

## Letters to the Editor week of July 22, 2022

 By **Longboat Key News** August 31, 2022

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*Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: [letters@bknews.com](mailto:letters@bknews.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.*

### **Retirement for James Linkogle**

To: Longboat Key Commission

It is with heavy but joyful heart that I am announcing my notice of retirement. The past 23+ years with the Town of Longboat Key has been a wonderful experience. However, after working full time for the past 50+ years, it is time for me to retire.

I am looking forward to what the future holds, but most importantly spending time with my wife and family, including my 8 grandchildren.

I offer ascending prayers and hope for your every success in the future for all those I have enjoyed working with over the past 23+ years.

If you are available please rsvp to: Alexandra Lowe-Mains ([amains@longboatkey.org](mailto:amains@longboatkey.org)) to join our Public Works staff as announced below and attached. With all due respect, and thanks!

James Linkogle

Public Works Project Manager

Town of Longboat Key

### **Retirement for James Linkogle**

To: Longboat Key Commission

As we all know, James Linkogle has been a fixture in the Town for over 23 years touching many of the Public Works projects and improvements over the years. For the past several years he has done a great job managing our undergrounding project.

We have been very fortunate to keep James around as long as possible to help make sure this major project continued to advance on schedule and under budget.

As the project starts to wind down, James has decided to finally retire from the Town. His last day will be August 5th.

A retirement celebration for James has been scheduled for August 3rd from 2-3pm at Public Works. If you are in the area, feel free to stop by and share your well wishes.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

### **Retirement Gathering for James Linkogle**

To: Longboat Key Project Manager James Linkogle

James, Hearty congratulations on your retirement! You have been the backbone of Longboat Key for many years and for that we owe you a deep debt of gratitude.

Also, for your tireless support of the annual Longboat Key Kiwanis Lawn Party / Gourmet Luncheon raising tens of thousands of dollars for area kids in need over the years.

We are a little concerned that you are retiring before peak hurricane season but know, based on your success. Thank You again James, Continued health and success, enjoy!

"Every day is Saturday!"

Bob Gault

Longboat Key

### **Construction agreement**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Commissioners, FYI. Yesterday the contract was signed with Jon Swift Construction for the Phase 2 construction work at the Town Center. As you are aware, their contract includes the site work and the construction of the privately funded stage.

Now that the contract has been signed the next steps include contractor providing an updated schedule for the work to be performed, issuing a formal notice to proceed, and conducting formal kick off meeting with the contractor. Prior to the contract being signed, the Town staff did meet with the contractor to discuss the 2023 Season and the plan to continue to hold events as may be accommodated on the site during this construction phase. The staff will working with the contractor on project sequencing as the contractor moves forwards with ordering some of the long lead time materials now that they are under contract for the work.

Public Works will be providing updates as the project moves forward that I will pass along to the Commission and to the Foundation.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

**Talk of the Town vertical oyster gardens**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Commissioners, FYI. See link to the latest Talk of the Town video.

This one is on the Vertical Oyster Garden project at Durante Park. Thanks to Manatee County and Shaun Swartz, their Environmental Specialist for the great job on the video explaining the program.

Special thanks to Carolyn to coordinating the effort and to Barry for the great production and video work. We will post on our website and share through our various distribution lists.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

**Greer Island Construction and Marine Buoys**

To: Longboat key Commission

See update from Public Works on the completion of the emergency dredge earlier today and plans to transition to the new bathing zone. They will need to submit the new conditions to FWC for an updated permit review and approval for placement of the signage and buoys.

In the meantime Allen and Issac will be coordinating with the Police Department on enforcement of the navigation area and continuing their public education on the new bathing zone.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

**Greer Island Construction and Marine Buoys**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer

The Greer Island Emergency cut and fill (dredge) project moved very quickly and faster than anticipated, which is good news for the intent to clear the blockage that was occurring in proximity to the Land's End dock. As such, however, the contractor has efficiently and effectively demobilized, which no longer maintains the area as an active construction zone and is open for use and access.

Because a significant amount of the channel has been dredged with the construction effort, Public Works will be deploying Monday morning (weather permitting) to take new measurements for the amended mean high water line and minimum offsets. Staff will then submit a revised graphic with proposed latitude/longitudes of the new, proposed buoy locations off of the new mean high water line for the FWC permit. Our intent is to have the revised FWC permit submittal to FWC on Monday. Once submitted, staff will follow up with a phone call to see how quickly FWC may be able to review and will request a conditional approval. This will allow for a better idea on the actual schedule for the buoy and sign installations.

