



Guests can now enjoy al fresco dining at Thistle Lodge.

## NEW AWNING INSTALLED AT THISTLE LODGE

After the recent installation of a new awning covering the entire side patio area, the Thistle Lodge has a brand new look. Now dining al fresco in the Florida sun is more comfortable for guests and provides a new feeling of intimacy and privacy. Many guests had wanted to dine out but preferred being in the shade. Now they can do just that.

The project was two years in the making, according to resort General Manager Awilda Rivera. This was because the work had to be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the awning did not have any adverse affect on the environment. Issues had to be addressed concerning coastal construction, flood lines and a variety of other complex factors.

“We had to be sure that the awning did not interfere with native plants and animals.” said Awilda, “This even required a new grounds survey.”

The Thistle Lodge is one of the very limited waterfront dining restaurants on the Islands, which is sure to increase its popularity with visitors and guests.

## Resort Website Update

The new Casa Ybel owners' website is expected to be up and running shortly. This site will facilitate communications with the owners and both associations, utilizing the Casa Ybel Resort's website. Both associations have now made **casaybelresort.com** their official website.

By utilizing this website, FGH and IJK Boards of Directors can expand their efforts to keep you informed about what is happening at the resort. This website will be updated regularly with improvements being made by your Board.

If needed in the future, it will also be used to forward emergency information or directives from HGVC.

In addition, you can use the site to rent your units through Casa Hospitality Services, read electronic versions of the Sandscript, and obtain all Board contact information.

This website is being created as an additional means of communications and not to replace those already in place. The hard copy of the *Sandscript* will still be mailed out and the emergency number (1-800-761-8940) will continue to be updated on a monthly basis. A link is also provided to direct you to the section of the Hilton website that contains our Board meeting minutes.

As we further develop the site, there will be photos of changes being made to the resort, your units and the common areas. We hope you find this website informative and we will continue to try and improve upon it as time goes on.

**Ron Miller, President IJK**  
**Dick Jackson, President FGH**



## *Sanibel Diversions For Your Pleasure*

Get a little too much sun? Pool too crowded? Want to do something different, but don't want to pay the \$6.00 toll to return from the mainland? Here are some suggestions of "on island" excursions that are educational, enjoyable, inexpensive and are easily accessible from Casa Ybel on foot, bicycle or you can even drive there.

### **Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)**

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road  
472-2329 | [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org)

SCCF offers a wide variety of activities from self-guided walks through conservation lands, to docent-guided cruises in the Roosevelt Channel and many activities in-between. Don't miss the butterfly house! You can join SCCF for as little as \$35 a year and help promote the work of the Foundation and as a bonus, you will receive a discount at the gift shop, free or reduced prices for tours and a monthly newsletter containing articles of interest about the organization, their staff, current projects and many other topics. Hours vary with the season, so check before you go.

### **Sanibel Public Library**

770 Dunlop Road  
239-472-2483 | [www.sanlib.org](http://www.sanlib.org)

In addition to books, the library has CD's, VHS and DVD movies and games available for check out. The library also offers a wide selection of newspapers and magazines. Wireless internet access is available throughout the building and the library has about 20 computers for internet access and word processing for use within the facility. Library cards are free if you own property on Sanibel, including interval ownership units. Ask them to hold your card for you when you go home, they will be glad to do so.

### **Sanibel Historic Village**

Located on Dunlop Road, the entrance to the village is through an original "cracker house." Exhibits include the first Bailey's general store, a Sears and Roebuck house, many other restored buildings and Bailey's Model-T delivery truck. Tours are conducted during the open hours, (Check the sign at the entrance for hours.) Contributions requested.

### **Sanibel Offers Several Public Access Beaches**

Lighthouse Beach and Fishing Pier, Gulfside City Park, Tarpon Bay Beach, Bowman's Beach and Turner Beach all afford beach access with parking. Parking is \$2 per hour. Walk or bike and visit without charge.

### **Rent a Canoe at Tarpon Bay Marina or "Tween Waters Inn on Captiva**

Visit Buck Key or the Wildlife Refuge by water.

