



Did You Know? Six Things About Sarasota

1 This year, Siesta Beach is the number one beach in the 21st annual Top 10 Beach List, produced by coastal expert Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, Director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Coastal Research.

Siesta Beach boasts that it has the finest and whitest sand in the world, and I cannot argue with this claim; the powdery sand is nearly pure quartz crystal. The beautiful blue-colored water is clean and clear, making it so inviting to bathers and swimmers who flock to it from all over the world.

2 In 1513, Ponce de Leon landed near Charlotte Harbor, south of Sarasota. The area's population grew rapidly in the 1880s when the town was

surveyed and plots of land were sold to a group of Scottish settlers. By 1913 Sarasota was incorporated, and Florida's land boom was in full swing.

3 Prior to Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida, only the Seminoles occupied the southwest territory of Florida. In 1843, the Seminoles retreated to the Everglades from the Sarasota area in 1819 when the territory was ceded to the United States. The Seminole tribe's descendants remain today in the Everglades.

4 Palmer Ranch was the largest cattle farm in Florida thanks to Chicago-born Bertha Honore Palmer, the largest landholder, rancher, farmer,

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And Now, A Word From Our President

It has been a long time since I could comment favorably about the weather. Of course, if you don't like rain you won't think our weather has been favorable the last couple of months. It is not unusual for us to get rain in the summer, but the usual pattern used to be hot days with rain showers in the afternoon. Since we, who are golfers, usually play in the morning, that scenario was perfect. But in recent years we haven't had much rain at all, so there really hasn't been much of a pattern. This produced hot and dry weather which left grass and shrubs brown, which negated some of the beauty of Prestancia. Boy, is this year different. You can't tell when it is going to rain, and rain it has. The great result of this is the greenest grass and landscaping we have had in years. It hasn't helped my golf any, but nothing else has helped either.



Russ Seifert,
PCA President

Isn't it great to see houses selling again in Prestancia, with new people arriving regularly to live in our little piece of Heaven? Please make sure to welcome them and show why we love it here.

Everyone has been talking about the new stores being built close by that will bring additional shopping within a stone's throw of Prestancia. The construction of two of these stores, Kohl's and Lowe's, is moving right along, and both are due to open shortly. In fact, Kohl's might even be open by the time you receive this newsletter. The other two stores, Costco and Home Depot, have been delayed and we are eagerly awaiting their opening. Good things are happening around here.

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Neighborhood News

THE ENCLAVE

We are happy to welcome new residents James Rutledge (7728 Club Lane) and Kenneth & Elsa Beckerman (7620 Club Lane)!

— Wayne Titus

VILLA FIORE

Since April, we have been busy with some much-needed improvements in our front entrances. The brick pavers were power-washed and sealed. We have updated the lighting at the four entrance walls, and we have planted vincas to give us color and flowers year-round. The island at the north entrance was re-landscaped by removing old, overgrown vegetation and planting more colorful vincas. Finally, we removed many 50-foot-tall Washingtonian palms on the common grounds, and plan to remove a few more this fall. They were difficult to trim and far too tall to add beauty to our landscape.

— Barbara Swan

VILLA D'ESTE

The good news from Villa D'Este is that the two adjoining villas at 7287 and 7295 Villa D'Este Drive that had been destroyed in a fire in November 2009 have been totally rebuilt, and one would never know there had been such a disastrous event. While the rebuilt homes outwardly resemble the rest of the complex, they truly are new homes and meet all current codes.

This past spring we had all the oak trees trimmed and cleaned out on the perimeter of Villa D'Este along Prestancia Boulevard. It makes a dramatic difference as one drives by, and we received rave reviews from numerous representatives of other Prestancia communities.

On July 7, our "first Thursday of the month pool party" was a belated celebration of July 4th. We had

hot dogs, ice cream, cake, and all kinds of delectable side dishes. This has been an annual event at Villa D'Este and is always one of our best-attended pool gatherings of the year, even in the absence of all the snowbirds.

— Andrea Pilch

VILLA MIRADA

With half our owners gone, this time of year is for painting, fixing, and refurbishing:

- Two planters in courtyard refurbished
- Pool deck and both upper and lower courtyard decking painted
- Annual trimming of oak and palm trees

These have been the main items keeping everyone busy, plus three units are being refurbished and updated by owners. This is a busy time preparing for seasonal change and dodging rain.

— Mike Gates

THE ESTATES

There has not been much positive to say about the housing market until recently. The past few months have changed that with several home sales and consequently several new families to the Estates. There are more sales pending but those that have moved in include Chris and Wendy Berry and Alan and Becky Ridley on Losillias; William and Debbie Smith, Raul and Lynne Armengol, and John and Barbara Sutton all on Las Palmas; and Robert and Pamela Miller on Escondido.

We know all these people will enjoy living here and we look forward to meeting as many as we can as soon as we can.

Women's Empowerment Series

TPC will be hosting a series of women's empowerment seminars in January, February, and March. Please write to pipelineeditor@comcast.net if you wish to receive the season brochure. The series will include lectures, workshops, and demonstrations from many talented professionals trained in grief therapy, past life experiences, and hand analysis who will help you to identify your life's purpose, and a nationally known psychic medium. The series will be held in the banquet room and we will schedule them around a lunch, a dinner, or light cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Feed Me!

Siesta Key Oyster Bar (SKOB)

5238 Ocean Boulevard, Sarasota

www.skob.com

(941) 346-5443

It's known by locals as SKOB, but the nickname is misleading, as the Siesta Key Oyster Bar boasts far more choices than oysters, which makes it one of the most happening places in the Siesta Key Village.

