

The Schuldensfrei REPORT



Serving the Islands for over 40 years

About real estate on Sanibel and Captiva • Going to 7,000 local property owners and 15,000 Northern visitors

SANIBEL HAS ANOTHER WINNER

A young lady who recently graduated from the Sanibel School and is currently in Fort Myers High School, has won top honors at the annual Thomas Alva Edison Science and Engineering Fair. Over 350 students from all over Lee and Charlotte Counties competed at the fair and our gal, from little 'ole Sanibel, won several awards - first place prize, Best of Fair Award and multiple scholarships. Congratulations to her. That Sanibel School just keeps turning out great kids - winners. No wonder it's a great place to live.

SANCTUARY GOLF CLUB HONOR

The Sanctuary Golf Club has been recognized for environmental excellence. Once again it has been certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The club, on the north end of Sanibel, is surrounded by lands of the "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and they have taken great care to protect and sustain these lands and the water and natural resources around them. The club is one of 110 courses in Florida to hold the honor. So, the golfer not only gets to have a wonderful round - on an "Arthur Hill" designed course - and maybe enjoy a great meal in the clubhouse, they also get to enjoy the beauty and luxury of a natural environment that's widely renowned.

EXPERIENCE THE SCHULDENSFREI EXCELLENCE

David has been helping people who love Sanibel and Captiva to find the right place to buy or to rent for over 40 years. He has spent those years learning the island and finding out what's helpful to those interested in the real estate market - be it to buy a property, sell or rent a property. He has learned and understands the nuances of this island market of which he has been a leading part for longer than most anyone else. His colleagues have elected him President of the local association 3 times and he was voted Realtor of the year 4 times by customers. David is a man who can get it done. Call him and see what a difference a Dave can make.



Discover the Difference A Dave Makes • "Your Best Interest Is My Only Business"

ATTENTION GARDENERS

Most cities have a Parks and Recreation Department to maintain public recreation areas. Sanibel, in keeping with its culture, has a Department of Natural Resources within which is the Vegetation Committee. The committee can be a big helpmate to you in the proper planting and care of native vegetation. They will help you learn about the plants - which ones reseed themselves, or require no fertilizer, or attract birds and butterflies, or don't kill you with maintenance needs. The committee offers native plant tours of the grounds at City Hall during season. All year round the Department of Natural Resources section of the city website www.mysanibel.com has information and photos of native plants and the Environmental Reference Handbook which has a lot of useful gardening information.



AND REMEMBER HIS ADDITIONAL SERVICES.

MLS NOTIFICATION - We have recently installed an updated, improved notification service that will be even more helpful to you. It is flexible and can be designed by you, changed by you, made to reflect your needs at your time. It can be your dynamic, versatile search tool. Just go to our website.

PRICING - We'll help you price your property by preparing a report showing what other like properties have sold for.

GOPHER ENTERPRISES - We'll find the perfect place for you to rent. Just let us know what you need and we will deliver it to you - guaranteed. If you're an owner and want to rent your property to vacationers we can offer a professional web-site Portal that will give you direct access to the active vacationer market.

LET DAVID BE YOUR GUIDE - CALL HIM

He will provide professional and practical guidance to help you buy, sell or rent the property that's right for you. Call or write him.

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GOOD NEWS FOR BICYCLE RIDERS

The City is going public in support of what has been a long standing Florida law protecting bicyclers. The law states that cyclers have the right to ride their bikes on the road and that motor vehicles are required to allow at least three feet of clearance when passing them. All municipal vehicles now have a new yellow bumper sticker that says, "3 Feet Please - It's the law." The Sanibel Bicycle Club is supplying the bumper stickers so there is no city expense. You can get your own free stickers at Billy's Bike Shop or Bike Bistro.



YOU ARE SAFE ON SANIBEL

Sanibel has been designated as the seventh safest city of the 410 municipalities in the entire state of Florida. This was reported by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. The designation is based on a review of the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report. Sanibel's 2016 crime report is the lowest recorded in the last 13 years. It has always been the city's intention to prevent rather than respond. Nice to see it's working!

THE MUSIC FESTIVAL IS BACK

The Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is returning. The free festival will take place over 10 days in late September, early October on our most beautiful barrier islands. It will kick off on Captiva on September 22nd and finish on Fort Myers Beach September 29 - October 1. It's still in the planning stage and the major acts and songwriters attending the festival will be announced in the near future. Keep posted.



AN ALMANAC FOR THE RESEARCHER

The 2017 Southwest Florida Economic Almanac has been released. Whew!! Seriously, this can be a valuable resource to the person moving to the islands with business interests. The data covers a five county area including Lee County which is about half the total area population. The sections include socioeconomics, housing, income and finance, real estate, government spending and assistance and others. It is published by the Florida Gulfcoast University's Regional Economic Research Institute. You can access it and download data from it at www.fcgu.edu/swflalmanac.



CALLING ALL SWIMMERS

The Recreation Center has a new coach. A swim coach and former triathlete who will be running a year-round swim program tailored for the triathlete. The program is designed to improve endurance, speed, and stroke technique to help get your swim time down. It's also helpful for those in a Masters Program. If you are a triathlete or would just like to train, sessions are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00 AM to 8:15 AM. The cost is \$33 per month for members of the Recreation Center or \$44 for non-members. For further information call 239-472-0345 or visit www.mysanibel.com. You can do it. Go for it!

