thoroughfare through the community, is a dangerous cocktail of speeding cars, pedestrians, diminutive terriers and peacocks.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
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Last year, a summit was held between town staff and the Village Traffic Calming Committee.

In short, the committee is asking for a long-term solution to slow traffic and control motorists who sometimes speed to the ever-popular Mar Vista and Shore Restaurants located at Broadway's terminus.

Add to the motorists, beachgoers dashing across Gulf of Mexico Drive at the entrance of Broadway as cars approach quickly as they descend from the bridge on Anna Maria Island.

After the traffic summit on March 29, 2022, the Town hired Kimley-Horn and Associates to do what consultants do: analyze the issue and present options with a rough order of magnitude of associated costs.

Meanwhile, the Longboat Key Police Department has performed speed studies which the town says shows general compliance with the speed limit, yet the occasional speeder presents "acute" possibility of danger due to the popularity of walking and biking in the Village.

The Village is Longboat Key's most historic neighborhood, consisting of meandering narrow streets and homes that date back more than 100 years. Part of its appeal is the physical beauty of the surrounding water as well as the atmosphere of conviviality. It's the aesthetic qualities that may render some of the proposed traffic calming solutions less desirable than the problem.

One option is to create speed

Same Beach, New Perspective...

Writer reflects on winters visiting Longboat Key as life's challenges and changes punctuate the island beauty.

Hope L. Firsell
Guest Writer
writer@lbknews.com

I often traveled to Longboat alone, while my husband at that time would stay back in Chicago to work. During those years, I was the one running down to the beach with my boys. We kick off our shoes and run barefoot. It is pure joy. I feel freedom. Like having been released from prison. That prison for me was chemotherapy. My body is all mine today. Mine to be healthy and free. My boys and I giggle as we run the wide-open beach. I look straight into the ocean, and I find pure gratitude and joy.

Life after cancer has been much more difficult than I had imagined. I remind myself, that I am not alone And facing it at the young age of 36, with two boys under the age of 3, that certainly added more fuel to my horrific fire.

Several years later, I was challenged again in life, as my 18-year

marriage dissolved. Not what I had envisioned, yet once again I learned to process and embrace change and allowed myself to evolve. It's not our problems that define us, it's how we recover

Of all of my experiences of being a patient, in fertility or cancer, nothing compared to chemo for me. I laid in bed most of my days during that 10 months. All the time, dreaming about the day when my chemo would be completed. I remember walking out of my last chemo treatment thinking, now what? My life as I had none it was no longer. This was a new life. As my friend, also a recent survivor told me, this is a "new normal." The survivor label in fact reminds us that cancer is an extreme experience that cleaves one's life into before and after. By now I had realized that life as I knew it was no longer a reality for me.

And, that it is. I must say, so many of the newness is liberating. I no longer carry the same

level of anxiety, anger or resentment towards things I did in the past. I no longer look for everyone and everything to fit into the imagine I want or desire. I am much more nimble, easy going and open. I bounce more. While I still, like all humans, have moments of energy being consumed by trivial things, it no longer eats at my inner self confidence and lessens my joy as they did in the past. I have peace and love that I never experienced before. I know how it is to fight for your life. I know how it is to suffer. I was so down and feel, only now, that I was sprung back into life with a new force of energy.

Yet, many of these negative feelings have been replaced with a new sense of fear of which I have never faced before. As a cancer survivor, you often feel you are walking a tightrope and that everything is so fragile.

And, in those moments, process-

See LBK Life, page 13

See Broadway, page 13

The Rise and Fall of Red Tide levels...

Over the past week, we experienced a spike in the naturally occurring red tide organism *Karenia brevis* with respiratory irritation and aerosols suspected to be related to red tide reported in the Sarasota region. Some marine debris, limited to smaller fish such as mullet, catfish and blowfish, washed up on Lido Beach and along our parks and rights-of-ways.

Working closely with the Procurement Division, The City of Sarasota's Public Works Department activated an emergency debris management contract to collect the dead fish on City-maintained properties. The City's debris management contractor, Ceres Environmental, is the same company that efficiently collected storm debris for months after Hurricane Ian.

Earlier this week, Ceres crews were dispatched to waterfront parks to pick up dead fish, and by mid-week conditions improved so much cleanup was paused. While we hope this is the end of red tide, its presence can fluctuate day-to-day and by location based on wind direction and tides. City staff will continue to monitor the situation closely and will be prepared to respond accordingly as needed.

Lido Beach is maintained by Sarasota County and County crews are raking the beach twice a week. That service may increase based on the County's established beach cleaning policy.

Residents who collect dead fish on private property should double-bag the debris and call the Solid Waste Division for a special pickup on a Wednesday or Saturday: 941-263-6170.

For those seeking regular reports, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provides red tide status updates online and beach conditions are shared at www.VisitBeaches.org

Report released on narrowly avoided airplane collision at SRQ

Federal officials are releasing details of a close call between two airplanes at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport in February.

Federal investigators said an air traffic controller cleared a plane to take off from Sarasota while an American Airlines jet was making its final approach to the same runway, leading the American pilots to abandon their landing.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday that the American and Air Canada Rouge planes were separated by six-tenths of a mile — about 3,000 feet — at their closest point. That is much farther apart than planes in several recent close calls.

In its preliminary report, the safety board did not state a cause for the Feb. 16 incident, but it said it formed a group to investigate air traffic controller actions. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association and the Federal Aviation Administration, which hires and trains controllers, are taking part in the investigation, the NTSB said.

The early findings came a day after officials from the NTSB, the FAA, airlines and airline unions met outside Washington, D.C., for a "safety summit."

