

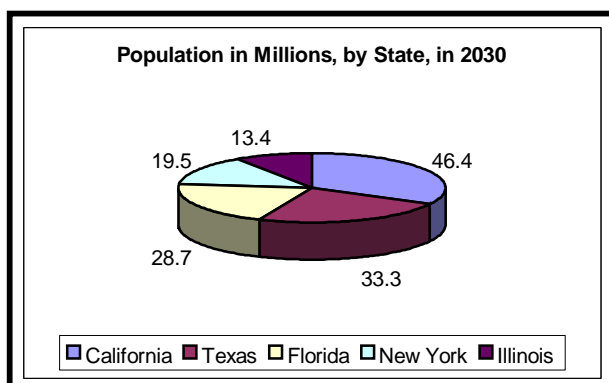
Florida Driving Licences

A pair of bills working through the Florida Legislature as we go to press may provide hope for the many foreign owners who like to own and drive a car in Florida. Senator Rudy Garcia, who tried unsuccessfully last year with a similar bill, is sponsoring the bill in the Senate, which received approval by the Senate Committee on Domestic Security on 25th April. Under the terms of the bill, foreigners would be eligible for a special licence, valid for the duration of their visa, if they can show that they have owned or leased a house for at least six months in the preceding 5 years. The license would have "For Driving Purposes Only" written on it in red to prevent illicit use. A similar bill is working through the House of Representatives sponsored by David Rivera. Previous attempts to extend the temporary license available to aliens legitimately in the country have failed because the State has not been able to differentiate between legal and illegal aliens, and illegal immigrants could achieve an appearance of legal status with a Florida Driving License. It is hoped that the emphasis on owning or leasing a home will provide enough distinction from an illegal immigrant who can legally do neither. The importance of the success of this bill was highlighted by two conversations we had with subscribers during April. In the first case, the homeowner has kept a car in Florida for the last twenty years, the newest one purchased only in 1998. His existing Florida Driving License (granted before 9/11) expired in November, followed instantaneously by the cancellation by his insurance company of the cover on his car. When his broker was persuaded to look around for another deal for him, the best that could be found was \$1,200 for six months cover for two drivers on a UK license. This homeowner now faces selling his car, and having to hire a car for his extended visits. Another subscriber who still holds his original style license encountered another problem whilst in residence for 5 months this winter. His wife has to renew her license each visit and holds the temporary white paper license for a month before the official licence arrives. Their experience was that away from the main tourist area, on presentation of a credit card to pay a bill, many times they were asked for their license as proof of their identity. This is to combat credit card fraud and identity theft, which is a growing problem in the U.S. They discovered that the temporary license was not accepted as proof of identity by any shops, the AAA, or banks. Had the subscriber not had his own existing licence, the first month of their trip could have been considerably different. The success of this bill could also spell the end of those inconvenient trips to the licensing centre. Fingers crossed - we will keep you posted.

Florida Third Largest State by 2030

The American Census bureau has projected that Florida will be the third most populated state by 2030 if growth rates continue at current levels. An influx of 11 million residents will swell the states population from 17 to 28 million, surpassing New York. The elderly will make up 27.1% of the population and will be responsible for 40% of the growth. The relocation of these baby boomers

reflects a nationwide move from the North and Midwest into the South and West. The figures project the overall population in the North and Midwest decreasing over the same period by 7%. Within Florida itself, latest figures have shown that the population has grown by 9.6% overall in the last 4 years. Flagler County has grown the most quickly, followed closely by Osceola, which has experienced a growth of 30.9% in 4 years. This level of growth will provide unique challenges to the State in terms of accommodating the new residents and ensuring they have appropriate services and facilities. The face of Florida may well have to change over the coming years.



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Titbits From Florida

A previous experience with CentraCare in Formosa Gardens – the doctor/hospital surgery inundated daily with guests from Walt Disney World – has driven us to make use of the Doctor’s surgery next door to Publix at Summer Bay shopping plaza. Ability to make an appointment was useful, waiting time was minimal and the doctor was thorough, efficient and pleasant (as they should be for the price!).

