

# BAY WATCH NEWS

## Special Online Edition May 2012

### Editors Notes

On April 24 there was a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bonita Bay Community Association where an estimated 150 people attended.

#### Highlights of the meeting:

1. **Marina Complex Purchase Discussion** – The response to the survey was very high (over 70%) and the majority of the responders were in favor of pursuing further the investigation into the purchase of Backwater Jacks and the Marina. (Go to the BBCA website and click on Association Administration to see the summary of the vote.) A purchase by the BBCA will require 75% of the residents to approve the proposal.
2. **Bocce Court Deliberations** – After weighing the pros and cons of expansion of the current site or constructing a new facility at the highly controversial proposed site (adjacent to the Anchorage community), a unanimous Board vote elected to expand at the current site. Among the audience, there was still concern about spending \$180M for this project.
3. For those 40 or so attendees who remained in the audience until the end of the meeting, it became apparent that there is a difference of opinion on the role of the Board.

The next meeting of the BBCA is Wednesday, May 9 at 2 PM.

Don and Valerie Gorman  
Editor

# Letters to the Editors

**Subj: Proposed St. Matthew House 260 Bed Homeless Shelter to be Built in Bonita Springs**

Dear Fellow Bonita Bay Residents,

As your District 4 City Councilman I want to share with you some major events of the last 30 days. Many of you may have heard information stating that a homeless shelter could possibly be located next to or near the Charter School on Old 41 Road. Upon further investigation I learned that our city actually has no regulations in place restricting or controlling the placement of homeless shelters and I sponsored the idea of a one year Moratorium on the building of any shelters in Bonita Springs. I felt it was necessary to have some guidelines in place in order to protect our children and fellow residents.

During this process, two main groups have surfaced as part of the discussion. The first is St Matthews House of Naples (<http://www.stmatthewshouse.org>) as the party who is interested in establishing a shelter and the other party is a newly formed Citizens Action Group called BSAFE Bonita, Inc. ([WWW.BSAFEBONITA.ORG](http://WWW.BSAFEBONITA.ORG)) who is opposing the building of a large unregulated shelter near the charter school.

At the City Council meeting on April 18th, the City Council passed the moratorium 7-0 restricting construction for a 12 month period. Many people felt that the situation was over and that now any new shelter would have to follow the guidelines of the city once established.

On the last day before the City Council vote, St Matthews House submitted a Development Order for a 260 bed shelter to the city. As a result, the City is required to process this Development Order as though no moratorium exists. If the Development Order is correct and approved, St Matthews House would be allowed to build on the site located just north of the Art League on Old 41 Road.

As your Councilman I feel it is important to keep the residents of my district informed. Regardless of your opinion to the existence of this shelter, I urge you keep yourself up to date. The city will be working on the operational ordinance over the next few months. Your input is critical as this is your city and of course your home.

Feel free to contact me at City Hall with any questions you might have. We are working hard to resolve this conflict between the parties as best as possible. Thank you for entrusting me to represent you in this beautiful city.

Peter Simmons, Riverwalk

Councilman, District 4, City of Bonita Springs

**Subj: More on St. Matthew House ...**

To the Editors:

Please be aware that plans for a 260 bed homeless shelter have been submitted to the city of Bonita Springs. This will not require a public hearing or any input from the city in order to move forward.

The location is next to the Bonita Art Center on Old 41, this site is 1800 feet from the Charter School with over 1200 students, 200 feet from Hope Lutheran Preschool, and immediately abuts Pueblo Bonita with 320 children. There are also neighborhoods all around the area full of families and seniors citizens.

Our city has no regulations in place for this type of facility, so anyone could stay there. Incidentally, according to the 2011 US HUD "point-in-time" survey, there are only 36 homeless (0 families) in Bonita Springs, so where are the other 224 coming from?

The city is attempting to put regulations for homeless shelters in place in order to protect the citizens and preserve the quality and attractiveness of Bonita Springs as a place to live and do business. Unfortunately, prior to any regulations the city could create, St. Matthews House of East Naples submitted plans to the city 30 minutes prior to the close of business the day before the city council unanimously voted in favor of a moratorium.