According to an FAA readout of summit sessions that were closed to the public and press, a group that discussed air traffic recommended closer examination of data to find the causes and solutions for planes being on or near the same runway at the same time. The FAA said it asked industry officials to find technology to help air traffic controllers track equipment on the ground.

Overall runway incursions, as they are called, are lower in the last six months than the same period last year, according to FAA figures, but those include the vast majority of incidents that are deemed low- or no-risk.

In Sarasota, a controller cleared the American Airlines flight to land on runway 14 when the plane was about 10 miles from the airport. When it was about three miles out, the controller cleared the Air Canada Rouge plane to take off from the same runway. The American crew elected to cancel their landing, turn to the right and return to land. No injuries were reported.

Mote Welcomes Back Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium is excited to welcome back Kaitlyn Fusco as Marketing and Public Relations Manager.

Fusco rejoined Mote's Community Relations and Communications team in March 2023. She previously held the role of Public Relations Manager from 2015-2017.

In her new role, Fusco is responsible for the planning and execution of Mote's marketing and communications strategy. This includes working with Sean Stover, Communications Coordinator, on earned, paid and social media efforts to continually raise awareness for Mote research, education and Aquarium.

Fusco earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Central Florida and most recently served as Associate Publisher of Central Florida Lifestyle publications and Communications Manager at The Florida Aquarium.

In addition, Fusco is an award-winning writer with a strong interest in marine life and conservation. On rejoining Mote, Fusco said, "I'm thrilled to be rejoining the Mote family! I look forward to continue growing my passion for marine science and conservation in this role."



Longboat Residential Rental Registry Program Workshops

The Town of Longboat Key recently established a Residential Rental Registry program. This program proactively addresses health, safety and welfare impacts to our community related to vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods. Join Town Staff for one of its two Rental Workshops where staff will discuss the registration process, inspection requirements, costs and other bi-annual compliance details. The Workshops are scheduled on March 22nd from 8:00-10:00am or April 27th from 1:00-3:00pm. Both sessions will be held at Town Hall in the Commission Chambers. For further information please contact Bryan Wisnom, Code Enforcement Officer at (941)-316-1966 ext. 2524.



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EditorLetters

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

Short term Rental Workshops

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I read with interest the workshops you are holding for owners on the new program commencing in October. The workshops are being held on Mar 22 and April 27. I find these dates unrealistic - these are the months that are the most rented and the owners are not there. How is an owner suppose to be present when the unit is being rented out and you only offer the workshops in person? I am the Chair of Sales & Rental for Sutton Place and want to advise the owners of the workshop - great if there was a zoom link that they could attend, but they are not on the Island - the renters are. I think this needs to be repositioned and offered in virtual mode as well. You are excluding the very people who need to be informed.

Victoria Salisbury
Longboat Key

Short term Rental Workshops

To: Victoria Salisbury

Thanks for your note. The principal objective of the lead up to the effective date of the new Rental Registry Program in October is to make as much information available as early as we can to as many likely participants as possible. We appreciate your suggestions and will try to accommodate them.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Recognized by NWS as StormReady

To: Longboat Key Department Directors

I want to share with you this email from the National Weather Service (NWS). They came out this week and provided an assessment on our operation as well as took a tour of the Town. They compliment all of us for a job well done and have granted us a certificate of a StormReady organization.

They will be presenting us an official notice at the Disaster Preparedness Seminar in June.

I want to take time to thank each of you and your staff for continually updating your plans and sharing how we can improve as a team and town. Thank you and congratulations!

Paul Dezzi
Fire Chief
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Recognized by NWS as StormReady

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi

Good to meet with you yesterday as it will help my office anticipate LBK's unique weather challenges. Attached are the certificates and letter stating the StormReady Recognition for LBK until 2027. Please share with your Program Manager for the Community Rating System. Longboat Key receives 25 points from the Insurance Services Organization for being recognized. Also, keep us in mind for future event forecast support and we can even give presentations in the community.

Daniel Noah
Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service

GMD Utility Pope Removal Project


To: Bob Gault

This is a great question and one I pose to Town staff about once a week. The last report we received was that all or nearly all underground installations were complete island-wide, that FPL was methodically switching individual properties in Phase 2 of 4 (the north end) with 45 connections accomplished as of that date, and that all properties island-wide should be switched to underground sources by mid-Summer. The removal of wires and poles is the last step and also requires FPL's participation. We will press them as hard as we can to get as much of this done as possible before storm season begins.

Ken Schneier
Mayor, Longboat Key


See Letters, page 6

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100 SANDS POINT RD., #208 | LONGBOAT KEY

Gulf front, 2BR/2BA residence with a Chef's kitchen, a spacious, open living area, along with dining space and a separate den area. Located at the Southern Point of Longboat Key within the gates of the Longboat Key Club.



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830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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



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1111 RITZ CARLTON DR., #1703 | SARASOTA

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Front View



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1630 HARBOR CAY LANE | LONGBOAT KEY

Rarely available Bay Isles Harbor bayfront lot. Sweeping views of Sarasota Bay, this property is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac on an oversized 16,100 sq. ft. lot with 150-feet of canal frontage overlooking Sarasota Bay.

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

GMD Utility Pole Removal Project

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Hey Mr. Mayor, sorry to bother you on this but as we are approaching another hurricane season we still, (2023), have a bunch of utility poles up on GMD, some with lines strung across the street and no evidence that FPL is on the case with any hustle. Does the Town have an updated schedule for completion of GMD utility pole removal?