TGI Friday’s at Formosa Gardens has undergone a facelift that should have been completed at the end of April. It has lost the dark wood, replaced the artefacts on the walls, and opened up the interior slightly. The plan was also to enclose the current patio section completely and then construct a new patio area next to that.

The Olive Garden has a Tuscan Garlic Chicken available for a limited time only, which is absolutely wonderful, as was our entire dining experience.

Sangam Indian Cuisine at Polo Park on U.S.27 was OK We had heard many good things and were slightly under impressed. We had ours as take-away, we were offered three heat choices for each dish, mild, medium and hot. We opted for medium as a tester, but that felt so mild to us, that we would try hot next time.

Also tried Mekong Oriental Food, - excellent value, delivered free, bang on time and the best Chinese & Thai food that we have eaten in Florida – definitely one to try.

Avoid the self-service checkout desks at WalMart at all costs; three attempts equalled three disastrous experiences.

If you haven’t tried Super Target – do - a clean accessible alternative to WalMart – helpful staff. The Super Target on US 192 combines excellently with a follow up trip to nearby Olive Garden.

Rooms-To-Go at Altamonte Springs is a warehouse for imperfect and end of line furniture. New stock arrives all the time. If you time your visit right (we didn’t) you can find bargain furniture pieces. Mattresses there are the best value we found. A pillow topped queen mattress and base for \$399 – the nearest same quality comparison we found was \$899.

Annual Property Management Survey

Survey forms have been coming in thick and fast. We would remind anyone who has not yet completed their form that we would like them back by 31st May 2005. Remember that you will receive a one-month extension to your subscription for returning your form. We have also placed an editable survey form on our website under ‘past issues’. You can open the document, edit your answers and then email the form directly to us. An early unofficial result has Publix leading the contest for favourite supermarket! If you think differently – fill in your form and have your say!

www.floridahomesandtravel.com

We regret that due to the nature of our new website we are no longer able to offer a web page/link to subscribers for villa adverts. However, within the next few weeks we will have the search box from our successful site www.daystarvillas.com put on to each page of floridahomesandtravel.com. Any subscriber with time left on their advert is invited to add their villa details to www.daystarvillas.com for free for 6 months, if you feel you do have time left on your advert please choose “pay by cheque” and do not send a cheque. We will activate your account. We would also ask anyone else who would like a free advert to do the same in return for a link from their website to www.floridahomesandtravel.com. Please email us for details. Links to our website are a vote of confidence to the search engines, increasing our exposure and by association therefore, yours too.

Restaurant Reviews & Tradesmen Recommendations

We have added a page on our website for subscribers to check out the restaurant reviews of others and add their own. We have many reviews online already thanks to the kind contributions of members of Top-Forums. If you would like to add your best dining experience or worst, please visit www.floridahomesandtravel.com and use the email form provided. The restaurant can be anywhere in Florida, not just Orlando. We have also received our first tradesmen recommendation in the wake of the storms. Screens by Essing, based in St Cloud have been recommended by Mr R Emms and can be reached on 407-922-1591. They installed a brand new screen, on time, on budget and handled the permits whilst keeping Mr Emms fully informed. Any further recommendations of all types of tradesmen, tilers, decorators etc will be welcome for the tradesmen recommendations page on the website.

Key West Climate Data - May 1948-2000

(All in degrees Fahrenheit)

The average high temp is	85.2°
The average low temp is	75.7°
The highest temp (on May 24 th 1949)	91°
The coldest night temp (on May 1 st 1992)	64°

Exchange Rates \$ to £

April 19(high)	1.9198	April 7 (low)	1.8695
2005 High Mar 8	1.9284	2005 Low Feb 8	1.8550
2004 High Dec 20	1.9457	2004 Low May 11	1.7552

Mortgage Rates

With zero points	Feb 25	Mar 23	April 27
Fixed 30 yrs	5.87%	6.12%	5.87%
Adjustable 1 yr	4.25%	4.12%	4.25%

Note: Mortgage rates are published as a service to readers to indicate trends and must not be relied on in entering into any agreement.

