

JAN 2023

SPANISH MAIN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

# *THE BINNACLE*

# 2023

All the Main News!

## Happy New Year

A very Happy New Year to all Spanish Mainers, your families, and our seasonal renters!

Welcome to your latest Binnacle. This newsletter was resurrected as a communication tool; to inform, to entertain, and to highlight everything special about our community.

I think this issue perfectly illustrates that commitment to sharing information, to celebrating our good fortune, and to open communication. And it showcases so much of the fabulousness of life here!

Thank you to our writers for all the thoughtfully composed articles in this edition. It's not easy but that's what makes it so special.

And deep gratitude also to the many of you who volunteer behind the scenes in Spanish Main. You offer your time, ideas, support, advice, research, and even hard cash (and often hard labor!) You are our unsung heroes, and you keep our house in order and our social events special. Thank you all.

Here's to 2023!

sincerely, Tam Morrison (editor)



# From The Helm

JOAN SHERRY

BOARD PRESIDENT



Greetings Spanish Mainers,

Welcome to the New Year and the start of 2023! It has been a remarkable year for our community, with no shortage of things to reflect on and so much momentum to build on for the coming year.

Let me first extend a warm welcome to our new villa owners. With 18 villas sold, Spanish Main saw another busy year in real estate, (following 34 sales in 2021).

Next, let me extend a special thanks to all of the incredible volunteers and committee members across our community who continually donate their incredible skills and time to help us in so many areas of our association. We genuinely appreciate your support.

And, of course, that includes the amazing Storm Committee who rallied quickly and helped us manage through Hurricane Ian. We will be forever thankful for the relatively minimal damage Spanish Main experienced, but sincerely heartbroken for our neighbors to our south. We won't forget the storm, or the many lessons learned it has given us.

We also want to thank our entire staff, who work every day to help support this community. There is a lot of "behind the scenes work" that goes on to run our daily operations, and their dedication to managing and maintaining our community is really appreciated. They are a key part of Spanish Main operations.

It's not possible to list all the accomplishments or projects launched and/or completed in 2022, but the following are just a few highlights:

- o Established water committee to help with oversight of potable water project. Negotiated contracts and kicked off project plans. This important project will start this month and complete this year.
- o Continuing to work with FPL to monitor underground utility project now scheduled to complete in 2023.
- o Launched our new website – [smyclbk.org](http://smyclbk.org). We are working to use this site as the "go to place" for our communications, important information, and forms. Security controls and updates to the site continue to be enhanced. If you haven't already registered, please do so or call the office for assistance.
- o Established new committee for safety and security. Installed new cameras and surveillance equipment, scheduling training workshop. In flight activities include fraud preventions workshops and improved community signage including beach access.
- o Continuing to work on end-of-life infrastructure items, such as pool pumps, irrigation, fountain, etc.
- o Special thanks to David Caron who donated his personal time and materials to fix the wiring for our fountain.
- o Created and posted new documentation for community circuit breaker and water valve locations for assess in emergencies.

## From The Helm cont...

- o Kicked off rules and regulations update committee. Conducted community wide survey to gather owner inputs. Over 110 respondents provided input. This is ongoing project in 2023
- o Installed a digital, remotely accessible door lock on the clubhouse front door. This will allow it to be opened remotely should someone need access
- o Initiated villa mod committee. Revamped villa mod process, as well as completed all final inspections and signoffs to clear out earlier backlog.

Now, let's turn our focus to what's ahead as we have a full slate of activities and projects to work on.

As always, effective financial management, open communications, maintaining the community and its value remain our top priorities. In addition, overseeing the successful completion of the potable water and undergrounding utility projects, repairing all the damage to SMYC from Ian including the seawall repairs, as well as weathering the insurance crisis are on the top of the list in 2023. We're keenly aware, and see in the news daily, the insurance industry in Florida is in crisis, and that directly affects our community, LBK, and the State. While some legislation is being proposed, it will take time to see the benefits. As owners as well as Board members, we are committed to act in the best interest of Spanish Main and do a thorough job to work through this.

We'll also continue to work on items that further enhance the effectiveness of our community, with the great support of our committees. Our initiative areas include continued focus on safety and security, technology updates, enriching our online capabilities for forms and member directories, refreshing our villa and owner profile database, tackling "fix-it" projects, revisiting our bylaws, rules & regulations, and progressing all the great work from our committees.

This is going to be an amazing year. There are a lot of exciting things to come, but let me not leave out, having fun! Life in Spanish Main has always included great friends, neighbors, and a variety of great activities to enjoy. We welcome new ideas and hope you will join in on the fun.

