

# The Observer

LONGBOAT



**NEWS**

**CIRCLE CONCERNS**

**St. Armands statues fall victim to vandalism. PAGE 3**

**A&E:**

**PROFILES OF SUMMER**

**In this issue**  
Music man Mike Ash isn't ready to stop blowing his horn.



**KEY LIFE 13**

**Winged Victory**

Birds of a feather flock together for fish fry.



You. Your Neighbors. Your Neighborhood.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

**OUR TOWN**

PEOPLE, PICS & PLACES



Courtesy photo

Birthday girl **Florence Katz** celebrates with her twin great-grandsons, **Josh** and **Ben Bokor**, 18, of Columbus, Ohio.

**+ Local legend celebrates 95 years**

**Florence Katz** celebrated her 95th birthday July 9 aboard the Marina Jack II. Age will never slow Katz, music director emeritus of Temple Beth Israel, an active Jewish Family & Children's Service volunteer, daily swimmer, golfer, violist and collector of high heels. The evening's entertainment included a sing-along to a parody video starring great-grandchildren rapping and numerous testimonials.

**turtle tracks**

	2009	2010
Nests	197	206
False crawls	210	192

**Week of July 18 to July 24**

Nests.....20  
False crawls...14



**Turtle nest openings this week:**

- **Wednesday, July 28** — 8 p.m. to the south of Gulfside Road beach access, 6399 Gulfside Road
- **Friday, July 30** — 7:30 p.m. at Covert II, 5231 Gulf of Mexico Drive

**negotiations** by Kurt Schultheis | City Editor

## Colony crossroads

U.S. trustee William Maloney, who will oversee a settlement conference this week, could close The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort as early as Aug. 7, according to his trustee report.

An undisclosed term sheet that lays out The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort Association's settlement guidelines was submitted to U.S. bankruptcy trustee William Maloney the evening of July 26.

Maloney, who is in charge of all of the resort's operations, will now oversee a settlement conference between affected parties 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 28, at the law office of M. Lewis Hall III, in Sarasota.

The news comes on the heels of an initial report filed by Maloney Thursday, July 22, which states he is considering closing the resort in early August, in part, because the resort is breaking even and occupancy rates are expected to decline in August and September.

In the trustee report, Maloney states he is holding deposits for guests who book after Aug. 7, with the intention of refunding deposits subject to the Tampa-based U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The Aug. 7 closure date could not be confirmed by Maloney or acting Colony President and General Manager Katie Moulton.

Maloney told *The Longboat Observer* last week he would not talk to the press during his

time overseeing the resort.

And Moulton said the Aug. 7 closure date is not yet concrete. She is trying to convince Maloney to keep the resort open during the slower summer months.

"There have only been discussions about closing the resort," Moulton said. "I am trying to show Mr. Maloney we can make a profit and continue to operate in August. Shutting the resort down causes issues. We are working hard to keep things running and trying to show how we can operate without losing money in the slower summer months."

Moulton also noted that a couple of interested investors, who are willing to make contributions to keep the resort running (see box page 2), have approached her.

David Siegal, a partner of Colony Lender LLC, which owns the resort's bank loans, also thinks closing the resort is a bad idea.

"Closing the resort would diminish the name of the Colony, but the Colony has been closed before, and if the Colony is resurrected rapidly within a couple of months



File photo

Colony President and General Manager **Katie Moulton** and Colony owner and Chairman **Dr. Murray "Murf" Klauber** will attend a settlement conference July 28 in Sarasota.

**See COLONY page 2**

**SERVICE EXTENDER** by Kurt Schultheis | City Editor

## Chapel signs cell-tower lease

The Longboat Island Chapel signed a lease July 26 for a 150-foot cell tower to be placed on its property at 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

An agreement has been reached with the Longboat Island Chapel to erect a 150-foot cellular tower on church property.

Longboat Island Chapel President Jared East and Secretary Hugh Joyner said that the church signed a tower lease agreement Monday, July 26, for a five-year lease with Jim Eatrides, the owner of Longboat Key-based Alpha Omega Communications, and Kevin Barile, president of the

Tampa-based cell-tower development company, Ridan Industries II. The lease includes four five-year extension options.

The unipole stealth tower, if approved by the Town Commission, will sit just south of the chapel's Lord's Warehouse thrift shop building on the church's 4.5-acre property at 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

The financial terms of the lease agreement were not disclosed.

"A stealth tower is not supposed to look like a tower," Barile said. "The cables are placed in the internal structure, and you can put a flag on it if you want to."

The 150-foot tower, Eatrides said, allows for six cellular carriers to carry their services on the structure.

