




Longboat Key News

March 4, 2022


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InsideLook




Sipping an Australian native ...page 13



Focus on the Serve & Volley ...page 14



Longboat sells for \$2.65 million ...page 9



Unwanted 'foul' lyrics prompt call ...page 10

Lido Beach project has not eroded Siesta says report

Opponents to the claimed wave energy and commensurate erosion would likely double after the dredging and filling of sand.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

The recent Lido Beach renourishment is not eroding the Siesta Key shoreline says the US Army Corps of Engineers following analysis of the shoreline, erosion and

wave activity.

In its first report since its contractor completed the Lido Key Beach renourishment last year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says the effect on Siesta Key was “statistically insignificant” between its pre-construction post-construction surveys.

Opponents to the claimed wave energy and commensurate erosion would likely double after the dredging and filling of sand.

The project placed about 650,000 cubic yards of sand on highly erod-

See Beach, page 3

NewsWorthy COVID-19 Good News!

Longboat appears to be past the Omicron variant peak and hospitalizations and percent of new infections are down says Town Manager Tom Harmer. The CDC has also updated its guidance on mask wearing, especially related to the hospital capacity within a community. As of February 28, we the Town reverted to its pre-variant level of restrictions on the island.

Art Exhibit & Artists’ Reception

March 24. Twelve local artists are featured in the 71st Town Hall Art Exhibit! The Exhibit’s started in 2003 with rotating installations and new artwork installed every 3 months. Over 107 artists have been featured at Town Hall over the past 19 years. The event begins at 5:30 with appetizers, beer, and wine provided by local sponsors. Don’t worry if you miss the event, exhibits are open to the public each weekday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. All artwork is for sale directly from the artists. Call 941-316-1999 to RSVP.

Undergrounding Project milestone

All of the FPL power poles have been removed in Phase 1 (Country Club Shores area). By the end of 2022 the Town hopes to have all utilities completely underground. Pole removal is performed by FPL’s contractors after the Town completes its portion of the undergrounding work.

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project

This is a challenging season navigating US 41 @ Gulfstream as construction continues on the State FDOT project. Check routes and potential delays in advance of your travel. FDOT has incentivized the contractor to complete the work ahead of schedule, although work will continue through the 2022 season. FDOT Project Website: <http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/>

Town Commission & (FDOT) discussion on Pedestrian Crossings

At the February 22 Commission Workshop FDOT outlined plans for upgrading two mid-block crossings to Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (HAWK signals) with overhead red flashing lights for crosswalks at Country Club Shores & at Bayfront Park. Yellow in-roadway lighting will be installed at the mid-block crossing North of Broadway.

Sprawling Waves



By Bob Parrish

Highest priced Bird Key garden home sold

Bruce Myer just sold the highest priced garden residence ever on Bird Key. Located at 411 Pheasant Way, this remodeled 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath residence closed for \$3,295,000.

Bruce Myer is ranked in the Top Ten Realtors in Sarasota and Manatee Counties with over \$134 million sold in 2021.

Bobby Jones Golf Club – Renovation Underway!

The City of Sarasota celebrated the official groundbreaking to renovate the historic municipal golf course, Bobby Jones Golf Club. City Commissioners, residents adjacent to the course, avid golfers and the professionals who shepherded the process were all on hand for the celebration.

This urban oasis is home to 70+ bird species plus many reptiles and mammals.

The construction schedule for the restored 18-hole Donald Ross course has an anticipated finish date and opening to the public for play in November-December 2022. The 9-hole executive course is expected to open a couple of months later. In the meantime, a proposed design for the clubhouse and restaurant is underway, and staff is negotiating a term sheet with Indigo Golf Partners to manage the golf course operations, as directed by the City Commission.

Bay Runner – Now Running!

The City of Sarasota’s new trolley shuttle service, the Bay Runner, launched to the public last Wednesday and provides complimentary trolley service between Main Street, St. Armands Circle and Lido Beach.

Over 230 people rode the first day says the City.

Legacy Trail

City Commissioners and staff celebrated the ribbon-cutting for Sarasota County’s northern extension of The Legacy Trail last week. This newest segment of the trail stretches north to Fruitville Road and includes a trailhead at the southern end of Payne Park and School Avenue.

The funding for this segment of the trail was overwhelmingly approved by Sarasota County voters back in 2018, and the completion of this part of the project is two years and nine months ahead of schedule. Hundreds of thousands of people utilize.

City staff is developing projects to help enhance connectivity from Payne Park to the existing Alderman Multi-Use Recreational Trail and on to Ringling Boulevard, as well as ways to further extend trail connectivity to other city areas, such as Newtown and the Bobby Jones Golf Club and Nature Park.



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by Bob Elmes

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NewsWorthy

Fredd “Glossie” Atkins Park

Various meaningful symbols are sculpted into the new archway entrance at Fredd “Glossie” Atkins Park, which also serves as the gateway to the Newtown business district in Sarasota’s historic and predominantly African African community. The images include a star, flower, butterfly, hand and a string of pearls --- with each representing a unique token of appreciation to a Newtown resident who generously offered their time and love to this community park over the years, especially during the recent redesign.

From the inception in 2004, investing over \$1 million in federal Community Development Block Grant and economic development incentive funds, a handful of devout residents made it their mission to educate themselves about the local process for creating a new community park. They learned about funding, design, landscape architecture and providing public input.

Then came the park redesign in 2020 shortly after the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minnesota and racial tensions flared throughout the nation.

During that time, Parks and Recreation General Manager Candie Pedersen worked closely on the park redesign with several Newtown residents, including Valerie Buchand, Corell Byrd, Verna Hall, Barbara Langston, and Mary Mack. As they spent time together talking, sharing personal experiences and their vision to improve the park, Candie and these five remarkable women forged personal connections and discovered they had much in common -- from a love of plants and butterflies, to the admiration of a firm “I honor my word” handshake.

This collaboration and bond are now uniquely memorialized at the park, 2431 Washington Court. Each symbol on the new archway represents a resident: Valerie Buchand (star), Corell Byrd (amaryllis), Verna Hall (a string of pearls), Barbara Langston (butterfly) and Mary Mack (hand).

