

Sand Script

Casa Ybel Resort Spring Newsletter 2017



Where Sanibel Happens

Sitting on land that was donated by one of Sanibel's original residents, The Community House has served as the historical heart of the island, remaining in its original location for 90 years. Built in 1927, the landmark building on Periwinkle Way has a history rich in service to islanders. It is also a gathering site for special activities like the annual Shell Show & Festival, one of the largest and longest running shell-related shows in the world.

Operated by the Sanibel Community Association (SCA) as a nonprofit organization, The Community House is recognized as the birthplace of most island organizations and clubs. Today, it serves as the location for continuous special events and educational classes. Most of the island's clubs and nonprofit organizations consider The Community House to be their "home." In fact, nearly 50,000 people attend events and activities at "the House" each year.

In order to meet the growing needs of the community, the building recently enjoyed a \$3.5 million renovation with funds raised from community donations. Upgrades include a revitalized foundation and a commercial-grade kitchen, which has become the official Culinary Education Center on Sanibel. There are updated bathrooms, fire sprinkler system, landscaping and a new covered drop-off area at the side of the Community

House, which enhances the appearance and functionality of the building. An enlarged lobby now offers access to all three of the larger meeting rooms, improving the scheduling and flow of having multiple events taking place at the same time.

To learn more about activities such as yoga, shell crafts, art and cooking classes, as well as a "death match" between robots, we invite you to check out the website at SanibelCommunityHouse.net.

This could be the perfect place to go on a rainy day during your next Sanibel Island visit.



Super Safe Sanibel

eventh safest city in Florida out of 410 municipalities within the state. The determination was based on the review of crime reports as well as property crimes. The City of Sanibel's FBI Uniform Crime Report is the lowest recorded in the last 13 years

Based on a report released by the National Council for Home Safety and Security, the City of Sanibel has been designated as the





Miss Mia Concepcion, of Apopka, Florida, dances with joy as she enjoys the pristine Sanibel beach during a March Casa Ybel Resort vacation. Perfect weather kept the spirited two-year old hopping as she zipped about making sandcastles and searching for seashells.

Sales News

Greetings from the resale office! Winter is over, but I still need more weeks to satisfy the people waiting for them. I also need June weeks as there are not many for sale. If you think you might want to sell yours, let me know. If you want to see what is for sale, go to my website at casaybelsales.com or call me at 239-472-1531. This is the number to use for all your needs, including information on joining the Hilton Grand Vacations Club. If you want to know prices at our 3 sister resorts – Sanibel Cottages, Hurricane House or Tortuga Beach Club – I can help you with that also. Have a great spring and summer! *Rita*

Please "Like" Us!

We want your love! We invite all Owners and guests to "like" us on Facebook, and other social media and "share" your great vacation photos. We have over 22,000 followers but would love to have more. Facebook and Instagram are great places to post photos of your family vacation fun, dining at Thistle Lodge and to help spread the good word about our resort. You can also log on to www.Facebook.com/casaybelresort.com

Breakfast Comes to Coconuts

Enjoying a yummy breakfast beside the pool is no longer just a dream for our Owners. With our new state-of-the-art outdoor grill and kitchen at Coconuts, guests can now enjoy a full menu of breakfast selections. Served Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., offerings include eggs any style, breakfast flat bread or wrap, several varieties of omelets, or Belgian waffles. Sides include Applewood smoked bacon, steel cut Irish oatmeal, breakfast potatoes, breakfast sausage, Sourdough or English muffin and a selection of hot and cold beverages.



35 Years of Cherished Memories

This is a tale of two families, both of whom purchased at Casa Ybel Resort in the early 80s.

Karen and Paul Rohlff, of Davenport, Iowa are among the early Casa Ybel Owners, purchasing in 1981. Priscilla and Franklin Hundley are from Concord, Massachusetts, and first visited the resort about 35 years ago, renting from the Rohlff family. They enjoyed their vacation so much, they also became Owners ... and that's where this story really begins.

In reflecting on their decades of resort ownership, both Karen and Priscilla agree that the entire process has been totally about family and friends, old and new, enjoying the beautiful resort together year after year and the cherished memories both families have of their wonderful times together at Casa Ybel Resort.

Before retirement, Paul Rohlff was an urologist and Karen a teacher. They have four children and a whopping even dozen grandkids aged 6-25 and own eight weeks in March in three units. (We believe this is some kind of record and commend them for this achievement!)

Their Sanibel vacation time coincided with spring break in their school system and became a cherished escape from the harsh Iowa winters. Shares Karen, "We loved so many aspects of the resort as our children grew up. The slide and diving board that used to be on the pool were favorites. The beach and tennis courts were a huge attraction and the resort's wide, open spaces were perfect for our budding baseball players.



Priscilla and Frank Hundley with Paul and Karen Rohlff

Now our grandchildren make coming to Casa Ybel a priority for their spring breaks."