### **JM (Ding) Darling Wildlife Preserve**

239-472-1100 | [www.fws.gov/dingdarling](http://www.fws.gov/dingdarling)

1 Wildlife Drive off San-Cap Road at the 2-mile marker is always a delight to visit. Wildlife exhibits and films are presented at the Visitor's Center. The 5-mile one-way Wildlife Drive is open daily 7:30 AM to sunset except Friday. If you are 62 years old or older, you may purchase a lifetime Golden Age Passport for \$10, which provides access to the Wildlife Drive, but also admission to all National Parks and Monuments. This is a real bargain as admissions to National Parks costs as much as \$20. The passports can be obtained at the Visitor's Center.

# ***RESORT REMINDERS***

- Members of the resort team are here to assist you during your stay. If you are unhappy about something at the resort, please do not take your frustrations out on the Guest Services Agents at the Front Desk. Share your concerns constructively and they will either offer a solution or gladly forward your concerns to the appropriate member of management who will then be able to follow up with you.

- Room Moves are a courtesy service provided to you by Casa Ybel Hospitality. Please be sure to have all your belongings packed and placed in the hallway. Perishable foods can remain in the refrigerator, however, should likewise be bagged and ready to go. Remember to provide the Guest Service Agent with your cell phone number so that they may contact you to advise when the suite you'll be moving to is ready.

- Please do not wait until the Tuesday morning owners' coffee to tell us about housekeeping issues or anything that needs to be repaired in your unit. Let us know as soon as you discover it. Don't let it be an inconvenience to you.

- Once again, do not plan check in prior to 3 p.m. With previous guests checking out at 10 a.m., it is critical for our housekeeping team to have the appropriate time to properly clean all units, including yours. No exceptions!

- For the benefit of others, please refrain from smoking inside any of the resort units. Smoking on the balconies also causes problems as the smoke often enters nearby units when windows are open.



*Bridge Update: As you can see by this photo, taken in early March, construction on the Sanibel Causeway is continuing somewhat on schedule. According to its website, ([www.sanibelcauseway.com](http://www.sanibelcauseway.com)) Sept. 8 is the target date for completion of the first section of the Causeway and fixed bridge. The final span will not be completed until later.*

## ***FGH President's Letter***

What a great year we had in 2006! No hurricanes! Even without storms, we continued to clean up from Charley, Frances and Wilma and to complete several projects to enhance our property. The broken sidewalks and curbs have been replaced. Hand rails have been added to the stairs at the parking lot side. All the windows have been replaced with hurricane code, large missile impact-resistant glass.

All bills have been paid, we are rebuilding the reserves and our association is in sound financial condition.

For 2007, we are replacing all of the Gulf-front sliding-glass doors, which will be hurricane code, large missile impact-resistant glass. Work will continue on replacing rotted wood. The air conditioning compressors have already been replaced. New electronic lock wall safes will soon be installed.

Several years ago, I realized we needed to have a way of ensuring that new owners would be elected to serve on your Board of Directors. I then wrote the By-law changes that require a sit out year after two consecutive three-year terms on the Board. Both the Board and you approved these changes. Because of this, I am not eligible for election this year.

During the 23 years I have served on the Board, there have been many good times and a few bad times. I can truthfully say, I have always tried to do and see that the best overall thing was done for our association.

I am pleased to see that the change I intended when I wrote the By-law changes is happening. This year, you will elect at least one new person who has not previously served on the Board. This is a good thing!

In closing, thank you for your support these last 23 years!

— **Dick Jackson, Board President**

## **HAPPY SALES NEWS!**

We are pleased to report that your Casa Ybel Resort sales team had a record-breaking year in sales volume last year! During 2006, super sales ladies Rita and Mary Lou completed sales totalling \$1.9 million. Already this year, by early March, they had sold over a half million dollars. Way to go, gals!

They remind you that there are always people looking for winter weeks, so contact them at 239-472-1531 if you'd like to sell or add to your vacation time.

## ***NEW RETAIL ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE!***

According to Resort GM Awilda Rivera, "In addition to sunglasses and suntan oils that we currently sell, we are going to begin phasing in more retail items for the benefit of owners and guests."

