

Notes from paradise



By

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Come Make Your Footprints in the Sand

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If you would like ANY information on current listings in and around Ft. Myers Beach, or for a free Market Analysis of your property, just give us a call! If you are interested in any of the other beautiful Florida areas, whether it is houses, condos, or commercial properties, we would be happy to refer you to an excellent agent. Don't forget, we cover all of the surrounding areas!

Greetings from Paradise!

The Ft. Myers Beach LPA (Local Planning Agency) voted YES for an 18,000 square-foot office building that will replace the Shell gas station at 6231 Estero Boulevard. Sunstream Inc. requested that the one-half acre site located at the intersection of Estero Blvd. and Bahia Via Drive adjacent to Charley's Boat House Restaurant and

7-Eleven, be rezoned from Commercial Boulevard to Commercial Planned Development; this will allow them to construct a two-story commercial office building over parking.

The Town Council approved an \$890,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that could be used for dune restoration and vegetable plantings in a four-mile stretch of the beach damaged in last year's Hurricane Charley. Council also approved a new contract for Town Attorney Anne Dalton that will pay her \$125 per hour, plus one-half hours for drive time to all meetings.

In other business, the Town recently negotiated with owners of the Beachway Resort (a proposed 240-unit hotel at San Carlos Boulevard and Pine Ridge Road), to pay the Town \$20,000 per year to help offset trolley costs. Council voted also to set the tentative millage rate for the 2005-2006 budget at .85, the same rate that was assessed last year, and set the public hearing for Sept 12. In a new development, Council approved an engineering study to determine right of ways that would be needed to construct a road parallel to Estero Boulevard that would help motorists exit Estero Island more quickly. The new road would be possible because David Meyers owns the property necessary for the Town to build the new road. Meyers has offered to help the Town by donating the necessary property for some considerations on a new hotel complex that he would build near the Times Square area.

Portable A-frame signs have been banned from Estero Blvd. This has a number of small business owners upset; they claim it hurts their visibility to attract customers.



Cut-rate carrier Southwest Airlines announced service to Fort Myers from Southwest Florida International Airport beginning in October. Historically, when Southwest enters a new city, fares drop dramatically and demand for travel increases.

The re-trial of Don Moringiello, the Ft. Myers Beach man accused of shooting his 57-year old wife Fern at their house on Randy Lane and then dumping her body in the Back Bay, is scheduled to begin on July 18. The last trial ended in a hung jury and received national attention when it was aired on Court TV last time around.

In the cover letter to the Personal Brochure we mailed recently I mentioned that I met Isabelle in 1998. Ahem.... that would be 1988. My only excuse is that she's made every day seem so new and exciting and she's so..... I better stop while I'm ahead.

Biographies: “Nicholas and Alexandra” by Robert K. Massie

This is one of the classic biographies I have been meaning to read for a long time. Nicholas II, Tsar of all the Russias, would have ruled very comfortably in peacetime, but WW I exposed his essentially platonic nature. Many of the events leading to this family’s demise began with the discovery that their only son Alexis was a hemophiliac. Endless lengths were resorted to in keeping this from the outside world, lest the crown be found vulnerable. The strain on the parents accelerated as they dealt with numerous “accidents” in which the young Tsarevich nearly died from internal bleeding. Alexandra, at her wit’s end, turned to the religious healer Gregory Rasputin (as fascinating and repellant a figure as any in history). His psychological hold over the Empress was to have disastrous consequences, as she became convinced that he alone could save her son and thus preserve the future succession. When Nicholas took direct control of the armies on the Front, Rasputin came to have inordinate powers over Alexandra in the appointing and firing of ministers, advisors, etc. It was only a matter of time before the Bolshevik uprising played on these themes and brought everything to a crisis point. After the Communist Revolution, the royal family was shunted from one lonely Siberian outpost to another. Abandoned by his royal cousins, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and King George of England, the sad, tragic last days of the Tsar and his family is one of history’s more lamentable chapters. As it turns out, the author, Mr. Massie, has a special insight into their lives, as his own son is also a hemophiliac.



Sinatra: The Life by Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan

Most of us are familiar with the very public life of Frank Sinatra, but it’s the private life, away from the paparazzi and hangers on that we long to see. After all, very few singers have been able to pluck the heart-strings of generations of listeners the way this man could. What drove Sinatra, what made him tick? What gave the songs an immediacy that other singers lacked?

