

BAY WATCH

News

Volume 1 Number 4

March 2009

Good Neighbors – The Promenade

By Dick Connelly, Woodlake

For the past decade, the Promenade has been a classy neighbor for Bonita Bay. It has been a great feature for us – just a pleasant bike ride or a short stroll to quality shops, superb restaurants and pretty fountains. But increased competition from Coconut Point Mall and the country's economic condition have taken their toll. A number of shops are now vacant. The large restaurant and nightspot on the north of the mall has been long closed.



A walk through the Promenade mid-day in February, the peak of the season, showed restaurants half full, and no more than one or two shoppers in any retail outlet.

Sales abound. One retailer described the situation as “deadly.”

But all is not lost. Several events are scheduled over the next several weeks that offer entertainment, fine art and fistfuls of ice cream that should attract crowds.

One of the most popular is “Cone Day” at Ben & Jerry's. On Tuesday, April 21, they will again offer their “free cone day” from noon to 8 pm. How many cones can you get? As many as you want. That's the good news. The bad news is you have to go to the end of the line for your next cone and last year, more than 1,000 people showed up for a free cone so the line may be a bit long.

The second of two Bonita Art Festivals will be held March 14-15, from 10 am to 5 pm. The Festival showcases more than 200 artists; and many thousands of people show up. The Art Festival has grown dramatically over the past 10 years and the March show features works from artists from 35 states, Canada and overseas.

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Golf Cart Accident

Al Luessenhop of Oak Knoll died as a result of a tragic golf cart accident on Friday, February 20. As reported by a Bonita Bay staff member, Mr. Luessenhop and his wife Fran were on the Marsh golf course when Luessenhop's golf cart plunged into a culvert on hole number 12 pinning him under the cart. He died a few hours later at the hospital.

The End Game???

To many of the members of the Bonita Bay Community, the idyllic lifestyle of golf, tennis, bike riding, beach and sun has been interrupted by the turmoil created by the Bonita Bay Group with its suspension of the 30-day refundability policy.

So the questions at hand that people want answers to are “Where do we go from here?” “What is the goal – the end game?”

Is BBG on the brink of bankruptcy? If so what does it mean to the golf courses? What does it mean to the property values?

There is a lot of speculation but nobody seems to know the best course of action. What is known is the opinions run the entire gamut.

On February 17, an email letter was sent to all BBC members by Kitty Green, the President/CEO of Bonita Bay Properties, Inc. announcing a revised refund plan. BBG will add funds to the Membership Refund Account in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Members who have been on the wait list for more than a year will be paid interest at 2% per year.

The Advisory Board has sanctioned the new plan and hopes that the “internal bickering” will stop.

As can be expected, many members are not placated. They still feel betrayed by BBG and wonder why the community outrage is so muted. While only one lawsuit has been filed by a BBC member (as well as one filed by a Mediterra resident and one Twin Eagles resident), there is

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Editor's Notes

Originally, our plan was to publish four issues of Bay Watch News "in season" – December, January, February and March. Because of the overwhelming support of you, our readers, and the advertisers, we have decided to add an April issue.

After April, Bay Watch News magazine will resume publishing in December 2009. However, the web site www.BayWatchNews.com will continue to be updated and maintained frequently from May – December.

For those of you heading north prior to April 5 and who would like to receive the publication, please send us a note and we will mail it to your northern address free of charge.

Next "season", if you would like to have Bay Watch News mailed to an address outside Bonita Bay, please let us know and we will investigate first class mailings.

As you may know, this publication is advertiser supported. We are able to bring you articles and features that we think will be of interest to the residents of Bonita Bay. We ask in return that you consider returning the favor by supporting the area businesses that have advertised in Bay Watch News.

Thank you.

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Contributing Editors:

Dick Connelly; Tommye Fleming; Paul Hoecherl; Gary Jaarda; John Klocko; Doug Lockett; Velimir Micovic, M.D.; Attorney John Spear; Jack Sullivan; Judy Underwood

TALES OF SURVIVAL

The Persistent Patient

I'm not supposed to be here. When you hear my story, you'll understand why.

About 8 years ago, I read an article about the new heart scan test in *The Economist*. My cardiac results were excellent, but one of the 39 pictures inadvertently captured a portion of my left lung where the radiologist saw something suspicious. After complete testing (including a pet scan), the doctors told this non-smoking, lifetime runner that I was 95% safe and that the shadow was probably a fungus contracted on an Arizona hiking trip.

But I didn't stop there. I sought out the Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Johns Hopkins who told me I was only about 70% safe. One of the reasons I went to law school was that I wasn't very good in math, but I understood that I had a one in three chance of LUNG CANCER. No biopsy was possible. I persuaded Dr. Yang to perform this difficult surgery. It's a good thing he did. Dr. Yang removed a malignant lobe of my lung--and so early that I had no need for radiation or chemotherapy. Dr. Yang has said that very few patients would have asked for the surgery, and very few surgeons would have gone forward. The surgeon considers me to be the luckiest (and among the most actively involved) patients he has treated in his long career.

Now that I am fully cured, I have learned some important lessons. When faced with a medical challenge, it's no time to be passive. Unless you do research, ask the right questions and are prepared to act boldly, the results can be devastating.

Because I took the initiative, I am now able to enjoy life at Bonita Bay.

Dave Rutstein
Deerwood

My Journey Through the Cancer Minefield

In August 2006, at age 65, I was in excellent health, in the process of selling my business and looking forward to retirement in Florida.

At the conclusion of my annual physical at Mayo Clinic, my internist mentioned I may be a little anemic and asked me to stay for more tests. Three days later, he sat across from my wife and me and told us I had "terminal cancer". There was not much time to reflect and cry because ten minutes later we met with the colon surgeons. They looked at the liver scan (23 lesions) and told us I didn't have time for surgery and suggested I get started with chemotherapy or just let nature take its course.

The emotions were overwhelming, but after a family meeting we decided chemo was the right choice.

Though I had had a colonoscopy four years prior, my cancer was either missed or very aggressive. Through this process, I have learned that colonoscopies are only 90-95% effective but are still the "gold standard" for colon cancer detection.

The following week, I had a liver biopsy and a "port" installed in my chest to accept the chemo. My treatments were every

two weeks and consisted of four meds. One chemical gave me neuropathy in my hands and feet and made me ultra-sensitive to cold. When the doctors heard I had a Florida home, they suggested I come to Florida for the winter. The Florida life-style: walking, biking, boating and golf helped me tolerate my treatments.

Over the next ten months and four scans, the doctors saw the cancer shrink and stabilize. This is normal; then they wait for growth before starting another regimen.

You always think you have your "house in order", but when you face your mortality it's interesting how inadequate a good estate plan becomes. So over the next several months, our family spent many hours with accountants and trust attorneys tying up loose ends.

Now, after 2 1/2 years (61 chemo treatments, 15 body scans and 3 bone scans), rather than growth, the radiologist notes that the cancer vs. liver contrast is becoming less conspicuous. In March, I will have a work-up, possibly leading to exploratory surgery to see if the cancer is dead . . . how good would that be?

It's amazing how many people I know are dealing with cancer. It tears my heart out to see the small children braving treatment far more debilitating than mine.

I am offering the above recap of my journey to give others hope.

A cancer diagnosis is not a reason to give up. A loving family, faith, good friends, the fantastic care of Mayo Clinic and Florida Health Care Center, have me half way to the 5-year survivor milestone.

Paul Lubratt
Hamptons

A Very Close Call

I remember the first bite of the filet mignon I had ordered for dinner that night seemed a bit too chewy. The options at that point were to leave the table and get rid of the offending piece of meat or hope for the best and swallow. I chose the latter.