Town Center Green

February was busy again with events at the Town Center on Longboat Key, with the monthly Friday Market, Chamber Concert series, the Howard Alan Art Show & Festival, and an interview with Tom Kirdahy, (Tony Award-winning Theatrical Producer with Hermitage Artists Retreat). A few events in March before season ends, with the Friday Market on March 11, and the final Chamber Concert series on March 19th. Work on additional improvements to the outdoor venue will start after season to include walkways, lighting, landscaping & restrooms. The Town is also finishing design to start construction of the new Stage funded through a major private donation.

Upcoming Public Meetings/Events on Longboat Key

- March 7, 2022, 1:00 pm Town Commission Regular Meeting
- March 8, 2022 7 am - 7 pm Sarasota County Election at Town Hall – (SC voters only)
- March 9, 2022 10:00 am Special Magistrate Hearing
- March 14, 2022 9:30 am Community Information – Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance
- March 15, 2022 9:15 am Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting
- March 17, 2022 9:30 am Zoning Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting
- March 21, 2022 9:00 am Town Commission Statutory Meeting
- March 21, 2022 1:00 pm Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting
- March 29, 2022 9:15 am Planning & Zoning Board Special Workshop (Comp Plan)

Beach, from page 1

ed Lido Beach. The sand was dredged from the accreted shoal along Big Pass.

The findings by the Army bode well for future stages of the projects.

“Engineers collected directional wave data to ensure that wave energy off Sarasota Point had not increased appreciably post-construction,” the Army says in a report.

The sand placement began on June 1, 2020 and was completed on April 30, 2021. Two groins were also constructed on South Lido in an effort to try to keep the sand in place between subsequent renourishment initiatives, which the USACE has estimated will be necessary every five years.

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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.

Blake Fleetwood article

To: Editor

The February 18 article on the Ukraine issue by Blake Fleetwood was excellent as long as readers understand that he is not justifying the Putin actions but presenting a view, absent in the mainstream media, which explains Putin’s motivation and anger at the West.

The facts that support the view were also reported in “The Economist”, a highly respected news magazine published in the UK and are as follows:

At the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 President George HW Bush and Secretary of State James Baker made a deal with Gorbachev which promised that we would not expand NATO beyond its size at the time in return for Russian agreement with the reunification of East and West Germany.

That agreement was honored during the remains of the Bush administration but the successor Clinton administration began a process which eventually resulted in the expansion to the East of 14 new member countries, many of which were formerly Soviet satellites. This constituted a flagrant violation of the Bush agreement.

George Keenan, our highly respected Ambassador to Russia at the time opposed the expansion and opined that we might be initiating a new “cold War”

Thomas Friedman, the Pulitzer Prize winning columnist echoed the Keenan concern.

To supplement the excellent article by Blake Fleetwood I offer supplementary views on the current situation as follows.

During my fifty year career I have learned that there are two very important factors involved in decision making and they are the degree to which the decision is based upon logical thinking and/or feelings. Logical thinking tends to be objective and fact based while feelings tend to ignore the potential consequences and to be subjective.

For this reason, decisions based primarily on feelings like anger can be very dangerous to the decision maker and those who may be affected by the decision.

Frankly, I believe that Putin has “lost it” and that is proceeding on the basis of feelings of anger. He has completely ignored the consequences of his rash decision some of which follow:

- His people may revolt and overthrow him.
- His military could revolt
- He has awakened NATO, the sleeping tiger
- Other countries like Sweden and Finland who are not NATO members may now elect to do so.
- Present NATO members will increase funding and military preparedness.
- The Economy of Russia which is shaky to start with could be placed in danger of a full economic depression.
- The Western European countries which buy Russian oil and gas will now seek to attain energy independence which will severely cripple the Russian economy
- A postwar victory over Ukraine would result in an occupation which would be extremely costly and involve interminable warfare.
- The global reputation of Russia is in the garbage can

Americans need to understand that this is an extremely dangerous situation in which we have a deranged, angry dictator who has unlimited access to one of the strongest nuclear arsenals in the world.

William B Allen
Longboat Key

Tom Barwin editorial

To: Editor

“Tom Barwin Gets the Last Laugh” published February 24 was quite a snarky little piece of literature written by your staff. As a downtown dweller, I find nothing wrong with fanny packs and golden doodles neither of which I own. I enjoy being able to safely walk around my city without cars wizzing by. Cars pollute the environment, contribute to global warming, and threaten even Longboat Key’s shores. Walking is a healthy choice. Perhaps Longboat Key should expand its services and infrastructure so that it’s residents don’t have to depend on Sarasota for hospitals, entertainment and restaurants. Longboat Key can even widen Gulf of

Mexico drive to accommodate future expansion while providing a racetrack for its citizens who love the mobility that their cars offer.

Melissa Furman
Sarasota

Hyde a professional?

To: Editor

If Martin Hyde truly was a professional soccer player as you professed, he must have been the designated flopper so well established in the game today.

John Ehlert
Sarasota

Historical environmental papers from Dr. John Morrill

To: Longboat Key Commission

Important historical environmental papers from Dr. John Morrill. Dr. John Morrill from New College was for 20-40 years one of the most respected environmental experts on the Longboat Key area. I was one of his students and I received a bag full of documents about the environment of Longboat Key from him before he died. Some of these documents seem to be original and some may be copies. My concern was that this information may shed light on projects that the Town is currently working on and that we may want to preserve this information into the future.

I made a video to display these documents so that if there was any interest in preserving these environmental documents for posterity, I could find a safe home for them. The people who may be interested in seeing and preserving these may be New College Environmental Studies Dept., Manatee County Commissioners and government officials, Sarasota County Commissioners and government officials, Longboat Key Town Commissioners and government officials, Mote Marine Lab and others in this area. As far as I can see there is no one body which can safely archive this material for the future. The Longboat Key Historical Society is inactive, New College said they were not set up to receive these documents, Susan Phillips from the Town of Longboat Key said that she would look at these documents in order to consider what to do with them. Here is the video and if you see anything that you may want to look at more, please contact me. I am trying to do due diligence out of respect for the many years that John put in trying to help the environment here locally.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObwoJKcf_Fg

Tom Mayers
Longboat Key

Historical environmental papers from Dr. John Morrill

To: Tom Mayers

I was forwarded a copy of your email. The Clerk’s Office here in the Town would be happy to review and the manage the documents. They have a Historical Category of files in our Laserfische system. I will have our Town Clerk Trish Shinkle reach out to you directly.

Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

The Black Box Theater has limits

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneiier

Tom Freidman and Tom Aposporos kindly briefed our Kiwanis Club on the Black Box Theater concept for our Town Center Green. It brings to mind the question what are the highest and best uses of our publicly owned Town Center Green property?

Obviously facilities that will attract the highest use by Longboaters, who paid for the property and will pay the ongoing carrying costs, should take priority.

While the Black Box Theater is an interesting concept it clearly has very limited capacity and

See Letters, page 8



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Editorial Opinion

Putin’s aggression demands strength on many fronts

We see in real time that tyranny is on the move against freedom, and once again, good must prevail. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness at home can only be attained by nurturing and supporting those same innate human rights abroad.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
Rusovich@lbknews.com

The vicious Russian invasion of Ukraine has sent a chilling message to the free world that evil is on the march and the period of detente following the Cold War is over. Buckle up. Vladimir Putin has taken the most immediate and brutal action, but China and Iran lurk in the shadows. The West must show strength, unity, fortitude, strategic resolve, and recognize that we have entered a new period of global conflict.



RUSOVICH

The sinister Sino-Russian partnership has been percolating for several years, most recently highlighted by the Xi Jinping-Putin love fest displayed during the Olympics just days before the assault on Ukraine. “Friendship between the two states has no limits,” read the joint statement. “There are no ‘forbidden’ areas of cooperation...” And now it has been widely reported that the two dictators plotted to wait until the end of the Olympic games to commence the Ukrainian assault. As Xi has similar designs on Taiwan, he is closely monitoring his comrade’s progress in Ukraine, as well as gauging the response by the West.

President Zelensky and the Ukrainian people have shown incredible courage, resilience and tenacity. When the U.S. offered to evacuate Zelensky, he rejected the option, “I need ammunition, not a ride.” Putin’s barbaric invasion is a direct threat to freedom and liberty. As we watch the horrifying assault on Ukrainian civilians, it is vital to recognize that we have entered a new very dangerous period of tyrannical threats and actions. Lessons from the past can help lead to the victory of liberty over tyranny once again.

The successful Cold War strategy deployed by Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Pope John Paul II provides a clear path to success. Peace Through Strength won the day in the eighties. Tyrants see and detect weakness and relish any opportunity to exploit it. The humiliating Afghanistan surrender demonstrated weakness to our enemies. In this time of conflict, every one of our policy decisions and acts matter, and consistency is crucial. So as America and the West have coalesced around a comprehensive set of sanctions on Russia, we must not simultaneously beg the mullahs of Iran for a nuclear deal while they provoke havoc in the Middle East. The Russians are sitting at the Iranian nuclear talks in Vienna



watching America roll over to Iranian demands. Why? We must deploy a global strategy of containment and realism, not capitulation and idealism.

The U.S. also faces a whole new set of budget priorities. The gibberish of the Green New Deal and grandiosity of Build Back Better are now further diminished by urgent defense budgetary needs. Remember the Gipper’s shrewd surge of military funding which devastated the Soviet Union as the communist economy had no chance to keep up with a robust free market system. Europe is finally catching on as even Germany just announced a major increase in defense spending. Working with our European and Asian allies to ensure that each partner significantly increases its own defense budget would send an unequivocally strong message to our adversaries and help to deter the aggressors.

The U.S., along with multiple other nations (primarily in Europe) are sending military equipment to the brave Ukrainians. But we must do more. Immediately surge all additional available, helpful military inventory into Ukraine and deploy western intelligence agencies and drones to assist. Simultaneously, the U.S. and NATO should also immediately send additional missile defense, anti-tank and related military equipment to Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and other Eastern European nations. We should also expand defense funding to Taiwan to ensure that Xi would pay a serious price for any potential incursion. Vigorously support the

Ukrainians while containing any further incursions. Make Putin’s life sheer hell in Ukraine and ensure any further incursions are untenable for the dictator.

Analogous to the Cold War strategy, we should use energy as economic leverage. Reagan and his team convinced the Saudis to significantly increase oil production so to drop the prices and damage the Soviet economy. Similarly, President Biden must undo his strangulation of the oil industry and unleash American energy production. Upon assuming office, Biden and his Climate Czar, John Kerry, shut down the Keystone Pipeline, deterred natural gas production and barred drilling on federal lands and waters. And just over a week ago, the climate warriors paused decisions on new oil and gas leases and permits. Russian producers nearly tripled their shipments of oil to the U.S. in 2021 over 2020. Russia is pocketing over \$700 million per day on its sales of oil to the U.S., the European Union, and United Kingdom, and using the money to support its military. Take the shackles off of our oil and gas sector, return to energy independence, and ship our product to Europe to further suffocate Putin and his comrades. As the Russian economy is on the precipice of economic ruin as a result of crippling sanctions, cancelling all oil and gas purchases would be a further serious blow. Ban the Russian oil and cancel the purchases.

Politically, just as the Cold War had the far left calling for a unilateral nuclear freeze-by the West, the loonies are back again. Nicole Hannah-Jones, the New York Times 1619 Project leader (which claimed that the Revolutionary War was fought primarily over slavery) blames Putin’s invasion on western culture, “What if I told you Europe is not a continent by definition, but a geopolitical fiction to separate it from Asia and so the alarm about a European, or civilized, or First World nation being invaded is a dog whistle to tell us we should care because they are like us.” Pathetic. And the far right has also been dangerously wrong. America cannot pull back from the world, we cannot isolate, and we must vigorously lead in the global arena.

Watching the human suffering unfold as millions of Ukrainians is heart wrenching. Pregnant moms crammed into tiny, underground shelters while bombs explode above. Children - sons and daughters - unable to get medical treatment or care. Brave men and women fighting, frequently to the death. We see in real time that tyranny is on the move against freedom, and once again, good must prevail. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness at home can only be attained by nurturing and supporting those same innate human rights abroad.