Even though the Mayor, City Council and residents of Bonita Springs have made it clear that without any regulations they are very opposed to a facility of this type. In addition, we could possibly see:

- an increase in our crime rate
- a decrease in the attractiveness of Bonita to future home buyers and businesses, an increase in our taxes
- an increased the strain on our police, fire and EMS services.

As residents of Bonita Springs, we have a responsibility to protect all of the residents of our community, as well as our property values. Part of the charm and draw to Bonita Bay is the town in which we are located.

Residents throughout the city are coming together to oppose this effort and ask St. Matthews House to reconsider their plans in this location. An unregulated facility for 260 people will create an impact our city of 44,000 people just cannot absorb, and commonsense alone says this is an inappropriate location.

Is it right when the benefits of a few outweigh the best interests of thousands?

BSAFE Bonita, Inc was formed as a non-profit, to protect children and property values by ensuring the proper and safe use of land near schools and residential areas. This organization has retained an attorney to voice and fight for the rights of the residents of Bonita Springs.

I encourage you to please visit their website [www.BSAFEBonita.org](http://www.BSAFEBonita.org) and educate yourself about this issue and contribute to their legal fund in order to preserve and protect our town and its residents.

There must be a way to help the homeless and protect our City at the same time, Bonita Springs deserves the right to figure out how to best do that, not to have a one size fits all approach imposed on the City of Bonita Springs against its wishes by a Naples business. Let's do our part to stop this and find a better way in a better place, a way to help people without hurting others. Visit [www.BSAFEBonita.org](http://www.BSAFEBonita.org) to learn what you can do to help!

Dave Gallagher, Wild Pines

**Subj: Helping Those in Need: Meals on Wheels**

To the Editors:

We'd like to introduce you to Meals on Wheels of Bonita Springs. We volunteer as board Members in the capacity of President, Lee Rattigan and Grants Director, Eileen Johnston. For over 40 years, Meals on Wheels of Bonita Springs has delivered hot prepared meals to our home bound and infirm neighbors in Bonita Springs. Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization operated by a group of dedicated volunteers. In 2011 our volunteer drivers delivery over 9,000 meals to those in need.

Approximately fifty percent of our clients are unable to contribute to the cost of their meals due to financial hardship. Consequently, Meals on Wheels of Bonita Springs incurs an annual deficit of \$18,000 which is subsidized through the generosity of local churches, organizations, grants and individual donors. As little as \$3.00 a day or \$15.00 a week can fill a plate for a neighbor in need.

We invite you to visit our website, [www.mealsonwheelsofbonitasprings.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsofbonitasprings.org), or contact either of us to learn more about Meals on Wheels of Bonita Springs.

Martha Micelle, Wild Pines

**Subj: Marina and Backwater Jacks**

To the Editors,

A group of residents at Greenbriar would like to express their disappointment on the state of affairs on the possible buy of the Marina by Bonita Bay Community Association.

We would like to avoid a repeat of the situation that occurred concerning the Bocce Club issue, where the most interested people were not fully and timely informed of the state of affairs until a large amount of time and resources have been consumed.

If it is clear that there will be less than 75% of the membership in favor of buying the Marina, why spend money on letters of intent?

Our letter plans to address the following issues:

An open forum on the issue should be called as soon as possible.

The survey, in our opinion, did not do a very good job at explaining why residents that do not have a boat, or plan to have one, would benefit from owning a piece of the Marina. No opposing opinion was presented. (It was surprising that they asked how would you like to pay, before they say how much is it going to cost)

The security argument that people from outside BB could pose a risk is a little scare tactic. I am sure that BB security can handle that issue for far less than the four million dollars value of the complex. Besides, given the quality of food and service at Back Water Jacks I do not think they will stay open for too long.

As it was expressed at the BBCA meeting, the golfers paid for their club, the tennis players paid for theirs, and so did the social club members. Shouldn't the boaters do the same? \$20,000 per member of the Marina is a hard pill to swallow, especially if it can be avoided by having every resident of BB pay only \$2,000.

If the Marina turns out to not be profitable who will assume the losses?