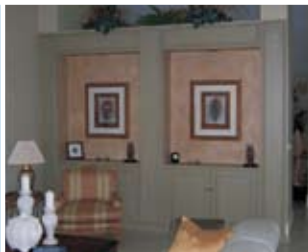
Within seconds I realized that I was in trouble. Grabbing for my glass of water, I sipped hoping the lodged meat would slide down my throat. I needed help and I needed it immediately. Signaling my friend Pat, who is a nurse, I pointed to my throat. "Are you ok?" I shook my head "no" and like a shot she was up from the table thrusting her fist into my chest (just like on "ER"). The restaurant's clientele fell silent as they watched the drama unfold. It took two attempts before the plugged piece popped out.

As it was, there was a doctor seated at another table that evening who was prepared to assist if my friend had difficulty but in the end congratulated Pat for a job well done. The doctor told me that not all of these cases turn out as fortunate as mine did...everyone reacted exactly as they should. I, because I did not leave the table and isolate myself in a restroom trying to dislodge the matter, and of course Pat, for knowing how to do the Heimlich maneuver.

I'm here to tell the story.

Valerie Gorman
Anchorage

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Letters to the Editor

Two suggestions...

To the Editor:

My wife and I have recently purchased a home here in Bonita Bay so that we can escape the up north winters. What we are most surprised at is the lack of any marketing programs to help bear the brunt of some of today's economic problems that all communities are facing. As a 3-4 month seasonal resident, I haven't found a justification in joining the golf club, but if you are losing members at such a high rate then why not offer some special programs to people like myself who reside part-time in Bonita Bay? As an example, West Bay has done a program where you can pay \$500 a month + cart fees and enjoy the course while you are staying there. Why can't Bonita offer something like this even perhaps with a time designation like after 2pm Monday-Friday? Any of these types of programs would generate additional revenue for the club without really much inconvenience to current members.

John Bonney

To the Editor:

We recently received the minutes of the Advisory Board's February 9 meeting. The main item discussed was a "new refund policy" proposed by Bonita Bay Group (BBG), which we will receive in the next few days. We thank the Advisory Board for their time and effort and for keeping us informed of their activities. However, whatever the new formula is, the "new refund policy" does not address the main issue that we face.

1. When we joined Bonita Bay Club, we received a legally binding promissory note from BBG. Why should we give up our legal rights for nothing in return? How can we believe BBG this time, when BBG has reneged on their original promise?

2. The original refund policy was an effective marketing tool calculated to gain a competitive advantage. It certainly was used by realtors in selling Bonita Bay to prospective buyers. But the financial reserves established to cover this refund policy were inadequate.

3. Now BBG proposes a new policy because of their cash flow problems. What is concerning is that BBG already tried to make a unilateral change two years ago, which was only rescinded after strong membership push back. Then in November, BBG told the membership that they would no longer honor the terms of the promissory note, without any sharing of their financials and necessary backup. Without access to those financials, a detailed business plan and the underlying assumptions of their projections, how can we have a clue about BBG's financial viability?

4. We are told that Bonita Bay Club is cash flow positive. That is good news, but cash is fungible and Bonita Bay Club is not an independent entity but a division of BBG. Thus, moneys made at Bonita Bay Club can be and are used in other parts of the company that are cash losers.

5. So what is the main issue? The main issue is whether BBG is viable over time. Are we going to be dragged into a situation that is out of their control and ours? Worse case scenario:

continued on page 6



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letters continued from page 5

- We lose our deposits.
- Our real estate values tumble.
- Our quality of life deteriorates.

6. To avoid the worst case (and consistent with the Advisory Board's comments), we should promptly investigate what would be involved in taking Bonita Bay Club private. This could shield us from outside factors.

7. We suggest that as soon as possible, the Advisory Board nominate a committee of club members (or have them elected by the Club membership) to investigate the full process of taking the Club private. After completing their due diligence, they would report to the membership and submit their recommendations for a vote of the membership.

8. Ideally, the committee would be composed of members with business operations, financial, legal and sports club affairs and would avail itself of an outside consultant experienced in club turnovers.

Henri Dyner
Azure

Paul McGrath
Creekside

More on the speed trap....

To the Editor:

I read with some interest the letter to the editor in the January, 2009 Bay Watch News from Ron Ezerski. The same situation occurred with me in April 2008 when the same officer, John Craven, said that I did not stop at the Bonita Bay Blvd. and Hidden River intersection. In fact, I did stop; but the officer said that I stopped past the line. His view was obstructed; and I find it hard to believe that he could be that precise as to determine if a car stopped within a foot or two from the line. Although I am a proponent of having the Lee County Sheriff support Bonita Bay's traffic rules, they are here at our invitation. Their officers should act with courtesy and some propriety. Although I believed that I was in the right, I decided not spend the time in fighting the citation.

Unlike other intersections, the Hidden River intersection has a stop line and a crosswalk on Bonita Bay Blvd. that are too close to the Hidden River intersection. In addition, the trees and shrubs make it difficult to see vehicles approaching the intersection on Hidden River. I would recommend that the foliage be cut back to improve the line of sight; and the stop line on Bonita Bay Blvd. be moved back to a more reasonable distance. This way, unwarranted citations can be eliminated.

Larry Maddox
Horizons

continued on page 12

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*Phyllis Rosenstock
Bonita Bay Resident*



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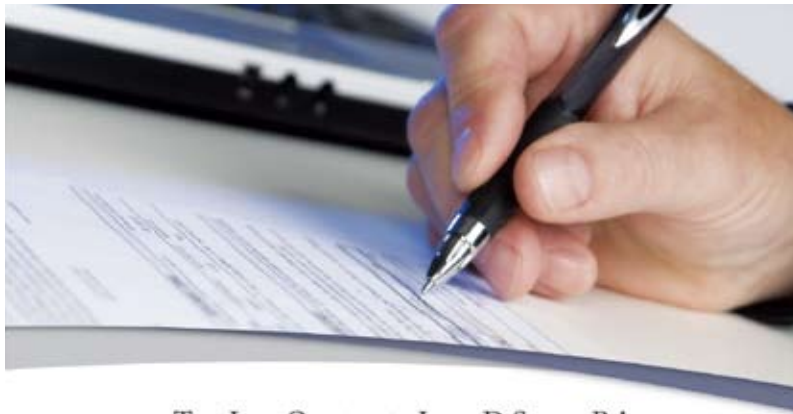
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Living on the Course

– by Jack Sullivan, Riviera

It's Not All About Golf

Saint Patrick's Day is close. In a few days those of us who are Irish, and the multitude of those who wish they were, will have the excuse to celebrate the Saint's life on the anniversary of his death – March 17, 461



A.D. As the day approaches my thoughts are of an Irishman who now, without a wee tad of a doubt, is in the company of the great saint -- Bonita Bay's own James Patrick Mulroy, known to his family and friends as Jim (sometimes called, for no good reason, Leroy Mulroy by his buddies in the golf group The Unforgettables).

Jim, a Dublin, Ohio lawyer, at age sixty-five years and six months unexpectedly met Saint Patrick on January 21, 2006. While giving a eulogy at his sister's funeral service at the Irish Heritage Society in Phoenix, Arizona, he was called to present his last brief before his final judge.

Based on questionable opinions and imagined phenomenon here is what happened next:

Jim found himself standing in the middle of a large, manicured practice green. A brick clubhouse stood a few yards off of the green surrounded by mature cypress trees. A golden sun hung in the deep-blue, cloudless sky. He had not walked through a tunnel, seen any brilliant lights, nor had he heard any angelic harp music. He stood facing a tall, dark-haired man who held an old Arnold Palmer putter in his huge left hand. The man wore white plus fours, a green golf shirt and a matching cap. Both the shirt and cap were embossed with a gold "H."

"Hello, Jim." The big man said with a smile while vigorously shaking Jim's hand. "I'm Patrick. Patrick of Birdoswald, Scotland, better know as Saint Patrick because of my missionary work in Ireland. Now I reside here. My missionary days are over. Time flies."

Jim, his earthly bravado gone, uttered his first words for the rest of eternity. "You live on a golf course?"

Patrick laughed – a loud, unhampered, full-throated bellow. "What better place to welcome you to Heaven, lad?"