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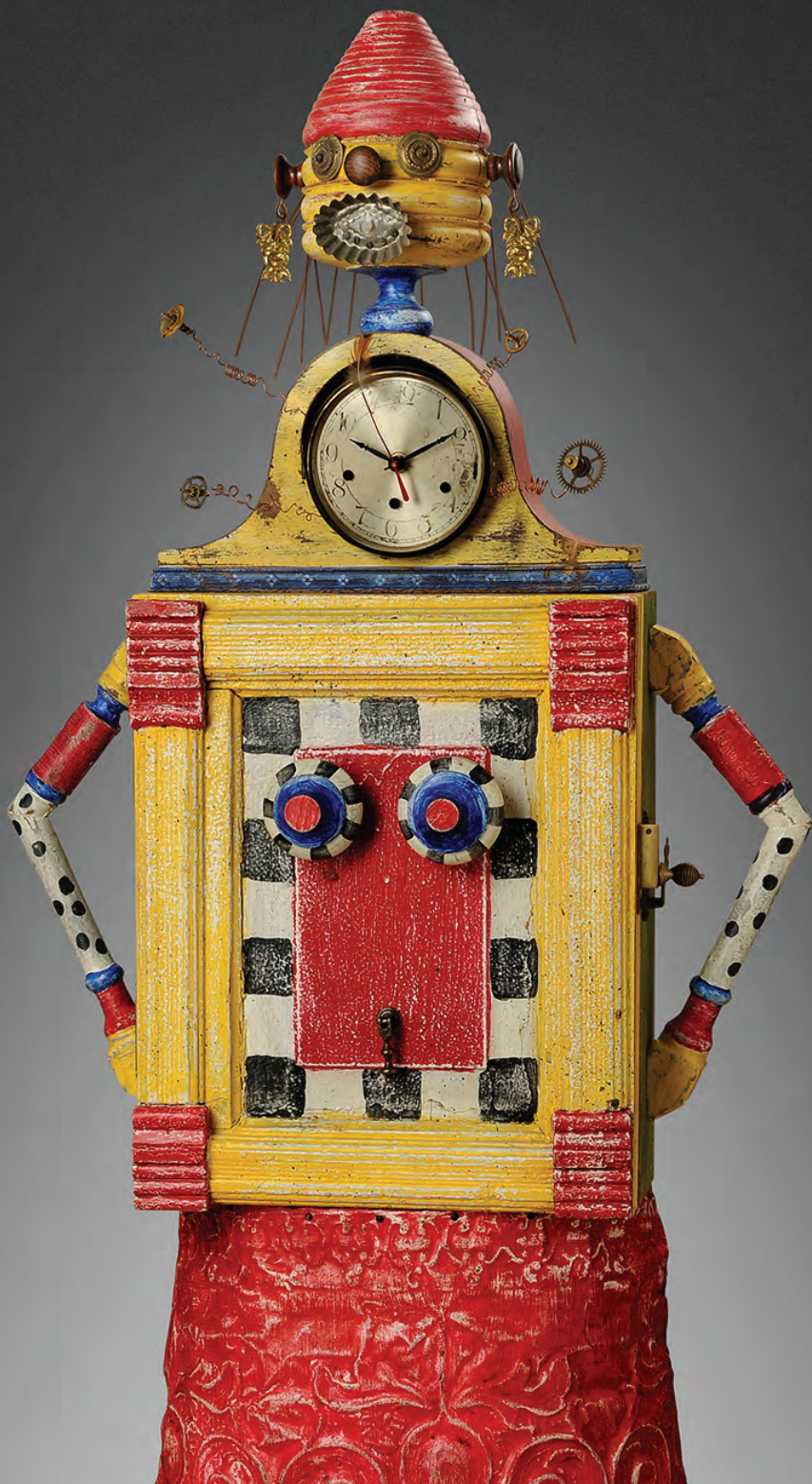
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Longboat Key News Sarasota City News



EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

attracts a niche audience looking for an intimate, minimalist production theater experience. We all have the luxury of enjoying the traditional production entertainment venues and even a black box in nearby Sarasota.

It is instructive to take note of the recent event successes on the Town Center Green already, like the Longboat Key Kiwanis Club's annual Lawn Party benefiting the Children's Guardian Foundation, 800 attended.

Also, the two Farmers Markets and the Art Festival which were well attended, good real world examples.

The upcoming concerts with the new band shell are sure to be a success as well.

Many of us urge you to preserve the beautiful existing oak trees and open space of the Town Center Green to maximize use by Longboat residents. Preserving flexibility and aesthetics of the space are the key to generating high use.

Maybe the Commission could start with a "clean slate" and arrange an electronic Straw Poll of residents on the Town web site. List all the potential use options, allowing three picks per e mail address, to give you real world guidance for planning the highest and best uses for this important Longboat Key asset.

As an aside, no we don't want to attract off island people. In season traffic is a very real concern but by the same token we want things to do on island so we can stay on the island and not contend with the off island traffic, hence this Town Center Green opportunity.

Finally, based on experience, don't just think "build it and they will come", that was just a movie. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our Community.

Bob and Shannon Gault
Longboat Key

The Black Box Theater

To: Bob and Shannon Gault

Thanks for your thoughts regarding the Town Center Green. The outdoor activities this season have been a great success and, with the completion of the oval walkway, shade trees and lighting and the construction of the stage, that part of the vision should be a truly wonderful addition to the Town. On that note, there is no plan to remove any of the oak trees, as that portion of the property with its picnic tables and shade has its own unique beauty.

As for construction of what we had been calling an Arts, Cultural and Education Center on the property adjacent to the Chase Bank, we are working closely with the Sarasota County Library System, The Sarasota County School Board and the Longboat Key Education Center to create a joint facility including library services, classrooms, meeting rooms, a place for the community to congregate and relax and a multi-purpose space that could serve as an auditorium, large meeting room and performance venue for use by all parties. An excellent example of this format (albeit on a larger scale) is the joint venture of Sarasota Libraries and Vo-Tech School and the City of Northport. It's worth a visit.

While considerable public input received over the years has contributed to these plans, more is welcome and will be sought out. As for a black box theatre, it would seem to be redundant as an addition to a multi-purpose performance space and would provide much less flexibility as an alternative. Moreover, we have been advised by operators that a properly-equipped black box theatre would be more complex and expensive to build than a standard professional theatre of equal size and would require more back-stage room than we may wish to dedicate to that use. As we have noted in

recent hearings, the addition of a black box theatre to the Ringling College plans that were sidelined several years ago was estimated to cost an extra \$7 million, far in excess of the \$750,000 that has been suggested in the most recent proposal.