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Sarasota Bay Estuary Technical Advisory Committee

To: Longboat Key Commission

Earlier today, Sarasota County hosted a meeting of the SBEP’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC has several dozen members, although not all of them show up at each meeting. We use the TAC as a sounding board when we want to gain consensus on topics that are important enough to warrant a peer review process. For example, the approach we used to develop our Report Card on Ecosystem Health was reviewed by our TAC. Our proposed approach to develop our Reasonable Assurance Plan was reviewed by the TAC, and the background data, reports and logic we used to justify our conclusion that “humans don’t cause red tide, but we can cause it to be worse” – all that was vetted through our TAC.

We had a lively meeting today, as they usually are. There are quite a few people who have strong opinions on many matters – no shrinking violets here. I wanted to take a minute to update you on three items that we discussed, because we will most likely be commenting on them in public if asked to do so.

Reasonable Assurance Plan

Basically, the consensus was that the reference period approach to develop loading targets was logical, but it was noted that overly complex models should not be relied upon for target setting, and that reducing nutrient loads is just one of the things we need to do. We are in agreement on both points. Our nitrogen load reduction target is not based on complex water quality models, but the finding that we had a healthier bay 10 to 15 years ago, when our nitrogen loads were about 20% lower. Also, we are not just focusing on nutrients and nutrient loads. We have four Action Plans in our CCMP – the first one relates to pollutant loads, but the second Action Plan focuses on habitat restoration projects such as Robinson Preserve, Leffis Key, City Island, FISH Preserve, and GT Bray. The third Action Plan focuses on oyster reef deployments, putting more filter feeders into the bay, and artificial reefs. Over the past few years, SBEP and its partners have created approximately 20 acres of oyster reef habitat and have enhanced about 20 acres of bay bottom via artificial reefs. We are working with partners to expand the oyster reef efforts into the Manatee River, with a goal of creating 100 acres of oyster reef. Our fourth Action Plan involves Community Engagement, which is essential to our success.

Midnight Pass and the SBEP

The same presentation that will be given to the Sarasota County Commissioners on April 11th was vetted through the TAC today. There was some concern expressed about parts being too far down into the weeds. I can see that, but I also think that this is perhaps the primary opportunity the SBEP has to lay out the science related to the water quality, seagrass coverage, fisheries abundance and ecosystem features that will have to be considered if the County is to pursue the restoration of the lost historical tidal connection between LSB and the Gulf of Mexico. TAC members did not express a widespread opposition to restoring the lost tidal connection, but

there very well could be opposition if some of the important features of LSB, such as its abundant mangroves and seagrass meadows, are not taken into consideration in any future design plans. Two TAC members who specialize in fisheries work pointed out the important nursery habitat that is present in LSB. Basically, a plan similar to the one described in the attached 2004 newspaper article – which is a straight cut through the Jim Neville Preserve – that would be a very tough sell to most of the TAC members, even those who would like to see that tidal connection restored. Granted, the TAC has no regulatory authority on this matter, but if a proposed design is such that the TAC would be strongly opposed, it’s a good bet that the regulatory agencies would be as well.

Red tide ozonation study

The most spirited conversations revolved around the proposed study that we described in an earlier Director’s Note. We have known, since 1975 (see attached article) that treating red tides with ozonated seawater reduces the organism, and also the toxins produced by the organism. These findings, more than 40 years old, have been replicated many times, by researchers in Connecticut, at Mote, and at the University of Florida. It’s not a new finding, but the issue has always been scalability. Mote even has a patent on this topic – not on the science part – but on a technique to treat red tide out in the open waters of our bay, for example.

As previously discussed, the issue is scalability. I have been contacted by someone who believes that they can create 1,000 to 2,000 gallons per minute of ozonated seawater. I don’t know if they can do this or not, but they are willing to bring a quarter-scale pilot to our coast, and they are willing to live with the results of a field study that we would design. Good results or bad, such results would be available to the public. Our intent is to do a controlled study during a red tide, using duplicate plots of 10 acres of open bay water. Our TAC recommended a list of water quality parameters for us to collect, and we have found laboratories that will do that for us. FDEP has also informed us that they will work with us to get the permits for an in-situ pilot study. This is likely more than a month out, but we are taking the TAC’s recommendations into consideration about what data to collect, and how to design this experiment. The prototype would be provided to us at no cost, and as said, the results will be publicly shared, good or bad.

If the technique doesn’t make a measurable impact on red tide and red tide toxins - end of story. If it does work, but other water quality indicators suggest potential problems, that might mean stopping, or going back to the drawing board. If it works with little evidence of adverse impacts – well, then we’re going to have to figure out what we want to do, moving forward. You can’t treat a 300 square mile red tide very effectively, but perhaps if you knew that a much smaller red tide was expected to enter Venice Inlet in two days on an incoming tide, maybe that would be a good time to run these units back and forth across the inlet for a few hours during the incoming tide. Pipe dream maybe, but perhaps there is some value.

Anyway, off for the evening, but wanted to give you a heads up on a lively and very important TAC meeting, and to thank those TAC members who gave us such sage advice.

David Tomasko
Executive Director
Longboat Key

Fish on the beach

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

I appreciate your raking the beach recently. However, your staff has missed the most offensive problem – dead fish. There are literally thousands of dead fish that have been rotting at the tide line for more than a week. This is disgusting. Perhaps your equipment won’t operate so close to the water? In that case how about having a crew pick them up by hand? Thank you.