"Heaven? I made it."

"So far you have."

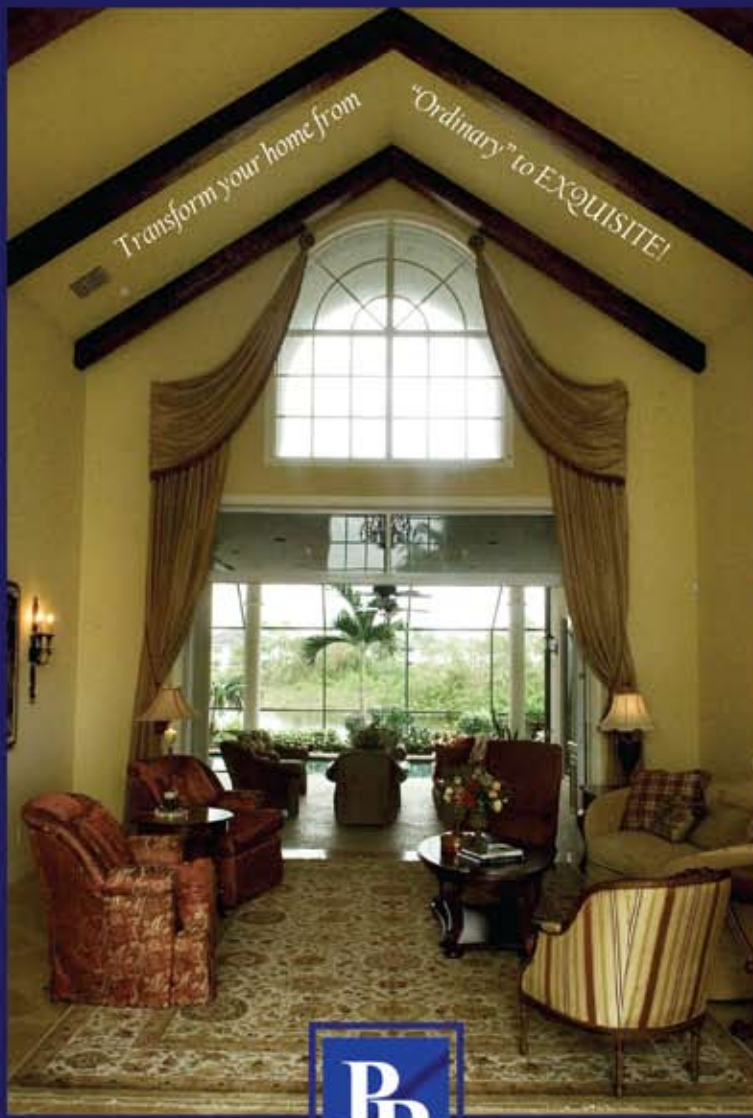
"So far?"

"Aye, Lad. You see Himself has given me the eternal privilege of screening all Irish people who apply for admission."

"So you're to judge me?"

Patrick smiled. "Ah, spoken like a true lawyer – one of the few strikes against you I might add. But don't worry. There is no earthly type judging done here. We've already considered what you did before you got here. That's what got you in. The rest is a theocratic formality. It's left to me to decide when you'll meet Himself."

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Restaurant Reviews

by John Klocko, Riviera

March is the month for St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

FITZGERALD'S

(across from the Post Office on Bonita Beach Rd.) holds the largest and most entertaining party in the area on March 17. The event is held in their parking lot starting at noon and running until midnight ... complete with an outdoor tent, grilled food and of course appropriate beverages. Live Irish bands play all of the old favorites as well as lesser known folk tunes, with different bands coming on every two hours or so. Bag Pipes and Drums entertain. Irish dancers also perform to the delight of the crowds. Inside the Pub, with its Old World decor, is for more serious eating off a condensed menu and sipping on great beers on tap.

LANSDOWNE STREET (next to Paradise Seafood on US41) also celebrates St. Paddy's Day in a block party style outside the restaurant with music and food. This is a Boston Pub with "fresh Chowda" daily and a home for Red Sox fans and memorabilia on the walls and in cabinets.

Many people have asked for a rack up of the best pizza places in the area. There are two places that come to mind for "thin and crisp".

DOC'S on the Beach (corner of Bonita Beach Rd. and Hickory Blvd.) has been there for years overlooking the Gulf. After you find a parking place, go to the second floor of this Chicago Sports Bar for their selection of pizza and pitchers of beer while enjoying the view.

GATSBY'S (behind Walgreen's at Wiggins Pass & US41) is touted as "The best thin & crispy pizza in Naples". There are plenty of selections of pizza, other Italian specialties, beers and wines. Every Wednesday night is sing-along Karaoke and any day or night is Ohio State time if there is a game on TV. Ryan, the Manager, makes things run smoothly even when the place is rocking.

TONY SACCO'S (at Coconut Mall near Ted's) serves thin crust pizza which is baked in an anthracite coal oven which reaches temperatures in the 1100F range. This makes for a unique tasty pizza which has its own signature flavor. All of the grilled vegetables and other cooked items also go through the oven.

TWO BROTHERS (across from Bonita Bay North entrance) offers the finest in New York style "hand tossed" pizza. Every pizza starts out with fresh made dough, shredded mozzarella, chunky tomato sauce, and Pecorino Romano cheese, which is plenty good before adding toppings. They also offer a full Italian menu and delivery is now available. But for the real experience, you are going to like the hospitality and humor of the two brothers from N.Y.



Superior Interiors

-by Judy Underwood, Allied ASID

Most Common Decorating Mistakes to Avoid

Part 2 of 2

Keeping Things You Don't Like – Don't feel obligated to hang onto furnishings you have inherited or received as a gift. If they don't fit your style or are just plain unattractive, pass them along to someone else! You aren't going to learn to like them, and they will undermine even your best decorating efforts.

Palette – The gorgeous color matches and mixes you've enjoyed for the last few seasons are probably on their way out. Don't make the mistake of choosing fabrics and paints that will begin to look old before their time.

'Matchy, Matchy' – Two matching end tables, with a pair of lamps set off by two twin throw pillows, on a sofa that has a matched love seat, chair and ottoman usually look more like a store display rather than a well-designed room. Mix things up a bit for a more interesting look that invites people to linger and enjoy.

The Museum Look – Large walls typically need larger pieces of art, but too many framed pieces are best suited for museums, where they are expected. Bring in a variety of decorative pieces, materials, and media to provide interest in the room. The art doesn't have to match the sofa, but should not be so jarring as to distract from the other furnishings in the room, unless you are a true collector.

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Focus of the Room – Every room needs a subtle focus, and it probably shouldn't be the cold fireplace here in south Florida. But a room layout that focuses attention to two or more elements can be disquieting (natural views to the outside being the exception to this rule).

Impulse Shopping – We've all done it – given in to the impulse buy. That unusual lamp, the adorable rug, the dramatic wall hanging ... all caught our eye in the store but didn't fit in when we got them home. Yet, often times, we still attempt to force them into our décor. If it doesn't look great the day you bring it home, it will never look any better. Ask the store about the 'return policy' before splurging on a whim.

*Judy Underwood, Allied ASID, and partner Cliff Welles, ASID own INTERIORS by Decorating Den in Bonita Springs.
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Who's in Who in Bonita Bay



**By: Tommye Fleming,
Mahogany Ridge**

Did you know that **Geoff Mason** in **Mahogany Ridge** has won 24 television Emmy Awards?

In his 42 years as a sports executive producer, he has covered seven Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), Wimbledon, America's Cup, NCAA football and basketball, Super Bowl, World Series, Triple Crown horse racing, Indianapolis 500, Tour de France and NYC Marathon. He is currently in charge of ESPN's Production Planning for the 2010 FIFA World Cup soccer in South Africa. Mason graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology.