Along with the FWC permit submittal, FDEP has issued an exemption for the buoys, and a permit has been submitted with U.S. Army Corps, however, we learned today the submittal is under a significant backlog due to Corps staffing issues. Once we obtain conditional approval from FWC (as Army Corps permitting continues), staff will schedule the installation of the buoys, confirm signs with FWC and install those accordingly. We will follow up once we have more information.

In the meantime and to the extent feasible, Police Department will work to educate and enforce these areas as staffing allows over the coming weeks until the permitting is sorted out and scheduling of final buoy installation takes place.

Isaac Brownman

Director Public Works

Town of Longboat Key

### **Greer Island Construction and Marine Buoys**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer

Tom: 1. May we assume that no further action is required by the Commission to accommodate the "new measurements" so long as they are consistent with the intent of the approved ordinance? 2. I thought all approvals were in place for the buoys and signs and that they would have been deployed by July 4 but for the intervening construction work. Why are we now held up by the ACE?

Ken Schneier

Mayor

Longboat Key

### **Greer Island Construction and Marine Buoys**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Mayor, thanks for the email and two questions. See follow info below. I also confirmed status the latest status with Public Works today.

Allen anticipated the emergency dredge work in the ordinance so no additional Commission action necessary.

I was briefed that FWC notified the Town to take down the new signs and submit a modified request that includes the signs for their review, in addition to modified buoy locations due to the shoreline changes caused by the dredge work. FWC indicated that since the signs face the water and are related to the new zone, they also require review and approval.

Now that the dredge work is complete, the new mean high waterline and buoy locations can be identified. FWC also advised Public Works that the Town also needs review and approval from Army Corps and FDEP. These are most likely to ensure no sea grass impacts, which is the case. The need for the additional permitting through Army Corps and FDEP was not known at the time of establishing the ordinance, nor at the time of initial FWC submittal; however, FDEP exemption has been issued, and Army Corps is in progress and from Public Works perspective, should be a formality (again, due to no sea grass impacts). As such, staff anticipated receiving the additional Army Corps approval prior to the contractor completing the work. The contractor finished up one week ahead of schedule.

Public Works has confirmed that FWC can allow a conditional approval while the Army Corps permit for no impacts is in progress. Army Corps staff notified Public Works last week that due to severe staffing shortages, reviews are in a minimum 3-month queue. Public Works is gathering all the new buoy and sign location data Monday morning to submit the revised application Monday afternoon. Public Works will keep me posted on progress.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

### **Greer Island Construction and Marine Buoys**

To: Longboat Key Commission

The FWC has said they will give conditional approval for us to proceed while the Army Corps permit is in progress.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

**Zoning**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

The US Recycling facility is located at 1404 Industrial Court, on a site that is 3.16 acres in area. The site is zoned Industrial (I) which is a non-implementing zone district. The Future Land Use Classification is Multiple Family (Moderate Density). The existing use is a concrete crushing and recycling facility which is a permitted use pursuant to Table VI-601A of the Zoning Code. The City has received many complaints over the last four to five years regarding this facility from the Central Coconut Historic Neighborhood Association and residents. Some emails have been included in the backup material for reference. The complaints encompass issues such as environmental and health concerns with fugitive dust and the proximity to residential homes and a park with a playground for children. The complaints have also included excessive and impulsive noise exceeding healthy decibel levels, both during business hours and crushing activity on holidays, after business hours, weekends, etc. The noise and the fugitive dust often occur together from the facility but the dust also settles on the road and trucks. As part of mitigating the dust in the area, the City Commission approved the repaving a section of 14th St east of Central Ave and Industrial Court south of 14th St. Both sections of road were dirt, uneven roads and experts believe that improving the road will help mitigate the dust going back into the air. The road improvement project started on 4/11/2022 with 180 days to complete. The original anticipated completion date is 10/8/2022. With potential weather and concrete supply chain issues, it is anticipated that the project will be completed by November or December 2022. Commissioner Ahearn-Koch met with all five County Commissioners (most of them twice) and provided them similar backup material as included in this agenda request. City staff has been in contact with the County and Florida Department of Environment Protection to coordinate efforts on reaching compliance with applicable Code's and regulations. The property owner is currently in the process of making improvements to the site to comply with the Zoning Code requirements.

