

# BAY WATCH

## News

Volume 1 Number 3

February 2009

### Bonita Bay Club Advisory Board Chairman



Jack Eikenberg, Bayview

In a little over 6 months, Bonita Bay Club's Advisory Board has undergone some drastic changes. Three well respected members have resigned: Bob Van Vooren and Norm Roberts, the two previous chairmen, resigned because of health

considerations, while Gary Jaarda dropped his club membership completely.

The Advisory Board normally has 9 elected members; currently it has only 6 members. This occurs at a vital time for the club membership. The new chairman, Jack Eikenberg, is well aware of the challenges he faces. With an impressive business background as former President of the Revere Ware Group and COO of Cuisinart, as well as notable civic activities both within the Lee County School District and the Lee Memorial Health System, Jack is optimistic that we will get through all of this turmoil.

He readily admits that Bonita Bay Group seriously erred in announcing the new membership resignation policy without using any of the very bright and successful Bonita Bay Members as sounding boards. A questionnaire is *con't. on page 6*

### Hey, It's Your Money

By Dick Connelly, Woodlake

This past January, The Bonita Bay Community Association offered residents 26 different activities during the month. From Shakespeare to Cookie Day to Beginner Spanish to Scrapbooking. They even offered a course in how to remember things.

How many did you participate in? Or did you forget to sign up for the Memory Training?

Many courses are free and some require a fee. But whether you took part or not, you're paying for them with your annual BBCA fee, which ranges from \$2,500 for single-family home owners to \$2200 for residents who live in multi-family dwellings.

The BBCA does many more things than try and keep you active. They're responsible for and own all the roads, the three parks, the Beach Club, almost 20 lakes and storm water management. Plus they maintain the grounds, operate the Community Patrol, the shuttle buses, Main Gate Access and the Design Review Board (and no, you can't paint your house a bright yellow with blue polka dots

without their approval). Interestingly, the property taxes you pay Lee County include a portion for capital improvements, such as roads, but the county doesn't contribute a dime to road costs here.

They also run the various Bay Breeze concerts, the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and other holiday activities, and the annual Old Fashioned Social each spring. Last year's Social attracted 3,000 residents or half the Bonita Bay population. That's why you had to park a half-mile away.

So who runs the BBCA? Are residents stockholders? Tom Burgess, an affable outgoing chap who's run the CA for many years, says the residents are "stakeholders," not stockholders; i.e., we have a stake in the CA but don't own it. The BBCA is an independent Corporation but its Board Members are appointed by the Bonita Bay Group which in effect controls the BBCA.

Will the BBCA take over the financially challenged Backwater Jack's and raise the annual fees accordingly? Burgess doesn't think so, at least not for a while. He said no offer has been made and "I don't think it will be." But if BBG *con't. on page 6*

### Law Suit Filed

On Friday, January 23, 2009 Jerry Evans, (Sandpiper) member of the Bonita Bay Club and the Marina Club filed a law suit against the Bonita Bay Group. Please visit [www.baywatchnews.com](http://www.baywatchnews.com) "Open Forum" for more information.

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## Editor's Notes

### **"Season" is in full swing.**

Restaurant reservations are tougher to get and there is more traffic on the roads but these minor inconveniences are offset by getting together with all the good friends and neighbors – many of whom we haven't seen since May.

They have returned to our beautiful community. However, it is not actually as they have left it. They have been greeted by the furor over the Bonita Bay Group membership refund policy change brought about by BBG's mistakes and exacerbated by the current economic situation. Bay Watch News continues to report on this issue because all property values in Bonita Bay are affected by the outcome.

Our elected Advisory Board is working very hard to come up with a mutual satisfactory solution. The Advisory Board deserves all the support we can give it. It is not an easy job and the reward is receiving email, phone calls and suggestions from any of us who have an opinion – about 3000 people!

Editor,  
**Don Gorman**

P.S. 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 this issue of Bay Watch News. Thank you.

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### **Contributing Editors:**

Dick Connelly; Patricia J. Daneshmand, DO; Richard Ferreira; Tommye Fleming; Paul Hoecherl; Gary Jaarda; John Klocko; Attorney John Spear; Jack Sullivan; Judy Underwood



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Logged in 337 votes on the question of  
Backwater Jacks. Here are the results:

## Web Poll

### What do you think should happen to Backwater Jacks?

I would like to see Backwater Jacks turned over to the  
Community Association.(175)

 52%

I would like to Keep Backwater Jacks the way it is now.(68)

 20%

Close Backwater Jack's.(18)

 5%

Other(76)

 23%

## VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF BONITA BAY



Bay Watch News would like to do a pictorial  
history of Bonita Bay "then and now."

Do you have any old photos that you would  
like to share for this feature?

If so, please contact us at  
[BayWatchNews@aol.com](mailto:BayWatchNews@aol.com).

# Letters to the Editor

## Backwater Jacks

### To the Editor:

This is in response to your survey on BWJ's in the Jan. issue of your fine periodical: I am against turning it over to the Community Association if it means that it will be managed by the association in its present form. My reasoning is that losses will simply be passed on to we residents as an increase to our annual fees and therefore there would be less incentive for the BWJ'S management to operate efficiently. On the other hand, I would not be against eliminating the annual fees for non-boating residents with some caveats, such as reduced prices, reservation priority, and other benefits for Marina Club boating members. If eliminating the annual fees for non-boating members means we go back to operating BWJ's in the red, then consider renting the restaurant out to an experienced professional entrepreneur like Carrabba's.

Thanks,

**Denis Briggs**

Lost Lake

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### To the Editor:

We feel Backwater Jacks members should decide whether they want to pay extra to stay open. We made our decision when we quit. We have no interest in having to pay extra money if the Community Association were to buy it. When we moved here 10 years ago, BWJ was a good place to have a meal by the water. Today there are many other places to do that and we don't have to pay extra to "belong there". I really find BBG to be a greedy group and are not to be trusted!

**Al Grigaliunas**

Riverwalk

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### To the Editor:

I enjoyed your article on Backwater Jacks, but I don't think the idea of turning the operation over to the Community Association is a good idea, at least not for the members of the association. I am sure the Bonita Bay Group would love the idea, since any future losses would now have to be absorbed by the association instead of the Bonita Bay Group. This would increase our annual fees to the association and the members still would not have any control over its operation. It is fairly evident that the Bonita Bay Group wants to maintain control over all facilities whether club or community association since they could have turned over the community association years ago when 90% of the property had been sold. The question is why do they want to continue holding on to the community association, could it be because it generates free cash flow such as the club? Who knows?

**DS McBride**

Oakwood

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### To the Editor:

Regarding the Backwater Jacks poll, I responded by voting "other"; my vote for "other" includes a suggestion that Bonita Bay Group provide a clear financial accounting of the total costs they are loading on the operations of Backwater Jacks, including lease and management overhead charges allocated to the business. I find it

ridiculous to see that the operating loss for the previous year was between \$700 & 750 M; a sum for this type of a business that so incongruous as to be totally without merit, irrespective of the offset of \$500 M from annual dues. It would be laughable if any of the restaurants we often patronize outside Bonita Bay were to survive only on the basis of a subsidy from annual dues (and still lose over \$200 M or more in the process).

**Stan Cramton**

Mira Lago

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### To the Editor:

My husband and I love BWJ – we eat there at least 3 times a week when we are in town and always enjoy. The "help" is superb as well as the food. We really feel that we can all afford to pay \$325 a year. We are here in paradise.

