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Please call me or send me an Email, if you have any questions about Real Estate in Naples.

Naples News August 2009

New program for the Naples Philharmonic Center

Recently, the winter program of the Naples Philharmonic Center was announced. Once again, they offer a huge mix of famous artists, bands, musicals and operas. On the list, among others, is the world-famous singer Tony Bennett, who has been active on the international stage for more than half a century. He will appear for a one-time show in Naples on January 10th at 8 pm. On the very next day already, the violinist Itzhak Perlman will be there for a performance (Theme of "Schindler's List" and President Obama's Inauguration).

In addition, the two musicals "Chicago" and "The Color Purple" belong to this year's repertoire of the Philharmonic Center, as well as a show by the magician David Copperfield (January 21st at 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm). On December 29th of this year, the New Orleans Jazz Band will take the stage, with the famous actor Woody Allen playing the clarinet. This year's opera package includes „Don Giovanni“, „La Traviata“, „Rigoletto“ and „Die Fledermaus“. At this time, tickets are only sold in a packet for \$288. On the official website of the Philharmonic Center: www.thephil.org, you can read through information about all the performances and reserve your tickets, something you should do as soon as possible for unique shows and performances. The prices depend on the individual show. To see Tony Bennett live on stage, you'll have to pay \$110 per person, for Woody Allen's Jazz Band \$89 and for David Copperfield \$69.

New law concerning seat belts

Since June 30th of this year, a new law concerning the seat belt rule was put into force. Police officers now have permission, to stop any vehicle, in which the driver or the front seat passenger is not wearing his seat belt, and may issue a ticket. Until the law was changed, that was only possible if you had been stopped for another traffic violation and the police officer noticed, that you violated the seat belt law.

According to statistics, 92% of the residents in Collier County permanently use their seat belt, the highest number in the State of Florida. Interestingly enough, the percentage of the entire state of Florida is 79%, which puts Florida on Rank 35 on the national list, which has an average of 83%.

In addition, the fee for parking at the beach without permission was raised from \$20 to \$30, a law that hadn't been changed for 19 years.

New Town homes in Verona Pointe



- Two models, each with 3 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms, half bath and 2-car garage
- Nice community pool, gated
- About 15 minutes to the beach, about 5 minutes to the next public golf course
- Reasonable fees
- Please call or send an email , if you need more information
- Price between \$170,000 and \$200,000

Restaurant Recommendation: McCormick & Schmick's

McCormick & Schmick's, a chain of restaurants that was established in 1979, is one of many new restaurants at the Mercato Shopping Centre in North Naples. Specializing in fish and other seafood dishes, there are now over 100 locations in the United States.

The restaurant is furnished quite luxuriously with a number of private corners, if you wish to eat undisturbed. The menu is very exclusive, with a large selection and appropriate prices. The quality of the food is second to none and especially the fish dishes are quite recommended, among others the salmon and the sword fish. But steaks and Filet Mignon can also be found on the restaurant's menu.

The wine menu also offers a large selection of red and white wines, most of them offered in a bottle.

Outside on the patio and at the bar, snacks are offered from the bar menu (prices range from 2-5 Dollars)

Real Estate in Naples

The upward trend in the local real estate market which could be observed since the beginning of this year just keeps on going. Even during the usually weaker summer the number of contracts remains on a high level (around 1000 per month). The prices have also been going upward since March. The median price for sold objects has been commuting at around \$180,000 since March. Also, the number of offered properties is going down. With 8100 objects, the offer is 10% below the May level and 25% below the high point in February.



can be expected, that more good deals will come on the market.

More cameras against red-light violators

After tests with the first camera at the intersection Airport Pulling and Pine Ridge were successful, 10 more cameras were installed at different intersections through the end of July. The cameras are also intended to capture images of cars making a right turn at a red light, without having stopped before.



Higher entry prices at State Parks

The renovation and preservation of the Florida State Parks is almost halfway financed with the price for admission. This amount was raised on July 1st, by \$1 to \$3. Affected is, among others, the Delnor Wiggins State Park in North Naples, with entry costs that were raised from \$5 to \$6. The deciding factor, by how much the admission charge is raised, is the annual number of visitors at each affected state park, which is 500,000 in

New condos in 5th Avenue South



- New condos in the heart of Naples, shopping and restaurants in front of your door, prime location
- Different models available (two or three bedrooms, 2 bath rooms, 1260 to 1380 sqft under air.
- Exceptional quality with handcrafted woodwork, granite
- Spectacular roof-top pool, spa & sundeck
- Please call or send an email , if you need more information

Price between \$645,000 and \$ 1,200,000

the case of the Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park. The admission price at Lovers Key State Park in Bonita was raised from \$5 to \$8.

This year, 20.7 Million visitors have already come to the state parks of Florida. That constitutes a new record, which is why a higher budget was approved for the next season.

New Prices for fishing license

As of August 1, enthusiastic fishermen will have to dig a little deeper into their pockets to be able to continue with their hobby.

The Shoreline Fishing License is for people, who intend only to catch saltwater fish from the shore or a structure attached to the shore. For that you will now have to pay \$9. But should you plan to catch your fish from a boat, you need the so-called Regular Saltwater Fishing License, which now costs \$17. Those prices are for Collier County residents. Non-residents will have to pay more. People over 65 and less than 16 years of age are not required to have a fishing license. Remember, that fishing without a license is punishable by law, and you have to expect a high penalty fee, should you be caught.