The City's authority is over the road upgrades and zoning issues. The County has authority over the monitoring of opacity in the air.

Jen Ahearn-Koch

City Commissioner

City of Sarasota

### **Ringling Bridge lighting September**

To: Sarasota City Mayor Erik Arroyo

I wanted to follow up with you regarding our meeting and discussion at the Donors of Distinction dinner last month. We briefly discussed the lighting of the Ringling bridge lights for a period of 6- days in September to bring awareness and honor to Childhood Cancer Awareness month. We are excited to have this honor celebrated within the community and have plans on organizing a walk over the bridge with all the Blaze of Hope warriors and volunteers and some very cool promotional signage for the event on one evening just before the lights come on the bridge. Do you know yet what days the lights will be slated to turn yellow to commemorate the cause? We also have some very exciting events coming up that we would like to cordially invite you too as well (more info to follow). Thanks for taking the time to help us in our endeavor and we look forward to your response. Have a blessed day sir!

Shawn Platt

Sarasota

### **Ringling Bridge lighting September**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

A second organization supporting the cause for bridge lighting.

After some discussions with our district FDOT secretary, they are flexible to changing the bridge colors if the commission so desires. He was on vacation when we received a response last time and the response we received appeared to be more rigid than anticipated. Let's discuss this at your convenience.

Erik Arroyo

Mayor

City of Sarasota

### **Ringling Bridge lighting September**

To: Sarasota City Mayor Erik Arroyo

Please let me know if you would like an amended Resolution placed on the August 15 City Commission agenda to add this request to the list of bridge lighting awareness days. I spoke to Secretary Nandam about this request and he indicated that it is entirely up to the municipality to add additional days. As you may be aware, there is additional cost involved (approx. \$1,000) but the Department has not indicated whether this would be the responsibility of the City or the Department. Thank you and please let us know as I would have to request the City Attorney's Office create an amended Resolution.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota

### **New Piney Point discharges – should we be concerned?**

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

As I promised below, if I received additional information on the likely future discharges from the Piney Point facility, I would update you. Earlier today, I received water quality data from the receiver that allows me to come up with a preliminary nitrogen load estimate, to compare to the load that was applied to Lower Tampa Bay last year. My estimates are based on an understanding that about 4.5 million gallons would be delivered to Tampa Bay at the same general location as last year. Last year, about 215 million gallons were discharged. So, if the volume discharged is actually 4.5 million gallons, the volume discharged would be 98% lower than last year.

The second part of a load estimate is the concentration of the constituent of concern. In this case, it is nitrogen, more specifically "Total Nitrogen" or TN. Last year, the effluent that was discharged had a TN concentration of 230 mg/L. The lab report I've just received shows a TN concentration of 15.4 mg/L, which is 93% lower than what we had in discharges last year. To compare loads, the volume is down by 98%, and the concentration is down by 93%, which means the expected nitrogen load would be 99.9% lower than last year.

The TN concentration of 15.4 mg/L is about 5 to 10 times higher than what you'd expect to see from stormwater runoff, and it's quite a bit higher than rainfall alone. So where did this "extra" TN come from? Likely it reflects the same influence as what caused the elevated salt content in those discharges. The proposed discharges cannot go into a stream, because they are too salty for a freshwater creek environment. The salt content (in units of specific conductance) of the water to be discharged is roughly a third of the values of the Gulf of Mexico. What that seems to suggest is that the water in that pond is about two-thirds rainfall, and about one-third porewater from the sediments from the dredge material that was put there several years ago. It would appear that the water to be discharged is thus a mixture of rainfall and the water that was once part of the wet sediments that were dredged out of the Port Manatee basin and then placed into the pond. That would not only explain the salt content, but porewater typically has a much higher nutrient content than overlying surface waters, which could help to explain the TN values recorded. It is important to note that those TN values are about 5 times higher than the upper limit of what can be directly discharged to our local waters via wastewater treatment plants, as laid out in the Grizzle-Figg Act - FS 403.086 - Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine (state.fl.us).