Perhaps the Community Association should take over if that would better control the money – but PLEASE don't close it.

Also, a little suggestion – How about a minimum monthly to spend or annually?

**Joan and John Schnoebelen**

Hamptons

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### To the Editor:

With regard to the voting categories on the status of Backwater Jacks and proposed fee possibilities, just for the sake of consideration, what about an annual fee paid on January 1 of each year, say \$1000, establishing a credit balance for each member. If the \$1000 minimum is not used up by the end of the calendar year, then the member sacrifices the remainder. This may "soften" the feeling that one is paying a yearly "cover charge," and, in fact, may encourage members to frequent this fine casual dining facility.

Thank you,

**Steve Porterfield**

Hidden Harbor

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### To the Editor:

I had a brief conversation with Bob Stahle sometime in October or November referring to the dues structure at Backwater Jack's. My suggestion to him was to charge a food minimum as opposed to yearly dues. My guess would be in the end there would be very few resignations, Backwater's would serve more food and drinks and everyone would be happy. We find now, two months later, that many of our friends have resigned. So, here is our suggestion. Reduce the yearly fee to \$300.00 to garner good faith, make it payable in January, but make it a working minimum. I know my wife and I would use up the minimum in short order, particularly when family are in town.

My business experience was not even slightly related to the food service industry, but it did require logic and common sense. Perhaps that's what's missing. We need to regain faith and confidence in Backwater Jack's and Bonita Bay Group.

**Lloyd and Phyllis Sharp**

Cracker Cove

*con't. on page 6*

# Who's in Who Bonita Bay



**By: Tommye Fleming,  
Mahogany Ridge**

**Etta Smith of Ibis Cove** is Bonita Bay's uncontested queen of fund-raising. Just last year, for the Hope Hospice gala she and co-chairs Donna Roberts and Jerry Risk raised \$300,000 ... in a year when the economy was low, low, low.

Her diminutive size belies the fund-raising wallop she delivers. In the six years since she's been involved in hospice, she has helped the Women's Committee for Hope Hospice raise more than \$1,000,000 for Joanne's House. All of the money, by the way, stays here in Bonita Springs.

When I asked her how she does it, she says she takes her volunteer work as seriously as she took her career. In fact, there are a lot of things her "retirement job" has in common with the "real" job she had up north.

Etta and her husband Lionel lived outside Philadelphia before they headed to Florida. He was a Vice President of State Farm and she had an antique shop and decorating business.

She finds that merchandising Hope Hospice is a lot like specialty retailing ... it requires creativity, contacts and enthusiasm.

"In 2002, I was on the very first Luncheon Committee and suggested and got a donor for a butterfly release because the butterfly is the logo for Hope Hospice. It represents renewal in life. At the end of the luncheon, more than 200 women released a magnificent variety of butterflies; it took your breath away. Donna Roberts, chair of the

Women's Committee and my mentor, was so impressed, she asked me to chair the auction the following year. I believe in the cause so much, I couldn't possibly have said 'no'."

Etta got involved in hospice the way many people do ... because a loved one passed away under their tender care. Her mother was in Hope Hospice in Ft. Myers in 2002 and she feels she could never repay them for all that they did for her.

"I actually was a perfect fit for the gala, now referred to as 'the ball'. I don't mind asking for money – I've been selling all my life. And it's the best and easiest product I've ever peddled."

Her "job" is a year-round commitment. By the time arrangements for the trips offered in the auction (e.g., this year, a Masters trip to Augusta and vacations to a number of exotic locales) are completed, the planning for the new auction is in full gear.

In her "spare" time, Etta teaches English to Spanish-speaking people for the Literacy Council. She has a Masters in Spanish from Temple University and the University of Mexico and did post-graduate studies in Madrid. The blessing of this other "job" is that it revitalized her bilingual skills.

She loves it here in Bonita Bay. Like many who come here, the Smiths first bought a smaller place ... in Harbor Landing in 1995 and visited just two weeks a year. In 1998, when they retired and moved here permanently, they built in Ibis Cove.

Lionel is an avid golfer with MANY social events involving the 24 golfing guys he plays with. They take group trips to places like Cape Cod, Santa Fe and Montreal.

Etta is a "sometime" golfer. She loves being outdoors but will never be good at golf because she simply isn't committed to it like she is her other passions. But that's OK with her -- you can only excel at SO many things.

*Editor's Note: The "Hearts of Hope Ball" will be held on Feb. 14, 2009 at the Hyatt Coconut Point. For more information call Barbara Brown 489-9147.*

## *new chairman cont't. from page 1*

being formulated to be sent to all the members in February to get formal feedback on their needs and expectations.

He believes that most people are interested in the long-term lifestyle; yet, he admits that there is a contingent of members who are vehemently upset and have lost all trust in BBG and desire immediate legal action.

Currently there are 600–700 members who have contributed \$100 so that the Advisory Board can become legally informed and ready for any and all possibilities. The legal fund has NOT been developed to initiate a law suit.

Jack is pleased that BBG has granted some concessions in terms of transparency but the Board is striving for more. Future profits both from initiation fees and operating revenues within Bonita Bay Club will stay here and a joint committee on capital improvements is being formed.

At the time of this writing, more meetings are scheduled between the Advisory Board and BBG. Bonita Bay Group has been told that a more palatable plan and remedy must be proposed in order to get support from the Board. Without that support, more dissent will be bred.

To further complicate the situation, the first law suit was filed by a Bonita Bay resident against BBG on Friday, January 23rd.

## *It's your money cont't. from page 1*

were to decide it should be, Burgess said he would then recommend a community-wide vote by the property owners. But he emphasizes it's currently a moot point since no offer has been made. As an aside, he said if BWJ were to come under BBCA, it might be used as a community center or some similar use, not necessarily a restaurant.

So back to square one: do you have a voice in how your funds are being spent? Of course. Go to the BBCA President's meeting on Feb. 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the Club's Main Dining Room and speak up. Do you partake of any of the many activities each month? If not, why not?

Many residents are active but the CA would like more. In January, they offered a class titled "Iran – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" presented by a resident who had spent considerable time there. The class was over-subscribed and a second session had to be scheduled. There was no fee, one of many courses provided by the CA.

The CA publishes an almost-monthly newsletter which offers a rundown of activities plus news from many resident clubs: the Bicycle Club, Tai Chi Club, Book Club, Illinois Club, Garden Club, even a Bocce Club.

And if you are one of the 3,000 who attend the Old Fashioned Social, you might like to know that this year's Social is March 29. And the annual Easter Egg Hunt is April 11. By the way, you can wear a yellow outfit with blue polka dots to the Hunt and the Review Board won't mind.



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**Win the Battle But Lose the War**

**To the Editor:**

Many emails and letters have been written over the last few months regarding the issues and concerns about Bonita Bay. We applaud the interest and hard work the Advisory Board has expended in dealing with some complex issues. We would like to suggest that there may be another way of looking at these issues.

Bonita Bay is one of the premier residential and golfing communities in Southwest Florida and, in fact, the USA. We all love it!! The community is beautiful all four seasons. The golf under the leadership of John Oyler, Ric Nalyd and Andrea Drake is as good as it gets. Tammy and her team try to keep us in shape. The Marina Club, tennis, biking trails and Community Association programs are top notch. The value of our property comes from all of these plus our superb reputation.