In closing, it's important to me to recognize my fellow Board members. I'm honored and very fortunate to working alongside such accomplished, balanced and dedicated members (and owners) who care deeply about the success of our community. All bring different experiences, opinions and perspectives to our discussions and decisions. In the end, I believe that gives our community the best outcomes.

On behalf of the entire Board, we thank you for all your help in 2022 and look forward to a fantastic 2023! This is an incredible community and truly a piece of paradise!

Sincerely,  
Joan Sherry

# Your Board



Mike BlankenBecler



Margaret Dugan



Eric Gietl



Gene Brown

Members are always encouraged to reach out to their Board representatives with ideas, questions, or concerns.

*Thank you!*

Board Appreciation

Happy Hour Feb 15th 5pm

All are welcome at this member led event to express gratitude for our Board and their work for our community.

BYO cocktails but burgers and hotdogs and cookies will be offered by Melissa and Ed and the SMYC Keep Fit group!

# Protect yourself **SCAM!**

written by Doug Shadel, Ph.D.  
Fraud Prevention Expert



shared by Jeff Love (right)

There have always been scammers trying to separate you from your hard-earned money by pretending to be someone they are not. We call these imposters. But the explosion of activity online and technological advancements have made it easier than ever to fake one's identity. This may explain why imposter fraud has become the number one scam reported to the Federal Trade Commission in the past year. Let's review five of the most common scams that involve imposters and how you can avoid them.

## Unmask the imposters

### Corporate Imposters

**The Pitch:** "This is Amazon's accounting department confirming you just charged a \$1,599 Apple Mac Pro to your account. If this was not you, please call immediately."

**The Truth:** When you call to inquire about buying an I-phone, the scammer agrees to help you get a refund by asking you to let them remote access into your computer. Once in your computer, they can cause all kinds of harm like downloading viruses, claiming you already have a virus and need repairs or even going into your bank accounts and stealing money.

**The Tip:** If you get a call supposedly from Amazon or Microsoft or any major brand claiming there is an urgent need to call back, hang up and independently contact the company (if you have an account with them) to ask if there is a problem. If you don't have an account, delete the message.

### Social Security Imposters

**The Pitch:** "This is Alex Jones with the Social Security Administration. We have been alerted to the fact that someone has hacked into your account and is using your Social Security number to commit bank fraud using your identity."

**The Truth:** You call the number out of concern for your Social Security account and they tell you they need you to remove all the money from your bank account before the hackers gain access and take it. They try to get you to put the money into what they call "government prepaid bonds" (what we call gift cards) so no one can get at it. In reality, they want you to give them the numbers on the gift cards and that's the last you ever see of them.

**The Tip:** Social Security Administration will never call you on the phone to discuss your account. If you receive a call or text like the one described and you are concerned about your account, you can look up the number for Social Security and independently contact them. Also, if you haven't already done so, it's a good idea to set up online access to your Social Security account so you can periodically monitor it. ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)).

## Medicare Imposters

**The Pitch:** “This is Becky from Medicare. We are offering free genetic cancer screening for individuals on Medicare. The test is free and it could provide you with an early warning about whether you have an increased risk of cancer based on your DNA.”

**The Truth:** You call the number and the person on the phone asks you a couple of questions like has anyone in your family had cancer. If you answer yes, they tell you that you qualify and they ask you for all kinds of personal information including your Medicare account number. They may or may not send you the genetic testing kit.

**The Tip:** If you think you might benefit from a genetic cancer screening, you should ask your primary care physician if it might be useful. Medicare does pay for such tests but only if your own personal doctor recommends it based on your medical history. If you authorize it over the phone with a scammer, they may send you the kit, bill Medicare and Medicare may end up trying to get you to pay for it.

## Tech Support Imposters

**The Pitch:** “Hello this is the Microsoft Tech Support Center calling. We have detected a virus on your computer and would like to discuss it with you before it threatens to erase all the information on your computer. Please call.”

**The Truth:** When you call the number, you likely will be talking to a boiler room overseas and they will attempt to gain entry to your computer through remote access, similar to the Amazon imposter scam. Once in your computer, they will claim you have all kinds of viruses and hackers in your hard drive and you need to pay them thousands of dollars to fix it. The truth is there is likely nothing wrong with your computer and they are just trying to use fear to get you to pay.

**The Tip:** If you receive this type of message, you should immediately be suspicious that it is a scam. If you are concerned that something might be wrong with your computer, call a friend who is good with computers and ask her or him to take a look at it. Or you can independently call Microsoft or Apple or your computer’s manufacturer to trouble shoot the problem.