There is another big difference between what was discharged before and what is going to be discharged - the form of nitrogen. Most of the nitrogen in the 2021 releases was "inorganic" nitrogen, while most of the nitrogen in these releases appears to be "organic" nitrogen. If you are a clump of algae or a phytoplankton bloom floating around in Tampa Bay, inorganic nitrogen can be taken up immediately, to become more algae. In contrast, if you are presented with organic nitrogen, you may not be able to assimilate that nitrogen until it is processed by bacteria and made biologically available. That process can take days to weeks to months, and if it takes that long, the water mass with that extra nitrogen may be out in the Gulf of Mexico and mixed and diluted with other water masses by then.

When you consider that the load to be discharged is likely 99.9% lower than what happened last year, and that the form of nitrogen is less problematic, that should give us comfort that the impacts of these discharges will not be nearly as problematic as what we experienced last year. Nonetheless, this isn't NO impact. Roughly speaking - if the volume discharged is about 4.5 million gallons, and the TN concentration is about 15 mg/L, then the load to the bay would still be close to adding around 100 bags of fertilizer to the bay. That is not nothing, and we should remain vigilant about potential impacts, and hope that the deep well injection facility moves forward as quickly as possible. But last year, we added a nitrogen load roughly equal to about 80,000 bags of fertilizer - in a nitrogen form that was much more damaging, at much higher concentrations.

If I get additional information that changes this update, I will pass that along to you as well.

One last thing - the folks who took over from HRK are class acts - they are supplying information and data without any delays, and I know from personal experience that they are working their tails off to get this problem solved and this environmental time bomb shut down once and for all.

David Tomasko, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program



## **New Piney Point discharges – should we be concerned?**

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

I was contacted today by folks who are involved with the Piney Point facility, to let me know about an item that may get some attention the next few days. My last email summarized how much better our water quality is – both Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay – compared to the same time last year. One of the reasons for the vast improvement in Lower Tampa Bay and upper Sarasota Bay is that we are a year out from the discharges from Piney Point.

But now, there may be new “discharges” from that same site – isn’t that equally concerning? Actually, no. And here’s why.

First off, last year had over 200 million gallons of industrial wastewater from the New GypStack South pond at Piney Point. That water had nitrogen concentrations above 200 mg / liter, a concentration more than ten times higher than the worst wastewater treatment plant effluent in our watershed. Over 200 tons of nitrogen was added in 10 days, equal to about 80,000 bags of lawn fertilizer. That helped trigger massive macroalgae blooms in Anna Maria Sound, and the worst red tide in Middle and Upper Tampa Bay since the early 1970s.

According to people who are on site, there has not yet been an actual discharge yet, but the “receiver” of Piney Point from HRK has let it be known that they would likely need to discharge water from the Old GypStack South, consistent with a permit they’ve had for over a decade. The nutrient content of water in this water body is VERY different from what was discharged last year. It is a part of the same gyp stack – but it does not have the very high nitrogen content of what was previously discharged. The Old GypStack South pond is mostly dry in the earlier times of the year, and fills up with rain water and a little bit of runoff from the grassy sides of the pond. The prior damaging discharges had very high levels of the most problematic forms of nitrogen. This does not.

It does, however, have elevated salinity, because it comes into contact with porewater from sediments that were previously added to the site. Did it make sense to dump dredge spoil from Port Manatee expansions onto the top of a gyp stack with basically liquid fertilizer stored there as well? Probably not, but that’s not something we can wish away right now. After conversion to similar units, it appears that the water in the Old GypStack South has a salinity content of about 10 parts per thousand (ppt). Freshwater has about zero salt content, while the Gulf of Mexico is about 35 ppt. So, this water has about a third the salt content of the Gulf of Mexico. As such, these discharges can’t be just pumped to a creek, since it would kill off most of the plants and animals that live in any such creek. Instead, these discharges would be added directly to the open waters of Port Manatee via a pipe. The waters around the port are probably somewhere around 25 to 30 ppt or so this time of year. The salinity of these discharges should be no problem for the area where the discharges would occur, and the nutrient content appears to be much, much, much lower than last year’s discharges.

So why the discharge? Because it has been raining a lot – a whole heck of a lot – in this part of Manatee County, and the receiver of Piney Point needs to manage stormwater and flooding issues. There are no discharges yet, is my understanding. But there likely will be. However, the environmental concerns associated with these future discharges are not nearly as problematic as what happened last year.

I’ll keep you posted on anything new that I hear that may deviate from what I laid out above. If any news comes up that should be of concern, I will pass that on to you as soon as I find out. But for now, it doesn’t seem like anything too problematic.