We have some issues. First, there is concern about getting ones deposit returned when one resigns from the club. In these economic times we are experiencing a slight decline in membership. This causes negative cash flow and BBG is trying to implement a plan to stay cash neutral. We do not need lawyers to tell us that our promissory notes are binding. The real concern is to keep Bonita Bay Club healthy and the premier place to live in Southwest Florida. This is what enhances our property values.

This issue could be legally pushed and we are sure a court would rule in favor of the member's promissory note. The problem is that you could win the battle and lose the war. Our reputation would suffer. More people would want to leave and property values would plummet. Who would want to live with a litigious group of people who cannot solve minor community problems? If we were a member-owned club we would probably have the standard by-laws that would return our deposit at 80% of the then going value after 2 or 3 new members joined. This keeps the club cash neutral. Let's solve this issue and preserve our reputation by supporting a cash neutral plan. The only thing that will happen is people will have to wait a while for their refunds.

It is hurtful to see this issue become the talk of the town and tarnish our reputation. The other week I was leaving my flight at the airport and an old friend from Port Royal approached me and expressed his concern about the serious problems Bonita Bay was having. Do you want a reputation like that of Quail West? How would you like to sell a house there?

The next issue is the Bonita Bay Group's timing of turning over the club to members. Most people in the community are in no hurry for this to occur. We already have a well managed club so why put this at risk? If the members took over the club they would probably hire another manager like Country Club of America. That would probably lower our standards. The other option would be to have the members and a board of directors oversee the club. We have a lot of retired CEOs on site but "they have been there and done that." Let us stay with a proven winner- Bonita Bay Group.

It appears to us that the most favorable outcome is for all of us to support our Club and Bonita Bay. That will enhance our reputation and everyone's value. Play more golf---Play tennis---Dine at the club more frequently---Buy your golf gear at our shop (let's work with management on merchandising and better prices)---Do more boating---Pay your dues on an annual basis---Support the Community Association's programs.

If we take a more positive approach we will be in the value preservation and creation business and have people lined up at the gate wanting to buy in Bonita Bay and join our club.

**David I Barton**  
The Rookery

*con't. on page 12*



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# Estero Bay

What is Estero Bay? Is it the gateway to the gulf? An incubator of fish life? A rookery for colonial nesting birds such as pelicans and terns? A mangrove garden that insulates the land from erosion and storm surge? A fishermen's paradise?

If your answer to any of the above is "yes", you are correct. In fact, the answer is ALL of the above...and more.

Estero Bay is an 11,000-acre Aquatic Preserve that was Florida's first designation as such in 1966...for protection of the environment, as an estuary gateway, and for recreation.

Estero Bay contributes greatly to the multi-billion dollar fishing and boating revenue that comes into the state and to local coffers. But that is only one of the reasons that it needs constant monitoring and care. The other reasons are just as important to us as revenue.



Mother nature rewards us in perpetuity with beautiful white beaches and dolphins, chasing bait fish just offshore if we help her to keep things in balance.

Since Lover's Key, New Pass, Big Carlo's Pass, Dog Beach and Bonita Beach are all in the City of Bonita Springs, although owned by the state or Lee County, the City Council of Bonita Springs takes a keen interest in Estero Bay's viability.

Lover's Key is the fifth most visited tourist spot in Florida. It is a "must see" for most visitors, and what a treat it is for adults as well as kids to view the wildlife.

What are the simple things that we can do to preserve our gateway to the gulf so our grandkids and their friends can enjoy the pleasures of southwest Florida?

- Waterfront property owners can follow the fertilizer load limits recently enacted by the City to prevent unnecessary run-off and too much nitrogen and phosphorus spilling into the waterway, reducing the oxygen levels and choking the fish.
- Fishermen should not allow their monofilament plastic lines to bottom out and create hazards for sea turtles and other bottom feeders. Some plastics can last hundreds of years.
- Boaters should not approach the pelican and tern rookeries too closely because it makes them jittery, and chicks falling out of the nest are lost and die. Obey the speed restrictions, especially near the sea grass areas, because that is where the fish breed, and sea grass is very important to keep things in balance.

As a long-term licensed charter boat captain, I can attest that over-fishing and pollution can quickly kill a body of water.

Come to Estero Bay to visit, fish, swim, photograph, boat and enjoy a family day... and bring the dog. But come as a participant to help protect and observe its constant rebirth. It is truly the jewel of southwest Florida and you own it.

**Richard A. Ferreira**  
Councilman, District #1  
City of Bonita Springs



## The Best Part

*Perhaps you drove, walked, biked or jogged past our house, and you probably wondered what it looks like on the inside or maybe, even more importantly, what it is like to live in this house. On both counts, it's nothing short of incredible. But, then there's the "best part"—living on the river.*

*Before moving from a New Jersey beach town to southwest Florida, I told my husband: "No way I'm moving to Florida and not living on navigable water." After all, isn't that the whole point?*

*So, every morning for the last three years, I've been lucky enough to drink my coffee watching a lazy manatee slowly paddle its way to the mangrove offering the best breakfast deal. And, Mrs. O (my neighbor) sweeps the river surface to catch a fresh fish for her peeping babies (usually twins) and then soars back over my house to her comfy old nest. And, what about all those crazy jumping frogs at low tide—is that a board meeting?*

*And then, every afternoon, I've been lucky enough to read my book watching the sunlight sparkle over the water so brightly that it almost extinguishes the dolphins gliding up river ever so quietly, surfacing every so often to give us that special wink. Signaling their approach are nervous, jumping, hip-hop mullet.*

*And, finally, every evening, I've been lucky enough to sit with the two loves of my life sipping a very spirited cocktail, watching the color of the sunlight change to pinker, deeper rose tones, not so bright anymore. Waving to boating friends, some whose names we don't even know. Watching boats return from their cocktail cruise a little faster than going out.*

*I don't know who said it, but if you've been this lucky, you're lucky enough. Admittedly, it does come with its premium cost, but, let me tell you, it's the best money we've spent in our lives. Is it right for you? Give me a call to find out.*

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## HEARTS OF HOPE BALL - February 14

This annual event to benefit Joanne's House will take place at Hyatt Coconut Point. For more information, please call Barbara Brown 489-9147.

## PRO-AM BRIDGE EVENT - February 21

This event will benefit the Art League of Bonita Springs - Saturday, Feb. 21, 1-5 PM at Bonita Bay Club. \$50 per person. To register call the Art League at 495-8989. For more information, contact Beth Graves 947-8977 or Joan Norris 495-6892.

## 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 will feature 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

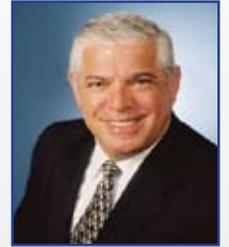
Literacy Council's annual fundraising breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at the Hyatt Coconut Point. The program will start at 8 AM and will be a fast-paced one hour-session, ending promptly at 9. For more information, please call Jim Brennan 947-9688.

## 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 14th from 10AM to 3PM at the Pavilion at Estero Bay Park. For more information, call 947-5533.

## 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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# Too Tall House

The “Too Tall House” on Bonita Beach was a matter of considerable controversy in 2006 and early 2007. Here’s what happened and how the matter was resolved.

In 2004 or 2005, City building officials approved plans for a home to be built on a lot on Bonita Beach. The plans as drawn showed a house that exceeded the maximum building height by some 5 feet. The plan reviewers did not catch the violation, issued building permits, and building commenced in late 2005.