We look forward to your continued participation in this important project.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Police Chief Appointment


To: Longboat Key Commission

Please join me in congratulating George Turner for his official appointment as the Town's next police chief. The effective date of the appointment is March 13, 2022.

Ten months ago, George agreed to serve as the Interim Chief to assist the Town with an unexpected vacancy in the Department. He has addressed a number of issues during that time including supporting the FY22 budget process, helping fully implement enforcement of the resident parking program in the Village, helped finalize accreditation plans, updated the evidence process, implemented updated high priority policies and training, managed through COVID and has worked hard to fill critical vacancies within the department. I want to thank Chief Turner for agreeing to assist the Town during this transitional period.

Chief Turner has over 40 years of law enforcement experience, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from State University of New York, and a graduate of the National FBI academy. He has previously served the Town of Longboat Key leaving as a Captain in 2007 to accept the Chief position in the City of Brooksville where he served until 2018.

See Letters, page 11




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KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
53 TWIN SHORES BLVD	629	\$234,900	2	1	0	189	\$234,900
4390 EXETER DR Unit#1-206	962	\$549,000	2	2	0	5	\$519,000
4380 EXETER DR Unit#203	978	\$499,000	2	2	0	1	\$525,000
4725 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#111	1,032	\$675,000	2	2	0	152	\$620,000
450 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#B206	1,305	\$695,000	2	2	0	0	\$695,000
450 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#B107	1,586	\$725,000	3	2	0	17	\$735,000
738 BAYPORT WAY Unit#738	1,486	\$730,000	2	2	0	4	\$740,000
2295 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#55	1,235	\$788,000	2	2	0	69	\$740,000
5320 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#204	1,323	\$749,000	3	2	0	3	\$749,000
4545 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#311	1,398	\$975,000	2	2	0	0	\$980,000
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#445	2,143	\$1,495,000	3	2	1	21	\$1,425,000
501 HALYARD LN	2,340	\$2,550,000	3	3	1	0	\$2,550,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#904	2,880	\$2,625,000	3	3	1	8	\$2,650,000
475 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#105	593	\$399,900	1	1	0	39	\$415,000
475 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#103	593	\$419,900	1	1	0	3	\$420,000
1340 WESTWAY DR	1,909	\$2,000,000	3	3	0	91	\$1,880,000
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BIRD KEY
328 Bob White Way
SOLD! \$1,195,000
Represented Buyer



BIRD KEY
395 Bob White Drive
PENDING! \$5,295,000
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8486 Lindrick
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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.

Feb. 26 Citizen assist

7:34 p.m.
Officer Macniven responded to the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to an unlocked door at a business. Upon his arrival, Officer Macniven met with the complainant who relayed that she works next door and noticed the UPS store was slightly ajar. She emailed the owner and he asked her to call the police. Officer Macniven checked the business and the side door was slightly opened. It appeared the lock did not catch when it closed. Officer Macniven checked inside the business and nothing looked out of place. A note was left with a case number. Officer Macniven was able to secure the side door when leaving Case clear.



the sign, which shoed only normal weather wear and tear and appeared to have a piece pulled off the piling.

Noise complaint

5:15 p.m.
Officer Connors responded to De Narvaez Drive and observed construction equipment being operated after hours. Officer Connors advised that operator of the construction equipment of the Longboat Key ordinance pertaining to noise in which he advised that he lost track of time. He immediately seized work for the day without incident.

Feb. 27 Noise complaint

3: 03 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a noise complaint on the beach. Dispatch stated there were six individuals in a tent on the beach blasting music. The complainant stated they did not wish to speak with the police. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson walked out to the beach and an unknown man pointed down the beach to the north at a group in a tent. Officer Martinson asked the man if that is where the loud music was coming from and he told Officer Martinson no, but the group was using foul language. At this point, a woman sun tanning interjected and said the male was a “old grumpy man” and she told Officer Martinson the group had not been using foul language, playing their music too loud or have caused any problems. Officer Martinson walked down towards the group in the tent and their music was not being played too loud but some of the lyrics could be considered foul. Offier Martinson advised the group that there had been a complainant about the music they were playing and they stated they would turn it down.

Feb. 28 Boating

11:20 a.m.
Officer Connors responded to Halyard Lane and spoke with a concerned resident in regards to speeding vessels in the area. The party advised that a “slow speed, minimum wake” sign may be missing or damaged in the area of said violations. Officer Connors checked the area and located a piling with no sign present. A recent photo that Officer Connors took a photo of

March 1 Civil citation

4:53 p.m.
Officer Hodo responded to Cedar Street in reference to construction noise after 5 p.m. Officer Hodo upon arrival noted that the construction noise was still going on at this location. Officer Hodo issued the violator a civil citation for construction noise after 5 p.m. No further investigation, case clear.

March 2 Noise complaint

12:27 a.m.
Officer Ferris responded to 5200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Ferris was met by the complainant who advised he lived in one of the units directly above the noisy unit. The complainant did admit the noise went down right after he called in the disturbance.
When Officer Ferris approached, he could not hear any noise. After knocking on the unit door, a gentleman answered and Officer Ferris advised him there was a complaint about loud noise coming from this unit. He said he was very sorry and the music was already off an every-one was going to bed so there would no more noise tonight. The complainant was notified about the neighbor going to bed and the rest of the night should be quiet. Nothing further.

Citizen assist

8:57 p.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to Harbourside Drive for a citizen assist call for a disabled vehicle blocking one of the northbound lanes at the location. Upon his arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the driver who made arrangements with a towing company to remove the vehicle, Officer Nazareno remained on scene until the vehicle was moved. Case clear.

March 3 Citizen assist

10:47 a.m.
Officer Martinson responded to the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a call of an officer standby. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the complainant who was outside of the massage business. She said he wanted Officer Martinson to standby as she got property out of the business. The man was on scene and allowed her to take all the property she could at this time. The two individuals then agreed that she would come back tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. before the business opens and take the rest of her belongings. Case clear.