David Tomasko

Executive Director

## Downtown Sarasota

To: Sarasota City Mayor Erik Arroyo

My wife Linda and I met with you for 12 minutes on Monday June 6th for a brief meeting during which we tried to bring attention to some factors that are negatively impacting citizens of the city you govern (especially the downtown residents).

Specifically we tried to explain that the downtown area is:

- 1) filthy (especially on weekends and in the mornings) – there is no nice way to say it
- 2) the owners of certain of the bars and restaurants make NO effort to clean up the areas in and around their establishments. Specifically we mentioned the following: Smokin' Joe's, Brewster's, The Gator Club, LQ (Latin Quarter, Evie's, and Pizza N' Brew.
- 3) The homeless situation downtown is at a crisis point. I don't accept your premise that the homeless count is down 30%. From what level? They are literally all over downtown.
- 4) The police do virtually nothing to address the homeless situation. I even heard one of the homeless shouting out the name of one of your officers much as the Philadelphia Phillies fans used to jeer at Darryl Strawberry of the NY Mets with their famous chant of DARRYL, DARRYL", only in this case it was "CLIFFORD, CLIFFORD".

During our meeting you said that you would be contacting each of the owners of the above named establishments, and that you would copy us on that communication. Well, I never got anything from you and the downtown is still filthy so I assume that nothing was sent, or if it was they all ignored it. Nothing has changed downtown. It has only gotten worse.

Please reference the photos below I took.

– I work at Stylish Living across the street from Whole Foods and found the person in the first 2 photos sleeping (or passed out) across the entire sidewalk at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon.

– The woman in photo #3 and the last photo #15 was asleep (or passed out) in the entrance of Melange, adjacent to Evie's. Also please note that the first photo was taken at 8:17 AM this morning and the last one at 10:56 AM. That is almost 3 hours later.

– Photos #4, 5, and 6 are all examples of vomit (the first 2 are right in front of J. McLaughlin, the store where my wife works. Photo #6 was right in front of Cucina Ricci. And yes it was ME that had to clean up the first disgusting mess. The common denominator of these photos is that Pizza N' Brew is directly between J. McLaughlin and Cucina Ricci. To add insult to injury, one of our homeless came up to me and asked for money right there and when I pointed out the vomit he said "I didn't do it, this is the reason the place is called "Pizza N' Spew". Very observant but I didn't find it very funny.

– Photos #7 and 11 show the exact same person sound asleep (or passed out) at the library at 8:26 AM and again across from El Melvin at 10:50 AM. So basically he roused himself at some point and moved a block or so and passed

out again.

- Photo #8 is a gathering of 6 homeless in the park that Marie Selby left to the citizens of Sarasota. I could have take 3 more photos of others in the park that no regular Sarasota citizens even go into anymore (what a pity).

- Photo #9 was found on the ground right in front of Mattison's and is the work of art of one of the homeless in town.

- Photo #10 was taken right outside of Mal's Cut Rate Liquors, and it is self explanatory. This town does NOT need a store like MAL'S which is the favorite haunt of the homeless, and preys on them. And is not "cit-rate".

- Photo #12 shows the vomit from the person lying shirtless in photo #11. I respectfully ask you Mr. Mayor, how would you like to sit on this bench? I sure wouldn't do it.

Photos #13 and 14 are of the same person and I find these photos very troubling. This person is a "mess" and is laying in the entrance to the former Kennedy's Framing Shop. These were taken at 10:53 AM this morning.

That's enough of the photo tour. I do want to mention that although you said Sarasota is hiring a number of new police officers, I saw just one policeman downtown in the last 3 days. And he was not in the "thick of things" but outside the First Watch Restaurant.

I know I have gone on in this email but nothing seems to have changed since our previous discussion. I invite you to take a walk with me and Linda any morning along the streets of downtown Sarasota and see it for yourself.

This is all meant to be constructive, but you probably will sense some frustration in this email. I prefer to call it passion. Please feel free to call me at 561-214-1002 should you want to discuss this further.