J. Sanz, Greenbriar

**Subj: Bonita Bay Properties, Inc. Lawsuit**

To the Editor:

I am very chagrined and disappointed that BBCA is involved in a lawsuit with BBPI regarding use of the Bonita Bay name and logos. The very first thing any attorney requires in a purchase or acquisition assuming there is value is to acquire the name,

logos, patents, licenses etc. Why did we agree to a turnover without obtaining these rights? I believe we as homeowners are owed an explanation as to why and how this can happen. Even the Bonita Bay Club had the common sense to acquire these rights in its turnover. I would think by the time of the Community Association Turnover that everyone knew not to trust BBPI with any left over issue especially something as critical as our name and logos. I would hope that we could find better uses for spending our dues monies and please BBPI Board, do not attempt to settle this frivolous lawsuit with a cash settlement. Hopefully maybe our turnover committee had the foresight to get D. & O. insurance coverage to handle any errors or omissions and this lawsuit can be paid by the insurance company.

Besides the cost of changing our name and logos there will be much confusion surrounding who and where we are if we cannot use the Bonita Bay name. Maybe we can become another "Pelican" at Bonita Springs where you can find the Bonita Bay Club entering via Bonita Bay Blvd unless our street name would have to change also. Also "Bay" is part of many of our local communities within Bonita Bay or "Pelican" or "formerly Bonita Bay".

Will Shroyer, Bay Pointe

*(To see complaint filed by BBPI copy and paste: [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com) and click on Newsletter.)*

**Subj: Literacy Council 5K Fundraiser**

To all Bonita Bay Residents:

I hope that you'll consider joining us at a Literacy Council fundraiser on June 23rd. Internal Medicine Associates is the sponsor of our 5K run/walk and has issued challenges to local businesses to enter teams. Estero High School, six times state cross country champs over the past two decades, is challenging high schools to do the same to compete against them ... should be a fun event.

You can register on-line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

Thanks.

Jim Brennan, Crossings

**Subj: Campaign for Lee County School Board**

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of Bonita Bay and I am a candidate for the Lee County School Board, District 3. The race is non-partisan and the election is in August. I want to let my neighbors know about the candidacy and encourage 'snowbirds' to file for absentee

ballots for the August election. Below is a press release so that you may have an idea of who I am and why I am running.

Thank you,  
Cathleen Morgan  
[morgan4lcps@gmail.com](mailto:morgan4lcps@gmail.com)  
27140 shell ridge circle,  
bonita springs, fl 34134-8782  
[239-947-4755](tel:239-947-4755)

### **Press Release**

I believe public education is critical to the health of our democracy and to the economic stability of our nation; it prepares children to live in a global environment as self-reliant, socially responsible adults. As a public institution, the School District of Lee County must provide a fiscally responsible educational program consistent with these expectations and responsive to student needs and abilities.

The educational challenges faced by the School District of Lee County are well documented; but while it strives to improve student performance, the School District is financially constrained. The outlook for increased financial support for school operations from federal or state sources is bleak, while the Florida Department of Education promises increased pressure on public schools to shift to a new plateau of student achievement.

The School District of Lee County is maxed out on “doing more with less”. The time has come to **“DO DIFFERENT”**.

I am a candidate for the School District of Lee County, District 3, because I want to be part of the drive to improve our schools. I believe we must:

**Do More** - Match education goals to the individual needs of all students; develop and retain quality teachers; and assess the effectiveness of teaching and learning programs.

**Do Better** - Restructure education resources: allocate teaching, technology, class space and time according to student needs and school education goals; set measurable learning goals for every child and hold educators accountable for learning outcomes.

**Do It With Less** - Expect no new federal, state and local resources

**Do It Different(ly)** - Challenge conventional wisdom about what’s right and what works.

I don’t want to tell educators how to do their job. I want to support them in their efforts to do it better.

With 120 public schools, the School District of Lee County is suitable for pioneering education initiatives to meet the challenges of educating children today. Every school and every educator should be exploring new ways to educate children while using

twenty-first century tools for education, administration, and management. US public and private sectors retooled how they manage work, investing in their businesses while controlling costs. Educators, if they are going to retake their global leadership role in education, have to do the same.

I want to encourage the business community to play a larger role in education, helping the district to assess the relationship between district curriculum and instruction and the intellectual and economic demands of the adult working and educational worlds. We need to involve trade groups, professionals, and local business people in thinking about what and how we teach and learn in Lee County schools. We need their insight as we design school operations to best support student achievement, as we develop accountability measures, and as we evaluate our ability to use tax dollars wisely to meet student and community needs.