## Police Charities

**The Pitch:** “Hello this is Rich. I’m calling for the national police association and we are raising money to support the families of officers who have been killed in the line of duty. If I were to send you an envelope today, could you donate 25, 50 or 75 dollars?”

**The Truth:** It’s smart to avoid responding to telemarketers calling nationwide for donations to police organizations. Many of these operations are so-called 527 Political Action Committees (PACs), not charities, and many of them keep most of the money they receive to go towards the cost of fundraising.

**The Tip:** If you want to support law enforcement, the best way to do that is to find out if your local police or sheriff’s office has a police guild or charity that supports them and make a direct donation. That way, you know where (and how much) your money is going.

**For more information about scams, go to [www.AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork).**

# Love Reigns in Spanish Main!



# *Congratulations*



**Spanish Drive North residents Adrienne Scott and Bill Anderson were married on November 1st 2022 on the patio of their SMYC villa.**

**It was the third anniversary of their first date and all their friends and neighbors wish them many more happy years together in SMYC.**



# FIRST MATES

Introducing SMYC resident  
Meredith Ellsworth. Also known as  
author

*M. S. Spencer*



Spanish Main Yacht Club holds many accomplished and fascinating residents. One such resident is much-traveled and award-winning author Meredith Ellsworth. I am delighted to say Meredith also often contributes to The Binnacle and here she tells us a little more about her life and work.

Meredith Ellsworth's parents-in-law built her villa in 1970, and Ellsworths have been coming to SMYC ever since. She moved here full-time from Virginia in 2013. Thirty of the last 40 years were spent in DC, as a U.S. Senate committee staff assistant and speechwriter, policy analyst at the U.S. Department of the Interior, free-lance editor, librarian in both public and academic library systems, director of the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia, and parent. She holds degrees from Vassar College, the American University in Cairo, and the University of Chicago.

Before settling in DC, she lived or traveled in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the US, Central America, and South America. Her first move came at the age of six months, when her family left upstate New York for North Carolina. From there they went to Maryland, and four years later were puddle-jumping across Canada and Europe to Turkey. When she was ten, they took the Queen Mary across the Atlantic to France. After two and a half years in Paris, they drove through France, Andorra, and Spain to Gibraltar and Morocco. The return trip to America was on the sister ship of the Andrea Doria (once as famous as the Titanic for its spectacular sinking)—and yes, they did run into a major storm!

In her time, she's wandered the Père Lachaise cemetery and laid a flower at Oscar Wilde's grave. She's eaten Sacher Torte in the Hotel Sacher in Vienna and climbed the narrow steps of the pyramid of Kukulkan at Chichén Itzá. She's admired the Peacock Throne in the Golestan Palace in Iran and ridden a stallion across the Egyptian desert under the "nose" of the Sphinx. She swam in the Amazon with pink dolphins and fished for piranha. She's watched as thousands of migrating cranes landed on her house in Istanbul. She's even begged for cigarettes from the sailors on the USS John Paul Jones in the Port of Tangier.



Under the pseudonym M. S. Spencer, Meredith has published fifteen romantic suspense or mystery novels. Many are set in Maine. Others take place on Longboat Key and Florida: *The Pit and the Passion: Murder at the Ghost Hotel*, *Whirlwind Romance*, *Mai Tais* and *Mayhem: Murder at Mote Marine* (out of print), and *Flotsam and Jetsam: the Amelia Island Affair*. Her latest—*Hidden Gem: the Secret of St. Augustine*—won a Royal Palm Literary Award at the 2022 convention of the Florida Writers Association. Her next release is scheduled for early next year. It's a mystery/suspense entitled *The Wishing Tree: Love, Lives, and Spies on Chincoteague Island*.

Meredith has a son, Spencer, in Baltimore, a daughter, Emma, in Portland, Oregon, and so far only one granddaughter, Dahlia.

She is honored to contribute to the SMYC Binnacle!



**Meredith's award winning book cover for 'Hidden Gem'**



**Meredith with her children and granddaughter.**

**Social media links:**

**Blog:** <https://msspencertalespinner.blogspot.com>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/msspencermysteries>

**Twitter:** <http://www.twitter.com/msspencerauthor>

**GoodReads:** <http://www.goodreads.com/msspencer>

**Bookbub:** <https://www.bookbub.com/profile/m-s-spencer>

**MeWe:** <https://mewe.com/i/msspencer1>

**Shepherd:** <https://shepherd.com/best-books/treasure-hunts>

Her books are listed at <http://www.amazon.com/M.S.-Spencer/e/B002ZOEUC8/>

# *Friends and Family!*

SM favs Anne and her daughter, Kristen, tell us how they discovered LBK and SMYC. And how they have shared this paradise with their loved ones.