Once the house was “topped out,” a Beach resident reported the height restriction violation, and the City issued a stop work order. A bitter back and forth commenced, with suggestions of City staff incompetence, architect bungling, owners attempting to “sneak something by” City staff, and the like. The City

Council eventually decided to demand strict compliance with the height restrictions and removal of 5 feet of the house’s height even though such compliance was estimated to cost the owners several hundred thousand dollars.

At that point, the story appeared simply to go away, the house was completed without height reduction, and it remains the tallest house on the Beach.

Here’s what happened. The ordinance that limited height was and is unique to Bonita Beach (Big Hickory Island) and limits height to 35 feet. However, to allow homes on Bonita Beach to have attractive rooflines and avoid boxy homes with flat roofs, the ordinance provided that height was to be measured to the mid-point between the bottom of the eaves and the highest point on the roof. So the homes owners simply added

several feet of roofing material farther down the sides of the home, calling them “eaves” and the City had no choice but to approve the home as built and issued a Certificate of Occupancy.

Soon after I took office in the Spring of 2008, we were presented with and approved an amendment to the height ordinance that provided that no part of the structure, including architectural features like widow’s peaks, weather vanes, chimneys and the like can exceed 45 feet.

So the “Too Tall House” remains a monument to vague ordinance language and creative lawyering as the tallest single-family residence on Bonita Beach. Look for it next time; it’s the house with dark-blue glazed roofing tile, with the eaves extending down the sides of the house like the droopy ears of a beagle.

**By John Spear Councilman,  
District 4 City of Bonita Springs**

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## Letters to the Editor

*con’t. from page 8*

### Transparency?

#### To the Editor:

I resigned from the Bonita Bay Club this month. I emailed a request to Pat Schultz (Membership Director) for a chronological, dated list of resigning members so that I might know in what order I would fall. Her reply was evasive and disappointing to say the least. So much for BBG’s promise of transparency!

#### John Kemon

Montara

*Due to space limitations, some of the letters have been edited, please go to [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com) to view letters received in their entirety.*

*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](mailto:BayWatchLetters@aol.com) or  
Address: Bay Watch News, P. O. Box 1604, Bonita Springs, FL 34133*

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Sunday	12 noon to 8 pm
Monday-Thursday	10 am to 8 pm
Friday and Saturday	10 am to 10 pm

## Sun-N-Fun

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Beginning March 6	Fridays 6 pm to 9 pm
Saturday and	Sunday -10 am to 5 pm

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-----------------	--------------

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Monday – Sunday	9 am to 5 pm
-----------------	--------------

## Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium

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The Imaginarium - a hands-on science and nature-based museum - provides visitors with over 60 interactive exhibits including a theater, a traveling exhibit, live animals and ongoing special programs

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Sunday	12 pm – 5 pm

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Monday – Saturday	10 am – 9 pm
Sunday	11:30 am – 5:30 pm

con't. on page 23

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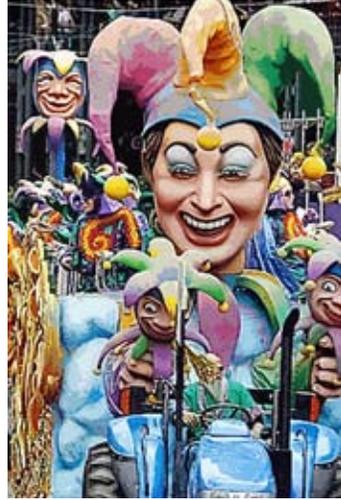
# MARDI GRAS - FEBRUARY 24

Enjoy this traditional dish of Shrimp Etouffee and don't forget the King Cake for dessert! (Note: A King Cake is associated with the festival of Epiphany in a number of countries. In the United States, it is associated instead with Mardi Gras. The cake has a small trinket (often a small plastic baby, sometimes said to represent Baby Jesus) inside, and the person who gets the piece of cake with the trinket has various privileges and obligations. Start your own tradition!)

## SHRIMP ETOUFFEE

### Ingredients

8 oz. butter (two sticks)  
½ cup chopped scallions  
4 stalks chopped celery  
2 medium chopped onions  
2 cloves minced garlic  
½ cup flour  
1 16-oz. can chicken broth  
¼ cup chopped parsley  
1 14-oz. can chopped tomatoes  
Salt, pepper and cayenne to taste  
1 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined



### DIRECTIONS

Saute scallions, celery, onions and garlic in butter until soft (about 5 minutes). Add flour, chicken broth, parsley, tomatoes, salt, pepper and cayenne; simmer for 15-20 minutes. Add shrimp and simmer until shrimp is cooked (about 10 minutes). Add additional water or broth if gravy is too thick. Serve over rice.

Ed. Note – Read “Do It Like the Locals – Mardi Gras That Is” by Rich Derbes, a native son of New Orleans who has attended more than 50 Mardi Gras celebrations. He gives insider tips on where to stay, what to see and where to dine. Please visit [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com) - click on “Mardi Gras” to read full report.

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Please visit my website, [www.SGrabau.com](http://www.SGrabau.com), for all current listings.



## Random Thoughts

Are there anymore confusing street numbers than those on Tamiami Trail?

People should be required to pass a football quiz before they can attend a Super Bowl Party.

Don't most of us wish that Elvis WAS still alive?

Why is there a drugstore on every corner of SWF? Are we very sick or very over medicated?

Chesley Sullenberger III (US Airways Flight 1549 pilot) is a true American hero.

Even though we know that De Gaulle was not assassinated, "Day of the Jackal" was one of the most suspenseful novels ever written.

## MEDICAL NEEDS IN BONITA SPRINGS

A committee of community leaders from The City of Bonita Springs and Estero has formed THE SOUTH LEE COUNTY HOSPITAL COMMITTEE to assess the current and future medical needs of its citizens. The Committee is investigating the needs of both 24/7 Emergency services as well as the future needs for a community hospital. It is the Committee's desire to get the word out to as many citizens as possible to ascertain the medical needs of the community.

**Roger Brunswick**  
Cracker Cove

*Editor's Note: Please visit [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com) and click on "Medical" to view the "Medical Care Needs Assessment Report."*

## In The Doctor's Office

### Don't Let Insomnia Keep You Up At Night



Getting a good night's sleep is as important to your health as diet and exercise, but nearly 40 percent of Americans report having trouble falling asleep or staying asleep.

The disorder, widely known as insomnia, can be acute or chronic, but either way, the result of all of those sleepless nights is intense fatigue. "Insomnia sufferers say they have no energy and feel drained all day long," says Patricia J. Daneshmand, DO, family practitioner with Lee Physician Group.

The good news is that there are many techniques insomnia sufferers can use to try to get a good night's rest.

Dr. Daneshmand recommends establishing a set bedtime and a bedtime routine. "Start to wind down

about an hour before you go to bed by reading something low-key, listening to relaxing music, taking a bath or sipping an herbal tea," she says. "Avoid stimulating activities, such as exercising or watching intense movies before bed."

Dr. Daneshmand also suggests the following tips:

- Avoid caffeine at least six hours before going to bed.
- Do exercise regularly, just not within three or four hours of bedtime.
- Be sure your bedroom is dark, quiet and comfortable in temperature.
- Develop a sleep routine and a scheduled bedtime.

"Consult your physician if you frequently feel like dozing during the day, you're having trouble concentrating or you're unusually irritable," Dr. Daneshmand says.

Getting a good night's rest is vital for good health. For more information, contact your physician or Dr. Daneshmand at 239-432-0101.

