

Home & Real Estate



The Lighthouse Point home of John and Denise Saputo is among those featured on the Longboat Key Garden Club tour on March 6. STAFF PHOTOS / DOROTHY STOCKBRIDGE-PRATT

Behind the gates

Next Saturday's Longboat Key Garden Club Tour of Homes has several stops within the gated Longboat Key Club.



Denise Saputo in the living room of her Longboat Key house that's featured on the upcoming Tour of Homes.

By DOROTHY STOCKBRIDGE-PRATT
dorothy.pratt@heraldtribune.com

LONGBOAT KEY — John and Denise Saputo didn't realize that Longboat Key had a holiday lighting contest until they won it.

"We had lights all over, and then we got a call that we had won," recalled Denise Saputo.

The contest brought the Saputo house to the attention of the Longboat Key Garden Club, which will feature it in its March 6 Tour of Homes. The house is on Lighthouse Point, behind the gates of the Longboat Key Club at the south end of the key. Their back-yard lights faced the New Pass bridge.

Three other homes on the tour are behind the Longboat Key Club's Harbourside gates. Other stops are a remodeled canal home on Emerald Harbor Drive, Joan M. Durante

Park and the Longboat Key Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$15.

The Saputo house, in the Mediterranean style with stone columns, was still under construction last winter when John Saputo, a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, was called to active duty at U.S. Central Command in Tampa.

"I finished this house," said Denise Saputo, who worked with Brian Phipps on a design that gives every room a water view. Rich Perrone was the contractor.

"We built two homes when we lived in Raleigh (North Carolina) and one in Laurel Oak when we moved here in 1997," she added.

John Saputo owns Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, the Anheuser-Busch beer distributor in Sarasota and Manatee counties. The decorated Marine Corps veteran served

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Tour goes behind the gates of Longboat

TOUR FROM 1G

in both Iraq conflicts. From Tampa, he briefly served in Qatar and Baghdad before returning to Sarasota last June. The family had already moved into the house, which has 12-foot ceilings, saturday floors and an open cherry and granite kitchen.

"We love the south end of Longboat. We can watch the dolphin and manatees," Denise Saputo said. "I can walk to the Gulf from our little beach."

Other stops on the tour

■ First stop behind the Harbourside gates is the home of Wendy Curts and David Urbanis, 1932 Harbourside Drive. The country French condominium offers bay views and terrace landscaping. Among the highlights are the boutique pillows fashioned by Wendy Curts.

■ The Harbour Oaks contemporary villa of Jerry and Shirley Gotthelf, 2199 Harbourside Drive, overlooks the golf course. Visitors can see orchid gardens in the courtyards and atrium and their hand-painted collection of blown glass. The dining room has a Murano glass chandelier.

■ In Queen's Harbour, the home of Lenny and Susan Landau, 3518 Fair Oaks Drive, is a bright, modern, glass home. It's filled with art, including large fused-glass pieces, a large metal sculpture and landscapes of France. In most cases, they personally knew the artists. Ceilings in their home are 15 feet.

■ The home of John and Ann Summers, 5961 Emerald Harbor Drive, is a remodeled ranch house centered around the pool and tiki bar. The expansion is open to the outside. The Summers have a kinetic art collection and outdoor orchid nursery.



The home of John and Ann Summers at 5961 Emerald Harbor Drive is among those featured on the Longboat Key Garden Club tour. COURTESY PHOTO / JOHN WEBSTER

■ Refreshments will be served at the Joan M. Durante Park, 5550 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

■ At the Longboat Key Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive South, visitors can view exhibits in the Members' Gallery and Glen Gallery and see the honeymoon cottage sculpture building, the new classroom building/jewelry studio and the courtyard gardens.

Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 6. Barbara Kerwin is president and Joan Web-

ster planned the tour. Tickets, \$15, are available on tour day at the homes or at Longboat Key BP gas station. In advance, tickets are at Davidson Drugs at Midtown and Siesta Key; at Exit Art on St. Armand's and Longboat; Susan Stribling, Sea Stable, Longboat Chamber, Longboat Creations Florist, Raymond James, Longboat Key Liquors on Longboat; AMI West on Anna Maria; Robyn's Nest in Bradenton; and Dee's Boutique on Holmes Beach. Information: 383-0772 or 387-8142.

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