

# BAY WATCH News

Volume 1 Number 1

December 2008

## Bonita Bay Eagle Case

By John Speer, City Council Member

*Ed. Note: In June 2007, the City Council denied Bonita Bay's request to reduce the eagle protection zone from 1,000 to 330 feet, despite the fact that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bonita Springs Zoning Board and other agencies recommended they do so. Bonita Bay Group appealed the decision and the claim was upheld by Gov. Charlie Christ and his cabinet.*

"What are you going to do about the Bonita Bay Eagle?" was frequently asked both while I was a candidate for council member and after I took office earlier this year.

### I see three questions:

1. Should Bonita Bay's petition to build another dozen (or so) homes in Bay Woods have been allowed over the objections that the construction could (or would) disturb the nest, particularly during nesting season?

I attended the City Council's public hearing on the petition before I took office; listened to the testimony of the parties, the experts, and the public; and struggled with the question of "How would I have voted?". Although I did not read the background material or visit the vicinity of the nest until months later, based on what I heard, I probably would have voted to allow the petition.



I do suspect, however, that I would have asked for and looked for a way to compromise somewhere between no new homes and more than a dozen new homes; I saw very little effort to seek some middle ground.

2. The City has spent over \$125,000, plus many hours of City staff time, defending the administrative appeal Bonita Bay Group took against the City. Could that have been prevented, in whole or in part?

First, was there a middle ground between no new construction and more than a dozen homes that could have satisfied the Bonita Bay Group, the opponents of the Bonita Bay Group, and at least four Council Members? I do

*con't. on page 3*

## The Need For Transparency

### Bonita Bay Club Members Call for Bonita Bay Group to "Do the Right Thing"

*This newsletter went to print on 11/21.*

*For more recent developments, go to: [www.baywatchnews.com](http://www.baywatchnews.com).*

After a 20-year love affair between the Bonita Bay Group and the Bonita Bay Club membership, a letter was sent from the Bonita Bay Group in late January 2007 that shattered that relationship. The letter heralded a new refund policy of "two in, one out." A month later, after almost universal membership uproar, on February 27, 2007, BBG withdrew the proposed changes and said that they have the confidence, resources and reserves to weather the storm and apologized for the entire incident.

Just when that wound seemed to heal, now, 20 months later, another major set back and public relations disaster has surfaced. In a letter dated November 7, 2008, the Bonita Bay Group announced that it was suspending its "instant refundability policy" of membership deposits and plans to work with the Advisory Boards at each BBG club to craft a sustainable refund plan. The letter closed by thanking the membership

*con't. on page 10*

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## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the "*Bay Watch News*".

My wife and I bought our first house in Bonita Bay eight years ago and became full-time residents in 2004. Like most people here, we love the choice we made and feel blessed to be part of a wonderful, beautiful and vibrant community. Are things perfect? No - perfection will come in the next life - but I am in no rush to get there.

The goal of *Bay Watch News* is to provide the homeowners in Bonita Bay with independent (i.e., not associated with The Bonita Bay Group), interesting and meaningful community news. *Bay Watch News* provides such a forum and welcomes feedback. The newsletter is scheduled to be mailed on the 5th of each month in December, January, February and March to each of the residents at no charge (we are advertiser supported) and is also available on line at: [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com).

Some of the ongoing features are: "Who's Who in Bonita Bay" profiling distinguished residents; "Update on Real Estate" written by local realtors with a focus on Bonita Bay; "Movie Reviews" and "Restaurant Reviews". Additionally, there is a free-to-residents "Classified Section" listing cars, boats, furniture, etc. for sale.