**Patricia J. Daneshmand, DO**  
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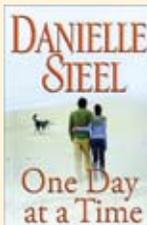
# On The Bookshelf



## *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*

Everyone in Bonita Bay who sees you reading this book will be impressed with your intellectual curiosity, the \$100 spent to purchase the book and the strength needed to carry around the boxed set. In the first multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln to be published in decades,

Lincoln scholar Michael Burlingame offers a fresh look at the life of one of America's greatest presidents. Volume 1 covers Lincoln's early childhood, his experiences as a farm boy in Indiana and Illinois, his legal training, and the political ambition that led to a term in Congress in the 1840s. In volume 2, Burlingame examines Lincoln's life during his presidency and the Civil War, narrating in fascinating detail the crisis over Fort Sumter and Lincoln's own battles with relentless office seekers, hostile newspaper editors, and incompetent field commanders. Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this landmark publication establishes Burlingame as the most assiduous Lincoln biographer of recent memory and brings Lincoln alive to modern readers as never before.



## *One Day at a Time*

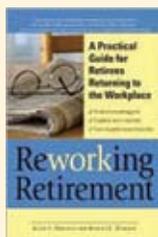
With wit and intelligence, Danielle Steel's new novel explores love in all its guises, taking us into the lives of three unusual but wonderfully real couples. Funny, sexy, and wise, *One Day at a Time* is at once moving, thought provoking, and utterly impossible to put down.



## *The Women*

T. C. Boyle's account of Frank Lloyd Wright's life, as told through the experiences of the four women who loved him, blazes with his trademark wit and invention. Wright's life was one long howling struggle against the bonds of convention, whether aesthetic, social, moral, or romantic. He never did what was

expected and despite the overblown scandals surrounding his amours and very public divorces and the financial disarray that dogged him throughout his career, he never let anything get in the way of his larger-than-life appetites and visions.



## *Reworking Retirement*

Published early last year, this book tells stories of retirees who have parlayed previous work experience or hobbies into interesting post retirement jobs. Written by Allyn Freeman and Robert Gorman (full disclosure – brother of Bay Watch News Editor). This guide may be of

assistance to one who is looking to fill time with activities other than golf or tennis.

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It's Not All About Golf

Dr. Arnaldo asked his first patient of the day, we'll call her Mrs. Mona Kane, a tall blond woman with hazel-blue eyes and unblemished ivory skin, how she felt and what he could do for her.



"Well," she said. "I'm having these awful reoccurring headaches and I can't sleep". Then she hesitated and dabbed her eyes with a tissue before saying, "Well, that's not really true. I do sleep. But I wake up around one or two and can't get back to sleep. Besides that my back hurts. It's awful."

Dr. Arnaldo's sympathetic dark eyes indicated that he understood. In fact, he did understand. He understood clearly what Mrs. Kane's symptoms were. Understanding that allowed him to make an accurate diagnosis and decide on the best course of treatment.

There was a time, not too long ago, when Dr. Arnaldo would not have understood. A time when Dr. Arnaldo could not comprehend Mrs. Kane's string of sentences. A frustrating time for this Cuban-educated M.D. A time when English words and phrases traveled from his ears to his brain in an unintelligible scrambled medley. He could speak some English, read it, but could not find that switch in his brain that converted the spoken word from Espanol to Ingles -- a time of no comprender. He could not practice medicine in his new country unless he could speak the language. Then he met Susan Acuna, the

executive director of the Bonita Springs Literacy Council, who turned him over to one of her star volunteer tutors, Charlie Hopkins of Bonita Bay.

Charlie, a C.P.A, is a retired Philadelphia-based managing partner from the world-renowned accounting firm KPMG. He and his wife Mary Anne, residents of Bonita Bay since 1990, have three children and two grandchildren. Both Charlie and Mary Anne are avid golfers. Charlie, known for his big-swing power golf and matching low handicap, plays with a group called the Unforgettables (guys like Charlie help make the name applicable). A few years ago Charlie decided that he had to do more with his time in Paradise than play golf. While not knowing the difference between "buenos dias" and "adios", he signed up to tutor English to a mainly Spanish-speaking clientele at the Literacy Council. He did well and soon was asked to sit on the board of directors. As he likes to point out to those of us who have children: we didn't have to take a special course to learn how to teach our kids how to speak English. The same applies to tutoring someone from Guatemala, Mexico, Malaysia, or Cuba. You stick to the basics, learned through the council's tutor training. This is a book. This is a chair. That is the sun.

Dr. Arnaldo presented Charlie with a special challenge. He could speak English fairly well, but had a hard time understanding the spoken word. This prevented him from getting his license to practice medicine. He couldn't stand before the test board without being able to diagnose and prescribe treatment for test cases that would be presented to him verbally. Charlie had a plan. He went back to the basics twice a week during their 90-minute sessions. He'd read short, pithy newspaper and magazine articles to Arnaldo and then ask him questions about what he had read. For example, he'd read about Donovan McNabb lunging for a touchdown and throwing for another. *con't. on page 20*

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# In an Emergency, Which Hospital is the Best?

Last month we reported on hospital ratings for Heart Attack, Knee Replacement and Coronary Bypass Surgery. This month we focus on the following:

Gastrointestinal Surgeries and Procedures					Prostatectomy			Stroke				
Best ★★★★★ As Expected ★★★ Poor ★					Best ★★★★★ As Expected ★★★ Poor ★			Best ★★★★★ As Expected ★★★ Poor ★				
Hospital Name	Location	Inhospital Mortality (Survival)	Inhospital +1 Month Mortality (Recovery +30)	Inhospital +6 Month Mortality (Recovery +180)	Hospital Name	Location	Inhospital Mortality (Survival)	Hospital Name	Location	Inhospital Mortality (Survival)	Inhospital +1 Month Mortality (Recovery +30)	Inhospital +6 Month Mortality (Recovery +180)
Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★★★★★	Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★	Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★★★	★★★	★★★
Cape Coral Hospital	Cape Coral, FL	★★★	★★★	★★★	Lee Memorial Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★	Cape Coral Hospital	Cape Coral, FL	★★★	★★★★★	★★★
Gulf Coast Hospital	Ft. Myers, FL	★★★	★★★	★★★	Cape Coral Hospital	Cape Coral, FL	★★★	NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
NCH Healthcare System	Naples, FL	★★★	★★★	★★★	Physicians Regional Medical Center	Naples, FL	★	Physicians Regional Medical	Naples, FL	★★★	★★★	★★★
Physicians Regional Medical	Naples, FL	★★★	★★★	★★★								

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

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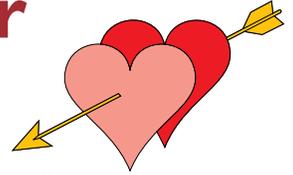
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# The Curious Photographer

Don't Forget Valentine's Day – February 14!



Question:

How long have you been married and where did you meet?



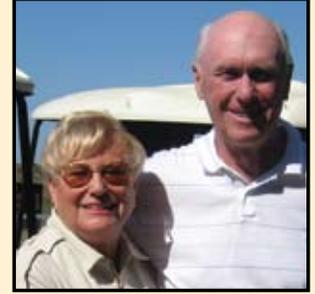
**Gary and Sandi Thompson**  
Anchorage



**Owen and Patty Berg**  
Azure



**Jan and Ron Nate**  
Bay Pointe



**Ginny and Everett Wixom**  
Hamptons

Married 50 years

We met in Junior High School in Des Moines, Iowa and were married after graduating college.