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GREAT LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR YOU

The Sanibel Library is a treasure that has consistently been recognized by professional organizations as a significant contributor to the community. It is loaded with books, periodicals, videos, tapes and displays by various island organizations. There are e-books and e-magazines that can be downloaded from their e-shelf to your iPad or iPhone. It has wonderful programs for children, both readers and pre-readers and a whole series of programs for adults. One such program is the Book Discussion Group. It meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. There is no cost or registration required but you must have a library card. Cards are free for residents and \$10 for visitors. For more info call 239 472 2483 or go to www.sanlib.org.

TRANSPORTATION HELP

FISH (Friends In Service Here) of Sanibel is a service resource that provides help for those who need it. They provide over 40 different free services by volunteers who make themselves available to help their neighbors. Transportation is one of those services. If you need to do some banking, grocery shopping, get your hair cut, FISH can help. They can also take you to non-emergency medical or dental appointments both on or off the island. Just call their answering service at 472 0404 and they will make the arrangements. They would like three to five days notice for requests. Another great reason to live on Sanibel.



BLUE FLASH CAPTURED ON SANIBEL

You've all heard about the famous "green flash" that occurs at the tail end of a sunset. It's the same green flash you've never seen --- nor do you know anyone who has ever seen it. Well, it really exists! A local photographer has captured it on film - although it looked more blue than green. The green flash is very unusual and generally reported not to be found anywhere but Arizona. Apparently it's on Sanibel, too!



DINNER COUPONS

The Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club has released their annual Diners Delight coupon book. They are valid from May 1st through December 19th and provide discounts for 29 local restaurants - just about every restaurant on the islands. If you would like one, or more, send a check for \$35 a book plus 70 cents postage per book and a business size self-addressed envelope to Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 1, Sanibel, FL 33957.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida we mentioned in our last letter will be opening this Spring and they need volunteers. If you have interests in that direction you can fill out an application at www.leehealth.org/volunteer/index.asp. Prior experience is not required and there is opportunity to choose a position that fits you best. There will be training which typically lasts for a couple of weeks, depending on the position.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD TO MAYOR RUANE

The 32nd annual conference of the Everglades Coalition chose Sanibel's Mayor Ruane to receive their James D. Webb Public Service Award. His active support for the conservation and restoration of the Everglades has resulted in an elevated role for Florida cities in moving the Everglades and estuary restoration forward with new energy and new partners. This is an important issue for the state since both its real estate and tourism are affected by the Greater Everglades water system. That is also the case for Sanibel. It can have significant and harmful impact on the quality of our coastal waters. That's why David Schuldenfrei became involved and is one of 20 people interviewed for a new documentary film, "Legacy", which explores all aspects of the clean water issue.

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM!

Beat The Winter Rush and Put Your Property on The Market Now!! Inventory Is Low And Buyers Are Looking!!

- ACTIVE LISTINGS -

HOMES

1743 Venus Drive - 4 bed 3.5 bath east end direct Gulf access canal home \$1,699,000

CONDOS

Sanibel Surfside 225 - 2 bed 2 bath updated unit with beautiful Gulf views \$774,900
Pointe Santo B-23 - 2 bed 2 bath tastefully decorated with excellent rental income \$799,000

LOTS

Pine Tree Drive - Canal front double lot on the west end of Sanibel \$549,000

COMMERCIAL LISTING

The Bait Box, one of the last commercial acreages with Periwinkle frontage in the General Commercial district is now available for purchase. Wonderful development opportunity! Business, structures and land offered for \$2,500,000.

BACKGROUND DATA (YTD 3/31)

	SANIBEL	CAPTIVA	TOTAL	2016	2017	%CHNG
CLOSED SALES (Units)						
Houses	44	57	101	63	113	+21%
Condos	38	30	68	42	39	-7%
Lots	6	10	16	7	11	+57%
Total	88	97	185	110	163	+12%
PENDING SALES (Units)						
Houses	41	41	82	47	45	-4%
Condos	30	15	45	30	20	-33%
Lots	4	9	13	4	10	+150%
Total	75	65	140	81	75	-7%
HOUSES						
Gulf/Bay	1	5	6	4	7	+75%
Other A*	15	16	31	16	17	+8%
Other B**	28	36	64	32	39	+22%
Total	44	57	101	52	63	+21%
CONDOS						
1 Bedroom	3	3	6	3	9	+200%
2 Bedroom	27	21	48	30	23	-23%
3 Bedroom	8	6	14	9	7	-23%
Total	38	30	68	42	39	-7%
AVERAGE SALE PRICE (000\$)						
Houses	966	1052	1009	1448	1157	-20%
Condos	709	737	723	721	670	-7%
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET						
Houses	191	132	161	209	137	-34%
Condos	191	204	197	210	199	-5%

*Bayou, Canal, Roosevelt Channel and Lake **Near beach, inland
Source: Market Activity Report and Monthly Statistic Report

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