Citizen assist

1:52 p.m.
Officer Vazeos responded to Sands Point Road for a report of a trespassing complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Vazeos was met with the complainant who stated she received a complaint from one of the residences who stated she observed an unknown set of individuals who docked their boat on the residence dock. During the follow up, a vessel registration was run with a registered owner. Officer Vazeos then reported to the owner who stated the renters are using it only for the day. Case clear.



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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

One of the reasons Chief Turner was asked to assist the Town in his interim assignment was to help advance plans to seek independent professional law enforcement accreditation of the Department. He led the Brooksville Police Department through accreditation and reaccreditation during his tenure with the City. Over the past 10 months the Police Department has already started the process to update key equipment, implemented a series of new policies, and facilitated key training for the officers.

The Chief will be responsible for working closely with all of the members of the Police Department to make sure we maintain the high level of community policing that the Police Department has been known for. He will also be responsible for maintaining a positive working relationship with the two Sheriffs, and with our other neighboring law enforcement agencies as well as collaboratively working with the other departments of the Town.

We are fortunate to have a great group of officers and employees within the department and look forward to Chief Turner leading this great team.

A short swearing in ceremony is scheduled for Monday, March 14th at 10 a.m. at the Longboat Key Police Station.

Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Police Chief Appointment

To: Longboat Key Police Chief George Turner

One of the many great things about Longboat Key is our fortune to attract the perfect people for our key positions just when we need them. Your return to this community and elevation to Chief is a case in point. Best of luck in your new role.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Police Chief Appointment

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank-you Mayor. Very proud to return, and to now stay on in the permanent position.

George B. Turner
Police Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Proposed MarVista Cell Tower

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I represent the Chiles Group which owns the MarVista restaurant on the northern end of

Longboat Key. MarVista is the site of one of the oldest structures in historic Longbeach dating back to 1912 (see history at<https://www.marvistadining.com/about-us>), and was purchased by Ed Chiles in 1989. As you know, it is a very popular dining site for many Longboat Key residents and visitors. Several years ago, our company invested several million dollars to renovate MarVista, but in the process we made every attempt to honor its historic legacy. I think many of our guest will agree that its laid back, understated design fits in well with its surroundings and it is a great complement to the Longbeach community.

When we first heard of the proposed Version cell tower project, we welcomed the news as wireless connectivity on the northern end of Longboat Key is very poor. When we found out that Verizon decided to place one of the proposed cell towers on the corner of Broadway and Lois Avenue adjacent to our “MarVista” sign, we were deeply disappointed. We know that everyone wants the benefits of better cell connectivity, but no one wants a cell tower in their “front yard”. We understand that the proposed tower is in an easement and technically not on our property, but only an engineer could have picked a place of more prominence as it relates to our restaurant - a pimple on the tip of our nose.

We recognize all of the good benefits everyone will receive from enhanced cell service and we are willing to “take one for the team”, but all we ask is that they move the proposed location from its current spot to a new location approximately 20-30 feet down Lois Avenue within the same easement (please see attached), so that it’s not as imposing as the current location. If this 20 to 30-foot move cannot be accomplished, we ask your permission to paint “MarVista” on the tower so it looks like we meant to put it there to advertise our establishment. Please let us know if this small concession can be made.

Brooks O’Hara
Director - RE and Facilities
The Chiles Group

Proposed MarVista Cell Tower

To: Director Ed Chiles Group Brooks O’Hara

We discussed with Verizon the possibility of moving this pole 10 feet to the south. Please work with Allan Parsons to see if we can make this work.

Mike Haycock
Vice Mayor
Longboat Key

Cell tower public comment

To: Longboat Key Commission

Thank you for listening to my input regarding the cellular signal solution.

Please note when I refer to the town in my comments this is the town as a whole both gov-

See Letters, page 12



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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 11

ernment and townspeople.

I would like to provide some background so you understand my point of view.

I have owned a home on LBK for 13 years. My home is a one-story cinder block house and we do not have a cell signal in the house and limited reliability outside the house.

I was disappointed many years ago when the town launched a campaign against improving the cell signal with a tower at Lords Warehouse. At the time the town raised the alternative of a distributed antenna system as a more acceptable solution. In addition, the town advised that we purchase new cell phones that could run over wifi instead of relying on cellular, as well as maintaining a land line in our home. In 2019 Apple helped the town with that transition when they stopped supporting our older model phones. But at the same time the town communicated that land lines would be decommissioned as part of the undergrounding project.

I recently looked into purchasing a medical alert system for my parents. I was surprised to find out that these systems rely on copper land lines or cellular. I have not found one that operates on wifi.

When I discovered this information, I immediately wondered how many residents of LBK are unable to use medical alert systems because there is no cell service and no land line service? It may be a very small number and most likely they have found a work around, but it is another example of limitations arising from the limited cellular and land line services on LBK.

So here we are discussing a type of distributed system and there is opposition.

We come back to how does LBK get reliable cellular service; what kind of system is used to emit the cellular signal and who is going to make that happen.

I would like the town to have a concrete plan.

I was previously under the impression that the town fiber was going to provide this cellular signal through the lamp posts. It seemed that all the discussion about lamp post spacing and height was to support a cellular and wifi network.

So last night I read through town documents I have collected from 2015 to 2021. I am now more confused than ever about what is supposed to happen with this town fiber and the lamp posts to address cellular issues inside and outside of our homes.

The documents included the December 2015 resolution, information from Waterleaf (the first fiber partner), and the 2021 Enhanced technology information provided by the new fiber partner.

Unfortunately, it seems to me that the town does not have an actionable plan for generating cellular signals from the lampposts.

So the town is at a crossroads – How do we get reliable cell service? Is it distributed poles from cellular companies, distributed poles from the town or a single tall cell tower.

Many people are going to come here today and say they want the cell signal through the lamp posts, as the town has marketed.

Before voting down any poles from the cellular companies, I request that the town share with the townspeople a detailed operational plan about what needs to happen, along with annual taxpayer costs, to have cellular service from the lamp posts. Evaluate that plan and determine if it is feasible.

In conclusion, present an actionable town Smart Pole plan that will provide enhanced cellular service in a similar time frame or clearly communicate that the town fiber is not a feasible solution to enhance cellular service and approve cellular company infrastructure.

Thank you for reading this during the public comment period.