This will include items such as hats, tee shirts, visors, etc. Due to limited space for this type of activity, they will be displayed at the pool towel station with purchases made at the pool bar.

Rentals of beach equipment such as chairs, cabanas and umbrellas are also available to protect you and your family from the Florida sunshine.

The Resort has also expanded its bike line to include tug-a-bug, baby carriers, and tandem bikes. **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!** Reservations for recreational equipment can be made through the Recreation Department at Extension 1319.

"Our desire is to continue to add more items to help make your vacation more enjoyable and memorable," says Awilda.



*Little Walter and Vanessa Wingard, of Silver Spring, Maryland, enjoy fun playtimes by the resort pool. Their grandparents are owners John and Joyce Saeger of Lancaster, Pa.*



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## TRADING POST

There are three owners interested in trading their units. Please contact them directly if your needs match.

- George Stewart owns Unit 220G, Week 34 and desires any week from Week 25 through 32. Contact him by phone at 845-304-1113.
- Mary Anderson owns Unit 210G, Week 26 and wants to trade to Week 31. Contact her at 352-552-4079.
- Mr. & Mrs. Curt Thomas own Week 36 in Unit 185H and would like to trade for Week 28. Call them at: 352-753-1518 or 352-430-9023.

## *New Owners Love Island Atmosphere*

David Kinney and wife Stella Koch are relatively new owners to Casa Ybel Resort, having purchased about a year ago. These residents of Great Falls, Virginia (in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.) had been coming to Sanibel for many years and had previously considered a whole ownership purchase. They also own at another timeshare resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

“For us,” said David, “the timeshare made more sense so we purchased two consecutive weeks in February and March. We like the condition of the resort and found the management team highly responsive to suggestions. This was the ideal way to have an affordable place on the water with a great view of the Gulf of Mexico every day and no worries about upkeep of the property.”

Stella works as a conservation coordinator for the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Mid-Atlantic States. The couple had visited Sanibel for many years as rental guests and say a large attraction to the island is its seclusion and natural environment. They enjoy nature-related activities, the annual shell show and the informal island atmosphere.

When not vacationing, David is an automobile appraiser, specializing in antique and classic automobiles and an automotive journalist with his own priceguide for sports cars and classic vehicles entitled *Cars That Matter*. He is a regular contributor to the *New York Times* automobile section, and *Sports Car Market Magazine*. He also writes a monthly column in both *AUTOMOBILE* and the British publication *Octane*.



## Vacation Ownership A Major Growth Industry

After over three decades of consistent growth, vacation ownership has matured to become a significant segment of today's travel and leisure industry with worldwide acceptance. By 2007, there were over seven million households owning weekly intervals or point equivalents at nearly 6,000 resorts in 100 countries. Four million families owned at over 1,600 U.S. resorts with U.S. sales volume in 2005 reaching \$8.6 billion. With nearly 1,000 percent growth in the last two decades, vacation ownership remains one of the fastest growing segments of the travel and tourism industry.

Looking ahead, the industry is predicted to continue its dramatic growth to satisfy increasing consumer demand for quality travel and leisure vacation products. Hilton Grand Vacations Company intends not only to keep pace with this industry, but also to remain poised in its leadership position, continuing to provide innovative travel and leisure products and services with an increasing network of quality resorts in highly desired vacation destinations.

## 2007 INTERVAL CALENDAR

This calendar is included for your help in planning future vacations. Please remember that all owners (not the resort) are responsible for knowing the dates of the week(s) they own. Please retain this calendar for future reference.

These dates are for Friday to Friday at Casa Ybel Resort.