**ANNE HASENFUS** - In 1987, a co-worker of Anne's husband, Bill, offered them a weeks vacation at his parents' home in Longboat Key. It was love at first sight. Bill and Anne were awed by the pristine beauty of the island, the lack of commercialism, the beaches, the restaurants, and the gorgeous homes. It was a time when Lynches and Patti George were favorite haunts. At that point, never in their wildest dreams, did they imagine one day they would become full-time residents!!!! Bill and Anne purchased a timeshare at Longboat Bay Club that very first year and continued their love affair with the island for the next 20 years sharing many of those vacations with their cousins, **WALTER AND JUDY HASENFUS**. They amassed many lifelong friendships with people from all over the country who expanded Bill and Anne's horizons beyond their Massachusetts roots. There is a world beyond New England!!!! Lo and behold, one day their daughter, Kristen, and son-in-law Peter decided to build a primary home..... the question was WHERE?.....



**PETER AND KRISTEN LAVIOLETTE** are originally from small towns just outside of Boston Massachusetts where Peter went to Westfield State College and played Hockey for the fighting Owls for four years. After college, he was named to the 1988 US Men's Olympic Team. Upon returning from Calgary, he played in the minor league for the Binghamton Rangers and in 1994 he was named Captain of the US Men's Olympic Team in Lillehammer Norway.

After the games, Peter captained and played for the Providence Bruins in the AHL until he decided to go behind the bench and dabble with coaching in 1996 the year Peter and Kristen got married. A stop in Wheeling West Virginia in the ECHL, where Peter and Kristen had their first son Peter III (who is now currently playing for the Nailers in his first professional playing year) was the start to quite a coaching journey. A stop back to Providence behind the bench and a Historic Calder Cup Win projected the Laviolettes onto yet another move. In 2001 Peter Laviolette became an assistant coach with the Boston Bruins a stepping stone season working his way to becoming a Head coach in the NHL.

After a unique season, the team didn't make the playoffs, and he had the opportunity to finally come down to Florida in April to Longboat to visit his in-laws Bill and Anne Hasenfus at their timeshare. This was his first trip to the beautiful slice of paradise and he instantly fell in love with the island. The following season, he was named head coach of the New York Islanders which started his NHL Head coaching career. His wife Kristen and he decided that they wanted to invest in a property down in Florida, and that summer they purchased a lot of land on Longboat to, eventually be, a retreat in the off season and a future retirement property



**Peter and Kristen completed their first home on Longboat key in 2003 and during their 20-year journey as a head coach Longboat has been the permanent off-season home when not residing in their hockey city. They would be the opposite of snowbirds coming to Florida from June -September. A significant stop in their coaching career they resided in Raleigh, North Carolina where Peter coached his Carolina Hurricanes to the Stanley Cup. During this stop, they moved in across the street from LORI AND MICHAEL BROWN.**

**The Laviolette and Brown families formed a lifelong friendship. Once the house was finished, the Browns came that first summer in 2004 for a vacation with their two daughters and fell in love with our special island as well. They continued to vacation every July with the Laviolette family. These vacations creating memories that all the children will forever cherish. Having Longboat Key as the home base no matter where their parents' current jobs took them was very special.**

**The "Purple house" was a home that housed countless memories in the summers for the Laviolette and Browns. During the winter months Peter and Kristen's parents retreated from the cold in Massachusetts and enjoyed the beautiful island. Peter and Helen from Jan - Mar and then Bill and Anne from April-May. During these times cousins Walter and Judy would join and the shenanigans and fun was abundant.**

**As the Laviolette's three children, Peter III(25), Jack (23) and Elisabeth (21) grew, the families needs did as well. The Laviolette family sold their original "purple house" on the north End of the island and purchased and renovated a home 1/4 mile down the beach on Gulf is Mexico Dr. Purple 2.0. This was where they would stay until the house two doors over "the Round House" went on the market and peaked Peters real estate interest!**



# *Friends and Family!*



In his downtime of not coaching hockey Peters second favorite pastime is real estate. The Laviolette's have had 12 major moves throughout their career. So having Longboat Key as a home base had provided the consistency they wanted for their family and knowing their friends also shared the love, they made a pact to eventually retire and grow old together here.