Karen recalls that it was interesting to see how the kids' activity preferences changed as they grew older, from pool and beach to bikes, kayaking and fishing. Paul agrees and says, "My 'fun' meter has also changed over the years. Instead of strenuous tennis and jogging enjoyed in my younger years, I receive as much enjoyment from short walks and reading in a most peaceful environment."

The Hundleys now own four weeks, purchased over the years. Franklin was an attorney and Priscilla a high school teacher. "Our children, who all live in the West, have enjoyed many good times at

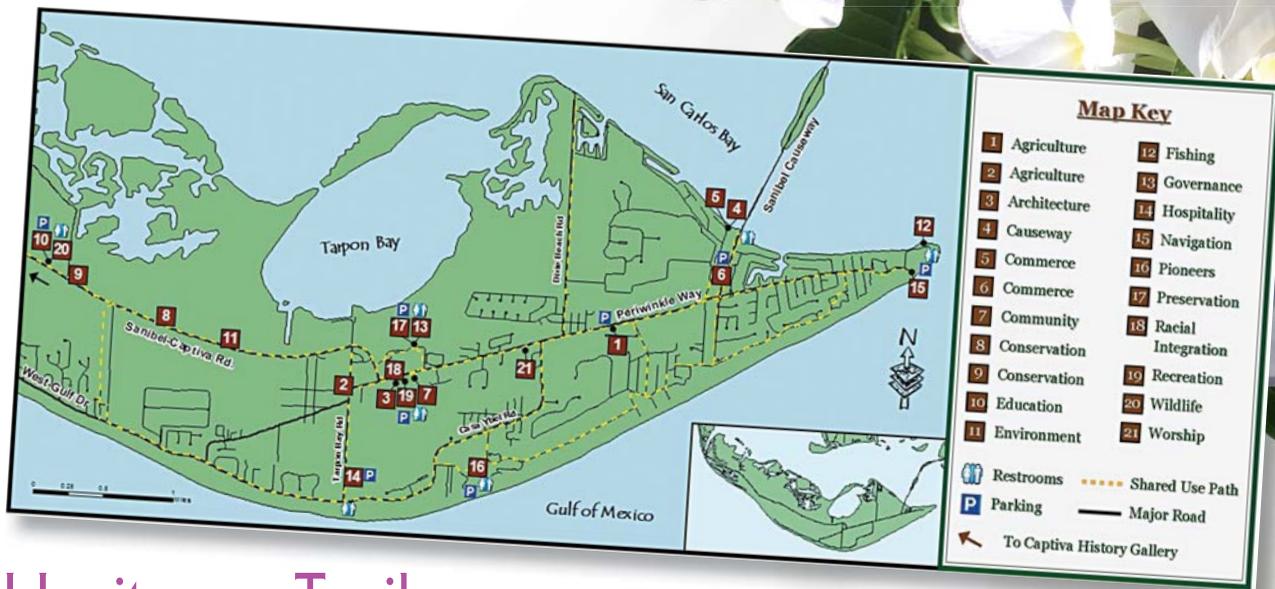
Casa Ybel over the years," says Priscilla. "We love the beautiful grounds and the many fun things to do on the Island. We especially appreciate the members of the terrific staff of Casa Ybel who are always so helpful. Best of all, as 'seniors' we can do as much or as little as we want. Casa Ybel is the perfect vacation setting, and a place where we look forward to seeing family and friends each year."

In reflecting on three decades of vacations, Priscilla says, "It was like summer camp for adults!" She admits that many of the Hundley's great vacation memories were the result of the strong friendship that evolved over the years with the entire Rohlff family.

Avoid Scam Calls

We urge you to use caution if contacted by unsolicited callers that promise to have located buyers or renters for your timeshares. Illegitimate calls can range from fake surveys to people imitating timeshare sales representatives who often ask for advance broker fees, closing costs, title searches and other "administrative" fees in order to facilitate the sale of the timeshare property. Some even promise that the fees will be returned after closing. Once the victims of these scams have paid the requested fees, the real estate transactions do not occur and the "businesses" never communicate with them again. Sadly, some newspapers are filled with this type of story as fraudulent companies are charged and arrested - some for as many as 20 years of imprisonment with hefty fines.





Heritage Trail

Sanibel visitors will soon be able to enjoy a whole new way of exploring the island and its history via the Sanibel Heritage Trail. When completed later this spring, the Trail will feature 21 outdoor reader panels along the mixed-use path, a free map-guide, a web page and a cell phone app.

Each panel features its own topic and is not positioned in a sequential manner. They will present text and historic photos addressing many aspects of Sanibel's unique heritage, including its pioneer settlers, agriculture, architecture, causeway, conservation and environment. Most of the panels will be located from the lighthouse end of the island all the way to the Sanibel School.