Married 34 years

We met at IBM in Endicott, New York where we both worked.

Married 40 years

We met through a mutual friend in our home town of Dowagiac, Michigan.

Married 44 years

We met at a going away party for a friend in Bayhead, New Jersey and were married a year later.

# Nicollet



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*Living on the course con't. from page 17*

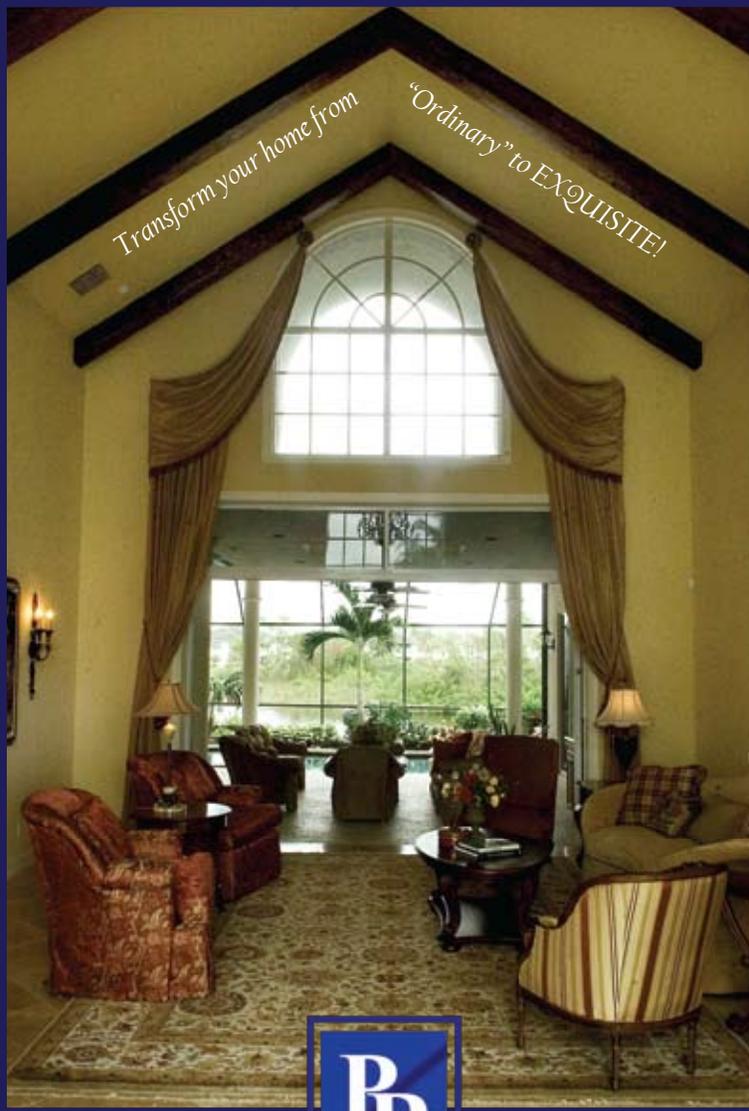
He'd ask Arnaldo, "Who lunged for the touchdown?" "How did he get the other one?"

He'd read an excerpt from The Economist, "Bernard Madoff worked as a lifeguard to earn enough money to start his own securities firm." Then he'd ask, "Who worked as a lifeguard? What did he do with the money?"

It went on like that for months: short news articles, questions, and hours of conversation. Finally the switch turned on. The newspapers and magazines were no longer needed and conversation flowed. Arnaldo was ready.

Now Mrs. Kane, who visits Dr. Arnaldo's Naples office at least twice a year, is sleeping well. Her headaches are gone and her back no longer bothers her. The doctor has his license and Charlie Hopkins has another student whom he sees between rounds of golf with the Unforgettables.

Besides Charlie Hopkins, there are many other dedicated Bonita Bay people who give their time to help others learn our language. Folks like Jim Brennan, Trudy Walker, Kathy O'Flinn, and Larry Mottice, to name a few are among the 563 tutors of the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs who coach their brothers and sisters the art of changing from Espanol to English.



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# Restaurant Reviews

by John Klocko, Riviera

*The focus this month is on Sushi eateries in the immediate area.*

**CIRELLA'S** Italian Bistro & Sushi Bar (next to the Regal Movie Theater) has over 100 items of Sushi, Temaki, Sashimi and combinations thereof, assembled daily with only the freshest ingredients. The Sushi Bar Chef is meticulous in his preparation, and all items are offered throughout the restaurant. Most popular items include the Dragon Roll, Spicy Tuna Roll and the Kiss Roll. This is an Italian restaurant which embodies the motto of "our family serving yours". They offer sumptuous Italian cuisine with the ambience of a Tuscan evening and the warmth of a home-style meal. Check out the pan sauteed calamari fritti served with fra diavolo sauce. A full range of Italian dishes are offered and some are in full or half portions; and Dino at the Bar pours a great drink.

**David Wong's PAN ASIAN & SUSHI** (near Congress Jewelers) offers Sushi, Sashimi and various combinations of traditional and specialty rolls. The owner is from Thailand via California to Miami to Bonita. He is very accommodating to mix and match your needs. They also offer a range of Asian appetizers, salads, soups, stir fry, teriyaki, tempura and curries. Large portions usually mean a take-home container. They are off to a good start after opening in December.

**TOKYO BAY** Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi (across from Agostino's Furniture on US41) offers a full Sushi Bar including specialty rolls and Sashimi items. The restaurant provides an oriental setting with bamboo and waterfalls, and piano music adds to the setting on weekends. Hibachi Grills are situated on the perimeter of the restaurant with seating for small groups for that famous Japanese flair of showmanship, closeup food preparation and delectable dishes of chicken, shrimp, lobster and steak. A traditional Japanese kitchen also offers items from the menu.

**The FIRESIDE DINING ROOM** at the Bonita Bay Club is a hidden gem for an upscale dining experience that is as good as any of the fine dining restaurants in Southwest Florida. The room seats 45 people and also offers a private side room for special occasion dinners. Robert and his black tie staff are there to meet your every need, ranging from the proper glassware for various beverages, a superb wine list, full liquor bar and excellent service. The food is American with some European influences depending on whether it is Dover Sole, Bouillabaisse, Rack of Lamb, Poultry or Steaks. The meal comes with complimentary "amuse-bouche" (starter taste teaser) and a sorbet palate cleanser before the main course. The Fireside Room presents an opportunity for an elegant evening without leaving the Bonita Bay Campus.



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*Grandchildren con't. from page 13*

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 Monday – Sunday 11 am to 10 pm

**Caribbean Gardens & Zoo**  
 1590 Goodlette Rd N  
 Naples, FL 34102  
**Phone: 239-262-5409**

Naples Zoo features a variety of fun wildlife presentations including two feature shows in the Safari Canyon Theater. Other fun activities include the Primate Expedition Cruise, a boat ride around islands where monkeys, lemurs and apes live in natural habitats, along with the Meet the Keeper series, Alligator Bay Feedings, Tropical Plant Trek, and more. Zoo guests also enjoy a restaurant, picnic area, three play areas, a wild butterfly garden, and a gift shop.