David L. Brown
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

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3630 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#B201	1,486	\$895,000	3	2	0	119	\$835,000
5125 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#7	961	\$865,000	2	2	0	3	\$850,000
3440 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#7	1,679	\$899,000	2	2	1	38	\$875,000
3240 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#B501	1,519	\$915,000	2	2	0	16	\$915,000
1115 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201	1,172	\$1,000,000	2	2	0	0	\$975,000
6937 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#12	1,170	\$1,075,000	2	2	0	4	\$1,035,000
2120 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#632	2,105	\$1,375,000	3	2	0	3	\$1,375,000
6701 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	1,520	\$1,599,900	2	2	0	33	\$1,500,000
1903 HARBOUR LINKS CIR Unit#1903	2,376	\$1,685,000	3	2	1	0	\$1,685,000
350 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#227	2,290	\$1,795,000	3	2	1	39	\$1,820,000
690 RUSSELL ST	2,457	\$3,000,000	4	4	1	84	\$3,000,000
672 DREAM ISLAND RD	3,312	\$4,850,000	5	4	1	15	\$4,308,500
545 KINGFISHER LN	4,646	\$4,995,000	4	4	1	75	\$4,650,000
1700 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#5F	981	\$549,000	1	1	1	156	\$550,000
81 FILLMORE DR	1,665	\$1,100,000	3	3	0	4	\$1,400,000
515 S WASHINGTON DR	4,480	\$4,495,000	3	4	0	18	\$4,050,000



545 KINGFISHER LN



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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Charging e-bikes and electric cars

To: Judy Earnshaw

I received a copy of your question below regarding the legality of plugging electric vehicles or e-Bikes into standard garage outlets. The short answer is that it is not illegal to plug into standard outlets. Most electric vehicles are designed to plug into any standard 120V outlet. The charging time is longer on these standard outlets, however. There are higher voltage charging units (i.e., Level 2 and 3) that do require higher voltage outlets.

It is important to be sure that the outlets are equipped with safety devices such as GFCIs, which are ground fault circuit interrupters. If there's a short in the electric the GFCI will cut the outlet off to minimize the risk. A few other home safety EV risk management tips include: not using an extension cord for prolonged use, and storing all components and devices related to EV charging units, including the connection hoses, off the ground and out of reach of children to reduce electrocution risk and prevent slips, trips and falls.

Our Fire Marshal has been evangelizing about safety issues related to the batteries powering the various new vehicle types. EVs run on lithium-ion batteries, which can cause a significant fire hazard if damaged. The concern with lithium-ion batteries, is not necessarily that they're more likely to ignite, but that when they do ignite, they burn very hot, they're very hard to extinguish, and they have the potential to reignite. To mitigate this risk, many EV car manufacturers are enclosing lithium-ion batteries and placing them within the vehicle where they're less susceptible to damage – but that then makes it difficult for EV owners to observe whether their batteries are in good working order.

It is good practice to make sure vehicles are being brought in to be properly maintained as per the manufacturer's guidelines. Those carrying out the maintenance need to be certified to work on EVs, and they need to inspect the quality and condition of the lithium-ion batteries.

Allen Parsons, AICP

Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department

Town of Longboat Ke

Charging e-bikes and electric cars

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I believe that some of the concern over electric vehicle, e-bike and e-scooter charging comes from the recent news regarding the increase in fires caused by e-bike and e-scooter charging. The National Fire Prevention Association publishes a safety tip sheet for e-bike charging. It would be a good idea to share this information as well.

Debra Williams

Commissioner

Longboat Key

Charging e-bikes and electric cars

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Thanks Debra. Great suggestion. Sharing with our Fire Chief & Fire Marshal. And FYI- Including a copy of a handout that Jane provided to us, which we are sharing here at the PZB front counter. It's about safety related aspects of EV charging systems.

Allen Parsons

Planning and Zoning Director

Longboat Key

Jewfish Key Sandbar noise

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The noise is loud as usual. I called dispatch. As I did I saw sheriff go by but noise stayed loud. This is as usual unacceptable. Where r the patrols? They have to hang there. Oh there's the police boat. Just slowly going by but not near the boat noise. Oh and here is the sheriff. He is going closer. It will quiet a bit now but as soon as they leave it will accelerate as usual. Help.

Ann Roth

Longboat Key

Jewfish Key Sandbar noise

To: Ann Roth

See Letters, page 12

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

WineTimes

Crazy Good Food and Wine Pairings

Another version of crazy good food and wine pairing features a superior wine paired with a simple dish with the result that the wine elevates the dish. This version works all the better if the food item evokes nostalgia or guilty pleasure: say, Champagne and chilidog.

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

Pairing a wine with a food comes down to the chemistry of blended tastes and the art of complements. Think sweet with sweet and sour to sour blends, but also sweet with sour and sweet with bitter contrasts in blends.

For an example of a blend of similar tasks, pair one of the Australian “stickies” fortified wines with pineapple upside down cake. Best to have the wine as sweet as the the cake. Small pours of one of these stickies offer caramel and spice tastes that stand up to sticky desserts. The Yalumba Museum Muscat (\$22/half bottle) from the Barossa Vally fits the bill. Sweet fortified wines from the Rutherglen region of Victoria in Australia offer even better examples, though at a much greater cost.

We also enjoy another blend of similar tastes in a pairing of a Napa Cabernet Sauvignon with a chargrilled grass-fed beef sirloin or porterhouse. The 2018 Stags’ Leap Cabernet Sauvignon Napa (\$44). The robust wine and beefsteak meld savory, smoky flavors that reinforce one another.

Yet we appreciate even more the crazy good food and wine pairings with contrasts of flavors. These pairings bring out other dimensions of tastes of food and wine.