The "trail" will be accessible to all island residents and visitors and will emphasize the resourcefulness, persistence and strong values associated with Sanibel's heritage. The project is the culmination of five years of research and planning by many organizations involved with its development. Go to

MySanibel.com to obtain more information and a map guide to help guide you to a panel of specific interest.

The hospitality panel will include some of Casa Ybel's history and is planned for installation this summer at the Tarpon Bay beach access lot. Map guides will also be available at the resort.

The City also has a free traffic-related smart phone application: "Sanibel Bound," which will show real time cameras at certain points along Periwinkle. It can also be used to download the trail map with locations.

2017 Trading Post

Here are the current exchange listings

- Dennis Skowronski would like to trade unit 204G week 28 for any week 37 through week 45 in 2017. Please call 248-705-0293 or email dskowronski@sbcglobal.net
- Sam & Beth Horn would like to trade unit 176H week 32 for week 30 in 2017. Please call 262-442-4866 or email bhorn@bju.edu
- Joanna & Steven Laizure would like to trade unit 150F week 43 for any week 20 through week 31, 2017. Please call 901-218-6397 or email jhudson@uthsc.edu
- David Carey would like to trade unit 1611 week 14 for a week 9 in 2018. 248-804-3422 or email davidscarey@gmail.com

FGH Board of Directors

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Board Member contact information may be found at the resort's website: www.casaybelresort.com or by calling the Interval Management Office at 239-395-1876.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Hilton Grand Vacations
Owner Services**

407-722-3144

Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. EST

Fri -Sat 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST • Sunday closed

Interval Management Office at Casa Ybel

239-395-1876 (Chris & Lisa)

Mon-Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST

FAX: 239-395-2298

SALES: 239-472-1531

Rita Slaughter

**Casa Hospitality Services
Resort Rental Contracts**

239-472-3145

FAX: 239-472-2109

For additional resort updates

www.casaybelresort.com (PASSWORD: paradise)

<http://casaybel.hgvc.com> (HOA updates)

1-800-761-8940

(Recorded Informational updates if needed.)

Owners' Etiquette

On any given Friday at your resort, there could be as many as 74 families checking in and out within the same five-hour timeframe. It is extremely important that the housekeepers have enough time to clean each unit properly. Per your original purchase agreement, ownership begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and ends at 10 a.m. the following Friday. To provide each incoming Owner with the same high level of cleanliness and courtesy, we request that you adhere to those times. Due to obvious time constraints, late checkouts are not allowed unless authorized by Hilton Management ONLY. No late check outs will be considered after 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to checkout.

Checking Out. Please remember that check-out time is 10 a.m. If you are checking out, we suggest that you NOT wait to pack until Friday morning. Instead, start containing your belongings on Thursday so you are not rushed in the morning. This also reduces the chance of leaving any personal items behind. By removing trash, running the dishwasher and leaving the unit in its original condition, you can make the cleaning process run more smoothly.

Checking In. Please remember that check-in time is 3 p.m. DO NOT at any time, try and enter your unit until you have been contacted by the FRONT DESK STAFF that your unit is ready for occupancy. You are welcome to use the resort amenities if you arrive earlier but there is limited room to store refrigerated items (first-come, first serve) if you do your grocery shopping ahead of time.

Credit Cards. Like every hotel, when you check in to Casa Ybel, a credit or debit card must be presented to secure services that may be charged to your unit's account. Having a credit card on file allows you to use it to charge meals, beverages, bike/beach rentals etc. The resort authorizes (not charge) \$50 per day to cover these incidental expenses. The amount that

is actually charged to your card is performed at check out. We recommend a credit card as debit cards are tied to your available checking balance and those funds will not be available to you until after checkout when your bank releases the authorization.

REMINDER. When checking in or out, the resort has staff standing by to assist with your luggage and help transport belongings to or from your vehicle.





c/o Hilton Grand Vacations Interval Management
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Protecting Your Timeshare

If you're looking to pass your timeshares along to your children and grandchildren, you may want to start thinking about taking action now for a smooth transition. Passing your timeshares through your will can be time-consuming as it may have to go to probate and the Board of Directors will sometimes see unit weeks in default due to complications with the time and expenses involved with that process. This is an especially important issue since a timeshare is considered "real property" by the State of Florida. Only an attorney in your state can properly advise what is best for you. Your attorney will be able to help you consider your options and decide whether keeping your timeshares in a will is the ideal choice, or whether some other instrument such as a trust is a better fit. This will help ensure that your time at Casa Ybel will continue to be enjoyed by future generations who will be forever thankful for the chance to cherish this beautiful place.



Congratulations go out to our own Chris Cook of Coconuts. He was recently voted Best Bartender in the Best of the Islands 2016 competition by the Islander Breeze newspaper. Chris was given his award at a special luncheon honoring other island professionals.