In 2019 a villa in Spanish Main became available. Peter and Kristen had thought it would be wonderful to own in the same community her parents Bill and Anne had made their home. Familiar with the wonderful community that embraced her parents, Kristen took charge of renovating their villa on El Centro. Having so much fun with this process, they purchased another villa on South to renovate and rent out or eventually flip. This intrigued the Browns who had been hoping to finally acquire a property on Longboat Key as well. Ironically the villa diagonal across the street became available and they purchased it. The Browns and The Laviolette's had gone full circle and were back to being neighbors just like they were on the cul de sac in Raleigh 20 years prior.

Throughout these 20 years of memories, Peter and Kristen have shared so many experiences with dear friends and family. JAY AND JANICE TARANTO have been a part of their journey since the days at Westfield State where Jay and Peter were college roommates and teammates on the fighting Owls hockey team. Jay was a groomsman in Peter and Kristen's electrifying wedding in 1996 where 20 people were struck by lightning ( that story is for another issue :) The Taranto's came for a visit in 2020 and decided they wanted to live near the beach and have palm trees! They put their buddy 'Real Estate Pete' on it in his off-season and he guided them to Spanish Main. So, Pete and Jay have gone from college roommates to now planning to grow old together in the paradise Longboat Key!





Lastly the Hasenfus family connection concluded with cousins Walter and Judy continuing to visit Anne and Bill at the original purple house on the North End for years and years of April vacations. Walter and Judy's kids started to visit and caught the Longboat desire to live on the most wonderful island. Lisa, Kristen's second cousin, asked her to do some 'scoping out' and they found a wonderful villa on North a few doors away from both Anne and Kristen. **LISA AND BILL WALSH** just got married in October at the Beach House and will be enjoying their villa as much as possible with their family. You are certain to see Walter and Judy visiting here a lot as they now live just over the bridge.

It's been truly a family affair over the years. Now with friends who we feel are family to us, and the family we have grown up with, all now being together in our special community is beyond special. Making more memories as the Laviolette's start winding down their NHL career. They currently are in construction phase of the "Roundhouse 2.0" but in the meantime will be residing in their villa on El Centro when they aren't in Washington coaching the Capitals. They have hopes to win the Stanley Cup again and bring it to LBK this summer! Now that would be quite a party at the clubhouse!



# Key to Our Key



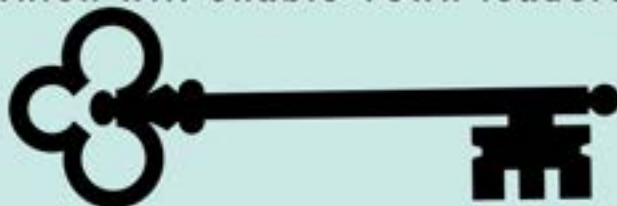
**THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY IS LAUNCHING THE 4TH ANNUAL CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY.**

**Join your neighbors and provide feedback to the Town Commission and Town Administration on specific quality of life issues as well as your opinion on services and priorities.**

**Input will be collected through an on-line survey. A letter will be sent to each owner which will include a unique identifier code for the online survey, along with a set of instructions. All surveys should be completed by February 11th.**

**Owners can access the survey online from their home computer, iPad or phone. and answer the questions, or they may come to Town Hall and utilize the kiosk located in the lobby (please bring the letter you received with your unique code).**

**Conducting such a survey proves invaluable by giving owners a voice in expressing their opinion of services, quality of life issues and Town policy choices that affect their lives. The results will show how much consensus around policy issues which will enable Town leaders to direct and shift Town priorities.**



**MANATEE COUNTY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES WILL COLLECT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONICS 9 A.M.-3 P.M. SATURDAY, JAN. 28.**

**The collection will be at Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. Where signs will direct motorists to drop-off locations.**

**People can dispose of solvents, latex and oil-based paints, garden pesticides, waste oil, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, as well as pool chemicals.**

**Old gasoline in gasoline containers and some household, auto and marine batteries also will be collected. Alkaline batteries, which can be disposed of with household garbage, will not be collected.**

**Electronics to be collected include TVs, computer components, copiers, video and audio equipment and also small household items, such as microwaves, hair dryers, irons, cellphones, tablets, digital cameras and battery chargers.**

**For more information, call Manatee County Solid Waste at 941-798-6761 or go online to [www.mymanatee.org/escrap](http://www.mymanatee.org/escrap).**

# LANDLUBBERS!

by resident realtor Kim Freiwald



You've probably seen the 'predictions' in the national media - In 2023 the US nationwide real estate market will see home prices fall 5-10% due to fears of inflation, recession, and interest rates.