Prestancia residents Beth Owen-Cipielewski and her husband, Keith, are behind the phenomenal success

of this famous eatery. Mara Villa residents for eight years, the couple have built the reputation into one of the best in Sarasota, not only for its good food, but its nightly music. Mike Tozier plays on Saturday night, and it's usually standing room only when he gets the crowd dancing and singing along to his songs. SKOB has kept the music schedule very simple, still offering Open Mic night on Tuesday nights, as that is a staple for them. All their bands play music you can sit back and relax to, and feel like you are in paradise.

The history of SKOB is a family affair: Siesta Key Oyster Bar was purchased by Beth Owen-Cipielewski and Jill Pedigo, sisters, in November 2003. Jill convinced her sister to move to Florida from Dallas to buy a restaurant on the Key. Beth was very nervous, as the restaurant needed a lot of TLC. After five years, they remodeled the entire building and hired an executive chef. Along with their husbands, and all their children, they have all worked at the restaurant to make it the number one experience in all of Sarasota.

Keith and Beth are empty nesters now and love to travel. SKOB has allowed them to do so — they trade off weekly with her sister Jill and brother-in-law Geno. They each have expertise in certain areas of

restaurant management, and that has played a key role in the success of this Key establishment.

Beth is the marketing geek. She loves to network and is currently on the board for the Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau for Marketing, as well as the marketing board for the Siesta Key Chamber. Keith is active as well. He is currently the President of the Sarasota Chapter of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging, and also serves on the board for the Siesta Key Village Association. In addition, he is Vice President for the Mara Villa Homeowners Association.



Beth Owen-Cipielewski and Keith Cipielewski of SKOB

Giving back to the community is very important to the family, as they are always partnering with non-profits for special events. Currently they are supporting Mote Marine for the Animal Hospital program.

SKOB has become a household name since the inception, and that is one of their biggest accomplishments. It may sound funny, but

when you can just say SKOB and the next statement is "I love that place," it gives us all great vibes!

One thing they learned early is "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," so they still offer half-price oysters every day from 3:00 to 6:00. Beth adds, "We still get calls asking, 'I was in there a few years ago and you had this oyster special, what is it now?' and it's great to say 'The same thing!' "

Beth and Keith are both very active in the bowling world and Beth was on the professional tour for 13 years. Recently she competed in the Tournament of the Americas for TEAM USA, in the senior division. She is not excited to be called a senior, but she was more than excited to compete for her country.

"SKOB has been wonderful to us and we embrace our community and love how far we have come," says Beth.

A Word From Our President

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The PAL Half Marathon last year was such a huge success that another has been scheduled for this year. It will be held the Sunday after Thanksgiving as it was last year, with the first leg going from our South Gate to our North Gate all along Prestancia Boulevard. Let's go out and cheer these runners on as we did last year. We were given special kudos because of the enthusiasm of our residents cheering on the runners.

Our friends who went north for the summer had hotter weather than we did. They will be returning soon, so let's greet them and let them know they have been missed.

P.S. There have been some sightings of coyotes in the area. They are not a problem for humans. but please watch out for your small pets.

Six Things About Sarasota

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and developer of the area at the turn of the twentieth century. She developed and promoted many innovative practices that enabled the raising of cattle to become a large-scale reality in Florida. At her "Meadowsweet Farms," Palmer also pioneered large-scale farming and dairy in the area and made significant contributions to practices that enabled the development of crops that could be shipped to markets in other parts of the country. Her experimentation was coordinated with the state department of agriculture. She also made Sarasota a winter destination for wealthy families and revolutionized the farm and cattle business in the state when she purchased more than 90,000 acres of property. She also owned a large tract of land that now is Myakka State Park.

Her sons continued her enterprises and remained as investors and donors in Sarasota after the death of Bertha Palmer in 1918. Aside from drawing world-wide attention to the city as a vacation destination and a chic location for winter residences, as well as being renowned for the ranching and agricultural reforms she introduced, Bertha Palmer's greatest tangible legacy to Sarasotans are the two state parks are located on properties she held: portions of the Oscar Scherer State Park and the enormous Myakka River State Park.

5 Nearly a century ago, in the 1910s, brothers John and Charles Ringling decided to invest in the future of Sarasota.

John and Charles Ringling — two of the five original Ringling brothers who turned a small traveling circus

into an international entertainment empire — wielded incredible influence on the economy, development, culture, and character of this quaint village on beautiful Sarasota Bay.

John Ringling was reputed to be the fifth wealthiest man in the United States when he and Charles bought an estimated 67,000 acres of what is now Sarasota and Longboat Key as investment property.

When the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus moved its winter quarters to Sarasota in 1927, the serene seaside resort became the hub of circus activity, attracting famous circus families and artists from around the world. Sarasota quickly became known far and wide as Circus City, USA.

In 1960, Ringling moved its winter quarters to Venice, and the impact of the circus expanded into the larger Sarasota County area.

Today, the influence of the Ringlings and their circus is still prevalent throughout Sarasota county, from the Ringling estate that is home to the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, their personal home Cá d'Zan, and the Ringling Circus Museum and its new Tibbals Learning Center, to the Circus Ring of Fame on St. Armands Circle.

6 Sarasota Glamorama: Did you know that famed sportscaster Dick Vitale lives here? Nationally known author Stephen King? Talk show host Jerry Springer? Tennis star Martina Navratilova? And, of course, YOU!