We hope you enjoy this Inaugural Edition of *Bay Watch News* and we wish all of our readers:

***Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy Holidays***

**From the Editor,  
Don Gorman**

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## Contents

Page 1	<b>Bonita Bay Eagle Case</b>
Page 1	<b>The Need For Transparency</b>
Page 3	<b>Editor's Notes</b>
Page 5	<b>Letters to the Editor</b>
Page 6	<b>Who's Who in Bonita Bay</b>
Page 7	<b>Paradise With a Speed Trap</b>
Page 8	<b>In the Doctor's Office</b>
Page 8	<b>Real Estate Transactions</b>
Page 10	<b>On the Bookshelf</b>
Page 11	<b>Movie Talk</b>
Page 12	<b>The Curious Photographer</b>
Page 12	<b>Superior Interiors</b>
Page 13	<b>Restaurant Reviews</b>
Page 15	<b>Farmer's Market</b>
Page 16	<b>What's Happening in Real Estate</b>
Page 18	<b>How Is Your Memory?</b>
Page 18	<b>Classified Ads</b>

**Contributing Editors:** Dr. Richard Beatty and Dr. George Corrent; Tommye Fleming; Paul Hoecherl; Gary Jaarda; John Klocko; Phil Sciacqua; Attorney John Speer; Judy Underwood

Eagles (con't. from front page 1)

know that the mediation process was underway as I took office and the City took the position that there was really nothing to negotiate. That position was never brought to City Council, although, in fairness, my conversations with both representatives of the Bonita Bay Group and with some opponents, there probably was (and remains) no middle ground acceptable to both sides.

Second, the appeal process elected by the Bonita Bay Group was “de novo”, or what the City Attorney calls a “do over.” The hearing officer and ultimately the Governor and his cabinet heard completely new evidence rather than basing the appeal on evidence heard by the city council. Could the City have retained experts supportive of the denial rather than relying on City staff (Lee County environmental staff)

that seemed well-intentioned but did not have the credentials of the Bonita Bay Group experts? And did the City and/or its outside counsel contest the appeal as aggressively, both legally and politically, as the Bonita Bay Group did? I asked several months ago for an opportunity to explore that line of questions, but the discussion has not occurred.

### 3. Where do we go from here?

Within the last few weeks, several residents of Bonita Bay Group have filed a lawsuit in Circuit Court appealing the ruling of the Governor and his Cabinet. In September, the City Council voted 5-2 (Simons and Martin dissenting) to not pursue further appeals. As I understand the new appeal, although it is technically against the City, it is usual practice to allow the party defending the most recent decision to pay for the costs of defending

the appeal; in this instance, that would be the Bonita Bay Group.

I believe that the City has spent enough taxpayer’s dollars in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the dozen new homes. There may have been mistakes made; with the perfection that hindsight brings, some things, including strategy, choice of outside experts, and confidence in one’s position being successful, probably could have been done differently. I hope at some point the City Council and City staff can do a “post-mortem” and see whether any ordinances, processes, procedure, or tactics need to be modified so that the next time a City Council decision is challenged, both the quality of the decision reached and the outcome of the challenges turn out the way the Bonita Springs community wants.



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## Letters to the Editor

### To the Editor:

Congratulations and good luck with *Bay Watch News*.

This is a much needed personalized and informative communication vehicle for all of our residents and friends. You are providing a wonderful, independent and needed source of information that will most certainly make all of us more informed. I am very much looking forward to every issue.

Thank you for your contribution to our wonderful community of Bonita Bay. We wish you much good luck.

**Diane and Bob Curry**

Wild Pines

### To the Editor:

Congratulations on your wonderful idea of starting a newsletter with all those interesting topics. I especially like the idea of putting an item up for sale that is no longer useful to the owner but a real gem for the buyer. I know you had talked about something like this a few years ago. Best of luck and hope your dream is very successful.

**Claire Levesque**

Anchorage

### From the Editor

*The above letters are a small sampling of the many "good luck" wishes received. Thanks to all for your encouragement.*

Submissions to the Bay Watch News should be in writing, typed and emailed, if possible, or mailed to the address below. All material must be clearly identified with a contact person and phone number for verification or elaboration. Names and phone numbers will not be published without permission. All submissions are subject to editing.

Please email: BayWatchLetters@aol.com or Address: Bay Watch News, P. O. Box 1604, Bonita Springs, FL 34133

## Burton P. Golumbic, DDS

Following a distinguished 27-year career in private practice in the Empire State Building, interspersed with lecturing and teaching at Columbia University, Dr. Golumbic, together with his wife Lizzie, also in the dental field for more than 20 years, celebrate five years in their new dental practice in beautiful Bonita Springs, Florida.