News Roundup

Ag-Venture Farm Show petting zoo was found to be responsible of an outbreak of E-coli amongst young children in Florida during March. Recent figures showed that 23 children and 3 adults had been confirmed with the infection. The farm had provided the petting zoo for the Central Florida Fair in Orlando, the Strawberry Festival in Plant City and the Florida State Fair in Tampa. Victims had all visited one of these shows during February and March.

The lakefront at Kissimmee could be transformed if either of two proposals is accepted by the Kissimmee Community Redevelopment Agency. One is by Bob Snow, the original developer of Church Street Station and is reminiscent of that concept. Plans for “Kissimmee Landings” include: Geech Partin’s Cowboy Saloon on the first floor of the old Columbia Hotel on Broadway; Osceola Trading Co, and antique shop; Cracker Joe’s Dance Hall and Bar-B-Que in the Roy E Hansel power plant building – which would be relocated across the street; Lake Toho Pavilion for art shows and concerts and Lake Toho Yacht Club, rebuilt and turned into a seafood restaurant. FaulknerUSA has submitted the alternative plan; the same company that is in the frame for building the long planned Osceola Convention Centre. FaulknerUSA plans call the area “Monument Park” and draw from the area’s history as a cattle town. Artwork shows sweeping boardwalks, boat slips, multi-storey buildings in a “Key’s” style. Attractions would include: restaurants, pubs, retail stores, and an expanded marina.

British tourists staying at a villa on the Woodridge subdivision on US 27 were horrified to witness 3 workmen clubbing an alligator to death in a retention pond on April 14th. The 6-foot creature had been in the lake for the duration of the visitors’ stay, without causing any problems. The men allegedly threw cakes and bread to attract the alligator to the side of the lake and then began clubbing it with a golf club. The men were arrested and face third degree felony charges, and potentially five years in prison and fines of up to \$5,000 if found guilty.

A sales tax holiday for hurricane preparation essentials has been approved and will commence on June 1st. Goods available without tax are torches, batteries, small radios, coolers, plywood and generators. The measure has been taken to encourage Floridians to prepare early for the hurricane season which begins on June 1st, rather than waiting until a hurricane is actually forecast as this causes queues and shortages as residents rush to stock up. The state will lose about \$48 million in sales tax revenue, which is a drop in the ocean compared to the \$2.2 billion windfall the state has gained as a direct result of the booming property market, rebounding tourism, and even post hurricane reconstruction.

Paul McCartney will be opening his American tour on September 16th in Miami, and performing in Tampa on September 17th at the St Pete Times Forum. Tickets for the Miami performance are likely to be sold out by now but tickets for the Tampa performance were released on 29th April and may be available through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

Passengers of Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines and a few others at Miami International Airport may well find themselves in an explosives scanner. Passengers selected for secondary screening, and any others randomly selected will be asked to stand within the enclosed booth, where a puff of air will blow over them and be sucked into the ceiling where it will be analysed for particles of explosives. This is not the first such scanner in Florida and more will be rolled out across the country in the coming months.

Guests at the Holiday Inn and Suites near Universal Studios had a rather damp awakening when they were evacuated in the small hours due to a burst hot water pipe on April 8th. The water leaked from the 10th floor down to the 3rd but there were no injuries reported.

Migrating sharks off the southeast and east coast of Florida caused several beaches to be closed and swimming warnings posted during early April. The sharks, mainly blacktips and spinners, were offshore in vast numbers as they made their annual migration northwards along the coastline. It made for stunning aerial photographs and continued off and on over a couple of weeks.

Melbourne-Palm Bay has been ranked as the 26th best place to live in the U.S, behind Tallahassee at 22nd, by a national magazine – Men’s Journal. The magazine also ranked Melbourne No. 1 as “Best Bargain Beach Town” outdoing Daytona and Fort Walton Beach.