How does a sociology major get into TV sports? In 1967, he was reading his Beta Theta Pi newsletter and learned that his fraternity dominated the ABC sports staff. He wrote ABC to find out how a guy could get into that business. As luck would have it, they needed someone to cover the PGA Tournament of Champions in Vegas that weekend. It was there a TV star was born.

One of the things that has revolutionized sports TV recently is Slingbox, software that allows TIVO, television and laptop to talk to one another. When he is out of the country, Geoff can program his laptop to talk to the TIVO at his home in Bonita Bay to record games being broadcast in Florida. In that way, he can see what commentators are saying about ESPN's coverage, and make changes on the fly. "Some people cite the PC or the internet as life altering; Slingbox has done that for me."

His best gig ever? The 1976 Olympics in Innsbruck. While selecting the best camera positions for the Men's Downhill event, he got to know Austria's Franz Klammer. Klammer snatched the gold medal from defending champion Bernhard Russi, who had set a blistering pace before him. Klammer took unbelievable risks, and skied perhaps the most spectacular downhill run ever. Geoff got it all on camera and LOVED being "a part of" Klammer's amazing comeback.

A close tie with that was the 1980 Wimbledon final – one of the great sporting moments of the 20th Century, with a fourth-set tie break final between defending champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden and John McEnroe of the USA. After 4½ hours, Borg finally bested McEnroe in a match with 34 contested points, each one excruciating.

His worst event ever? The 1972 Summer Olympics in Germany, the Games of Olga Korbut and Mark Spitz, Games ruined by the Munich Massacre. Eight Palestinian terrorists belonging to the Black September organization broke into the Olympic Village and took 11 Israeli athletes hostage. After a stand-off that lasted almost 18 hours, all 11 athletes and all but three of the guerillas were killed.

Geoff was in ABC's control room that morning, sitting at Roone Arledge's desk. They saw the security activity and rolled a camera up to the top of the 15-foot berm that separated them from Building 31, the living quarters of the Israeli athletes. They were first with live coverage, including overhead views from their camera on the Olympic Tower. They were monitoring their coverage when the studio doors blew open and security personnel with machine guns aimed their weapons at the broadcast team and shouted "Off!" at the monitors. It seems their cameras were giving the terrorists a view of the rooftop commandos attempting a rescue.

After hours and hours of waiting, word first came from German authorities that all of the hostages had been saved. Then the real news came to Geoff from an inside source that the hostages were all dead. So Jim McKay broke the news to the world: "Our greatest hopes and our worst fears are seldom realized. Our worst fears have been realized tonight. They are all gone."

In his "spare" time, Geoff serves on the Board of Directors of the Betty Ford Center, where he started the alumni program which now has 60 chapters around the world providing a network of support to those who are reconstructing their lives. He is also a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.

Geoff and his wife Chris moved to Bonita Bay in 2004. His son, Geoff Jr., is an NBC News producer in Charlotte.



letters continued from page 6

Bonita Bay roadways...

To the Editor:

I am the President of the Crossings neighborhood in Bonita Bay. In the February issue of your newsletter, Dick Connelly states that the BBCA is "responsible for and own all of the roads". I have been under the understanding that communities such as the Crossings own the roads within their communities. More than one resident here has inquired about this discrepancy. Please clarify what the BBCA is and is not responsible for with respect to all of the roads within Bonita Bay. Thank you.

Darryl G. Horsman

Crossings

(Editor's note: BBCA is responsible and owns all of the MAJOR roads. Communities with Homeowner Associations, such as the Crossings and most of the neighborhoods within Bonita Bay, own and are responsible for the roads within their neighborhood. A distinction is also evidenced by the annual operating assessment rate. Homeowners who pay \$2,439 annually live on roads owned by BBCA, while homeowners who pay \$2,017 live on roads owned by their Association.)

Forwarded mail...

To the Editor:

We are here for a few weeks, and just received the most recent issue of the magazine.

Question: Is it possible to have it delivered to our home up north, instead of here? It seems to be a very worthwhile publication, and has information we'd like to have. We have not received one before, though we've been owners since '05.

We are here during "season" about 10 days at a time, so don't usually have mail delivery in FL.

Betsy Moynehan

Waterford

(Editor's Note: For those of you heading North prior to April 5 who would like to receive the publication, please send us a note and we will mail it to your northern address free of charge.)

DuFrane Jewelers is importing a gemologist from New York City March 12-14 who will display his extraordinary collection of "Gemveto" from 10 to 5 each day. And the annual Promenade Sidewalk Sale will be held April 17-18 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Pink Pineapple is celebrating the 50-year jubilee of Lilly Pulitzer on March 20 from 5 - 8 pm with drinks, treats and fashion.

And Bennigan's has re-opened and The Coffee Mill has become a new popular spot to stop, relax and put the economy in perspective.

On the entertainment front, Calhua & Cream, the very popular local group, will perform March 12 from 6 to 9 pm. And Paul Rozmus will participate in the Sunday Jazz Jam from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday,

March 29. A season-final Jazz Jam will be held Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 4 pm

And don't forget the Lions Club Farm Fresh Market which offers a broad menu of fruits and vegetables each Saturday from 7 to noon through the end of April.

While this impressive activity won't suddenly turn around difficult economic times, it's a good alternative to doing nothing ... something to think about when making shopping and dining choices.

But one retailer volunteered to a customer that he was recently offered a lease renewal for 10 years. Considering the economy, 10 years is a long time when many retailers are trying to get through the next week.

a very visible undercurrent of anger. One Realtor lamented over the fact that he sold many people homes in Bonita Bay based on the 30-day policy and he feel he has let his clients down.

There is a group that believes the major issue is not the "Refundability Policy" but taking the club private, and has petitioned the Advisory Board to nominate a committee to look into investigating it.

A Town Hall meeting will be held shortly that promises to be very lively.

(Editor's Note: go to www.BayWatchNews.com to see the complete letters that were mentioned above.)

A Wee Bit of Irish Humor

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Seamus, were stumbling home from the pub late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard.

'Come have a look over here,' says Paddy, 'It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87.'

'That's nothing,' says Sean, 'here's one named Patrick O'Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died.'

Just then, Seamus yells out, 'Good God, here's a fella that got to be 145!'

'What was his name?' asks Paddy.

Seamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker and exclaims: 'Miles, from Dublin.'

Your Satisfaction Is Our Top Priority

We contracted with Green Mountain in April 2008 to complete a major remodel of our 20-year old Florida home. The finished product is fantastic - fully meeting our hopes and expectations.

While completely satisfied with the results, it was the extreme professionalism of Tony and his team that contributed to an incredibly positive experience. The entire process was well organized with considerable emphasis on planning, budgeting, and documentation of expectations. Extra effort was given to communicating the status of projects, meeting deadlines, monitoring actual results to budgets, and providing timely and detailed billing statements.

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“What’s Happening in Real Estate?”

When advising buyers how much to pay or advising sellers at what price to market a home, we evaluate all available data including Recently Closed Sales, Current Active Listings and Pending Sales (properties under contract, but not yet closed).

In a slow market like we have today, it is difficult to have enough “Recently Closed Sales” to draw valid conclusions. If prices are dropping and sales volume is limited, the data may be outdated. “Current Active Listings” are not all that helpful either, as those are primarily over-priced listings. If they were not overpriced, they would be sold or pending.

This leaves us with “Pending Sales” data which is probably most useful and accurate in allowing us to judge the current market value. However, our problem here is that we generally cannot obtain the selling price of a “Pending Sale” until the sale closes. This is withheld to protect the seller’s position in the event the sale falls through and the listing is reactivated.