But, as Danish physicist Niels Bohr proclaimed, "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future!"

Reasonable forecasts indicate things will likely begin to stabilize in the third quarter of 2023.

Unknowns, such as China (supply chain issues), the war in Ukraine, the Federal Reserve, and US political infighting could all impact housing markets.

In the Sarasota / Manatee area, in general, from October to the end of December, housing prices retreated to 2021 levels but were still above pre-Covid levels.

However, highly desirable properties and locations in Florida are expected to remain stable entering 2023.

Florida is exceptional in many ways, as are Sarasota and Manatee counties. On December 22, 2022, the US Census Bureau released its annual data on population growth, and Florida is the fastest-growing state in the nation.

In 2022 1,200 people a day moved to Florida and the population grew to 22,244,823.

And where did those people move to?

It's clear most people moving to Florida want to live on or near a coastline (or near Orlando), so we can expect 2023 to still be a good year for real estate in the highly desirable place we live.



## VILLAS SOLD IN 2022 IN SPANISH MAIN

734 SDS	\$399K	722 SDS	\$509K
715 EL CENTRO	\$450K	683 El Centro	\$560K
743 SDS	\$450K	727 SDS	\$560K
711 SDS	\$450K	639 SDS	\$695K
653 SDN	\$465K	613 SDN	\$725K
708 EL CENTRO	\$480K	679 SDS	\$780K
789 SDN	\$495K	919 SDS	\$888K



Mark your calendars now

## The 2nd Annual Super Bowl Sunday Polar Plunge

Willing victims meet at 1pm outside of 596 Spanish Drive North to toast the Polar Gods with some authentic Norwegian "water of life".

Participants and cheering onlookers will head to our beach for "the plunge".

After the plunge, all active participants are welcome back to the start for a warming hot toddy.



1pm  
Sunday,  
Feb 12  
2023



This special event is coordinated and sponsored by  
Sandy Brut-Christensen and husband, Jon.



# THE POOP DECK!



## Meet Mora



SDN resident, Rita Brown, rescued her beautiful cat Mora in Minneapolis. Her name there was Aloha Mora and, after asking her grandchildren, Rita found out that is the name of a spell in Harry Potter!

Mora is an inside cat but sometimes, somehow, she manages to escape. One time she was outside, without anyone knowing, for hours. After looking all over she came out of the bushes and Rita was able to coax her back in.

Rita tells us Mora is a little troublemaker and scratches everywhere - including the furniture! She has no boundaries and gets into everything and thinks she owns the place.

But she is so friendly, and she loves everyone. Mora meows and 'talks' constantly and comes when Rita calls her.

Rita and Mora are always welcoming family and friends to their villa.



# Ports of Call



by Annie Bondi



**La Norma Ristorante & Pizzeria**

**5370 Gulf of Mexico Dr. Longboat Key, FL 34228**

**Reservations: by phone (941) 383-6262 or OpenTable**

**[www.lanormarestaurant.com](http://www.lanormarestaurant.com)**

High season is the perfect time to explore our local restaurants serving us right here on our key. For those of you that remember, the dozen pizzas for our clubhouse New Year's Eve celebration were from La Norma! La Norma offers intimate indoor and outdoor seating and a variety of homemade Italian specialties and salads that pair nicely with their extensive wine selection. Thursday evenings they enhance your dining experience with live music in the courtyard. La Norma's take-only pizza outlet, with limited delivery through Door Dash, should be open by the end of January. This take-out section conveniently located just across the restaurant patio will be dedicated to pizzas and other typical Sicilian baked products. Daniela, one of the owners, is grateful for community support and she included the following business bio for all of us to get to know La Norma.

*Born and bred in Catania, Sicily, and proud of it. Two sisters – Alessandra and Daniela – and their families came together to share with Longboat Key and beyond their passion for genuine Italian food at their restaurant, La Norma, which opened in 2019.*

*Alessandra and her husband, Gianfranco, are professional restaurateurs. Daniela and her husband, Giuseppe, are investment bankers (yes, bankers!) who lived all over the world but recently decided to give up their career to pursue their ambition to “show people a good time”.*

They all look at themselves as a funny gang of seven (three children complete the big family picture), with diverse backgrounds but a common wish of welcoming guests and making them feel like they are eating at grandma's house: "we want to see them off with a huge smile on their face and – possibly – a stain of pesto on their shirt!". They don't take themselves too seriously, and they swear this is their secret.