A native of Erie, PA, Dr. Golumbic graduated with honors from Penn State University and Temple University Dental School.

Dr. Golumbic enjoys all aspects of general dentistry. His areas of expertise are crowns, bridges, implant restoration and aesthetic bonding. Dr. Golumbic has incorporated the most advanced technology, including laser therapy, and computer digital X-rays which reduce exposure to radiation by over 90 percent.



The practice is run as a partnership. Together Dr. and Mrs. Golumbic (Lizzie) take the time needed to get to know their patients. They listen to their patients' concerns. Their caring approach, together with their years of experience and good clinical judgments set them apart in their field.

Burt and Lizzie have met so many lovely residents of Bonita Bay. It is so wonderful to have many of them as "our dental family of patients".

## Burton P. Golumbic, DDS

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# Who's Who in Bonita Bay?

By Tommye Fleming, Mahogany Ridge and St. Louis, MO



**Jane Marie Robert**, a resident of Riviera neighborhood and St. Louis, MO, is doing her part to restore relations between France and the United States. For 35 years, she has been actively involved in furthering French language and culture throughout the world.

Her dedication and volunteer efforts have brought her numerous honors:

\* In December 2007, she was decorated, in Paris, with the Legion of Honor, the highest award given by the French Republic. Other women to have received the honor include Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, actress Jodie Foster and singer Celine Dion.

\* In 2007, she was honored as World Trade Center Saint Louis Global Ambassador for increasing national and international visibility for St. Louis.

\* In 1998, the French government awarded her Knighthood as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques.

Jane travels to France several times a year in support of her Francophile associations. She often meets with French officials, ministers, the American Ambassador to France and the French Ambassador to the United States.

She is currently President of Saint Louis-Lyon Sister Cities, Inc. Because of her efforts, in 2007, both the Mayor of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Supervisor declared Jane M. Robert Days in celebration.

She received her language diploma from the Sorbonne in Paris in 1968, her BA in French Language and Literature from Webster University in 1969, and her Master's degree in French from Missouri University at Columbia in 1973. She taught French at the grade school, high school and college levels.

What place does the French language play in her life? Jane told me, "French fluency allows me to truly understand the perspectives of our French partners - and to express American ideas and culture to them."

Jane is married to Bruce Robert, a retired attorney who spends his days golfing in Missouri and Florida. When Jane is in Paris, you can often find Bruce filling his days on the Bonita Bay golf courses. Their son, Patrick, is a financial advisor. All three are avid golfers.

Perhaps Jane would don her knighthood regalia for the Bonita Bay's Club next French theme night. We just bet Chef Xavier would love having French royalty to serve.

C'est si bon (its so good)!

*This is the first in a series of features designed to spotlight individual residents of Bonita Bay. If you have suggestions for future spotlights, please email BayWatchNews@aol.com*



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## Paradise with a Speed Trap?

**Does your view of heaven have St. Peter giving out traffic tickets to anyone floating by too fast?**

Most likely not.

Here in Bonita Bay, there is a fair amount of controversy about the police presence in the area.

From August 26th until October 31st of this year, on Bonita Bay Blvd. alone, there were over 50 people pulled over by the Lee County Sheriffs' Office, with 23 of those stops resulting in the issuance of tickets, the others with written warnings...and that is not even "in season".

There was also an incident where one of our Bonita Bay residents who was riding a bicycle was not only issued a ticket but given points on his driver's license as well!

Are our residents, visitors or service people reckless drivers or is the Lee County Sheriff's office overzealous?

Let us know your opinion at: [baywatchletters@aol.com](mailto:baywatchletters@aol.com) or mail your comments to: Valdón Publishing P.O.Box 1604, Bonita Springs, FL 34133

# In The Doctor's Office

by Richard Beatty, M.D. Ophthalmologist  
George Corrent, M.D. Ph.D. Ophthalmologist



## The Seductive Promise of "Throw Away Your Glasses": What You Should Know Before You Have Surgery...

The idea of freedom from glasses and contact lenses can be seductive for many of us who depend on them for our vision. Let's face it, the cost of glasses, and the fuss and potential risks of contact lenses are enough to make most people wish to be free of them. But just how realistic is this? And how will you know what treatment will make you "glasses free"?