Monday – Sunday 9 am – 5 pm  
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# 2009 Academy Awards Contest

Winner will receive a \$50 Gift Certificate to Angelina's Ristorante

Please circle your selection

**BEST PICTURE - 5 pts.**

*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*  
*Frost/Nixon*  
*Milk*  
*The Reader*  
*Slumdog Millionaire*

**BEST DIRECTOR – 5 pts.**

*Danny Boyle, Slumdog Millionaire*  
*David Fincher, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*  
*Ron Howard, Frost/Nixon*  
*Stephen Daldry, Frost/Nixon*  
*Gus Van Sant, Milk*

**BEST ACTOR – 4 pts.**

*Richard Jenkins, The Visitor*  
*Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon*  
*Sean Penn, Milk*  
*Brad Pitt, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*  
*Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler*

**BEST ACTRESS – 4 pts.**

*Anne Hathaway, Rachel Getting Married*  
*Angelina Jolie, Changeling*  
*Melissa Leo, Frozen River*  
*Meryl Streep, Doubt*  
*Kate Winslet, The Reader*

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR – 3 pts.**

*Josh Brolin, Milk*  
*Heath Ledger, The Dark Knight*  
*Robert Downey Jr., Tropic Thunder*  
*Philip Seymour Hoffman, Doubt*  
*Michael Shannon, Revolutionary Road*

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS – 3 pts.**

*Amy Adams, Doubt*  
*Penelope Cruz, Vicky Christina Barcelona*  
*Viola Davis, Doubt*  
*Taraji P. Henson, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*  
*Marisa Tomei, The Wrestler*

**BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM –Tie Breaker #1**

*The Baader Meinhof Complex (Germany)*  
*The Class (France)*  
*Departures (Japan)*  
*Revanche (Austria)*  
*Waltz with Bashir (Israel)*

**BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT – Tie Breaker #2**

*Auf der Strecke (On the Line)*  
*Manon on the Asphalt*  
*New Boy*  
*The Pig*  
*Spitzezeugland (Toyland)*

**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT – Tie Breaker #3**

*The Conscience of Nhem En*  
*The Final Inch*  
*Smile Pinki*  
*The Witness – From the Balcony of Room 306*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rules: Submission must be post marked or emailed by February 20, 2009. Open to Bonita Bay residents only. One entry per person. Ties will be broken using Tie Breaker Questions. If a tie still exists, winner will be chosen by random draw. Editor's decision is final

**Please send entries to:**

Valdon Publishing  
P.O. Box 1604  
Bonita Springs, FL 34133  
or

Log on to [www.baywatchnews.com](http://www.baywatchnews.com)  
Click on "Academy Awards"

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN BONITA BAY

Sale Date	Selling Price	Neighborhood	Living Area	Address
12/26/08	\$350,000	Wedgewood	2100	26868 Wedgewood Dr. #202
12/30/08	\$329,000	Wedgewood	1723	26901 Wedgewood Dr. #204
12/30/08	\$305,000	Harbor Landing	1800	4440 Riverwatch Dr. #202
1/15/09	\$341,000	Wedgewood	1644	26901 Wedgewood Dr. #103



## Movie Talk

### New/coming soon on DVD

- ★★★ **Bottle Shock** : Tells the true story of the international wine competition that helped establish Napa Valley. Interesting story though marred by extraneous material thrown in to make it a full-length feature.
- ★★★★ **The Secret Life of Bees** : Based on the best selling novel, film takes place in the South in 1964. Dakota Fanning plays the 14 year-old white girl whose best friend is her African-American housekeeper. Fanning is absolutely wonderful.
- ★★★★ **Body of Lies** : Russell Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio star in this CIA story that asks the question "Who can you trust?" Interesting, action-based thriller that shows the Crowe character balancing his CIA duties with his fatherly duties.
- ★★★★ **Flash of Genius** : Greg Kinnear stars in this true David vs. Goliath movie. He plays Robert Kearns as the man who invented the intermittent windshield wiper. His struggles against the automotive industry create personal hardships.
- ★★★★★ **Changeling** : This Clint Eastwood directed movie stars Angelina Jolie as the mother determined to find her abducted son. Based on a true story set in the 1920's in Los Angeles. Eastwood proves once again that he is a very fine film maker.

### Current Theatrical Releases

- ★★★ **Revolutionary Road** : Slow talking melodrama set in 1950's suburbia. This anti "Ozzie and Harriet" makes "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" seem like a tale of a marriage made in heaven. Good Performances by Winslet, DiCaprio, Bates and Academy Award nominee Michael Shannon.
- ★★★★★ **Defiance**: Fact-based story of the four Bielski Brothers who, after the murder of their parents in 1941, rescue other Jews from extermination and fight against the Nazis. This small group eventually grows to over 1000 men, women and children who struggle in the Belarussian Forest. While a bit overlong, the film is an interesting analysis of revenge, survival, power and relationships.
- ★★★★★ **Frost/Nixon** : Director Ron Howard again demonstrates his talent with this excellent screen treatment of a true story as he did with "Apollo 13", "A Beautiful Mind" and "Cinderella Man". Terrific performances all around ... the film manages to portray Nixon as the complex figure he was.
- ★★★ **The Wrestler** : Low budget movie that has gotten notoriety because of Mickey Rourke's performance as an aging, drug using, ex top professional wrestler. Don't bother to see it if you don't care about wrestling, think wrestling is real or can't stand the sight of blood.

Ratings are based on a five ★ basis.


  
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# Superior Interiors

-by Judy Underwood, Allied ASID

## Most Common Decorating Mistakes to Avoid

### Part 1

**Beginning Without a Plan**—Prior to beginning any decorating project, take time to determine your priorities, your timing, your budget, and your goals. Don't forget function, while creating your 'look'. The Plan will serve to keep you on track during the process.

**Painting First**—Painting is the first thing you DO after your Plan is in place, but paint color is the last thing you SELECT. Painted walls completed prior to selecting the colors for your furnishings and flooring will severely limit your color selections on everything else. For beautiful color harmony, pull your wall and ceiling paint colors from your fabrics and flooring.

**Incorrect Scale and Balance**—One of the most important design principles is scale. Furniture that was appropriate in another home with 8' ceilings may look like toy furniture in a new home with 14' ceilings. Each piece of furniture should be in scale with the rest of the pieces in the room, as well as overall size and proportion.

**Out of Control Clutter**—Whether it is collections, family pictures, throw pillows or faux greenery, too much of anything is simply clutter. Select and display only a few important things and store the rest. Rotate items in and out, if you wish. Less is definitely more!

**Furniture Mistakes**—Too large, too small, too delicate, too "chunky" or just the wrong look for the space. These mistakes can be very expensive, and throw off your Plan.

**Falling for Fads**—Fads are fun and fresh...but also fleeting. Satisfy your whimsy with small purchases such as a wildly printed throw pillow, or an eye-catching piece of wall art that can be easily and inexpensively replaced when you tire of them.

**Look for the March edition of Bay Watch News for Part 2.**

*Judy Underwood, Allied ASID, and partner Cliff Welles, ASID, own INTERIORS by Decorating Den in Bonita Springs. 239-948-9779 [www.decdens.com/sfl](http://www.decdens.com/sfl).*

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# Avoiding Computer Viruses and Spyware

When it comes to viruses, spyware (software that covertly gathers information as you navigate the Internet) and adware (which displays advertisements in pop-up windows or banners), the problem usually is a result of downloading something free. Downloading free music, games, movies or even viewing pictures can be very risky. Users must be confident of the source or website offering these freebies. Unless you're certain the website is legitimate, just don't do it. And even if it IS a well known website, it is very important you have the latest version of antivirus software and security protection.