Average Daily Hotel Room Rate

Area	Mar	April
International Drive	\$119.42	\$105.02
Lake Buena Vista	\$133.46	\$109.65
Kissimmee East	\$77.80	\$78.38
Kissimmee West	\$57.95	\$52.97

Florida Lottery Winning Numbers

Date	Numbers	Winners	Jackpot \$m
04/16/05	05-11-23-31-39-48	3	\$6 m
04/13/05	08-09-10-31-47-50	Roll	\$3 m
04/09/05	10-15-23-28-35-49	1	\$6 m
04/06/05	03-11-18-29-52-53	Roll	\$3 m
04/02/05	12-13-16-28-30-44	1	\$3 m
03/30/05	01-19-37-38-46-53	1	\$10 m
03/26/05	06-12-15-41-42-52	Roll	\$6 m
03/23/05	05-13-23-33-43-46	Roll	\$3 m
03/19/05	18-30-37-39-42-45	1	\$6 m

Numbers are obtained from the Florida Lottery (www.flalottery.com) as a service to readers. We cannot accept liability for any errors.

Homeowner News

Increasing numbers of Brits are moving to the United States under E-2 Visas. According to latest figures from the office of National Statistics in London, in 2002 1,876 E-2 visas were issued for people from Britain. In 2003 the figure rose to 2,266 and that figure rose again by 30% to 2,966 in 2004. To qualify for an E-2 visa a person must have at least \$100,000 to invest into an American business. There are many other requirements, such as employing local staff, retaining a company at home, etc but an entire industry has grown up to match hopeful Brits and other foreigners with potential business opportunities and advise on immigration and business laws. Unfortunately, a number of these turn out to be fraudulent ways of parting uninformed foreigners from their money. Some of the businesses purchased don't actually exist or are grossly misrepresented, and some of the immigration advisors are not actually qualified to give advise. People seriously interested in following this path should hire both an immigration lawyer and an accountant using personal recommendations when possible. When looking at potential businesses, if one is asked for non-refundable deposits or money up front – then look elsewhere.

Builders appear to have learnt the lessons of last years hurricane season, when many houses apparently sprung leaks in walls whilst suffering no direct storm damage. No significant changes have yet been made to the State building code, and recommendations from last years report by the Florida Builders Association will not be implemented before July 2006. However, Orange County's top building official Bob Olin, has observed greater attention to detail with more caulking, more paint on exterior walls, and greater importance placed on installing doors and windows correctly. One could be forgiven for assuming that these things happened anyway!

Tourism numbers released for the first quarter in Monroe County and the Keys showed slightly mixed results. Hotel and retail businesses were expecting a good winter season, as the region had remained undamaged by the storms, hoteliers held out for higher room rates and increased their direct web presence to eliminate the impact of internet operators offering huge discounts. But overall occupancy numbers were down on last year and fell below expectations.

Elsewhere around the state, lodging industry executives have been reporting an excellent start to the year, citing confidence in the economy, a harsh winter up country and strong pound to dollar rates as reasons for the increase in visitors which it is hoped will continue into the summer. Tourist numbers are up by 9% on average around Florida.

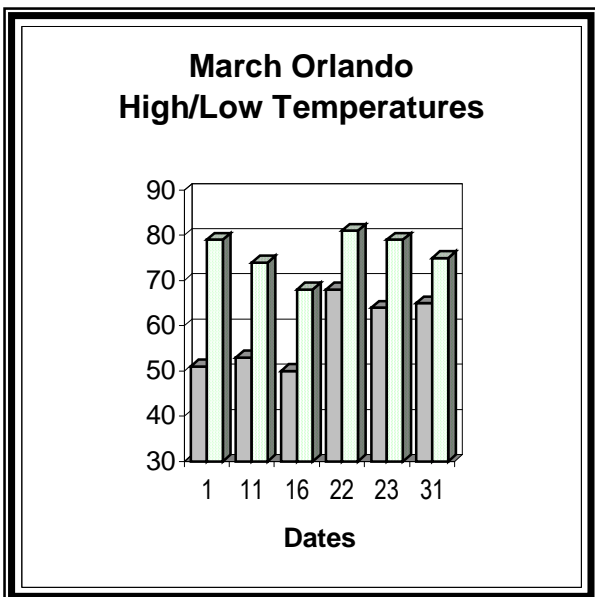
Reservations are currently being taken for a twelve story, ninety-eight condominium tower in North Fort Myers with unimpeded views of the Caloosahatchee River. Palm Pint Riverfront Towers is being developed by Brixton Development LLC and offers 5 different floor plans.