Wildlife trip to Shark Valley

Although the name suggests otherwise, sharks are pretty much the only thing you won't get to see from the piers of Shark Valley, but you will get to see alligators, deer, otters, raccoons, snakes, turtles, different birds and several other species.

Shark Valley is a part of the famous Florida Everglades, which is often specifically pointed out in travel guides. Throughout the area there is a 15 mile long pier, on which you can walk, bike or take a tram. For adults the trams cost \$16.25 per person, for children (3-12) \$10 and for seniors over 62 it's \$15.25. The departure times during the season are once per hour from 9 am- 4 pm, out of season only four times a day at 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm.

For more information, visit the website of Shark Valley at: <http://www.sharkvalleytramtours.com>



New trees in Third Street South

After several discussions and meetings, a new project has been started on 3rd Street. The 50 queens palms, which have added to the flair of the popular shopping street in downtown Naples, will now be replaced by the same number of fox palms.

This project, that has an approximate budget of \$100,000, has been under discussion since 2008 already. The main reason for the exchange is that queens palms are extremely vulnerable to pests.

In the fall, the new palms are supposed to decorate Third Street, to make the street more attractive for the upcoming winter season.

Back pain and other unwanted companions, Dr. Dishauzi helps

We are often asked about doctors, when you feel any kind of pain during your vacation. Most often, there is pain in the back and shoulder area to be treated. Chiropractors specialize in the treatment of such complaints, without injections, drugs or surgery. The interaction between spine and nervous system are in the focus of these treatments. Electrical treatments, stretching and adjustments of the vertebrae can often work wonders. Dr. Dishauzi was able to help some of our readers already. Here is his contact information, should you ever need help: Dr. Douglas Dishauzi, 2430 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Phone: 239-596-8800.

Restaurant Recommendation: The English Pub

The English Pub, which recently opened at the Mercato shopping centre, is one of Naples' newest hot spots, and is quite crowded even during the low season summer months. Indeed, the very British atmosphere in this authentically decorated restaurant will hardly find its equal.

Townhomes and condos in a Mediterranean architecture



- New from the developer, resales available, too
- Lely is a very spacious community with 3 golf courses and a very attractive village center
- About 15 minutes to the beaches and 5th Avenue South
- Different models with 2,3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 to 3 bath rooms, half bath, lanai and garage
- Please call or send an email , if you need more information

Price between \$200,000 and \$ 360,000

The gigantic bar, the furniture, which includes a lavish throne for someone celebrating their birthday, as well as the authentic pub wear staff are responsible for an undeniable British feeling. The waiters and waitresses wear kilts, which is a rather funny sight.

They offer a number of drafted beers, including some European ones like Stella Artois. The food though is of average quality and prices considerably higher than in other locations in Naples. A visit to the English Pub is therefore especially recommended due to the nostalgic atmosphere and the large selection of beer.

Exhibition of historical photos of Naples

Even locals are still surprised by how much Naples has developed over the last couple of years. Art Ullman, a collector of historical photographs and aerial pictures, has been in charge of a gallery on 3rd Street South that centers on exactly that topic. Ullman started with 165 photos, now there are over 225 that show amazing motives that have mostly been taken between the years of 1940 and 1980.

Fascinated by the history of this city, he exhibits his photos right next to current takes of the same area, to emphasize the stunning difference even more. Where empty lots and woods used to be, there are now shopping centers and plazas, with numerous shops, and plain Naples has turned into a respectable city.

You can visit this unique gallery every Thursday for free between 5:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Woman surprised by bear

Even though bears are usually quite shy and stay away from humans, once in a while one of them will get lost in a residential area. Therefore it just happened one morning that a woman who stepped out of the door to smoke a cigarette, was bumped into by a grown up bear. Surprised, the bear ran away, but was seen by a number of neighbors before.

Experts assume that there are about 1,500 bears living in Florida. Should you ever encounter one, it is most important, to be slow and calm. You should also try to avoid any eye contact with the animal, because the bear could interpret that as a challenge. But until now, there has never been a serious misunderstanding between a bear and a human in Florida.



Jazz-Summer- Festival at Naples Beach Hotel

For the 24th time, the Naples Beach Hotel is hosting their summer festival with jazz concerts on the beach. As every year, four events are planned. The still remaining dates are on August 22nd and September 19th, both days from 7-10 pm. There is no entrance fee.

Additional parking opportunities are offered by the Lowdermilk Beachpark, from where a free trolley service is offered to the venue.

Form 8840 for the American Financial Department (for our European Readers!)

If you spend a lot of time in the USA each year, you should talk with your tax consultant about how to avoid the tax obligations. That problem doesn't only show up, if you are at least 183 days in the USA each year. The IRS uses a test of attendance, which is based on the time of being in the US over the last three years. For example, to decide the tax duties of 2009, the days of being in the USA in 2009 are counted full, those of 2008 are counted 1/3, and those of 2007 are counted 1/6. If the sum of those numbers is 183 days, you are usually obligated to pay taxes. Instead of a tax declaration, you can hand in the form 8840 in that case, which proves the tax obligation in another country.

This article does not constitute a consultation of your rights or taxes. Therefore, please contact a tax consultant, to discuss the topic.

Condos and Single Family homes in Bonita Springs



- New from the developer, resales available, too
- Gated community with clubhouse, pool, tennis, fitness
- Different models with 2 or 3 bedrooms
- Nice features like granite ,special insulated windows, appliances from Whirlpool
- About 15 minutes to the beaches and the mall at Coconut Point .
- Please call or send an email , if you need more information

Condos starting at \$185,000, Single family homes starting at \$ 220,000