So, what do we do? We believe there is still much to learn about the current market by scrutinizing Pending Sales information. Let’s look at Bonita Bay data as of 2/16/09:

LIST PRICE	ACTIVE LISTINGS	PENDING SALES	RATIO Sellers to Buyers
\$200,000 or less	6	1	6:1
\$201,000 - \$500,000	66	9	7:1
\$501,000 - \$1,000,000	86	4	21:1
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	58	3	19:1
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	21	0	21:0
\$3,000,001 +	10	1	10:1
BONITA BAY TOTAL	247	18	14:1

Perhaps we can draw some valid conclusions from this data:

- 1) The Sellers outnumber Buyers by an overall ratio of about 14:1.
- 2) Adjusting a list price downward is the most effective tool to enhance the likelihood of a sale.
- 3) When this season ends (approx. May 15), many unsold listings will remain.
- 4) As a Seller, the old real estate adage “Your first Buyer is your best Buyer” should be taken seriously.

If you are fortunate enough to get an offer, don’t let the deal get away.

If you are a seller, we remind you of the movie line from “A Few Good Men”, “You want the truth? I’ll give you the truth. You can’t handle the truth.” Hopefully we can all “handle the truth” because, like or not, we all need to deal with it.

If you are a Buyer, it doesn’t get any better than this, like you are “Going to Disney World!”

Happy House Hunting!
Jeff and Gary Jaarda

In an Emergency, Which Hospital is the Best?

Carotid Artery Surgery		
Best ★★★★★	As Expected ★★★	Poor ★
Hospital Name	Location	Major Complications
Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★
Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★
Cape Coral Hospital	Cape Coral, FL	★★★
Physicians Regional Medical Center	Naples, FL	★★★
NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★

Back and Neck Surgery		
Best ★★★★★	As Expected ★★★	Poor ★
Hospital Name	Location	Major Complications
Physicians Regional Medical Center	Naples, FL	★★★★★
Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★★★
NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★★★★★
Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Fort Myers, FL	★★★

Total Hip Replacement		
Best ★★★★★	As Expected ★★★	Poor ★
Hospital Name	Location	Major Complications
High Volume Hospitals		
NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★★★★★
Physicians Regional Medical Center	Naples, FL	★★★★★
Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★
Gulf Coast Hospital	Fort Myers, FL	★★★
Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Fort Myers, FL	★

Of course, only you and your doctor can make a determination based on your medical condition.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TENNIS EVENT – March 7

The second annual Bonita Bay Celebrity Tennis Day to benefit Barbara's Friends – the pediatric cancer fund at The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida - will be Friday, March 7. Tennis players of all levels can register to improve their skills in the clinic and in the Pro-Am, which features nearly 20 local and national tennis pros. Tickets for the tennis exhibition and evening cocktail party with live auction are also available. To register and for more information, contact the Bonita Bay Tennis Center at 495-3573.

LITERACY COUNCIL FUNDRAISER - March 12

Literacy Council's annual fundraising breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at the Hyatt Coconut Point. The program starts at 8 AM and is a fast-paced one-hour session, ending promptly at 9. For more information, please call Jim Brennan 947-9688.

ART FAIR - March 14

See all the exciting creations made by your Bonita Bay neighbors. Paintings of local scenes, hand-crafted Nantucket Baskets, knit purses, washcloths, scarves, clothes and more, a great variety of jewelry, hand-painted stemware, hats and leather clutches and more! Saturday March 14 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Pavilion at Estero Bay Park. For more information, call 947-5533.

BONITA SPRINGS NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL – March 14 & 15

Art lovers may view and obtain the work of award-winning national and international artists. Paintings, glass, jewelry, clay works, photography, sculpture, wood and more. The festival takes place at the Promenade at Bonita Bay 10am - 5pm. For more information, please call 495-8989.

HOPE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL CHARITY GOLF OUTING – March 21

This golf fundraising event will take place at The Quarry. Schedule of events is as follows: 11:30 am - Luncheon; 1:00 pm – shotgun start; 5:00 pm – raffle. For more information, please contact Andy Frech at 498-9118.

Your Help Is Needed

The South Lee County Hospital Committee is gathering information from residents of South Lee County to assess the needs of the community. The mission is to establish a Community Hospital to serve the area. A survey is available online at www.BayWatchNews.com and click on "Medical". For more information, please contact **Roger Brunswick**, Cracker Cove – 239-989-6457.

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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Brainstorming

By: John Spear, City Council Member

I am proud to represent District 4 in Bonita Springs, where an amazing group of very talented and community-minded people reside. Several organizations that make Bonita Springs so vibrant include The Southwest Florida Speakers Assembly, The Bonita Springs Community Foundation, The Renaissance Group, The Art League, and others. Most of these either were conceived and organized within District 4 or have flourished due to the active support and involvement of District 4 residents.

Several weeks ago, Dennis Wilkie of the Renaissance Group invited me to participate in a brainstorming session with several of his Board Members to identify an issue or series of issues that the Renaissance Group could focus in the immediate future. We ended up having a very spirited 90 minutes of give and take.

Dennis has graciously allowed me to share what I presented. My hope is that some or all of these very important issues will be addressed and solutions identified and implemented, in much the same way the Renaissance Group did with affordable housing and the Paint Your Heat Out program.

Here they are in no particular order of importance or significance.

Community Vision Mayor Nelson has recently proposed a process where the entire community of Bonita Springs develops a “community brand”. It is broader than a slogan, like the 1990s “Bonita Springs – Gateway to the Gulf” or “What Happens in

Vegas – Stays in Vegas.” A brand or vision is more of a statement of what makes Bonita Springs unique or special, and to me has to be said positively. Or it may be a simple answer to the question of “Why did I choose Bonita Springs to be my home, or where I spend my winters, instead of California or Arizona, or Miami or Sanibel or Naples?”

I believe that if we can identify some common themes, then City government, community organizations, and the entire community can use these themes to base each of their strategies and action plans going forward.

Economic Development It should not be news to anyone that the local economy (Bonita Springs, Lee County, Southwest Florida) has for many decades relied on tourism, land development, and building as its foundation. The over-reliance on these three inter-related industries has made us as exposed to concentrated economic problems as Seattle’s reliance on aerospace, Silicon Valley’s on technology, or Detroit’s on the auto industry. The Lee County Economic Development Office (EDC), and its public/private counterpart, the Horizon Council, have recently launched a new initiative. Their goal is to attract new, targeted industries. The targets are not the huge corporate relocations or expansions that everyone chases, but rather businesses that (1) sell most or all services or products outside of Florida; (2) employ 25-100 people; (3) are closely held or are managed by a single small group of decision-makers. Here’s what is exciting: ten of Lee County’s eleven recent (last 5 years) successes in corporate expansions or relocation have begun because the person who makes the final decision has a second home here, has parents or very close friends who live here, or regularly vacations here.

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In other words, people reading this article either are those people or know who they are. I believe our City in particular can partner with our incredible Chamber of Commerce and with a small, dedicated group of local retired/second-home types to work with the EDC to translate those decisions-makers into local businesses. And make no mistake, all of us who own homes here who enjoy our wonderful lifestyle and who want the beauty to remain in Bonita Springs, have a stake in a diverse, vibrant local economy.

Family Service Center/Social Services Hub. In 2006–2007, a controversial but unsuccessful effort was made to plan, fund and build a campus to support the provision of social services for those in our community who need such services, whether for those who are “less fortunate” or for many in the community who have some occasion to need such services. What went wrong two years ago is not worth dwelling on except to learn “how not to do it.” The needs remain; our remote location from the urban centers of Fort Myers and Naples is unchanged, except for a few more intervening traffic lights. The community needs, although different, remain underserved; and our business and retired communities remain committed to serve those in need. Maybe it is time to re-examine the issue, re-arrange the effort, and get it done the right way and in the right place this time. If our community can support first-class facilities for the YMCA, The Art League, numerous religious denominations, hockey and basketball arenas (and baseball parks), we should be able to meet these needs.

continued on page 20

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1/26/09	\$2,100,000	MARINA POINTE	8720	27701 MARINA POINTE DR	6 or More	7

Spear continued from page 19

Racial Relations. Our City government is currently being sued by the United States Department of Justice, which alleges that our City government fosters a “hostile work environment based on racial discrimination.” The merits of the lawsuit will be resolved in Court but no one can argue that our community is made up of several different cultures, some race-related, some related to economic status, and some related to whether one was raised here or somewhere else. The economic

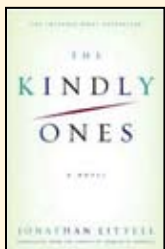
downturn has changed the proportion of low-income Hispanic workers, whether citizens, documented, or undocumented, but the diversity of our City will likely increase rather than decrease. In the 26 years I have lived in Bonita Springs, I cannot recall an intentional, focused effort in bridging our racial and cultural differences. Maybe the time is now?