A developer based in Treasure Island has become one of the first to routinely incorporate an anti mould treatment in the construction of houses. Gail Byrne and associates is using a company called Enclean to apply the mold-preventing product to the buildings interior walls before the installation of drywall and insulation. A 10-year warranty is provided against mold growth.

Regular visitors to southwest Florida will be relieved to know that Westfield Shoppingtowns are losing the Shoppingtown part of their names. The Australian Westfield Group bought several shopping malls including Sarasota Square Mall, and Citrus Park in Tampa Bay and renamed them with overwhelming monikers such as Westfield Shoppingtown Countryside or Westfield Shoppingtown Sarasota. Sadly though, the signs will not be removed instantly, just faded out, as they need replacing.

Gun crime, road rage and muggings are things many of us fear, but fortunately few experience either at home or abroad. But a recent rule change in Florida could affect the response given by the victim in any of those situations. Under American law, the homeowners right to defend his home and property with deadly force is well known, but until the bill went through the Florida Legislature, it was little known that a victim had an actual "duty to retreat" from attack to avoid violence. From October 1st 2005 Floridians will be able to "meet force with force, including deadly force if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so, to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another", without fear of criminal prosecution.

Did you know that ZIP code stands for Zone Improvement Plan and may be up to 11 numbers long?



The stereo-typical image of a Florida Villa is a light colored single story detached villa with its own pool, surrounded by lush green grass, palm trees and perhaps over-looking a lake and/or golf course. The appearance of this type of villa next to any mention of Florida vacations purely reinforces the image. This is not though, the whole picture. Condominiums are legendary in America – in fact when Americans think of hiring a home to stay in, a condo is what they are thinking of in the same way as Brit's think of villas. Increasingly townhomes are becoming a common sight in resort style developments, these benefit the developer by allowing more homes per acre than individual villas. Some developments have private pools, spas or splash pools attached to the townhomes bridging the gap between condos and villas. A newer concept, effectively forced on the developers by the price of land close to Walt Disney World, is Condo-hotels. We have mentioned these before and the concept is basically a condo development around a large top-brand hotel with elite resort facilities, run by the hotel management, but each condo individually owned.

All of these concepts have their place and their guest market but they tend to suit a variety of owners. Owners tend to fall into one of three categories: the second home owner who is often at their house, but lets family and friends use it when not in residence to help cover the running costs; the owner who buys a house hoping that rental rates WILL cover running costs and even make a profit as a small business. This group tends to be hands on and works hard to achieve that goal. Then there are those who view their house as an investment – a property portfolio and prefer to leave it to managers to run and to achieve the income.

This last group particularly suit the concept of the Condo-hotels, where units can be snapped up at a good price early on and then appreciate in value as the resort develops, benefiting from the enormous corporate presence of these top-brand hotels.

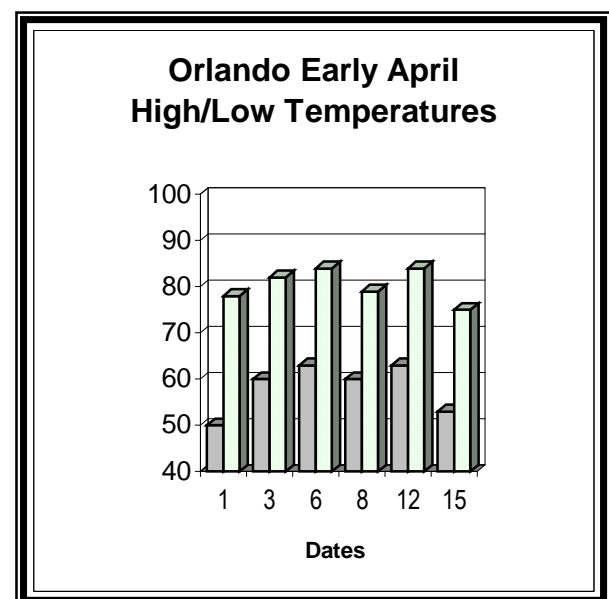
If one is looking about for a new place to be, the next big thing, or even your first purchase, we have received details of a few ideas in Central Florida around the Disney area. Ideally placed for convention trade is Pulte Homes new Vista Cay development of condominiums – on land bordered on one side by the new extension of the Orange County Convention Center and on the other by a fantastic golf course. Prices for these condo's are between \$200,00 and \$300,000. Rental rights for these properties could potentially reach \$200 - \$300 per night as with the top hotels in the area. As Vista Cay will be centrally managed this is one for the hands off investors. Although this is Orange County, zoning for Short-Term-Rental has been given to this development.