Blythe Jeffers
Longboat Key

Reduced COVID restrictions

To: Longboat Key Commission

This morning we updated our COVID-related restrictions for activity within Town facilities.

Fortunately, COVID case numbers have been decreasing in Florida, and in our two-county area; the percent positives are now below 10 percent and hospitalizations related to COVID have also significantly decreased. The CDC has also issues new guidance regarding masks lift-

ing recommendations to wear masks especially when related hospitalizations are low.

This is all good news, but there is still active infection in the area and it is important for individuals to continue to follow the safe practices that have helped our community mitigate the impacts of the pandemic thus far.

Based on the level of vaccination on the island, as well as the latest data from the Florida Department of Health and the CDC, we are returning our COVID protocols to the pre-“Omicron Variant” guidelines.

These updated protocols go into effect today, February 28, 2022.

Masks are voluntary in Town Facilities. Unvaccinated individuals are still encouraged to wear a mask at all times when in the common areas and when they cannot social distance.

Masks will continue to be available at all Town facilities for visitors that may request them

The staff will no longer be screening visitors when they enter a Town facility

Signs on the entry doors will be updated at all facilities to reflect the updated protocols.

Tennis Center - the same protocols for all Town facilities. Any special events and/ or tournaments will require a safety plan reviewed and approved in advance.

Indoor use of Bayfront Park is authorized and will be considered on a case by case basis after review of their safety protocols.

The public will continue to be encouraged to do business with the Town by use of technology, phones, our website, drop boxes or they can schedule meetings with staff in advance if an in-person meeting is necessary.

All events requiring a Public Forum Permit will continue to require a safety plan reviewed and approved by Town staff.

We will be closely monitoring COVID cases, both on and off the island, to evaluate the need to make adjustments to our COVID plan moving forward. We will reevaluate these protocols at least every two weeks and take appropriate actions if conditions change.

Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Jewfish lots- Mangroves

To: Longboat Key Commission

We previously provided an status report on the lots being developed just north of Broadway on GMD. See latest update below. They now have water service on the property and the contractor has indicated that they will be installed landscaping within the next two weeks.

Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Jewfish lots- Mangroves

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I again write to question the work being done at the lots behind our house. I communicated back on December 2, 2021 regarding why it is taking so long to get that work completed and you politely replied that they were working through issues and I understand. However, I would like to know- do either of you have an expected timeline for the completion? Every

See Letters, page 14



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WineTimes

SHE-razz, the Australian name for fine red wine

Our admiration for Shiraz wines increased exponentially when we arrived in Adelaide.

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

A 2022 Super Bowl commercial for Foster’s beer revived the slogan “Foster’s, Australian for beer”. When we asked a decade ago about Foster’s during a tour of the east coast of Australia, the natives scoffed and told us that no one in Australia actually drinks Foster’s. In fact, Foster’s comes from Manchester, England. Clever marketing promoted Foster’s in Great Britain and the US as an Australian product with images of macho Australian footballers and parties on the beach,



We soon discovered that the name SHE-razz isn’t a marketing gimmick but really is Australian for fine red wine. A varietal called Shiraz, much like Malbec in Argentina, flourishes in dry and gritty soils of Southeastern Australia. Although French winemakers in the southern Rhone wine region hold fast to the claim that the Syrah grape originated in France, Australians call the grape Shiraz and pronounce it SHE-razz. Shiraz clones, link genetically to the French Syrah grape, but arguably could have originating in the vicinity of the ancient Persian city of Shiraz. In Australia, Shiraz accounts for about 27% of the volume of wines produced in that country, and, at higher than average prices per bottle, an even higher proportion of Australian wine sales. The flagship Penfolds Grange bottles of Shiraz command prices between \$750 and \$1,500, depending on vintage, in the international market. Less coveted Shiraz wines compare favorably with French Bordeaux and California Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, yet sell for much lower prices.

Our admiration for Shiraz wines increased exponentially when we arrived in Adelaide during a train ride from Perth on the west coast through the 1000 kilometer Nullarbor Plain along the southwestern expanse of Australia. The USA has fertile river valleys and plains in the interior. Australia has far less hospitable regions between the coasts. Over 90% of the population lives on the coasts. Arid and rocky soils in the interior do not support amber waves of grain and fruited plains but do leave ample room for grape vines. Vineyards in



the rolling hills of the Barossa Valley, Northeast of Adelaide, and the McLaren Vale to the south, produce superior Shiraz in single varietal and blended vintages.

The route to the Barossa Valley winds through hills of scrub brush and gulches akin to the terrain of West Texas or parts of the California Central Valley, except, instead of herds of white-tail deer in the fields, one sees mobs of kangaroos bent over while feeding on sparse clumps of grass. The impressive limestone with red trim of the Yalumba Winery buildings and its tasting rooms and grounds accommodate large numbers of day trippers. Among the highlights, a cooperage tour of the workshops where Yalumba makes its own barrels. For those of us who find a bottle of Grange beyond our budgets, try the unique Yalumba 2016 Hand-Picked Shiraz + Viognier (\$38), with skins of Viognier grapes added to crushed Shiraz grapes to moderate harsh tannins and add flavor. (The Aussies have borrowed this blending technique from traditional Rhone Valley vineyards.)

For an everyday wine, consider the consistent Yalumba Shiraz-Viognier (\$11).

Were we to set sail due south from the McLaren Vale, skirting Kangaroo Island, next landfall would be in Antarctica. During the southern hemisphere summer, the heat in McLaren Vale fully ripens grapes, but ocean breezes moderate both summer heat and winter cold. Wines from McLaren Vale do not have the initial acidity of those from Barossa.

While enjoying lunch at the d’Arenburg winery restaurant during a tour of the McLaren Vale, we asked to speak with their renowned winemaker, Chester Osborne. Our server went off to find out his whereabouts and returned to say that Chester would be tied up for the remainder of the day. We

were expressing our regrets at not being able to say “Hello” to him when a restaurant manager approached and asked us if we would like to join Chester’s Master Sommelier class that would begin in a few minutes. We settled our bill quickly and hustled off to a conference room where a group of sommeliers and other wine buyers, transported Down Under by the Australian Wine Board, were meeting with Chester and younger winemakers from other prestigious vineyards in McLaren Vale. Chester stood in front of a geological map of the region and alongside rows of some of McLaren Vales premier wines waiting to be tasted. He explained that the distinctive character of the region’s wines comes from the different soils, exposures to the sun, prevailing winds, and timing of rainfall. To illustrate, he asked winemakers to describe their winemaking strategies while we tasted their wines.