Philip J. Wenthe

Sarasota

### **Downtown Sarasota**

To: Sarasota City Mayor Erik Arroyo

Thanks for sharing. Just yesterday I requested that both SPD and our Homeless Team develop an action strategy to handle the visible homeless issue. I know that both Public Works and the DID are working on a strategy to provide clean-up on weekends (specifically Sundays) instead of waiting until Monday morning. We can discuss further when we meet.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota

## **Downtown Sarasota**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

I've been attempting to contact some business owners downtown. Perhaps a more impactful approach would help? Please see below and we can discuss your thoughts.

Erik Arroyo

Mayor

City of Sarasota

## **Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I am Tim Dull and I met you at the Granada Park meet and greet the candidates on Wednesday night. I did reference an issue specific to our HOA and you encouraged me to reach out to you if I was not getting any satisfaction elsewhere. I am not and the details are:

I am a member of the Granada Park Master Association Inc. Homeowners Association (HOA). We are a part of the 'Granada Park neighborhood' but have our separate HOA. I am also a member of the HOA transition team that is trying to facilitate the turnover of our HOA from DASL Acquisiitons, LLC, the developer (DASL), contact is Dan Labriola. DASL is still the controlling party for our HOA. DASL is supposed to have turned the HOA over to us already but have not and because of that most of the members of the HOA have retained a lawyer to force the turnover. DASL recently sold the last lot and I believe it closed in December 2021. Our water well for irrigation was on that lot and as part of the closing DASL had to relocate the well. They relocated the well earlier this year and placed it at the intersection of Almeria Ave. and Stapleton St. This intersection is a round-a-bout and the well is located between the curb and the sidewalk. We in our HOA wondered if the City had approved this location because of its proximity to the street. Members of our HOA have observed garbage trucks that have to jump the inner circle to get around this round-a-bout and the trucks have literally been within inches of hitting the pump. We believe it is inevitable that one of these trucks will hit the pump and do damage to it. Because of this, I am motivated to find out if this pump's location has been approved by the City and if the pump has been inspected and meets all of the appropriate code requirements? I have not gone to DASL yet on this issue since they have been non-responsive on many other issues and I want to be well prepared when I do contact DASL. I am now trying to understand if that pump and its location meet all of applicable code requirements. Can you help me find out if this pump was permitted by the City and meets the code requirements or conversely since it is on private property, no permit is required? I will add that I believe the subject circle and part of Almeria Ave. is the property of our HOA.

I did the following to try and verify this myself:

7/14 Called the Permitting department at the County of Sarasota. They referred me to the City as this is on City property.

7/14 Called the permitting department at the City of Sarasota. They said without a permit number or street address they could not help. An intersection was not acceptable as a street address. They referred me to the Code Enforcement Department.

7/14 Called the Code Enforcement Department and left a voicemail and got no response.

7/15 Called the Code Enforcement Department again and was told that without a permit number or street address, they could not help me and referred me to Ed Bower (sp) in Engineering.

7/15 Left a message for Ed Bower in Engineering

7/15 Called you and left a voice mail and also sent an e-mail

I am new to Sarasota as of March, 2021 so am finding out how things work and so apologize in advance for my awkwardness. But so far, I am very frustrated on this issue with the Catch-22 that I am being given. If you can help, it would be appreciated.

Lastly, I have copied this e-mail to two of my fellow HOA transition team members, Kate Taylor and David Samec.

Tim Dull

Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson

This is the companion email to the voicemail from this morning.

Thank you all so much!

Jen Ahearn-Koch

City Commissioner

City of Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

Was a permit issued for the water well located at the intersection of Almeria Avenue and Stapleton St. If so, did the City approved the location of the well between the curb and sidewalk. Anything on this so I can close this out on the Commissioner end before end of day?

Patrick Robinson

Deputy City Manager

City of Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson

Here's an update on this situation. This area that we're looking at is gated and we were unable to perform an inspection on Friday. We did speak with Ed Brower in Engineering and he has no knowledge of the well that they're speaking of. We are reaching out to our utility division to see if they are aware of this well. If not our utilities then it may be Sarasota County. This area of the City is located near the edge of the City limits and it may have been something initiated by Sarasota County and not the City. I'll follow up once I hear back from my inspector on his research.

Diane Kennedy

Code Compliance Manager

City of Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I am sending you this email on behalf of the City manager and Deputy City manager.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Alexya Alvarenga

Executive Assistant

City of Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner

Here are three photos showing the location of the well. You do not have to enter the gated community to access the well/pump. The circle that is shown is the intersection of Almeida and Stapleton. This well pump as you can see is between the curb and sidewalk on the southeast side of the circle. If anyone comes to look at it, please call me at 443-878-2872 and I can meet you at the pump. I am only copying this to Jena and Alexya because of my limited technical ability. Please forward as necessary. Now that I know it is doubtful that a permit was issued, I will ask the HOA/developer the same question. By the way is a permit needed for a water well that is only used for irrigation purposes? Thank you for looking into this.