A classic Southern USA dish, stewed okra and tomatoes, sticks to the ribs. Although better with fresh ingredients, it does not lose much when made with frozen okra and canned tomatoes, or even if bought already made in a can. Ordinarily it serves as a quick and filling side dish, but pairing it with intense and dark Malbec wine has a truly magical affect. Blending Malbec with okra and tomatoes counters harsher vegetal in okra, moderates the citric acidity of tomatoes, and enlivens flavors. Try pairing with the 2018 Colomé Malbec Estate (\$24) from the Calchaqui Valley of Argentina. The vineyard has a recipe for a beef stew that includes among other ingredients okra and tomatoes.

Another version of crazy good food and wine pairing features a superior wine paired with a simple dish with the result that the wine elevates the dish. This version works all the bet-

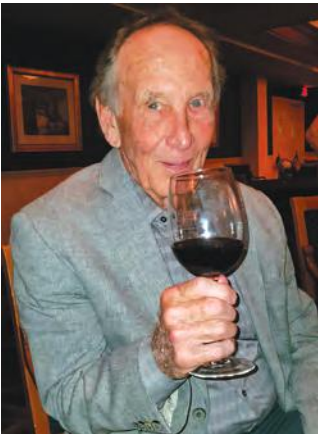
ter if the food item evokes nostalgia or guilty pleasure: say, Champagne and chilidog. The contrast of the elegance of the Champagne with the aura of a ballpark in the chilidog. Aggressive pricing by French Champagne houses have brought prices of Champagne down in wine shops and supermarkets. The NV Piper-Heidseck (\$40) from the Champagne region of France has a price point that makes its price comparable to imported and craft beers.

A final crazy good pairing has us saving small quantities of the Stags’ Leap Cab poured with chargrilled steak to serve with a dark chocolate dessert. This combination of a robust, dry red wine and dark chocolate has become widely known as a surprisingly satisfying food and wine pairing.

Pairing food and wine with similar or contrasting tastes proves challenging in either case. We urge wine lovers to experiment and find their own crazy good pairings.

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 Otego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

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



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OnPatrol

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

March 10 Dog making noise

2:27 p.m.
Officer Miklos responded to Lands End Drive in reference to an animal complaint in reference to a dog barking. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised that the dog has been barking for hours and it also occurred last week. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a white Mustang in the driveway. The vehicle belonged to Hertz rental car company. Officer Miklos attempted to make contact with a resident by ringing the doorbell and knocking on the front door. Following no response at the front door, Officer observed a brown dog barking on the outside deck of the house. Officer Miklos announced Longboat Key Police and had no response. At this time, Officer Miklos observed a dog bed and a pink bowl on the deck and could not confirm if the bowl had water in it. Officer Miklos made contact with a neighbor who advised she knew the owner of the residence and the dog. The neighbor made contact with the owner who advised she was away from the residence but would have her grandchildren come take the dog until she could return. Officer Miklos spoke with the complainant and advised her of the results. Case clear.



Suspicious incident

10:55 p.m.
Officer Smith received a call from dispatch to respond to Halyard Lane in reference to a suspicious boat with no navigational lights on. Upon arrival, Officer Smith observed a cabin cruiser boat anchored about 100 yards offshore with a smaller boat tied behind it. The larger boat had navigational lights on. There was no interior lights on the boat and Officer Smith could hear a faint sound of generators running. Officer Smith shined his flashlight on the boat several times but was unable to get anyone's attention. There were no unlawful violations observed. Case clear.

March 14 Citizen assist

12:19 p.m.
Officer Martinez responded to Longboat Court for a civil dispute. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the complainant. Officer Martinez also observed three workers trimming trees and vegetation at the property. The complainant stated that the workers were cutting down old sacred trees, and they did not want to cut them down without the property manager consulting the complainant. Officer Martinez asked the complainant if she was the owner of the property stated and she said no. Officer Martinez then met with the property manager of the address, and she notified Officer Martinez that she hired the workers and advised that all the trees being cut were on the property. The woman showed the officer the property survey of the address and he visually confirmed that all trees being cut/trimmed were in the property stated. No criminal nature involved. Case clear.

Citizen assist

1:19 p.m.
Officer Montfort responded to the 3500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a man demanding to speak with a police officer. Officer Montfort arrived on scene and was greeted by the man who stated that he normally parked his vehicle in the private parking space assigned to his unit. The man then stated that the owner of the unit he lives in had parked his vehicle in the assigned parking place. The man then further stated that he is not allowed to park in the guest parking and that his vehicle has been deemed in violation by the homeowner's association for numerous reasons and may be towed. Officer Montfort then advised the man the complex he resides in has an association, rules, regulations and is private property. Case clear.

March 11 I Do!

1:08 p.m.
Officer Smith while on marine patrol at the area of Jewfish Key, observed a man and woman standing on the Broadway Street Pier. The man was shouting and waving his hands in an attempt to get my attention. Officer Smith activated his blue lights and approached the pier. The man was very happy and very excited since at that moment he proposed to the woman on the dock and she said 'Yes!' Since there were many boaters in the area he was wanting to share his joy and wonderful news! After congratulating him via the loud speaker system on the police boat, Officer Smith continued his patrol. Case clear for the wedding!

March 13 Traffic hazard

9:34 a.m.
Officer Montfort while on patrol in the 3500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a large landscaping truck stuck partially in the roadway. Officer Montfort spoke with the operator who stated that his rear axles were stuck in the mud and he was unable to get out. After a short time, an excavator was used to push the vehicle onto the roadway. Officer Montfort then cleared the scene and returned to service. Case clear.