Quality of Education. Conventional wisdom and reality converge at the conclusion that the educational systems in Lee County, Collier County, Southwest Florida, and the entire state,

are not very good. We all share a common belief that the quality of a young person’s education, a safe community and a supportive family structure, are strong indicators of future success and well-being. And as in the economic development arena, no one who lives here or owns a home here is immune from the effects of a mediocre education system. Given the structure of Florida’s educational system, it’s a monumental challenge, but extraordinary people confronting monumental challenges sometimes produce miracles.

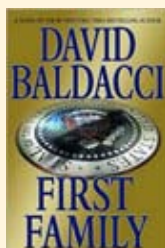
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On The Bookshelf



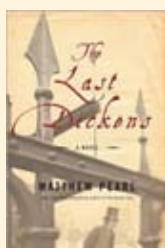
The Kindly Ones

The fictional memoir of Dr. Max Aue, a former Nazi officer who survived the war and has reinvented himself, many years later, as a middle-class entrepreneur and family man in northern France. Through the eyes of this cultivated yet monstrous man, we experience the horrors of the Second World War and the Nazi genocide of the Jews in graphic, disturbingly precise detail. During the period from June 1941 through April 1945, Max is present at the Battle of Stalingrad, at Auschwitz and Krakow; he visits occupied Paris and lives through the chaos of the final days of the Nazi regime in Berlin. Although Max is a totally imagined character, his world is peopled by real historical figures, such as Eichmann, Himmler, Göring, Speer, Heydrich, Höss, and Hitler himself.



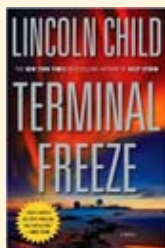
First Family

A daring kidnapping turns a children's birthday party at Camp David into a national security nightmare, but the hostage is not who anyone would expect. The First Lady enlists the services of Sean King and Michelle Maxwell to bring the child back safely. Years ago, King saved her then-senator husband from an assassin's bullet; whether they shared anything else is their secret. With Michelle still recovering from her own demons, the pair is pushed to the limit, with forces aligned on all sides against them, and the line between friend and foe impossible to define...or defend.



The Last Dickens: A Novel

Boston, 1870. When news of Charles Dickens' untimely death reaches the office of his struggling American publisher, Fields & Osgood, partner James Osgood sends his trusted clerk Daniel Sand to await the arrival of Dickens' unfinished novel. But when Daniel's body is discovered by the docks and the manuscript is nowhere to be found, Osgood must embark on a transatlantic quest to unearth the novel that he hopes will save his venerable business and reveal Daniel's killer.



Terminal Freeze

In this riveting new thriller, Lincoln Child weaves together a stunning Arctic landscape, a terrifying mythic creature, and a pervasive mood of chaos—and fear. With Terminal Freeze, Child demonstrates why he has become a major bestselling author, and why his novels electrify and enthrall so many.

Living on the course continued from page 8

“Himself?”

“Yes, God. That’s what the “H” stands for. Now go to the pro shop and ask Hogan to fix you up with a set of clubs and proper attire. I’ll meet you on the first tee. We’ll be playing the Payne Stewart Course today.”

“But, the judging. What about the judging?”

Patrick laughed again and pointed to the clubhouse. “That’ll come, lad. Now get a move on while we have an open course.”

Jim returned in an identical golf outfit to Patrick’s, who nodded his approval. “Ah, leave it to Hogan. The man has excellent taste.” Then pointing to a bench next to the first tee, he said, “There’s something we must discuss. We have to wait for the caddies anyway. We’ll have a Seraphim and a Cherubim working with us. Nice fellows, been with us forever.”

Patrick sat down and motioned for Jim to sit next to him. “A truly fine day to play a round. Don’t you think?” Not waiting for an answer, his gaze fixed on something in the distance, he said, “There’s a problem Himself wants me to talk to you about.”

Jim leaned forward, about to speak, instead listened as Patrick went on. “As you know Jim, being a Captain in the Marines yourself, the last stanza in the Marine’s hymn says that the streets of Heaven are guarded by United States Marines.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Well it’s not true. We don’t need guards, but we do have a high regard for the Marines – most of them anyway. We’re not into killing. There are reasons for it at times. I had to club a few Druids in my day to get by. That said, we feel the reasons for the Vietnam War that you fought were flimsy. Some of the actions taken and condoned by your leaders were abhorrent. The morality was so debased and confusing that we had a hell of a time keeping track of who said what. A hell of a time and that’s pretty damned bad. Now, before I run on, tell me of your role in the war.”

Jim’s palms started to sweat as he realized that this was more than a simple “theocratic formality.” He wondered where he’d go if the saint didn’t like his answer. “You mentioned that you are not much for killing. Neither am I. Furthermore, during my 13 months in Vietnam and the following year as a flight instructor, I never met a Marine who did. Some were good at it, but none liked it or condoned unnecessary killing.”

Patrick nodded approval and motioned for him to go on.

“When I came out of flight school, I wanted to fly fighter planes. Jets! I’d been trained to fly the F-5 Tiger II, combat fighter. But by the grace of God, circumstances intervened. More helicopter pilots were needed in Vietnam than jet jockeys. So I ended up flying the Bell UH-1 Huey and was assigned to the Task Unit Shufly based in Soc Trang, under operations control of the Marine Amphibious Force that reported to the 7th Air Force. I flew with and commanded a MedEvac team for the most part of the time I was there. Instead of killing people I saved them.”

“How many missions did you fly?”

“Sir, a MedEvac team didn’t count a rescue fly-in as a mission. We followed the action and went where needed. Days would go by without any action and then all hell would break loose. Sometimes we’d go into a hot zone several times a day; sometimes in-and-out two or three times in a matter of minutes. We didn’t keep track of rescues.”

Are you at risk?

101,920 new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in Florida. 77% of all cancers are diagnosed in persons 55 and older.

*American Cancer Society

Health Screenings

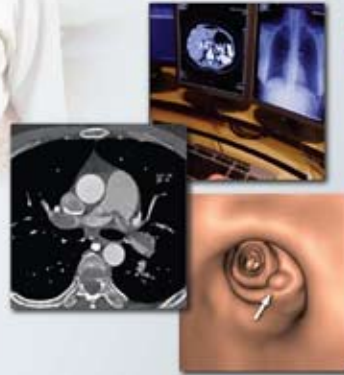
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Frequently Asked Computer Questions

- **Can I print from my wireless laptop without connecting the cable?**

Absolutely. You can get a wireless printer that can be set up anywhere in the house. You can also simply share a printer that is already connected to a computer on the network. You can even get a device called a print server that will connect the printer to the network without having another computer and allow you to print without cables.

- **How can I get email?**

The most common way for the average user to get email is by simply going to a website like Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail and following the logging in procedure. This is the simplest and most convenient way because it's free, does not require any program to be configured and your data is saved on their servers. Also, you can use any computer connected to the internet so it's very convenient. Some of the disadvantages are the lack of options to customize your email, prevent spam and little space to save email. Of course many Webmail sites offer upgrade packages for a reasonable price if you're really into a lot of emailing. The other option is through a program like Outlook, Outlook Express, AOL, Windows Mail and others. These

programs must be installed and configured on your computer. They do offer many features you will not see in Webmail. My suggestion would be to try the web-based email out first and see if it meets your needs. Comcast, Embarq and AOL provide both options.