Tim Dull

Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I met with Sam this morning and he answered all of our questions. We also found where the well was/is permitted and the driller information. It looks like everything was done properly. Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Tim Dull

Sarasota

**Permit issue**

To: Tim Dull

Great!! Glad to hear we finally have some answers.

Thank you to Staff for such a quick response.

Jen Ahearn-Koch

City Commissioner

City of Sarasota

**Garbage**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

This is the back of Fit to Run right on pineapple one block off main. Completely visible to anyone walking on pineapple. How can the city allow this. Why can we not get the responsible party to clean up. If not can we not write them a ticket. Maybe even have the city clean this mess. The mayor wants to beautify the allyes. Maybe we should start with the Main Street area.

Don Costantino

Sarasota

**Garbage**

To: Don Costantino

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I have copied the City Manager on this email to forward to the appropriate department to respond.

Jen Ahearn-Koch

City Commissioner

City of Sarasota

**Bobby Jones GC Delay**

To: Sarasota City Commission

FYI – please see below related to the Bobby Jones Golf course construction and our delayed opening until spring of 2023. Thank you.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota

**Bobby Jones GC Delay**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

Although there were some delays at the beginning of the project while QGS, the general contractor, learned to navigate the City's permitting system and submitting proper documents, there were also delays with getting permits from SWFWMD and FDEP; extra time added for getting on FPL's schedule to de-energize powerlines, remove the old transformer, and now the installation of the new transformer; and excess rain over the last month causing flooded areas, to name a few. The timeline presented by Mr. Mandell of November 2022 was very aggressive and the slightest interruption (permitting, scheduling subcontractors, excess rain, etc.) impacts the entire project. With each delay, the summer/fall window to grow grass was closing.

Realizing the grow season was slipping away, Mr. Fogle asked John Kretzer to get a revised timeline from QGS, which was received last week (also attached). Mr. Fogle dropped off hard copies to Mr. Robinson, along with for you, Kelly Strickland, Jan Thornburg, and Stevie Freeman-Montes. According to QGS's schedule, grassing will begin in late September 2022, and finished the end of April 2023, because of the timing for planting grass.

Sue Martin

General Manager Parks and Recreation

City of Sarasota



**Bobby Jones GC Delay**

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

ASAP, I need to understand what the latest is with BJs and the delay that I am hearing that opening wouldn't be until the spring of 2023? I need to give a heads up to the City Commissioners if indeed there is this much of a delay and the reasons for such. Please brief me. Thank you.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota

**Status of sidewalk on Bay Road West**

To: Sarasota City Transportation Planner Megan Lui

We are residents of the Granada neighborhood and live on Camino Real just North of Bay Road.

We are concerned about the safety of pedestrians trying to negotiate Bay Road, especially that section extending East from Camino Real to Osprey Avenue where there is steady vehicular traffic. In many places there seems to be no place for pedestrians to hide from, or get out of the way of, the vehicular traffic. We have observed elderly pedestrians, students with backpacks and mothers pushing baby carriages trying to negotiate this dangerous section, dodging vehicles along the way.

This seems to be an accident waiting to happen.

We remember you spoke at our Granada neighborhood association a few years ago about a planned sidewalk on the North side of Bay Road along this route, explaining the city/county character of the sidewalk. Many neighbors expressed support for the sidewalk at that meeting, and we also wrote you an email in support.

There is already a partial sidewalk along this route at the entrance to Granada Park, and we now see there are new houses along this route in the permitting/building stage. It seems it may be an ideal time to move ahead with the proposed sidewalk.

Please let us know the current status of the proposed sidewalk on Bay Road extending West from Osprey Avenue to Tangier Terrace, and anything we can do to move it forward.

David and Ilene Denton

Sarasota

**Status of sidewalk on Bay Road West**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Hagen Brody

Hi Hagen. Here's information about the much-needed Bay Road sidewalk project. Any help you can offer is much appreciated. We emailed Ms. Tucker for an update a few weeks ago and have not gotten a response.