March 15

Noise complaints
5:08 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to Preserve Court for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson observed a flatbed semi truck with an attached crane unloading construction supplies onto the property site. Officer Martinson spoke with the man who was in charge of the crew and advised him of the town's noise ordinance. The man stated he was unaware that construction noise had to stop at 5 p.m. and apologized. The man immediately stopped unloading the supplies with the crane and turned off the semi truck. Case clear.

Dog on the beach

7:19 p.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a dog on the beach call. Upon arrival, Officer Ferrigine made contact with the owner of the dog at the location and was advised that the dog was a trained service animal. Officer Ferrigine also contacted the complainant's cell phone and advised him that service animals are allowed in public beach areas per Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Case clear.

March 17 Noise complaints

7:55 a.m.
Officer Montfort, Sgt. Butler and Captain Hankins patrolled the area of Longboat Drive South in reference to ongoing noise complaints. Officers arrived in the area and observed several contractor vehicles parked in front of the residence. While near the residence, officers observed a plainly audible generator running and a mixing machine. Officer Hankins made contact with the man who was the crew manager. The man stated he works for the drywall and was instructed to conduct work at the residence. The man was unaware of the town ordinance for noise before 8 a.m. and Officer Hankins advised him they have received several complaints in regards to this address. Officer Hankins advised him that he must wait to start work until 8 a.m. and must conclude by 5 p.m. The man was sent on his way. Officer Hankins completed a town of Longboat Key Code Enforcement Citation. The citation being the subsequent second offense in which the developer has been cited for the violation of the noise ordinance.

Animal complaint

8:05 a.m.
Officer Martinez was dispatched to Bayou Sound in regard to an animal complaint. Officer Martinez was notified by dispatch that the animal was a dead cat lying on the road. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez observed a dead rabbit on the middle of the road. Officer Martinez notified public works of the situation for removal of the animal from the road.

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

We only have our volunteer Marine patrol Officer out, limited hours, until 3 p.m. Our full time Marine Patrol Officer is away at Coast Guard basic training the full month of March. Sheriff, FWC or Coast Guard will not enforce Town Code violations. We will do the best we can.

George Turner
Police Chief
Longboat Key

Jewfish key sandbar noise

To: Longboat Key Police Chief George Turner

I know you do best you can with what you have to work with and also understand that the Sheriff, FWC and Coast Guard can't enforce code viol. But just their presence helps with the noise. I do think there should be a concerted effort to get more patrols out somehow, someday. This is a major disruption to a neighborhood that has been a continual problem. I know you are aware and can only do best you can. I appreciate your acknowledgment. Thanks.

Ann Roth
Longboat Key

Jewfish key sandbar noise

To: Longboat Key Police Chief George Turner

When the marine patrol observes loud music, they should be far more aggressive handing out citations rather than just requests and warnings. A lot of these party animals know each other and go there every weekend. After a few \$500 fines, word will get around quickly that loud music will not be tolerated in LBK.

As for Sheriff, FWC and CG, while I understand that they can't enforce our ordinances, could they at least ask people to turn down the music?

I would also suggest that the town put up warning signage on the sandbar.

I wasn't there last night, but Rebecca tells me that some boats had music cranked well into the night. Not sure what can be done about that...

James G. Haft
Longboat Key

Updated Property Maintenance Code Key Items Summary

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

As a follow-up to the Commission's adoption of an updated Property Maintenance Code last Monday (3/6/23), attached, please find a summary of some of the key items that are addressed by the updated Property Maintenance Code. The summary items have been prepared to be reproduced as rack cards that we'll be able to hand out to residents and visitors. More excellent work by the soon-to-be-very-much-missed Chris Kopp.

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

RAP process

To: Randy Edwards

Thanks for your comments below, and also for the presentation you gave last Friday. But I do want to point out that none of our RAP process is based on the type of approach that you so accurately critiqued at that meeting. Our proposed RAP process does not rely on any empirically-derived relationships among the many complex biological relationships – at all. That may have been the case in work done almost a decade ago, but it is not what we're doing in our approach.

Your concerns that "...the same, statistically-invalid approach..." should be discontinued does resonate with us. But it's not what we're doing.

And so, while your points below are valid in the broadest sense, they are also not really relevant to what we are doing, since what we are doing moving forward is not the same approach as what was done in the past. We are glad to have given you the opportunity to present your concerns, but they would have been more accurate if addressed to the SBEP's approach 10 years ago. In that, we are fully in agreement.

David Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

See Letters, page 14

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LBK Life, from page 1

ing the terrible trauma shakes me to my core. Unlike people who never had cancer, you know just how fragile the human body is and just how close death resides. This is an enormous emotional burden to carry.

I am now trying to face that fear. Look it in the face. And close my eyes to enjoy the feeling of falling. To envision this pit in my stomach with the same excitement that I have when I am skiing down a mountain, riding a roller coaster or “falling” in love. I am striving today to leverage my fear into power, into centeredness and awareness.

I strive to do this most consciously as my role as a mother, a daughter, a friend and a life coach. My community needs me to dial down my inner voice so I can hear them, see them, and be present with them. They are my greatest joy. They are my heart and my soul. I love everything about my three boys. My three-prince charming. My three heroes.

As a women’s life coach, I use my firsthand experience, to help my clients determine how to best pick themselves up and succeed in the face of adversity. To appreciate the small things that life presents, and that most people take for granted. Then, then I came down to the same beach alone, all alone. I was in the middle of a divorce and my dad was struggling with health issues. That winter I did not walk much. I wanted the dark, my bed, my parents to cuddle me.