I am well qualified to seek this position. I hold an MBA in corporate finance. I worked on Wall Street for eighteen years in investment and commercial banking. After leaving my position as VP-Operations at JPMorgan to be an at-home parent, I volunteered in our NY community as a founding member of the local school district's Financial Advisory Committee. I then was elected twice to school board terms and served as Board Vice-President and President. Ten years ago, I received an M.Ed. in Education Administration. Three years ago I volunteered for the Lee County School District Finance Advisory Committee and currently I chair that committee. My history of public school advocacy, my professional experience as leader and manager, and my non-profit experiences as board member and community leader make me the ideal candidate to serve the children and community members of Lee County.

## **Bonita Bay Club Lady Golfers Capture the Lee County 2012 Interclub Trophy**

A team of 19 Bonita Bay Club women golfers earned the title of Lee County 2012 Interclub I Champions. During the competition, established in 1986, teams from 10 area clubs competed in nine matches played during five months. The Bonita Bay Club team won first-place gross and recaptured the trophy the club last won in 1997.

Kathy Reines, who was co-captain of the Bonita Bay Ladies Interclub I Team with Karen Bartone, said the competition came down to the final match.



“We were trailing by six points gross to Verandah the final day, but the team delivered an amazing come-from-behind victory to win the overall season title by one point,” said Reines. “Lauren Collins shot a stunning 73 to lead the charge.”

Other competing clubs were Olde Hickory, Palmira, Wildcat Run, Gateway, Shadow Wood, The Forest, Pelican’s Nest and Fiddlesticks.



The Lee County 2012 Interclub Champions are Bonita Bay Club members (first row, left to right) Barb Dove, Linda Edwards, Karen Bartone, Kathy Reines, Judy Bennett and Pat Hoppie; (second row) Mary Jane Cerullo, Marge Johnson, Bev Miller, Ronnie Christman and Lauren Collins; and (back row) Cindy White, Leona Brennan, Lee Pommer, Jan Phillips, Jane Nelson and Janet Schmitz. Not pictured: Deb Cobb and Jacqueline Balthazar.

## **Coast Guard Auxiliary Offers Free Vessel Safety Checks**

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is considered one of the premier safe boating organizations in the United States, and in its effort to keep boaters safe, the Auxiliary offers complimentary vessel safety checks for residents of Bonita Bay.

Vessel safety checks are twenty-minute inspections of safety equipment to see if vessels comply with federal and state of Florida safety requirements. Vessel examiners are members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and are certified by the United States Coast Guard.

Vessel examiners inspect a variety of safety equipment, including life jackets, visual distress signals, navigation lights, fire extinguishers, and sound producing devices. At the same time, vessel examiners review the following with boaters: communication equipment, dewatering devices, offshore operations, and charts and navigation aids.

Vessels passing a vessel safety check display a Coast Guard/ Coast Guard Auxiliary decal in a prominent location. Boat owners, whose vessels do not pass the safety check, receive a report explaining what additional safety equipment is required. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a non-law enforcement organization, and does not report safety violations to law enforcement agencies.

Complimentary vessel safety checks take place twice a month at Wiggins Pass in North Naples and at the boat ramp at Lovers Key State Park. And, by appointment, the Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks at the vessel's home dock.

For more information, boaters should contact Flotilla 96 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary at [arnals@msn.com](mailto:arnals@msn.com).

## **Classified Ads**

Wanted: Used Lexus SUV - RX 350 (or similar make and model) preferably with mileage below 50K, light color, tan interior, navigation system and backup camera. The more add-ons, the better. Call Tom in BB 239-221-7786

Wanted: Looking for a partner(s) for boat ownership. Planning to purchase a 23 to 27 foot center console. Probably a Boston Whaler, Sailfish or Grady White. Will store at BB Marina. Call 239-949-9430.

For Sale: Bed rail folds flat \$15; yellow ground & red design carpet @ 5'x7' \$30; Egyptian geometric design carpet in shades of turq & blue, @8'x8' \$60. Lovely handmade Renaissance gown, ladies size 6-8 \$150. 239-949-0949.