About 20 years ago, "radial keratotomy" arrived with the wonderful promise of eliminating the need for glasses. But while thousands of people had the procedure, only a small percentage of them today are "glasses free". PRK and LASIK followed, and while each one was more successful than the previous technology, all of these surgeries have limitations.

Successful cataract surgery may come the closest to filling the promise of a "glasses free" existence. A lens implant (small plastic lens) can be placed in the eye at the end of surgery, and the focusing power of the patient's glasses or contact lenses can be incorporated into this lens, allowing the patient to see well without glasses. Newer styles of lens implants are multifocal, and allow many patients to see at distance, intermediate, and near without glasses or contact lenses. There are three lens implants (Crystal, ReSTOR, ReZOOMTM) available in the United States which have "multifocal" properties. These new lens implants are not perfect either, however. Some patients still require glasses to see under some conditions (e.g. night driving, reading music or working on the computer, or for small print). Other potential drawbacks of multifocal lens implants may include glare, halos around lights, poor vision in dim light, and high out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Refractive lens exchange is essentially

the same surgical procedure, but done in patients who have not developed cataracts yet.

There are other surgical procedures for making eyes see well, or at least better, without glasses including Intraocular Contact Lenses (ICLs) and Conductive Keratoplasty (CK).

In summary, while there are a number of treatments that can improve your uncorrected vision, and make you less dependant on glasses, none of these surgeries can guarantee that you won't ever need to wear glasses again, or that glasses would not improve the vision you have after the surgery. However, if your desire is to avoid having to use your glasses **most of the time**, there are a number of treatments that can help you achieve that goal.

*For more information on the Division of Ophthalmology at Medical Surgical Specialists, call 239.348.4400 or visit [www.medical-surgical.org](http://www.medical-surgical.org).*

## Random Thoughts

How have we managed with "24" not being on TV for the last 21 months?

Is there another major airport as good as RSW for ease of "in and out" and terrific bus service between terminals?

Why are there nine choices of bottled water on the Bonita Bay Club's menu (not counting tap)?

Should socks be washed inside out or outside in for best results?

Are the food samples better in Costco or in Whole Foods?

Did you know that the price of gas is typically higher (as much as ten cents a gallon) in Naples Costco than Ft. Myers Costco?

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN BONITA BAY

Sale Date	Sales Price	Subdivision	Living Area	Full Address
11/3/2008	\$730,000	RIVIERA	2042	3341 RIVIERA LAKES CT
10/21/2008	\$360,000	WEDGEWOOD	2500	26930 WEDGEWOOD DR, #501
10/20/2008	\$1,925,000	SPRING RIDGE	4185	26049 FAWNWOOD CT
10/15/2008	\$1,280,000	ESTANCIA	2642	4801 BONITA BAY BLVD, #1803
10/8/2008	\$440,000	WEDGEWOOD	2464	26890 WEDGEWOOD DR, #301
10/8/2008	\$497,000	ENCLAVE	2227	3601 KEY LIME CT
10/8/2008	\$980,000	CREEKSIDE	3128	3300 CREEKVIEW DR
9/30/2008	\$235,000	WILD PINES	1268	3641 WILD PINES DR, #203
9/8/2008	\$850,000	RIVERWALK	3410	3271 MYRTLE OAK CT
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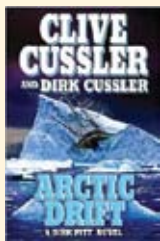
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# On The Bookshelf



A potential breakthrough discovery to reverse global warming . . . a series of unexplained sudden deaths in British Columbia . . . a rash of international incidents between the United States and one of its closest allies that threatens to erupt into an actual shooting war . . . NUMA director Dirk Pitt and his children, Dirk, Jr. and Summer, have reason to believe there's a connection here somewhere, but they also know they have very little time to find it before events escalate out of control.



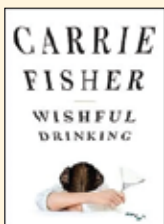
*New York Times* bestselling author Iris Johansen returns with her first historical romance in a decade, a new novel of passion and exotic adventure that leads two unlikely and unforgettable treasure hunters on a perilous journey - and into the heart of one of the most captivating mysteries of all time.