At La Norma you will find all the recipes you would expect from an Italian restaurant and more but – as they particularly insist – the ingredients and the execution make all the difference. "Even if I am not a trained cook – Giuseppe says – I am a trained "eater" and Italian food is in my DNA! I look at a dish and I know whether it has been executed well or not; and if not, it goes back to the kitchen...".

They have recently refurbished the indoor dining area because – they say – it lacked a bit of ambiance and now they are trying to recreate the atmosphere of a typical Italian "piazza" on their patio. The restaurant also offers live music nights and – they promise – with the right weather those evenings are quite magical.



LA NORMA ITALIAN RESTAURANT



Our pizza is made from a mix of different types of flour and a slow raising process: I don't want to say it's better than others – we all have different preferences after all – but it certainly has a unique taste. You know, we take pizza very seriously in Sicily.

La Norma is open seven days a week from 4pm to 9pm: you might want to book a table as it gets quite busy, especially on weekends



**From The Galley  
of  
Sandy Brut-Christensen**

**YUM!**

During my 12 years in Colorado I became a huge fan of the cookbooks published by The Junior League of Denver.

Although I have their entire collection of cookbooks published to date, their first one, Colorado Cache, is my favorite. It reflects Colorado's casual style of living, rich heritage and natural bounty.

This recipe is one of my favorites and can be served at room temperature or straight from the oven. They are perfect as an appetizer (or to take to Hump Day) or as a side dish.

### Artichoke Squares

Makes 40 squares

- 2 x 6-ounce jars of marinated artichoke hearts
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- ¼ cup fine, dry breadcrumbs (I use Italian style)
- 1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon Tabasco
- 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs



Preheat oven to 325°F

Drain artichokes, saving marinade from 1 jar. Saute' the onion in the saved marinade. Cut up artichokes. Add beaten eggs, breadcrumbs and seasonings. Stir in remaining ingredients.

Turn the mixture into a greased 7 x 11 inch pan, bake for 30 minutes. Cut into squares.

NOTE: 1.5 of all ingredients can be used to make a pan of 9 x 13 inch

**DELICIOUS**

**LATEST  
NEWS**

# Community Infrastructure

with thanks to Tom Freiwald for keeping us updated

**FPL - Transformers. Installs continue. The large truck with outriggers will not be an issue going forward as SDN transformers on the East end will be installed from Binnacle Point Road (in Emerald Harbor)**

**No word from the Town on switchover from the old system to the new, but the plan is to make it seamless.**

**The old poles will remain up for a few months after the switchover.**



**FLORIDA PIPING SOLUTIONS -  
Work will begin in mid January  
All permits have been issued**

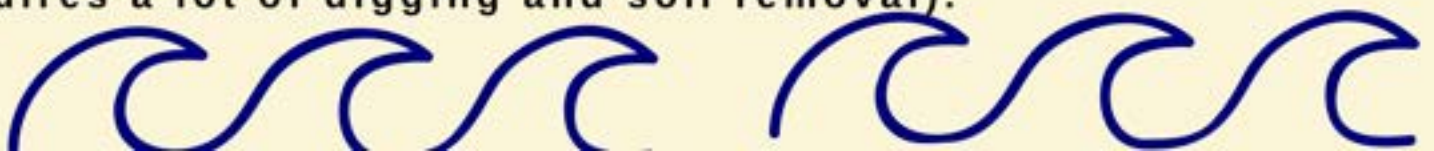


**REPAIR OF SEAWALL ON THE EAST END OF SDS.**

**The engineer committed to begin working on the project in mid January.**

**There are two separate projects:**

- 1. Reinforcing the area that moved plus a safety margin on the remainder of the East side beyond the failure.**
- 2. Refilling the voids in the grass caused by normal soil erosion from recent hurricanes and rainy season. This will be handled on SDS and SDN after the reinforcing is complete (as the reinforcing requires a lot of digging and soil removal).**





# OUR Website

[www.smyclbk.org](http://www.smyclbk.org)

sign up and register NOW

Please help the community save time and money and communicate more effectively by registering on the SMYC website.

It is THE quickest way to stay informed, receive SMYC emails about events, emergencies and updates.

Once you register your details are secure and private. It is the place to see the latest community information, villas for rent and sale, classified ads, together with historical photographs and event reminders.

The website will soon be developed further to take your monthly HOA payments and show a record of your account.

ASK the office if you need help registering and a member of the website committee will assist you.

## Cameras have been installed at the entrance to SMYC

These will certainly act as a deterrent to any opportunistic criminal activities. Thanks to Jeff Love for the research and recommendations and the speedy implementation.