Condo Rental: Wild Pines 2BR/2BA ground floor close to pool & hot tub. Very Private. Available 5/1 thru 12/31. Off season low rates contact 248 521 3731.

## **Employment Opportunity**

After two years of writing one of our features articles entitled “Restaurant Review by Phyllis”, Phyllis Liebman is “retiring” from the position.

So if you love to eat out and like to write and would like share your experience with others, please let us know at [baywatchnews@aol.com](mailto:baywatchnews@aol.com) – we’ll even pick up the tab for you and a companion!!!

## **Save the Date**

### UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS DINNER

A Marine Corps Birthday Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2012, in the Fireside Room at the Bonita Bay Club. Cocktail Hour at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Marines, and personnel who served with the Marines, are invited, with their spouses, to attend. It has been 237 years since the Second Continental Congress resolved that two battalions, of Marines, be enlisted to fight the British. This resolution was given in the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, on November 10th 1775, eight months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Please join us in paying our respect to the United States Marines.

Non-Members of the Bonita Bay Club, may use a credit card for expenses incurred. Please register with Darcy Bodiker at the Bonita Bay Club, 949-5072, or Andy Soffel at [clgcman@comcast.net](mailto:clgcman@comcast.net) or 947-3737 after October 1st. The uniform of the day will be Field Scarves with Blazers.

Semper Fi

Andy Soffel, Bay Harbor

# Coupon Bonanza

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## THE TOP 6 HOME INVADERS

Pest Problems in the U.S.



**Ants**  
49%



**Spiders**  
43%



**Flies**  
37%



**Mosquitoes**  
34%



**Mice**  
30%



**Wasps**  
29%

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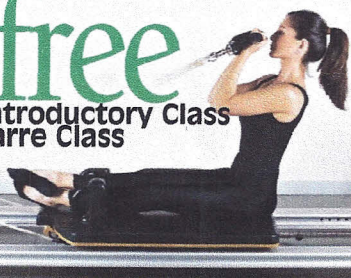
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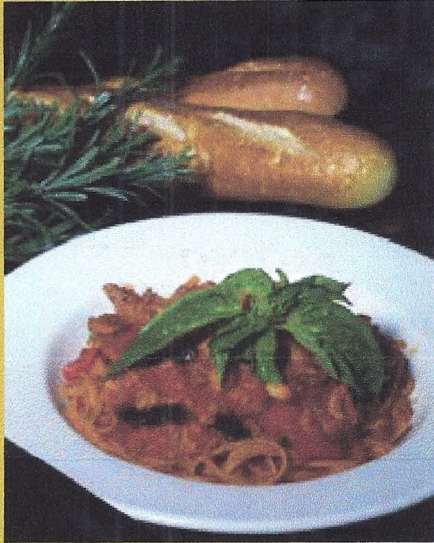
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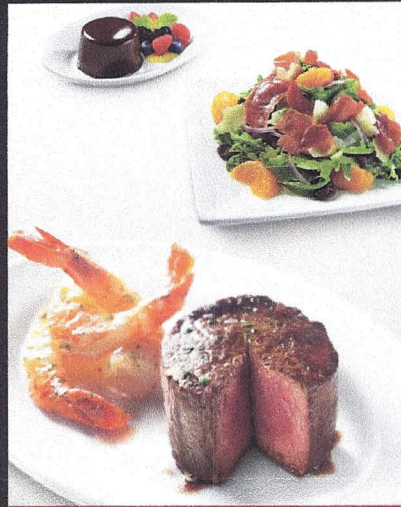
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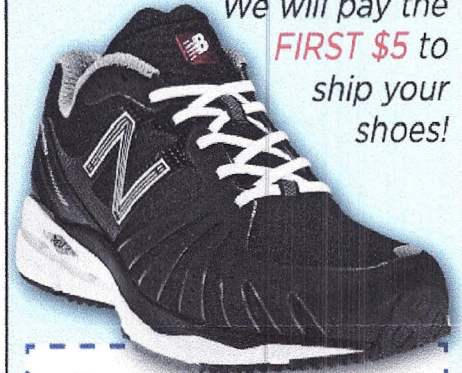
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