Barile said the lease agreement now allows him to get

**See CELL TOWER page 8**



Courtesy rendering

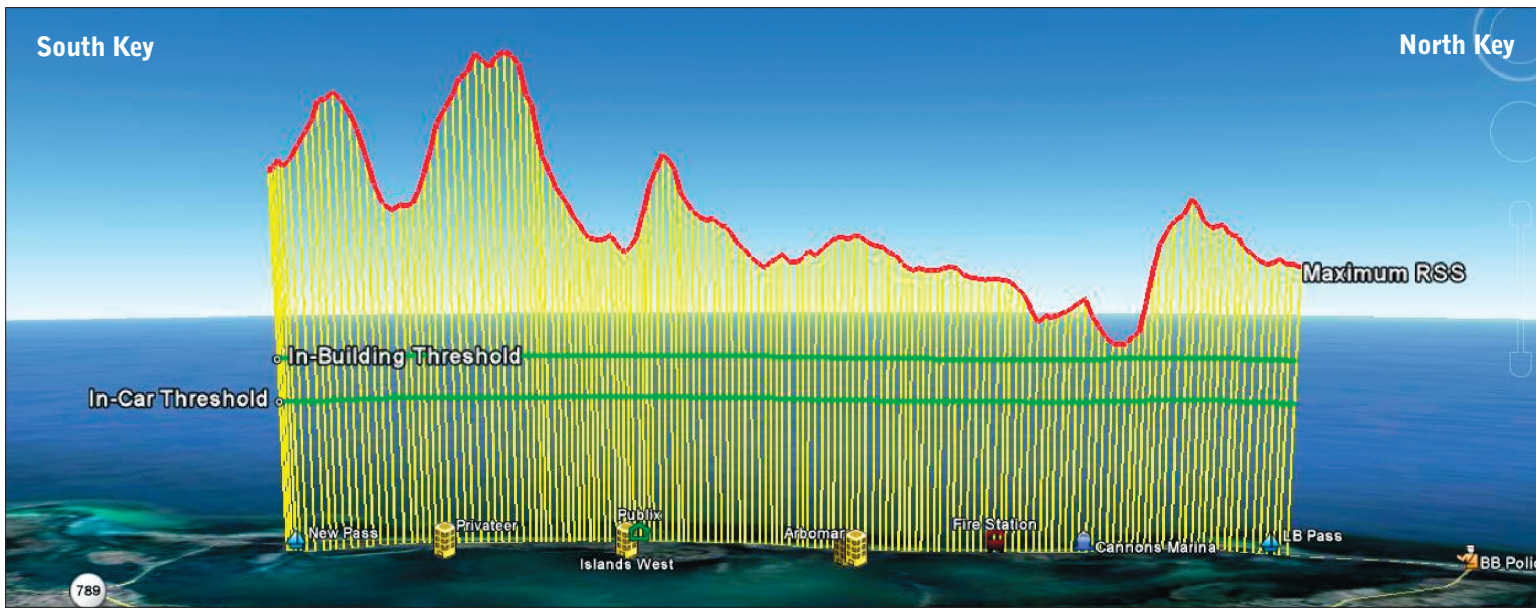
This is a rendering of how a 150-foot cellular tower would look on the Longboat Island Chapel property just south of Cannons Marina on Gulf of Mexico Drive.

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A wireless connectivity chart produced by Alpha-Omega Communications shows there is a dip in cellular service from the north-Key fire station just past Cannons Marina on the north end of the island. Courtesy rendering

**CELL TOWER from page 1**

formal commitments from carriers who have already expressed an interest in the tower.

"This is being based on true demand," Barile said. "Carriers have been interested in filling the wireless-communication gap out here for a long time."

Eatrides and Barile said the lease agreement is a culmination of more than three years of discussions with the chapel's board of directors and the congregation.

East said the church carefully weighed other options before signing the agreement, which will provide income for the church.

East said a survey sent out to his congregation's estimated 250 parishioners "was overwhelmingly in favor" of the lease for the tower.

**What's next?**

Eatrides and Barile called the Planning, Zoning and Building Department Monday to begin the pre-application process for their project. A pre-application meeting will be scheduled for next week.

Both Eatrides and Barile said it could take until the end of the year to get an application before the Planning and Zoning Board and, ultimately, the Town Commission, for final approval in early 2011.

According to the town's current telecommunications ordinance, a tower can only be placed on either town or institutionally-zoned property.

"In terms of the church's location, it works better here because the Public Works Department doesn't have enough land to accommodate the structure," Eatrides said.

Barile agreed.

"What makes the chapel the perfect spot for the tower is it's right in the middle of the coverage gaps the carriers have out here," Barile said. "It's the logical spot."

Barile said it would take at least 10 months before tower construction could begin.