Leaving behind her private forensic pathology practice in Charleston, South Carolina, Kay Scarpetta accepts an assignment in New York City, where the NYPD has asked her to examine an injured man in Bellevue Hospital's psychiatric prison ward. The handcuffed and chained patient, Oscar Bane, has specifically asked for her, and when she literally has her gloved hands on him, he begins to talk - and the story he has to tell turns out to be one of the most bizarre she has ever heard.



*No Limits: The Will to Succeed* provides insights from the Beijing Games, the pool, and the team, giving readers an up-close view of Michael Phelps record-breaking performance. Phelps also shares anecdotes about his family, his coach, his passion for the sport, and lessons learned from unexpected challenges and obstacles. *No Limits: The Will to Succeed* is an inspirational memoir not only for fans of great, dramatic moments in sports but also for a wider audience of fans who will take inspiration from a man and his determination to succeed.



Finally, after four hit novels, Carrie Fisher comes clean (well, sort of) with the crazy truth that is her life in her first-ever memoir. In *Wishful Drinking*, adapted from her one-woman stage show, Fisher reveals what it was really like to grow up a product of "Hollywood in-breeding," come of age on the set of a little movie called *Star Wars*, and become a cultural icon and bestselling action figure at the age of nineteen.

*Transparency (con't. from front page 1)*

for its ongoing trust in Bonita Bay Group... another unilateral decision by BBG with no input from the Bonita Bay Club Advisory Board. To make matters worse, The Bonita Daily News had a front-page story on the change before the membership at large had even received the letter.

Equally puzzling to a Bonita Bay Club member was that he had been told that the new membership initiative was a huge success. As recently as October 15 at the General Manager's breakfast meeting, the health of BBG was trumpeted and plans were discussed to redo the Men's Grill Room/Locker Room.

The reaction of many Bonita Bay Club members to this latest directive is one of anger and frustration. Most disconcerting is the fact that BBG's unilateral decision could set in motion a series of events that may have far-reaching and unwanted consequences. BBG's actions have already caused some of the membership to question the financial viability of BBG. This lack of confidence in BBG may have a negative impact on property values.

Some comments heard recently around the Bay range from "Let's sue"; "Let's withhold dues"; to a less emotional, "Let's get together and work this out."

## Other reactions and sentiments have been:

- BBG has to try to get back once again the reputation it has enjoyed since its inception.
- Full disclosure and transparency are needed.
- The Advisory Board should be listened to prior to making decisions . . . not after the fact.
- It is imperative that BBG live up to its motto posted on its web site: "Do the Right Thing - a commitment to keep our promises and exceed expectations."

Still others are calling for legal action to force full disclosure not only of BBG financials but the structural and financial relationship between BBG and other Bonita Bay Group communities. They are trying to ascertain what BBG collateral has been pledged to shore up construction and operating loans of the other communities. Many residents are willing to try one more time to work together in an open manner to arrive at a mutually beneficial solution.

To rectify the major concern that 2009 dues could be lost if BBG were to follow Palmira and other rumored communities into bankruptcy, on November 17 BBG met with the Bonita Bay Club Advisory Board and agreed to accept quarterly dues payments in place of an annual payment.

The Advisory Board Members felt that the above-mentioned meeting was a very productive one. BBG was very candid and took a major step forward in providing more disclosure and openness. Town Hall Meetings were scheduled during Thanksgiving week with the goal to provide more transparency to the membership.





## Movie Talk

### New/coming soon on DVD

- ★ ★ ★ **The Visitor:** A lonesome, recently widowed college professor finds renewed passion in life when he meets a young couple in New York City. An interesting non-political look at illegal immigration.
- ★ ★ ★ **Frozen River:** Story of an upstate New York impoverished trailer mom who resorts to illegal immigrant smuggling. Sundance Prize winner with excellent performance by Melissa Leo.
- ★ ★ ★ **Tell No One:** Based on Harlan Coben's book with the locale changed from the USA to France. Fast-paced mystery about a pediatrician who is still grieving over the murder of his wife 8 years ago. But was she murdered and did he do it? French with English subtitles.
- ★ **The Dark Knight:** While I did not care for this 6th Batman, many others did. It does contain a highly acclaimed performance by the late Heath Ledger – sure to get a posthumous academy award nomination.
- ★ ★ ★ **Transsiberian:** In an Alfred Hitchcock vein, this thriller about a couple traveling from China to Moscow on the Transsiberian Railway involves international intrigue and murder.

