

Longboat Key News

July 8, 2005

Serving St. Armands, Longboat Key & Anna Maria

FREE

Police Chief To Award Island Heros

Rebecca Blue
News Editor

Four outstanding individuals will be honored for their heroic efforts at the July 11 Longboat Key Town Commission meeting.

Just before 2 p.m. March 26, Longboat

“I believe the direct actions of these four individuals avoided a possible tragic ending to the two swimmers’ day at the beach,” said Hogle.

Key Police Officer Dennis Silverio responded to a call regarding person(s) in the water needing assistance. The location of the occurrence was in the gulf near the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Silverio immediately searched the area, quickly locating three people about 150 yards from shore in rough waters. Two of the subjects were found clinging to a small boogie board, while Longboater Tom Jassoy pulled the board to shore against a strong outgoing tide, according to Longboat Key Police Chief Al Hogle.

As Silverio pulled the two swimmers, Eugene and Ann Marie McShea, into the boat, Eugene was at risk of drowning. Manatee Marine Rescue Officers Jason Weissman and Robert Martini arrived on a jet ski to assist Silverio with the rescue. Eugene appeared to be in bad condition and was coughing up blood. Officer Weissman monitored the swimmers while Silverio drove the police boat to the Linley Street boat dock.

Longboat Key Fire Rescue met the boat at the dock and transported the McSheas to Blake Hospital.

Jassoy, one of the heroes in this rescue, was spending a day at the beach when he saw the swimmers in trouble. He yelled for someone to call 911 as he made his way to the swimmers. According to Hogle, if Jassoy wouldn’t have made this attempt, the swimmers may not have made it out of the water alive that day.

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Longboat Salutes



Pfc. Cox, Lance Cpl. Smith, Sgt. Clark and his wife and Sgt. Leonard all participated in the July 3 “Support our Troops” Fundraiser held at Café on the Bay and Café L’ Europe. More than \$4,600 was raised during the event.

Jet Skis Still Revving Residents

Rebecca Blue
News Editor

Although the Fourth of July weekend didn’t bring a slew of jet ski complaint calls, you can bet the issue is still far from over.

In June, more than 75 residents of Casa del Mar made a point to write the Town of Longboat Key to express their concerns with personal watercraft rental operations, which have occurred on the beach behind the Longboat Key Hilton for more than a year-and-a-half. Those complaint letters, along with recent visits by Casa del Mar Manager D.M. Williams at Town Hall, has ignited quite a fire. At the June 23 Town Commission workshop, the Commission agreed to wait and see what happened over the Fourth of July weekend before taking any action.

There were only two complaints, and

both included a guest of Casa del Mar.

“The Fourth of July was wonderful. We had 500 people on the property. I had a friend who was keeping tab of our property over the weekend who was to monitor the area and call the police department if there was any jet ski activity at Casa del Mar. We had one problem with a Casa del Mar guest, and he was told he was in a restricted area and that he could either lose the jet ski or he could just leave. Well, he has been a regular guest for many years and he quickly decided to stay,” said Williams.

Williams believes the Commission has the power to do something about it and will do so.

“We will pursue this issue come September. I’m not going to stop, because I think this is wrong,” said Williams.

Prior to the June 23 workshop, Roy Padgett, general manager of the Hilton, and Ralph Cole, owner of Coastal Watersports, the company running the personal watercraft rentals behind the Hilton, voluntarily agreed to take steps to decrease the issues

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D. M. Williams

Sand Blunder Remains Under Town Review

The \$550,000 sand mishap has been fixed.

Rebecca Blue
News Editor

The Town of Longboat Key still hasn’t determined who is at fault for a \$550,000 sand mishap that occurred on the beach in the area surrounding the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

“We are still looking into it,” said Public Works Director Juan Florensa.

At the June 23 Town Commission Workshop, Town Manager Bruce St. Denis broke bad news to the Commission, unveiling the fact that coarse sand containing more than 80% carbonate was incorrectly spread during the ongoing beach renourishment project. Under Florida Department of Environmental Protection guidelines, coarse sand must contain less than 65% carbonate, because of the effect it could have on the sea turtle population. Sand with more than 65% carbonate has the potential to cause harm on the sea turtle population and the nesting process.

St. Denis has decided to fix the problem first and go from there as far as investigating the mishap.

The DEP gave Manson Construction, the company in charge of the \$21 million beach renourishment project, the green light July 1 to complete the \$550,000 interim project, which included removing the coarse sand and replacing it with white sand. The interim project took place over the Fourth of July weekend and will help keep the design profile of the renourishment project as planned.

At the workshop, the Commission directed Town Attorney Dave Persson to hire outside counsel to represent the Town for the project error.

The beach renourishment project, which began in June, is 10% complete. The entire project is expected to take six months. Crews are currently laying out white sand on the beach in the 3900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

‘Contractor’ Vows to Fight Charges

Rebecca Blue
News Editor

Another unlicensed contractor has struck the island. But, Sarasota businessman Mounir Xhannous Consul isn’t your common unlicensed contractor.

Consul was arrested June 18 on five felony charges and one misdemeanor charge. The charges range from a first-degree felony charge of grand theft of more than \$100,000 to a misappropriate use of construction funds felony charge to a misdemeanor charge of acting



Consul

in the capacity of a contractor. He was released from jail nearly five hours after being arrested. He posted a \$23,500 bail.

Investigators from the Longboat Key Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Workers’ Compensation and the Longboat Key Code Enforcement section of the Building, Planning and Zoning Department all joined forces over the last 10 months to nab Consul.

The Routine

According to police records, Consul would represent himself to homeowners as a contractor. He would then allegedly sign on clients, write contracts to build new homes and then seek out a licensed

contractor who had the credentials to obtain building permits for the projects.

On Longboat Key, Consul allegedly worked out a deal with Darryl Phillips, owner of Cranbrook Homes, to pull permits for him.

“Homeowners were led to believe that Mounir was their contractor. Darryl never met the homeowners and those that did see him on the job were told he was the superintendent,” said Longboat Key Code Enforcement Officer Heidi Micale.

Problems Arise

Problems arose when Phillips requested to withdraw his permits from the Longboat Key Planning, Building and Zoning Department in September 2004.

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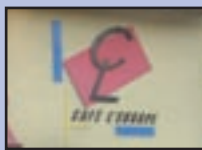
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