If you have any questions about the cameras or any safety and security issues please feel free to contact him.

Jeffrey Love at [jeffreylove1@verizon.net](mailto:jeffreylove1@verizon.net).





# Close Haul

No need to travel far - Have fun and meet new friends right here!

## EXCITING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES!

wednesday



5pm Hump Day Happy Hour continues! Outside all year long! An informal, regular social gathering for whomever turns up!

Bring your own drinks and snacks and meet other Spanish Mainers. Often includes sponsored music and food by generous residents.



SMYC Yoga group meets at 10am on Tuesdays AND Thursdays in the Clubhouse and all are welcome

THURSDAY

# Romeo's!

RESIDENTS AND GUESTS PLEASE JOIN US!  
RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT



**QUIZ NIGHTS 7pm**

**Jan 24 and Feb 28**

**\$5 per person**

**Max 8 in a team**



Hosted by  
Jack Manns

*The Spanish  
In-QUIZ-ition*

**BINGO**

2	21	32	46	66
15	30	44	58	70
5	29	FREE SPOT	48	74

**BINGO Hosted by  
Barry & Theresa Pollack**

**\$2 per card**

**See Facebook and  
website emails for dates**

*Save  
THE  
Date*

**BINGO 4pm Friday Jan 13th**

**FRANK SINATRA SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR 5pm**

**Weds Jan 18th**

**SOUP & CHILI 5:30pm Thursday Jan 19th**

**TRIVIA NIGHT 7pm Tuesday Jan 24th**

**WELCOME BACK PARTY 5:30pm Sat Jan 28th**

**POLAR PLUNGE 1pm Sun Feb 12th**

**BOARD APPRECIATION SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR 5pm Weds  
15th**

**TRIVIA NIGHT 7pm Tuesday Feb 28th**



**As well as other activities on the monthly calendar.**



# WILL YOU HELP?

Please volunteer if you can organize one of these events. Or another of your choosing!

The Social Committee will help!

Possible Activities Needing Someone to organize!

- Monthly SMYC Ladies Luncheons
- Super Bowl Event – February 12, 2023
- St Patricks Day Party
- Outing to Spring Baseball Game
- Kentucky Derby Party – May 6, 2023



Please contact Donna [bsndonna1@msn.com](mailto:bsndonna1@msn.com) or Pat [flmngo6@aol.com](mailto:flmngo6@aol.com) if you might volunteer to organize an event or to join the Social Committee

## BOOK CLUB

CONTACT RUTH MYERS OR EMAIL  
[ANLBKFLA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANLBKFLA@GMAIL.COM)

### Upcoming Books

- Feb 8 The Last Thing He Told Me. Laura Dave
- March 8. The Irish Cottage. Gauvin
- April 12. The State of Terror. Louise Penny

BOOK CLUB IS HELD ON  
THE 2ND WEDNESDAY  
EACH MONTH AT 2:30 PM.  
OPEN TO ALL OWNERS,  
RENTERS, VISITORS, AND  
GUESTS.

3 mornings a week - all invited.

## GET FIT!

8am Mon, Weds & Friday.

In your clubhouse

A fun and friendly group work-out led by SMYC residents with modifications for all levels of fitness and mobility.



# DON'T FORGET

1. LOOK AROUND YOUR VILLA AND RETURN SMYC LIBRARY BOOKS.
2. NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF RENTERS FOR ORIENTATION.
3. CONFIRM WITH THE OFFICE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS, EMERGENCY CONTACTS AND HOMEWATCHER DETAILS



PLEASE....  
ALWAYS  
pick up  
after your  
fur  
babies!



Please keep your speed to 15mph maximum on our community roads. And ask your contractors and visitors to do the same.

Many thanks to the dedicated and talented newsletter committee. This will be my last Binnacle as Editor (for at least this year) due to time constraints of other commitments. I feel very privileged to have been entrusted with sharing your stories.

## *Opportunity!*

Please contact me if collating and editing the Fall edition (and future issues) of The Binnacle appeals to you.

Tam Morrison at [tam@gtmorrison.net](mailto:tam@gtmorrison.net)

## I LOVE SMYC

Join our FACEBOOK private group for SMYC residents/owners.



Please join 'I LOVE SMYC' and share in community communication. Enjoy SMYC photos, keep up-to-date on events, share a beautiful wildlife shot, warn of traffic congestion or have a weather concern whilst away. Your SMYC Facebook Community is here FOR YOU.

**OVER 235 MEMBERS ALREADY SIGNED UP**