Ratings are based on a five ★ basis.

### Upcoming Theatrical Releases

*So far, 2008 has been a lackluster year. However, as always, the last few weeks of the year should bring some more rewarding viewing. Some of the films that are anticipated with the national release dates are:*

**Australia:** Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman star in this epic set immediately before World War II. Kidman plays an aristocrat who inherits a sprawling ranch. Jackman is the cattle driver who helps her thwart a plot by English barons to take her land. November 26.

**Frost/Nixon:** Based on the play of the same name, this Ron Howard directed movie takes place three years after the Watergate scandal. December 5.

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** Based on F Scott Fitzgerald's short story, about a man born in his 80's and ages backward. Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett star. December 25.

**Marley and Me:** A comedy based on John Grogan's best seller. This film tells the story of a couple forced to deal with a troublesome Labrador retriever. Starring Jennifer Aniston. December 25.

**Revolutionary Road:** The "Titanic Couple" Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are reunited in this tale of suburban malaise in 1950's Connecticut. Based on Richard Yates', 1961 novel, a young couple's relationship deteriorates into petty jealousy and bickering. December 26.



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# The Curious Photographer

## Question:

What is your favorite memory of a past holiday?



**Pat Joyce,**  
Mira Lago

One of my favorite memories over the years is taking our daughters into NY to see the tree at Rockefeller Center and all the store windows.

There is no place like NY at the holidays!



**Terry Hopkins,**  
Sanctuary

We learned that the condo unit next door to us in Ontario was used to film the movie “The Santa Clause”. We, and our two young grandsons, enjoyed watching the movie on Christmas Eve especially the part when Santa landed on the roof and fell to the steps below. There was no sleep for anyone that night as the boys were sure they “heard” the sleigh and Santa falling at our front door!



**Phyllis Rosenstock,**  
Sanctuary

Two years ago our children and grandchildren went to Scottsdale, AZ in December. We were all so excited at the prospect of being together and the joy of watching our family interact. We were not disappointed. The children got reacquainted as we watched with sheer delight at their jubilation of being together. What a memorable holiday!!!

## Superior Interiors -by Judy Underwood, Allied ASID

“How do I update my home?”

“How do I get started?”

*No longer considered a luxury reserved for the affluent, decorating services today make good sense for busy homeowners who can't afford to make costly mistakes. A true professional who helps you make smart, long-lasting purchases for your home is always a **good value.***

### How to get started

1. Discuss with your prospective decorator what services she will be providing and how she will get compensated—only then you can compare “apples to apples.” Don't confuse a “personal shopper”, who takes you around to retail stores, with a trained professional who can will help you establish clear goals and offer unique solutions for a

specific decorating project. Realize that a “store-based” decorator is usually limited to selling only those furnishings carried or inventoried by the retailer. Additionally, ask if there is a “minimum investment” expected in order to get the decorator's full attention.

2. During your initial consultation, review the decorator's portfolio to assess the quality of her work and whether he or she is capable of working in diverse styles - you want options, right? This is also the time to judge whether your personalities are a good, comfortable fit. Remember, you will be working together for many weeks, and it should be an enjoyable experience.

Now that you've selected the best possible decorator for your family and your project, go to [www.decdens.com/sfl](http://www.decdens.com/sfl) for more great tips on getting your decorating project off to a great start after the holidays!