18	May 4 – May 11	
19	May 11 – May 18	
20	May 18 – May 25	
21	May 25 – June 1	Memorial Day
22	Jun 1 – Jun 8	
23	Jun 8 – Jun 15	
24	Jun 15 – Jun 22	
25	Jun 22 – Jun 29	
26	Jun 29 – Jul 6	Independence Day
27	Jul 6 – Jul 13	
28	Jul 13 – Jul 20	
29	Jul 20 – Jul 27	
30	Jul 27 – Aug 3	
31	Aug 3 – Aug 10	
32	Aug 10 – Aug 17	
33	Aug 17 – Aug 24	
34	Aug 24 – Aug 31	
35	Aug 31 – Sep 7	Labor Day
36	Sep 7 – Sep 14	
37	Sep 14 – Sep 21	
38	Sep 21 – Sep 28	
39	Sep 28 – Oct 5	
40	Oct 5 – Oct 12	
41	Oct 12 – Oct 19	
42	Oct 19 – Oct 26	
43	Oct 26 – Nov 2	
44	Nov 2 – Nov 9	
45	Nov 9 – Nov 16	
46	Nov 16 – Nov 23	
47	Nov 23 – Nov 30	Thanksgiving
48	Nov 30 – Dec 7	
49	Dec 7 – Dec 14	
50	Dec 14 – Dec 21	
51	Dec 21 – Dec 28	Christmas
52	Dec 28 – Jan 4	New Year's

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Hilton Grand Vacations Co.**  
407-722-3144 (Owner Services)  
Mon–Fri 8 am–7 pm EST  
Sat 9 am–5 pm EST  
Sunday Closed

**Interval Office at Casa Ybel**  
239-395-1876 (Chris & Astra)  
Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm EST  
Fax: 239-395-2298

**Sales:**  
239-472-1531  
Rita & Mary Lou

**Casa Hospitality Services  
Resort Rental Contracts**  
239-472-3145  
Fax: 239-472-2109

**For additional resort updates:**  
1-800-761-8940  
www.casaybelresort.com  
password: Paradise

### AFTER HOURS CALLS

Please remember, unlike the resort's front desk, which is staffed 24/7, the Interval office is open only on Monday–Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If you are trying to locate a friend or family member after hours, DO NOT CALL the Interval Office. Instead, call the resort's main line at 239-472-3145 and they will try to locate your party.

Since the resort is equipped with a voice mail system, the caller can leave a detailed message.

If you know the unit number, should you prefer to bypass the hotel operator and call the unit directly, you can dial 239-579-1020. This is an "automated attendant" and will require you to enter the number 1, followed by the extension, which is the unit number.

When leaving on your trip, please make sure you have passed on your unit number to family and friends who may wish to contact you directly.





## Tennis Courts Resurfaced In Blue

We are happy to report that all six of the resort tennis courts have been resurfaced with a new bright blue acrylic coating, similar to the color used on tournament courts, such as the U.S. Open. In earlier times, tennis was played with white balls, which were easy to see on green courts. Yellow balls have been in use for several years, although the court color remained the same. They are far easier to see on blue courts.

The resurfacing work was done by Center Court, Inc. of Fort Myers Beach. Acrylic coating mixed with sand was used. A fiberglass membrane was also installed to help reduce reflections of cracks in the asphalt.

The work was done in phases with three courts closed while the others were being resurfaced. While availability may have been limited, working in phases resulted in no down time for guests who wanted to play.

Usually resurfacing is done every 3–5 years. It had been some time since the resort courts had been resurfaced. Additionally, the courts had developed cracks on the asphalt, due to age and flooding caused by heavy rains after the hurricanes of 2004. This disrupted the balance of the courts.

To complement the new blue surfaces, the area surrounding the courts is also getting a facelift with new decking installed in the observation area.

## IJK Board President's Letter

Your Board of Directors has completed the budget for calendar year 2007. Most of the details of that budget were summarized in the letter accompanying the maintenance fee billing. What was not covered were the items that we will be using the reserve funds for during 2007.

As you are aware, with the exception of a few items still needed to be taken care of on the inside of the units, the interiors are in great shape. Therefore, for calendar year 2007 the Board is and will be concentrating on the outside. The main project will be the wood replacement on the parking lot side. This will include all the stairs, railings, ramps, and utility cabinets. Once that is completed, we also will be replacing all of the tile on the entrances. This wood and tile is over 23 years old and needs attention. I am sure you will be happy with the outcome.

As always, we do appreciate your input. Therefore, please feel free to contact myself or the other Board members. Our contact information is included in the publication and is also available from the Interval Office.

— Ron Miller  
President IJK Board of Directors

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