David and Ilene Denton

Sarasota

### **Status of sidewalk on Bay Road West**

To: David Denton

Megan Lui is no longer with the City. I am the new transportation planner, and I would be happy to provide an update on the Bay Rd sidewalk project. Since the last time you spoke with Megan, the County has worked diligently with their stormwater group and City of Sarasota staff to align our resources to advance this project from the original three to seven-year timeline.

It appears that the county's stormwater division has re-prioritized the re-lining project to start within the current fiscal year, and my understanding is that this project may be completed by the fall. A preliminary scope and project timeline may be solidified over the next several weeks. Any further updates on this project would come from County staff.

As for the sidewalk project, City and County staff met last week and agreed to advance the design phase with the intention to start construction after the stormwater project and sidewalk design phase is complete. Since this is a joint project that the City of Sarasota will manage, County staff are going through the process of executing an inter-local agreement which must be approved by the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [corinne.tucker@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:corinne.tucker@sarasotaFL.gov) or at 941-263-6362.

Corinne Tucker

Transportation Planner

City of Sarasota

### **Bobby Jones Agenda Item**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Please see below I have asked all relevant staff to be present to answer any questions that might not have been covered by Mr. Fornier's review.

Patrick Robinson

Deputy City Manager

City of Sarasota

### **Bobby Jones Agenda Item**

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

Please ensure you and your team that worked on (or is working on) the BJGC agreement are present for tomorrow's commission meeting. One of the Commissioners has a significantly large list of questions they would like the opportunity to ask relevant staff. Since this agreement crosses a number of your departments please be sure you are there and able to discuss the portions relevant to your specialty.

Patrick Robinson

Deputy City Manager

City of Sarasota

**BJGC questions**

To: Sarasota City Commission

Relevant information below related to the contract's review before being set for City Commission consideration.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota

**BJGC questions**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Commissioner please see below reference to if staff has reviewed the agreement. I just spoke with Bob F. and he will contact you tomorrow with his responses to your questions including some that we discussed this afternoon.

Patrick Robinson

Deputy City Manager

City of Sarasota

**BJGC questions**

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

It might easy Commissioner Ahearn-Koch's mind to know that the agreement has been scrutinized by staff since mid-March with numerous changes before sending to legal for draft agreements. There were four drafts prepared by legal to achieve what is being presented.

Sue Martin

General Manager Parks and Recreation Department

City of Sarasota

**BJGC questions**

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

Team please see comments from Commissioner Jenn. Please ensure you take a look at the commissioners questions to see if there are readily appreciable answer we can provide.

Thanks

Pat Robinson

Deputy City Manager

City of Sarasota

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Sarasota City Communications Specialist Jason Bartolone

Perhaps as communications specialist this is something that you might want to look into. It is pretty easy to have a Zoom meeting to involve more participants than you will get in the middle of the summer at the Van Wezel. And I bet someone in your department could figure out how to do it.

Commissioner Ahearn-Koch is well aware of the strong interest North Trail residents have, most recently reflected in the opposition to the proposed project for multi-family units near 45th Street and 41. I think going the extra mile on this shouldn't be a big stretch for the City.

Jack & Claudia Barnett

Sarasota

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Jack and Claudia Barnett

Unfortunately a streaming/virtual option is not available at this venue.

Jason Bartolone

Communications Specialist

City of Sarasota

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Sarasota City Communications Specialist Jason Bartolone

Will this be streamed or available on Zoom?

Jack & Claudia Barnett

Sarasota

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I have been asked to weigh in on this email to me. I realize it will not be zoom. Is there anyway it could be Facebook live. I know SPD does this a lot with their ceremonies. The city does have a Facebook page and that would be very easy to do!

Joanne L Gonet

President, Indian Beach Sapphire Shores

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

My apologies for the delayed response. This is not something that we do. It is our position that we should not be involved with hosting non City sanctioned events. Especially political/election forums. We can discuss further if you have any questions.

Shayla Griggs

City Clerk

City of Sarasota

**North Trail Community Forum**

To: Sarasota City Clerk Shayla Griggs

This is a city sanctioned event and not a political/election forum. This is a neighborhood update on what is happening on the North Trail and staff is heavily involved in providing the updates. Other than limited staffing resources and technical capabilities to handle as challenges, let's discuss when you have time. Thanks.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

City of Sarasota