- **Should I turn my computer off?**

If you're going to be away from the computer for more than a few hours there are a couple obvious reasons to turn the machine off. Of course you're going to save energy but also to refresh Windows which allows the computer to run better. Hibernation is an option but so many times the computer does not come out of hibernation. There are power settings for turning off the Hard Drive and Monitor that also help but the fact is your computer is going to run best just after starting up the computer. As you use the computer, the working memory is slowly being used and eventually the computer programs will slow down and stop responding or simply error and make you reboot. Saving energy and having a faster working computer are the most important reasons to shut down.

Paul Hoecherl
Computer Systems Services
239-498-1138



Movie Talk

New/Coming soon on DVD

★★★ **Cadillac Records:** True story about Chess Record Label and early “rhythm and blues” stars like Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Etta James and DJ Alan Freed which just scratches the surface of the industry. But worth hearing Beyonce sing “At Last” and other Etta James tunes.

★ **Synecdoche, New York:** Philip Seymour Hoffman in a movie that is totally incomprehensible. Even after looking up the definition of Synecdoche (a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole or the whole for a part, the special for the general or the general for the special), the movie is still a puzzle.

★★★★ **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas:** Holocaust story about the son of a concentration camp commandant who befriends a Jewish boy his same age. Implausible but interesting.

★★★ **Seven Pounds:** Will Smith stars in this slow talky movie that takes 2 hours before the motivation for his actions comes together. Scenes between Smith and Rosario Dawson drag on and on.

★★★ **Quantum of Solace:** The second James Bond movie with Daniel Craig as Bond. No where as good as *Casino Royale*. Most Bond aficionados will be disappointed.

★★ **Rachel Getting Married:** Story of a girl (Anne Hathaway in a Best Actress Nominated role) who leaves rehab to attend her sister’s wedding. Well liked by many critics. In my opinion, it felt like a never-ending wedding with many strange and unappealing guests including the bride and groom.

New Theatrical Releases

★★★★ **Taken:** Not probable but a good action popcorn movie with Liam Neeson as an Ex-CIA Operative trying to rescue his kidnapped daughter. The 58-year-old actor who played both Oskar Schindler and Dr. Kinsey tries his hand as a super hero. See if you can count the number of bodies that he leaves in his wake.

★★★★ **The International:** Clive Owen and Naomi Watts team up in this action thriller to bring down an international bank involved in many illegal activities (sub-prime mortgage lending is not one of them). The characters in this film jet in and out of major cities such as Berlin, Milan, Istanbul and with a too long shoot-em-up segment in New York’s Guggenheim Museum.

Ratings are based on a five ★ basis.




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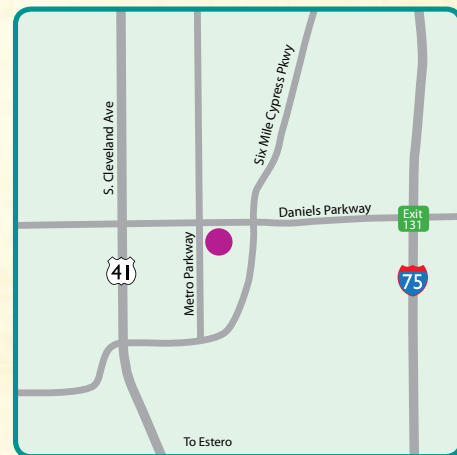
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Living on the course continued from page 21

“Where did most of your fly-ins take place?”

“I saw action in Phu Giao, Tan Ugan, Thuan An, and Pleiku in the central Highlands. The most horrific spot I was in was during the battle of Drang Valley. We had taken two shot-up Marines out and went back to the same spot for another. While we were reeling in the wounded squad leader we came under intense enemy fire. The guy, already in bad shape, took an AK-47 round in the shoulder. Ground fire continued and our medic was killed while trying to stop the bleeding. When we returned to base for third time that day, we counted over 500 hits on the Huey and a hole in one rotor blade that you could shove a football through.”

“How many men did you pick up while you were over there?”

“I don’t know, sir, over a hundred I’d guess, but they weren’t all alive.”

Patrick bowed his head, blessed himself and nodded. He walked over to the caddy holding his bag and slipped the cover off of a wooden-shafted persimmon driver – a Walter Hagen model. He turned to Jim and said, “Come on tee up. Himself will join us on the back nine.”

Spear continued from page 20

Other issues. Beyond these five “biggies,” we discussed the viability of attempting to emulate the political and community successes of the Estero leadership; whether there was a role for the group in improving the City’s relationship with the rest of Lee County; whether there is interest in meeting the political challenges coming from Estero that risk continuing or worsening our summer flooding problems (I-75 culvert pipes) or our traffic (951 between Bonita Beach Road and Corkscrew Road); or involvement in any number of smaller but very interesting projects such as local resident Cullum Hasty’s proposal for a walking/biking trail along the Imperial River going East from Old 41 to beyond I-75 and potentially connecting with conservation land going far East into Collier County. Another issue area where District 4 in particular has world-class talent would be to assist in evaluating the City’s budget process, fiscal matters, and operational issues.

Neither the city council, city employees, nor anyone else has a monopoly on the right answers to these or other important civic issues. But it is our City and our community, and the more people looking to make this a first class community, the better off all of us will be.

I encourage you to get interested in one of these issues, or any other you may choose. I stand ready to share my thoughts, brainstorm, and help find like-minded people, even if I disagree with your views.



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The Curious Photographer

Question:

Who is the greatest person to have ever lived excluding religious figures?



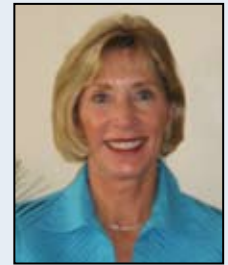
Emily Lyons
Riverwalk



George Schneider
Creekside



Jim Horein
Riverwalk



Gwen Bergsma
Creekside

I believe William Shakespeare to be the "greatest" person who ever lived. His poetry and enduring themes are as relevant today as in Elizabethan England. We learn both about ourselves and history through his elemental insights and elegant style. Shakespeare's works stand at the center of the Western Canon.

My choice of the greatest person to have ever lived is George Washington for the following reasons:

1. Father of the United States of America which is still the greatest country on earth.
2. Promoted limited and representative government (with multiple competing branches) with individual freedoms.
3. Made democracy possible for the USA by resisting calls for him being made king or dictator.

Other reason is that he has my name!!

I need two. Abe Lincoln and SANTA CLAUS...both are known by almost every human on the globe, the spirit of freedom and the spirit of giving are among their contributions. The spirit of working hard to attain great goals is their legacy.

After visiting Monticello, Thomas Jefferson would be my choice. He was the main proponent of the Bill of Rights and principal author of the Declaration of Independence. He was an inventor, an accomplished architect and lover of red wine. One of his famous quotes: "Information is the currency of democracy" is as true today as it was generations ago.

In The Doctor's Office



Oh My Aching Back!

Remedies for Those Aches and Pains

Lifting a heavy box, quickly twisting to snag a toddler and reaching for the top shelf are all fairly mundane activities. Unless, of course, you have a bad back. Then, these tasks become an "Ouch!" waiting to happen.

Familiar with the throes of back pain, Velimir Micovic, M.D., hopes to relieve some of the distress by discussing when backaches warrant medical attention and when not to be alarmed. "You should not worry if you know the reason the pain started," says Dr. Micovic. "If you lifted something, if you can identify the origin of a sudden onset of pain, a muscle ache, then your back pain should be short-lived, nursed at home and not be worrisome."

Most back pain stemming from a sudden movement can be soothed by practicing good posture, placing heat on the aching area, gentle massage and taking over-the-counter pain relievers, such as

ibuprofen or Tylenol. "If the back pain started without any significant reason," warns Dr. Micovic, an anesthesiologist with a subspecialty in pain management, "there may be something to investigate, especially if the pain lasts more than 24 hours. Then, you should see your primary care physician."