*Since 1993, Judy and partner Cliff Welles, ASID, own and operate INTERIORS by Decorating Den, now in Bonita Springs 239-948-9779.*



# Restaurant Reviews

by John Klocko, Riviera

*The summer has had its share of restaurant openings and closings as usual. Let's focus on the new ones.*

**Angelina's** opened in April; it is located where the former Sanibel Steakhouse resided across from the Ship on US41. A multimillion dollar renovation presents a magnificent interior of wood, fabric and unique seating arrangements to provide ambience and elegance that is second to none in SWF. It has a spectacular three-story wine tower which houses more than 500 wines from around the world. The Sommelier is at your service to assist in selecting the best wines to match your taste and food. The Chef prepares prime steaks and other meats, fresh seafood and hand-made pasta in the traditional European style using the finest ingredients available. In addition to a wide selection of appetizers, entrees and desserts, three-course Price Fix dinners are

available with multiple choices offered daily. Half-price bottles of wine are offered for early dining as well as half-price flatbreads and antipasti in the bar lounge. An upscale, elegant dining experience is sure to please.

**The Capital Grille** opened in September in the Strada at Mercado off US 41 across from Flemings. This is a high-end restaurant, part of a chain located mainly in cities with a large business clientele on expense accounts. The decor is woody and attractive, with multiple small dining rooms conducive to business and intimate discussions. The servers are tastefully dressed in jackets and bow ties, and are well trained. The food covers a wide range of items from steaks, to fish, to 2-5 lb. lobsters. Large salads and sides are offered. Crab Louie has large chunks of Alaskan King Crab over Bibb lettuce and asparagus, a must try for lunch or a light dinner. This is a good choice for special occasions.

**The KEG Steakhouse** opened late summer in place of the former Sanibel Steakhouse on Vanderbilt Beach Road. A lot of renovation has been done to produce some nice dining rooms which are away from the expanded noisy bar area. Happy hour in the bar area is from 4-6. The menu has some nice appetizers and the entrees are mostly different cuts of USDA Choice steak which come with large portions of salads and sides. This is part of a Chain featuring a lively bar area with female waitresses wearing tasteful outfits with the proper "pushup" equipment. A cut above Outback Steakhouse.

**Dos Jalapenos** recently opened across from Bonita Bay. The owners have similar places in Atlanta and they brought down the chefs to live and work here. They offer authentic, good Mexican food, reasonably priced, lunch and dinner, and a happy hour from 4-6 pm. Definitely a cut or two above Igwana Mia.

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## **Bay Pointe**

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## **Esperia South**

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### **ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

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**For more information, regarding the market value of your home and a list of available properties, please call me. This is a good time to trade up! While you may receive a little less for your present home, you will realize a more significant gain, due to**

### **Friends or relatives considering a vacation home in SWF?**

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**Sharon Grabau  
Bonita Bay Resident  
239.910.4040**

## **New Furniture Moving and Decorating Conveniences**

The process of decorating is usually preceded by moving from one home to the next. One then wonders where to ship and store furnishings during the transfer. Agostino's Furnishings has created "FWS - Furniture Warehouse Services" to meet the challenge of transferring and storing furnishings. It's a lot more convenient than a regular storage because there is always a dock for any size truck with someone ready to receive the shipment. Sometimes internet purchases or certain truck carriers require a docking location for transfer of items. FWS has not only the facility to receive the items but also additional space to warehouse the future delivery. When the new home is ready for installation of the furnishings, FWS can also provide this service. For more information on this great new Bonita Springs convenience contact Bonita Bay resident and neighbor, Philip Agostino Sciacqua, at 239-992-0717.

# **FWS**

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# Farmer's Market

*"Build it and they will come."*

Even on an unusual rainy day in Bonita Springs, the vendors of the Lion's Club Farm Fresh Market, now located at the Promenade, had their wares displayed



for the customers who came to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers and hand-made quilts.

John Elliff, of Cracker Cove in Bonita Bay, the coordinator of the Market indicated that in season there will be approximately 60 to 70

vendors, including Farmer Mike and Capri Produce. Additionally shoppers will find three different fish vendors; fresh baked goods and craft booths.

Elliff went on to say proudly that the Lion's Club major fundraising activities, which include The Lions Club Thrift Store on Pennsylvania Avenue in Bonita Springs, the pancake breakfasts and the funds generated from the rental space at the market, raise between \$275,000 and \$300,000 which is distributed to local charities.