And now, now I visit the beach as a family of 3. My boys and myself, still visiting my parents in Longboat key.

I continue to heal and fully embrace my transformations through meditating, reading and talking. That is why being a coach to women who are facing the unexpected is my life’s calling. I have the privilege to hold the hand of others as they find new opportunities growth and to face our own fears, anxiety and anger. We get mindful, we make plans, we stay accountable and authentic. We practice in the moment. To love and be loved. To find joy.

I am now, fully, embracing my authentic self professionally and personally. I am taking my studies at the London School of Economics in Organizational Behavior and my certificate from iPEC Coaching, with my own traumas, to help other women remain accountable to their own mental well being during crisis.

I help my clients determine, even in the roughest of waters, that you hold your own vibration. You choose which frequency you play in.

I have learned from overcoming infertility, cancer and divorce, that knowledge, a plan, and action steps are crucial.

Prevention and treatment saved my life, but I saved my soul.

Most of all, I have learned that we are nothing without a plan and a little Hope.

This winter I will be back to Longboat Key, god bless. And, well, time will tell what glasses I will be wearing as I look deeply at that big every changing ocean.

In the mean time, I hope to be a wraft that women stop at to catch their breath, make their plan and receive a little Hope.

So for me, the ocean represented my different versions of myself. Sometimes the ocean can be hard, stormy, furious, mysterious, grand, deep and boundless. At other times, it was peaceful, calm, crystalline, hypnotic. And now, now I begin to see it again as brilliantly blue, warm, and limitless and endless and wide.

Broadway, from page 1

humps and cross walks.

Public Works Director Isaac Brownman said that speed humps, bumps and tables tend to be controversial and many municipalities require a strong neighborhood support as well as partial or full funding by the neighborhood for installation and removal.

“Residents tend not to want the feature in front of their home due to the noise of vehicles traversing over them and slowing down in front of their respective residence,” wrote Brownman in a memo to the Town Manager last week.

Brownman said that drivers often slink through the neighborhoods to avoid speed bumps. The cost for each speed bump or hump is roughly \$2,000-\$6,000 according to the consultants.

Another option is to add more striping and visual cues, but Brownman notes that these methods do not provide a physical obstruction to slow traffic.

Another possibility is to use landscape medians within the roadway, to slightly alter the course of the vehicle. There are constraints in the width of the road which may render this solution unfeasible. Also, driveways could not be blocked.

The mini roundabout is another idea the consultant offered, but there has to be enough room to engineer a properly sized roundabout so that swerving is not simply introduced into the driving situation. The intent of a mini roundabout is to fit them within an available right-of-way and when installed properly the goal is to slow down traffic, yet not block the movement of large trucks and emergency vehicles. The Village traffic committee prefers the mini roundabout solution says Brownman. Mini roundabouts will cost between \$25,000 and \$45,000 says the consultant.

There’s been discussion about a pilot program to add additional stop signs on Broadway.

The Longboat Key Town Commission will explore these ideas at its March 20 workshop with town staff looking for a clear direction. So far, mini roundabouts appear to be the favored solution, but it is the most expensive and the solution that may need the most physical space to implement.

New Home, from page 1

The company DiPinto and Hargreaves are Principals at are Seaward Homes, will use DSDG Architects and its Principal Mark Sultana who designed the contemporary home which will feature walls of glass that will bring the views of the ocean and beach through the entire structure.

DiPinto says that Longboat Key received the building permit application last week and he hopes to start construction by July and to take about 20 months to build.



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Letters, from page 12
Utility funds

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
It appears that it would. The restrictions on fund transfers would potentially not allow the Town to recover the admin costs like payroll, finance, HR, I.T. that go into supporting Utilities. The Town does not transfer Utility funds back to the general fund like some other municipal utilities have done. The PSC oversight would be new as well, although we have been told that the PSC currently regulates private package water/wastewater plants so they wouldn't be completely new to this field.
The relationship that the Town has with Manatee County for bulk water and wastewater is another complicating factor with potential PSC oversight as I believe this legislation only applies to cities and not counties. We will cover these talking points for the Commission in the material that will come out tomorrow.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Staff changes

To: Longboat Key Commission
Wanted to share with you that we have received notice from three employees about their plans to leave the Town. In Fire/Rescue, Deputy Fire Chief Sandi Drake has turned in her retirement paperwork. In PZB, Maika Arnold and Chris Kopp have submitted their resignations, Maika to go to work for the City of St. Pete and Chris to go back into the Florida Retirement System at Manatee County. We did make a run to keep both, however the opportunities before them were too great and they declined. We are very grateful to all three for their commitment and service to the Town and wish them all good things going forward. They leave big shoes to fill. Fire is already underway with recruitment for a new Deputy Chief and we'll begin this week to recruit for the PZB positions.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

So sorry you are leaving

To: Longboat Key Senior Planner Maika Arnold
I was so sorry to learn you took a new position off of the Island. You have been a great asset to the both the Planning & Zoning Board, and the entire Town. I wish you very good luck in your new post. St. Petersburg will be very lucky to have you on their team.
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Longboat Key

So sorry you are leaving

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold
Thanks so much for your note and the well wishes. I

Longboat Key News
Sarasota City News

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am so grateful for my time spent here and thoroughly enjoyed working with you during your time on the P&Z Board and Town Commission. I still have a few presentations left for the Town Commission, so we will see each other before I depart.
Maika Arnold
Senior Planner
Longboat Key