D’Arenberg produces great examples of Shiraz at premier and bargain prices: the 2017 Shiraz The Dead Arm (\$54) and a blend with Grenache, the 2017 Stump Jump Red (\$11), named after tractors designed to jump over stumps of felled Eucalyptus trees in the region’s vineyards.

We had the good fortune to be in the right place at the right time for a serendipitous moment in wine tourism. May you also enjoy the same good fortune.

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

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


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Focus on the Serve & Volley

Sometimes my opponent will suddenly start to serve and volley. What is my best strategy to deal with that? Also, when is it appropriate to serve and volley, and when does it not make sense?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

If your opponent starts serving and volleying, focus on the ball and not on the movement of your opponents. Have a preplanned game plan of how you are going to return based on the serve you receive. If your opponent has a strong serve, an appropriate return to neutralize the serve and volley is a lob over the server's partner's head. Down the middle and low is always a good return. Try to make sure if you can't lob or pass your opponent that you hit your shots nice and low at their feet. Positionally, stay one-up one-back as the receiving team unless you are not having success. If you are getting attacked off your return then I highly suggest having the receiver and the receiver's partner at the baseline. Having both players at the baseline, gives the serving team a different look which alone can cause good results. Playing both back takes pressure off the receiver so



BOHANNON

they aren't pressured to hit a perfect return. If the receiver's partner is at the baseline they have a better chance and more time to defend themselves if needed. The receiver's partner can always resume their position at the net if their partner hits a good offensive lob, or if the serving team stops serving and volleying.

Serving and volleying is a great strategy if you have good mobility, a strong serve, and solid volleys. If you or your partner have a difficult time moving backward it is probably not for you. I do not suggest ever serving and volleying on a second serve. Serving and volleying can be used as a change of positioning/strategy if you are losing. Sometimes, just making your opponent have a different look can sway momentum. Perhaps your opponents don't have a good lob, or seeing you rush the net puts pressure on them? Sometimes serving and volleying can cause missed return of serves because it makes the receiving team nervous. These are potential benefits or serving and volleying. Also, if you have a big serve and or your opponent has a weak return, serving and volleying makes sense. If you play someone that has an effective drop shot serving and volleying helps take that shot away as well. Generally, throwing in some serve and volleying is a good

Serve Jackie your best question!

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

strategy because you want to take your opponent off guard. No matter how good you are at serving and volleying do not do it every time, because you do not want to be predictable. Serving and volleying is a great skill set to develop, and when used at appropriate times can be highly effective.

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 12

time we see the owners, they tell us it is about to happen and then nothing. At this point, their actions speak louder than words. Complete inaction!

Also, today, the owners were there removing mangroves! It is my understanding that this had already been done. They were seen removing mangroves from the water level up. Is this allowed? My understanding is that 6 ft and below is off limits without a professional and permits. The folks doing this work were the landowners. This bayou needs all the help it can get through the filtering action these mangroves provide. Being a closed end waterway limits the flow and we had real issues last summer with Red Tide. Why would anyone be allowed to remove more mangroves is beyond my understanding.

How much more can you expect us to take? It surely seems like the town is looking the other way. The project has been going on for over two years and right now it looks like a trailer park over there. Not a pretty site or inviting to visitors.

I appreciate your efforts and I am not complaining about town services. You folks have responded and been very helpful on this issue. look forward to hearing from you.

Eddie Abrams
Longboat Key

Jewfish lots- Mangroves

To: Eddie Abrams

Thanks for your email. There have been a number of permitting related delays that have impacted finalizing the permit for the water meters & finishing the landscaping. The latest update has the Town's Utilities Manager scheduled to work with Benchmark Environmental Studies on Tuesday the 18th to get bacterial samples taken and resubmitted to FDEP as a final step in FDEP's permitting review related to the water main extension. The developer will be following-up with staff next week to indicate timing associated with permit approval of the water meters and then will be finishing the landscap-

ing. Please know that the Town is not looking the other way. The Town will not finalize the permits for the docks until all components, including landscaping, have been addressed.

With regard to the mangroves, staff did inspect & did not find any signs of recent mangrove trimming, other than around each of the 5 docks, which is generally allowed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection mangrove trimming permit. There will likely need to be continual maintenance on the current mangroves due to how close they are to the docks.

Please do continue to bring any concerns you have to our attention. We appreciate your eyes, ears and awareness.

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

Jewfish lots- Mangroves

To: Eddie Abrams

Following up with a Status Update: Backflow preventers were certified & received by the Town Utilities on the lots this week. The water should now be on to all 4 lots. The contractor has indicated that the remaining the seagrapes, pitch apples and Christmas palms (per the approved Landscape and Tree Replacement Plan) will be installed within two weeks. This is in addition to the bismark palms and royal poincianas that have already been installed.

Thanks again for keeping a close eye on things. Please feel free to contact us anytime with any other issues you become aware of.

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

U.S. 41 at Gulfstream Roundabout Construction

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

A follow-up to Tuesday's Workshop. See update below regarding the next traffic pattern phase for the Gulfstream/US41 Roundabout project. In the next 4-6 weeks they will be transitioning to Phase 1B. This transition will switch traffic on to the newly built SB to WS lanes and will further open up the area for the contractor to work on the actual roundabout construction. It should not impact the other existing traffic patterns. See attached diagram of the Phase 1B traffic flow change.

Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

U.S. 41 at Gulfstream Roundabout Construction

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

Our next phase is to switch traffic on to the newly built SB to WB lanes, as seen in the attached. Travelling public shouldn't see much of a difference with respect to traffic patterns. All other routes remain as they are right now. Even though the drivers don't see a big change, this will open up significant area for the contractor to work in. We are expecting this pattern to be implemented in 4 to 6 weeks and should take about 2 nights to get the transitions completed. This should be a fairly simple transition and is not even close to being as complicated as the initial switch we did for the current phase. Please let me know if you need more info. Thanks.

Pinky Pakalapati
Project Engineer
CDM Smith

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