But not all residents are receptive to the idea.

Neighboring Key residents, including former Mayor Jeremy Whatmough and Gus Sclafani, have previously spoken out against a tower going on the chapel's site.

And former Commissioner Gene Jaleski also has previously stated he and other Village residents don't want a tower on the north end of the Key if other options exist.

When asked to comment on the lease agreement, Whatmough, who is trying to sell his beachfront home located across the street from the chapel, said, "My views on the subject are well-known. We will have to see how it all plays out."

Jaleski maintained all residents are not in favor of the tower.

"This is a fix for a very small segment of the community," said Jaleski, noting that reception issues would still exist on the south end of the Key and that a Wi-Fi network would be needed to attract visitors. "A Band-Aid solution to make some money for a church may not be the best solution for our community."

Jaleski, Sclafani and Whatmough are three of 665 Longboaters who signed a petition last summer opposing cell towers and urging the installation of a distributed antenna system (DAS), which uses tiny antennas on top of utility poles to boost reception.

But Both Eatrides and church officials said DAS is not a viable option on the island.

"If it (DAS) would have worked and was economically viable for the island, I would have helped bring it here myself," Eatrides said.

And East explained that the church carefully weighed all options before signing the agreement.

"We sat on this for three or four years to see if there was an interest or need for a more viable, economic alternative to the tower," East said. "When no one else came forward, it led us to get off the fence."

But the pending application at Town Hall does have at least one hurdle to clear.

A portion of the town's code calls for a tower to have a required setback that is two times the height of the tower or 200 feet, whichever is greater.

"We will need relief of the setback issue," said Barile. "No institutional property exists on the north end, or the island for that matter, that is 600-feet-by-600 feet."

East said the town will hopefully work to grant some relief.

"It's new technology facing off against old zoning," East said.

**Why a tower?**

Eatrides says that a tower is a must for the north end of the Key for several reasons.

"To the credit of town staff, they did the right and easiest thing first by using rooftops of vertical real estate for antennas on the north end of the Key," Eatrides said. "The problem we have, though, is the north end doesn't have vertical real estate. That's why we have to go with a tower."

The base of the tower would be 5.5 feet in diameter and would include elevated platforms supporting all of the carrier equipment that would sit 5-to-6 feet off the ground.

And the tallest portion of the tower would be 42 inches in diameter.

All of the equipment would be enclosed in a wall system and be shielded with landscaping.

"You won't see this tower from the street, and the landscaping will make it unnoticeable on the property," Eatrides said.

Both Eatrides and Barile say it's the only tower the north end will need.

"This simply closes the hole in cellular coverage," said Barile, while holding up a diagram that shows a dip in service coverage from the north-Key fire station to Cannons Marina (see rendering above).

Eatrides and Barile said they will be holding a community meeting, or meetings, in the fall to explain their intent to residents prior to any public hearings.

If any Key resident has questions, they can e-mail Barile at [kevin.barile@ridanindustries.com](mailto:kevin.barile@ridanindustries.com).

**LETTERS from page 7**

**+ Scheyer's My View made suppositions**

Dear Editor:

I refer to last week's My View by Stuart Scheyer. He states that the vast majority of Longboat Key residents support the downsized project and are relieved that the battle is over.

At the end of the next paragraph he says that Islandside Property Owners Coalition no longer reflects the views of the majority.

How can he know these things? Has he had his own referendum?

Statements such as these are pure hyperbole and have no value whatsoever, other than to try to further the Key Club agenda and convince the rest of us that the massive construction project is in some way a good idea.

*Malcolm Barry  
Longboat Key*

**+ I agree with Scheyer: It's time to move on**

Dear Editor:

I congratulate our neighbor Stuart Scheyer for his courageous expression.

I do not know him personally, nor do I know Bob White. I believe the Islandside Property Owners Coalition substantially influenced the product that was approved by the Town Commission. I agree with Scheyer that it is time to move on!!

*Vince DeLisi  
Longboat Key*

**+ Building fee study was unnecessary**

Dear Editor:

Do I have it right: We had to go to California to get a \$27,355 study on how to make the Building Department raise more money? (The study's) first result (was that the building department) should make \$5 million a year ... no?

How about \$2.5 million ... no? Back to the drawing board, but this, of course, will cost more money. And this took 25 months?

But now, Finance Director Tom Kelley says we really don't need it. But Town Manager Bruce St. Denis tells us: "Oh yes we do."

All this to raise our building fees? Please, Mr. St. Denis, no more favors.

*Jim Herrington  
Longboat Key*

Visit Cannons Marina and see the new 2011 Grady Whites in stock, all powered by Yamaha outboards, more fuel efficient than ever before!



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