The tantalizing lights and glamour of New York beckoned like a siren song across lower Manhattan to his hometown, Hoboken, NJ. Bing Crosby, his idol, set the mark and then Frank exceeded it. He went for it all, got it, and then faced the disillusionment of money, power, and a lost love named Ava Gardner. Tommy Dorsey, the Big Band leader who gave him his first break, may have summed it up best: “He’s the most fascinating man in the world, but don’t stick your hand in the cage.”

Classical Music: My fifteen favorite pieces I ever heard. (My abject apologies to all the giants that I had to leave out.) (in no particular order:)

“The Transcendental Etudes” by Franz Liszt. Performed by Claudio Arrau. The Chilean master patiently lifts us up to the Teutonic regions where Liszt dwells.

“Piano Concerto #2” by Johannes Brahms. Leon Fleischer with George Szell and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. This was one of my early favorites. As good as communication gets between performer and conductor. Welcome back Leon!

“Concerto for Cello and Orchestra” by Sir Edward Elgar. Yo Yo Ma with Sir Colin Davis conducting. The brilliance of any composer is to bring you into their world and show you the truth. Mission accomplished here.

“Quiet City” by Aaron Copeland. Pick an orchestra, but preferably one conducted by Copeland. It evokes the lonely, twilight canyons of New York like nothing else.

“The Rite of Spring” by Igor Stravinsky. I can’t imagine what it was like to attend the world premiere of this revolution in sound. Run for cover!

Trilogy: “An American in Paris” “Concerto in F” “Rhapsody in Blue” by George Gershwin. Andre Previn and The Pittsburgh Orchestra. Pulses with the energy and optimism of the young American genius.

“The Unaccompanied Suites for Cello” by Johann Sebastian Bach. Performed by Yo Yo Ma. It feels like you know Bach after hearing these, but it only scratches the surface of this Leviathan’s powers.

“Piano Concerto #3” by Sergei Rachmaninov. Those Russians had a stranglehold on evoking the “bittersweet” elements in music.

“The Violin Concertos” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. David & Igor Oistrakh work their magic with The Gewandhausorchester, Leipzig. If this was all we had of Mozart, he would still be on a pedestal by himself.

“Symphony #4” by Gustav Mahler. The playful, younger side of the composer before the dark complications of the later works. Wagner taught everybody something.

Any Chopin polonaises, waltzes, or mazurkas performed by Artur Rubenstein. A refined style filled with deceptive simplicity and an occasional sly wink.

“Symphony #3 Eroica” by Ludwig Van Beethoven. Herbert von Karajan and The Berlin Philharmonic. Napoleon’s heroics are given a grand scale to play on, and von Karajan is the man to compel it.

“Symphony #3” by Johannes Brahms. Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. A kinder, gentler presence after the volcano of Beethoven, but still plenty of power.

“Romeo and Juliet” Music for the ballet by Sergey Prokofiev. Lorin Maazel and The Cleveland Orchestra. Brings some modern muscle and sinew to a familiar story.

“Violin Concerto #1” by Beethoven. Jascha Heifetz and The Boston Symphony Orchestra. Complete mastery of an instrument. Due diligence has been served.



Recent Sales by Bob & Isabelle Wells:

Island Beach Club #901 \$700,000
Hibiscus Pointe #724 \$399,000
Estero Beach & Tennis #605-A \$389,000

Pointe Creek (Bell Tower) \$345,000
Parker Lakes (The Grove) \$344,000
Ocean Harbor #601-A \$545,000

Please call us if you are thinking of selling now or in the near future! We have been among the Island's top producers since 1990 and can assure you excellent service.



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Some 1999 selling prices:

Condos

Creciente #211 \$195,000
Waterside #335 \$251,900
Hibiscus Pointe #631 \$169,900
Estero Cove #323 \$109,000
Eden House #301 \$225,000
Creciente #905 \$227,000
Sandarac #305-B \$220,000
Royal Pelican #331 \$170,000
Ocean Harbor #601-A \$227,500
Terra Mar #1003 \$219,900
Est. Bch & Tennis #501-B \$123,000
Captains Bay #403 \$175,000

Houses

8258 Estero Blvd \$705,000
5485 Avenida Pescadora \$175,000
200 Virginia Ave \$100,000
21 Fairview Blvd \$360,000
935 3rd St. \$125,000
11851 Isle of Palms Dr \$130,000