The Market location is parallel to US 41 directly in front of Silver Spoon. The manager of the restaurant, Tommy Vanelli, indicated that a buffet breakfast will be served every Saturday morning from 7 - 10:30 am for the early shoppers. "We are excited about the Farm Fresh Market coming to the Promenade," he said. "We're seeing new faces and we like the idea of participating in the community".

For your information, the market will be open every Saturday morning through April from 7 until noon. For more information, call: 239-495-8464.

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## “What’s Happening in Real Estate?”

Entering the 2008-2009 season, let’s look back briefly at last season. Sales slowed considerably from 2004-2006 “silly times.” Prices were 20-25% below the peaks. Yet, we experienced fine business volume in Bonita Bay.

Almost all our listings sold. It was difficult finding homes buyers wanted. Villas were in short supply, as were fairly priced single family homes.

Looking ahead this season looks similar. Several buyers are looking for good villas and single family homes. In fact, as we write this article there is not much inventory in Bonita Bay. Excluding high-rises under construction and “flipper” product, there are only 157 properties FOR SALE in Bonita Bay - not much inventory. So that’s the positive side.

Looking at the whole picture, however, it’s not all roses. Many potential buyers are sitting on the bench with their hands in their pockets. If you own a TV or subscribe to a newspaper you know we cannot blame them. If you have 401k or IRA, end of discussion.

More “Good News”: the election is over. Like the results or not, at least we aren’t bombarded countless times daily as one guy (or gal) calls the other “an incompetent idiot destined to destroy America and all in it, if given the chance” - they use slightly different

words. Eventually, it affects your attitude. You feel a bit depressed. You might even delay buying a new house until this long nightmare, called “campaigning”, ends. Anyway, that’s behind us now. We can listen to just one guy’s pitch as he fails to fulfill his campaign promises.

Folks, we must get this economy fixed but nobody seems to know how to do that. We keep hoping the money Washington is spilling, pouring and spraying around will free up credit markets and put some confidence back into the system. The problem is most of us are old enough and smart enough to know the longer term consequences of wide open money spigots are not pretty.

Then, Bonita Bay Group announces they are low on cash and will suspend member Promissory Note paybacks. More uncertainty - YUCK.

Putting it all together, the upcoming season may be the toughest yet during this downturn. Still, a good property on a good site at a fair price will sell. During my 37 years - through numerous ups and downs - the good stuff always sells. And, when the economy and real estate markets improve again, as they always do, those who bought will look like very smart people.

**Happy House Hunting!**

**Gary and Jeff Jaarda**

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# Passings



## Nancy Warrington

of Sheboygan, WI and Bonita Bay passed away October 23, 2008 at Joanne's House at Hope Hospice.

Nancy was the loving wife of Stuart H. Warrington.

Their home is in Bay Harbor.

Nancy worked hard making lives better for others by taking part in many charities including: Literacy Council, Committee Chair for Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer and Hope Hospice activities.

Nancy was an ardent bridge player, founding the Monday duplicate bridge game in Bonita Bay. She was also an avid golfer and mah jongg player and teacher of the game. She loved her Green Bay Packers.

Her unique gift was her ability to make everyone she encountered feel special, with her boundless energy and clever wit. Nancy will be sorely missed.

Details are pending for a January 16 memorial service to be held in Bonita Springs.

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# How is your memory?

The kind of memory we are talking about is a digital chip that fits in a slot in the tower of your computer ... not where you left your car keys! It is very important that you have plenty of memory or RAM for a fast and smooth running computer.

If you are considering purchasing a new computer, let's talk about how much RAM to get. On the new models, you will most likely get the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system which re-

quires more RAM than the Windows XP system. The low-end Vista computers, whether a desktop or a laptop, often comes with 1GB or gigabyte of memory. My suggestion is to get at least 2GB. The performance boost from added memory avoids some frustration with waiting and simply makes the computer run more smoothly. Windows Vista also has a feature called ReadyBoost that does allow you to use a USB flash drive memory stick to speed up things (a post purchase option). Windows XP systems

require less memory but I would suggest at least a 512MB, 1GB or more preferred. Many old systems have even less. Memory can be added for a reasonable price. But be aware that memory cards are specific to each computer so you need to make sure you get the correct one for your computer configuration.

**Paul Hoecherl**

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