Do not believe everything you read on the screen. Sometimes a pop-up window announces an infection, and can trick you into "clicking here" to fix it. Don't do it unless you are 100% sure it is the security software already installed on your computer sending you the message. There are a few things you should do to protect yourself.

Install the latest version of antivirus software and make sure it is updating weekly. Whether it is the free packages such as AVG and Avast, or the packages offered by Comcast and Embarq, make sure they are updated to handle the latest threats. Products like Norton or McAfee are purchased and need to be repurchased when they expire, typically each year. Keep in mind that on a new computer, the preinstalled security systems are trials and expire

within a few months at most. All good protection packages update weekly to protect from the newest threats.

Install the Microsoft Windows Updates. These updates often fix security issues with XP and Vista. In Windows XP, you get a yellow shield near your clock and a notification telling you updates are available to install. In Vista, you will get a light blue box with a golden circle around it and notification as well. Install them immediately.

Make sure your firewall is enabled. Some security packages provide a firewall but Windows includes a simple firewall as well. This helps prevent direct attacks on your computer.

Both XP and Vista actually have something called Security Center that monitors these issues and notifies you of related problems. If you have a red shield down by your clock, there is a problem with your security and you should take action to protect yourself. There are no guarantees you will not get a virus because new threats are constantly coming out but careful surfing and updated security software is your best protection.

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Terry and Susan Mulligan  
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## "What's Happening in Real Estate?"

Now that winter is here, we are finally "in season." Based on what Jeff and I have seen so far, the season looks promising. In just a few short weeks, we have sold a gorgeous larger home, a great villa

and a very nice smaller condo – all in Bonita Bay and all in the past month.

We were fortunate enough to work with sellers who each understood the economy. They also understood the financial markets and the real estate market. Most importantly, they were realistic about the current fair market value of their homes.

I've been selling real estate since 1970. During that time, I've been through many types of markets – boom, steady, slow, soft, and bust. For the past year, the market in Bonita Springs has been slow. As with any market though – the best properties, when priced properly, always sell. If you are a seller who understands this, you can start packing because

your house will probably sell soon. If not, you may have to wait quite some time before you can move along.

If you are a buyer in today's market, you should be patient and disciplined. Rather than falling in love with a particular house, you should wait until you find a home that is owned by a motivated and serious seller. With this strategy in mind, you may not end up buying your first choice but you will get a great buy at a great price. Your new home will be one that you can be very happy about and, when the market fully recovers -- as it surely will -- your new home will have an even greater upside.

The old adage is true: money is made by buying when the buyers are few and by selling when the buyers are plentiful. So, unless you need to sell your home today, my advice is to stay put. If for some reason you do need to sell, be realistic. If you are a buyer, this is your market. The brave souls who buy today can get a great deal and when today's buyer becomes a seller years from now, they will realize their inevitably larger profit.

**Happy House Hunting!**  
**Jeff and Gary Jaarda**

# Classified Ads

## Condo For Rent:

Wild Pines: 2br/2b, 2nd fl, with large living room, dining area, kitchen, lanai overlooking lake; 1,000 sq.ft.. Call: 845-494-6659

**Bay Pointe:** 2nd floor overlooking preserve. For rent seasonally or monthly. 3br/2b \$5,500/month plus tax Call: John 847-274-3883

**Sandpiper Condo:** Fully furnished, 2 bedroom/ 2 bath condo with den available for the month of April. Reasonably priced. Call 239-948-5292.

**Greenbriar III:** Beautifully-furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo for rent beginning April 1 with golf course view. Please call 239-390-2049 if you know someone who may be interested.

## Furniture for Sale

Only 3 years old. Almost never used. Karastan 8'x10' oriental rug, oriental 54" octagon entry rug, bamboo dining room set with 75" glass top and 6 chairs, Ethan Allen black wrought iron daybed with trundle and custom bedding, Lexington Tommy Bahama entertainment center, tropical 3 panel metal screen. Call 239-949-1174

**For Sale** - Twin Beds, pine headboards, foot boards, side rails, Kingsdown mattress and box springs. Please call 495-6892.

## Cars for sale

2002 Nissan Altima S, 4D, mint green, 104k mi., very good condition. \$6,900.00 239-405-7762

2005 Mercedes ML500, Pristine, 31k mi., black, fully equipped, leather, Nav., Bose, moon roof, \$22,900.00 239-405-7762

## Bicycle for Sale

Ladies 24 speed Schwinn World bike. Like new, \$300. 239-390-0101

## Boat Partner Wanted

Looking for a third partner. 23.5 ft. Ebb Tide deck boat, 200 hp, stored inside at BB Marina. Investment \$4500. Call Paul Spinka 630-640-8604 or 239-992-9098 or Don McLean 314-822-3997 or 239-498-5852.

BOAT PARTNER, OR PARTNERS, WANTED. Partner deceased. 24ft. Chaparral Sunesta deckboat. 270hp. I/O. Has always been stored inside at BB Marina. Photo at Marina. Call Russ Geldmacher at 239-992-0918.

## Boat for Sale

2005 Chaparral Sunesta 254 with 5.70 Volvo Penta engine... 26' deck boat with extended warranty until 2011... 245 hours/bimini top/bow and cockpit covers/dual prop/dual batteries/porta potti/bar/console/stereo radio/cd player/coast guard package w/ lifejackets, fenders, lines, etc... Excellent condition w/ new water pump, oil pan & fuel filter... Contact Doug 239-949-5954 on Marina Pointe to see and test.

## Sewing Machine

Like new condition. Husqvarna Viking Rose Model 600. One touch computer sewing machine. Embroidery attachments. Instruction manuals. Large deluxe wheeled carrying case. Please call (239) 992-1979

## Patio/Lanai Set

Mint condition. Love seat glider, reclining lounge chairs (2) with ottomans, glass top table (36" round) with dining chairs (2), 19" round glass top end tables (2), glass top lamp table (26Dx19Wx21H), glass top coffee table (36wx18Dx17H). Call Carla at 239-947-9324.

## Wanted Feature Writers

If you have always loved to write and would like to have your story and by line published in Bay Watch News, please call 239-498-9507

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## What in the World...



Do you recognize this photo? It is something you see everyday in Bonita Bay. Log on to [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com) and be the first to correctly identify this mystery object.

Winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Angelina's Restaurant.

## We Have a Winner!

Judy Quandt of Laurel Ridge was the first person to correctly identify the "Mystery Object" in the January Edition of Bay Watch News as the top of a mail box post. You can also see this object on all of the sign posts in Bonita Bay. Congratulations to Judy and thank you to all the others who participated.



Judy Quandt



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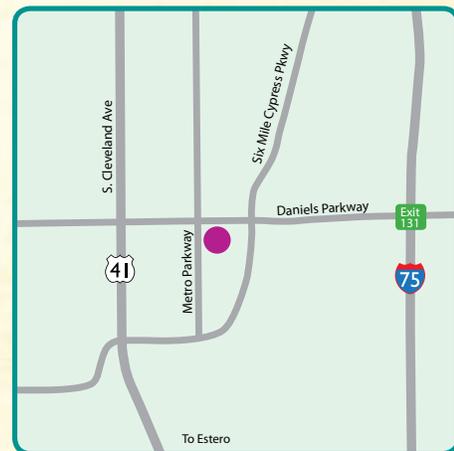
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