Speeding on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Commission
Thanks so much for your public service on behalf of our Town. Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the upcoming meeting at which the very serious speeding problem on Broadway will be discussed, but we very much appreciate your putting this topic on the agenda.
Please take prompt and aggressive action to eliminate this extremely dangerous and clear and present risk to residents and visitors. Thanks again, and best wishes for a wonderful Spring season.
Henry and Donna Rae Smith
Longboat Key

Thank you to Longboat Key Police

To: Longboat Key Commission
A few weeks ago we visited friends on Longboat Key. Upon leaving them that evening after dinner, we found ourselves about halfway to the bridge to Sarasota when we ran out of gas in our rental car! Careless of us, certainly!
Our calls to AAA were barely satisfactory and finally indicated that we could expect their service in about three hours....a long, long wait!
But a car pulled up behind us. Your policeman D. Nazareno came to our rescue. He left us and drove to the nearest place to obtain gas, and returned and provided more than ample for us to return to the mainland and open gas stations. He was unwilling to accept any gratuity for his very valued service. Please acknowledge to him the most sincere appreciation of two 86 year olds!
Ardath Cade
Longboat Key

Selby Water Taxi

To: Sarasota City Chief Transportation Planner Alvimarie Corales
At today's Executive Staff meeting, there was an inquiry (from Commissioner Ahearn-Koch) as to the type of water taxi Selby Gardens is utilizing and why can't the City do something similar. No one was really aware of what type of service Selby is providing and someone suggested that it may connect to Spanish Point. When you have a chance, would you mind getting a little more information on this item?
Ryan Chapdelain
Planning Department General Manager
City of Sarasota

Selby Water Taxi

To: Sarasota City Planning Department General Manager Ryan Chapdelain
I emailed Selby to get more information. So far what I found is that it's a boat tour between Selby and Spanish Point costing \$140 per person (roundtrip, tour, access to both campuses and lunch). The picture below is the boat they are using, and it fits 36 people. People must make reservations and are only available one to two days a week.
Alvimarie Corales
Chief Transportation Planner
City of Sarasota

Selby Water Taxi

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
Super! Great info. Maybe we can reach out to Selby and gather some info/data on their experience thus far? Just a thought.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

The Sarasota Experience

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
Do we know when this documentary will air?
Liz Alpert
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

The Sarasota Experience

To: Sarasota City Commission
Please see the entire thread below and the compliments paid to our staff who assisted with the permitting of the film. We

have awesome employees!
Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

The Sarasota Experience

To: Sarasota Film Festival Kimberly Heath-Carrico
We want to seriously thank you for all your help on the WEDU PBS documentary "The Sarasota Experience."
As you know, this filmed sequence was totally ambitious. Still, with your direction in navigating the permits needed to shut down Burns Court, like the engineering, sound, and SRQ filming permits, your assistance led to a successful film shoot!
Reviewing our final head count, we had approx. 80 crew/cast on set last Monday, 2/27/23, and the day flowed perfectly. Not one neighbor had a complaint because, per your suggestion, we personally met each and every one of them, so they felt valued and heard. Some of the neighbors became background actors during the shoot. It was a home run!
The scene itself cost thousands of dollars, hiring many locals and booking hotel rooms for out-of-town contractors. We spent money on gas for the generators and paid the Sarasota Film Society to host our team while filming. Craft services and catering alone were \$2,000.
Kimberly, whether we reached out with a simple question or a very complex inquiry, you always went above and beyond to share your knowledge with the producing team, which was invaluable.
I think it's true to say that if the permitting aspect of filming the scene was going to be problematic, we would have never gone through with the shoot. All of these wonderful organizations like the Sarasota Opera, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, The Players Centre for Performing Arts, Ringling College Students, Suncoast Technical College Students, the Circus Arts Conservatory, and the Sarasota Orchestra would have never had this once-in-a-lifetime experience!
I'm honored to say "The Sarasota Experience" will premiere at the Sarasota Opera House on Thursday, April 13, and will air on WEDU PBS on April 20 at 8 p.m.
Honestly, Kimberly, this isn't the first time you've gone to bat for us. There have been multiple times over the years you've been instrumental in our success, but on this very project, we don't think we could have done it without you. My team is thankful to have you as the Sarasota Film Commissioner. Can't wait until the next project. Thank you dearly.
Shaun Greenspan | Producer / Director
Lera Juno | Co-Producer
Trish Appello | Associate Producer

The Sarasota Experience

To: Shaun Greenspan, Lera Juno and Trish Appello
I hope this finds you all healthy and rested after the beautiful weekend, aren't we fortunate to live here? This letter below is a testament to the partnerships we have fostered together. Our intergovernmental relationships have grown and flourished. We are seeing the benefits to the local economy, workforce, and Sarasota County's reputation. We would like to acknowledge the support we receive, consistently from Rob Lewis, Lauren Tominelli, James Wormley, Lori Bensen, John Ochoa, Wesley Stuckey, and Catherine Wunderlich.
Your assistance to our office is an integral part of our success. We are grateful for each of you, your service to the community, and the EDC's- Sarasota County Film and Entertainment Office.
Your role in the permitting process is the only reason this works as efficiently as it does. We would be remiss if we failed to mention how quickly Sarasota County and The City of Sarasota acted on this project's urgent need, specifically; Rob, John, James, Wesley, and Lori (even when you were sick!!!). We often get thrown into the fire but it's nice to be able to depend on the professionalism of those we encounter along the way, Thank you for your extra efforts and dedication to this project.
While I may be the name, face, advisor, and voice people associate with filming in our county, you each own these words and accolades. Truly, this honor belongs to you, we are a team and you make my job much easier than it could be.
Kimberly Heath-Carrico
Film Liaison
Sarasota County Film and Entertainment Office

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