Consult a doctor if back pain starts spreading down the legs, indicating more than a simple muscle spasm or aging disc degeneration, and potentially signaling serious nerve compression. "I would be a little worried if the initial pain gets better after a day or two, but then the pain returns," says Dr. Micovic. "If the situation reverses, pain returns and feels progressively worse, see a doctor."

Patients who are placed on narcotics after an injury need to beware. The long-term use of narcotics can be counter-effective, leading to tolerance or addiction. "If your pain has not been corrected by

medication, see a specialist dealing with back pain or a neurologist for further diagnosis," stresses Dr. Micovic.

Here are some simple exercises to relieve back pain:

- Lying on a mat and lifting the knees toward the chest will stretch back muscles.
- Rolling over on the belly and lifting the upper body with the elbows allows hips and the lower back to sink down, relieving stress.
- Pool-based exercises, walking in chest-high water, swimming the breast stroke or slow water aerobics will also alleviate pain while not adding pressure to parts of the spine.

Velimir Micovic, M.D.

Pain Management Consultants
of SW FL 239-985-3640

Random Thoughts

Morgan and Morgan "For the People" should be disbarred for having one of the most annoying commercials ever – right behind "Where's the beef" and "I've fallen and can't get up".

Best "Doo Wop" song – "Earth Angel" by the Penguins.

Stadium seating in movies theaters is an innovation that eliminated the problem of the screen being blocked by tall men and big hair women. Now, how do we eliminate the problem of folks who talk during the movie?

Trivial Pursuit is the best board game since Monopoly.

Whenever someone mentions James Bond, the only person that comes to mind is Sean Connery.

Are you wondering if you should pay your income taxes this year or apply for a cabinet position?

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Academy Award Contest



Joanne Mair

Four contestants answered all six major categories correctly – Joanne Mair, Ruth Ann McLaughlin, Nancy Den Besten and Tommye Fleming. No one got the first tie breaker question correct. Both Joanne and Ruth got the second tiebreaker so the contest came down to the third tiebreaker question and Joanne Mair prevailed. She is the winner of the \$50 Angelina's gift card. **Congratulations!**

Gulf Coast Medical Center Opens to Patients in March

By Doug Luckett

In just a few short days, residents of South Lee County will feel more of a presence from Lee Memorial Health System in their backyards.

At exactly 7 a.m. March 8, LMHS will open the doors to Gulf Coast Medical Center, a new 349-bed hospital that is an expansion of the existing Gulf Coast Hospital at the southeast corner of Metro and Daniels parkways. This full-service health care facility—staffed by employees from both Gulf Coast Hospital and Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center—is conveniently located for residents of eastern and southern Lee County.

Gulf Coast Medical Center features a 43-bed Emergency Department and a 22-room Surgery department. The patient-centered design of the hospital allows for easy access into the registration and clinical areas, and state-of-the-art medical equipment has been installed to aid in patient comfort and to assist physicians with their diagnoses and treatments.

One of the biggest events surrounding the new hospital is “moving day”, when patients and equipment will be transported to the facility. According to state regulations, only 24 hours is given to get the job done but the goal is to finish in 12.

The move has been planned during the course of several months. The first few days of March will see the reduction of elective patient admissions and surgeries at Southwest Regional. Some ancillary services will also move into the new building a few weeks before opening day.

On moving day, a huge amount of help and support will come from Lee County Emergency Medical Services and local law enforcement. Lee County EMS has enlisted help from other regional EMS units to help strengthen the contingent of manpower assisting LMHS.



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Original Oil Painting: Local artist, Julie Carlson, 4' by 4 1/2' canvas, coconut palms. Sells for \$3,500 – moving will sell for \$1,400. Call 239-948-2921 or 314-406-0005.

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We Have a Winner!



Ed Quandt

Ed Quandt of Laurel Ridge was the first person to correctly identify the "Mystery Object" in the February Edition of Bay Watch News as a man hole cover (or storm drain cover) located throughout Bonita Bay. Congratulations to Ed and thank you to all the others who participated.

What in the World...



Do you recognize this photo?

It is something you see everyday in Bonita Bay.

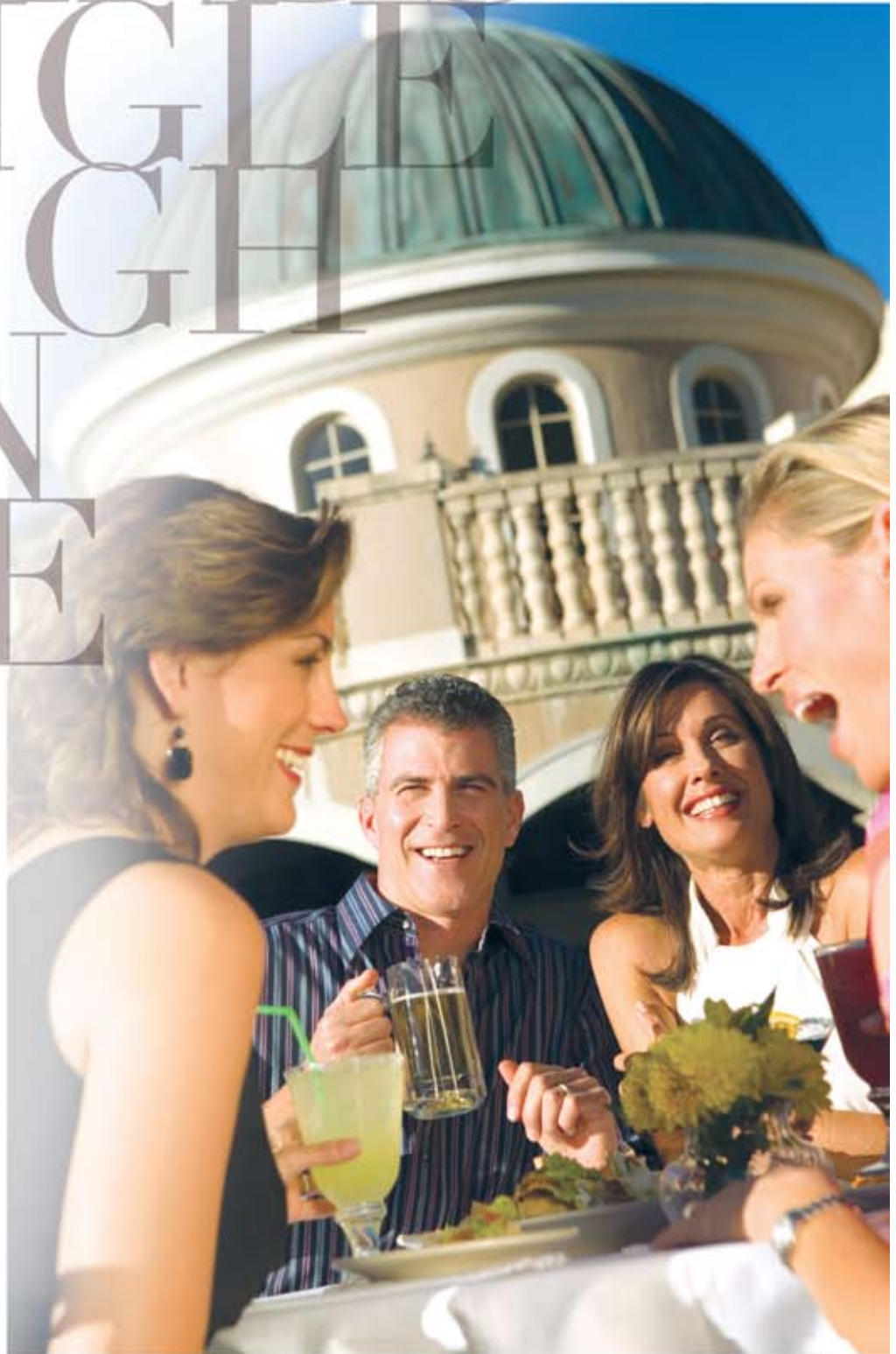
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