A similar development is on the books for the western side of Disney. An as yet unnamed condominium

development is planned off the Western Beltway to the west of Walt Disney World. The key to this development is access to Disney. A road is being cut through Disney property to meet SR 429 at the junction with Hartzog road just behind Orange Lake Country Club, and exit within Walt Disney World near to the Speedway at the Transportation and Ticket Center. This has implications both for the expected use of the Western Beltway from its southern end near Reunion resort and for the potential convention trade possibilities of the new development. Once again, early investors in this development will achieve the best prices, which should start below \$300,000. At the moment interested parties can only register their interest, but to avoid missing these early prices that is worth doing. This development is not currently targeted for single management so could suit the more hands on owner seeking both investment potential and business involvement.

Park Square Homes have a new development at the former RV site of Secret Key, between Sunset Lakes and Emerald Island – to be named Encantada. The plan here is for more of their successful townhomes with pools on end lots and splash pools for the internal homes. Each private pool area is individually screened and the site already features a clubhouse and lake. Prices for a 4-bed end unit with pool are expected to start at under \$300,000. This development would probably most suit a hands on owner seeking to keep close to Disney and perhaps upgrade an older home. These homes won't be ready before 2006, and possibly later than that if this year's hurricane season impedes construction.

To register interest for any of these developments please contact Tom Schmidt of Global Real Estate Services Inc who can be reached through our website at www.floridahomesandtravel.com.



Western Beltway

On April 13th there was an emergency meeting between Indian Ridge Homeowners Association and the Osceola County Commissioner for District 1, Paul Owen, with regard to the western beltway. Also present to answer questions was Chris Crowe, the County Engineer.

Between 40 and 50 concerned residents and representatives attended the meeting, which was opened by the President of the Indian Ridge HOA Mr John Abrahamsen. The meeting largely concerned the construction of a frontage road running along the back wall of Indian Ridge feeding the tollbooth intersection by Sinclair Road.

Some investigations by the Indian Ridge HOA had turned up the fact that whilst the beltway was approved back in 1995, the intersection, toll booth and frontage road were not added to the plan until 2000 when the County Staff “encouraged” the Florida Department of Transport (FDOT) to add the intersection next to Indian Ridge. This happened during negotiations with the Reunion resort, which appears to many to be the main beneficiary of the intersection, and without discussion with Indian Ridge.

This all happened before the election of Mr Owen, who admitted he did not know much of the history and undertook to find some facts.

Whilst no changes will be made to the road, evidence of “lack of consultation and consideration” could provide leverage in requests for screening and noise abatement from the frontage road in the form of trees and shrubs. Currently there are no plans for screening along the road with the exception of the Reunion area.

Mr Abrahamsen was particularly concerned with the collapsing of the rear wall of the subdivision. Whilst he acknowledged that the wall had been neglected for some years, the road works have exacerbated the problem. He asked if the state or county would help with reconstructing the wall. This was found to be slightly problematic, because easements, albeit temporary, would have to be granted by every homeowner with a section of the wall on their property to the County to allow access by construction workers.

After some further discussion about the County’s responsibilities within the Indian Ridge subdivision the nature of comments moved on to the noise, vibration, disturbance and dust issues currently being experienced by homeowners from Indian Ridge and reflected by owners adjacent to the length of this section of beltway. Along with the damage to the back wall, owners (not present) reported cracks above windows, and fixtures falling off walls. Dust from the roads falls into pools and on to pool decks on a daily basis.

There was considerable anecdotal evidence that the subcontracted workers of the FDOT were consistently commencing work earlier than allowed, firing up large equipment and waking residents from 5am onwards.

Mr Owen noted the comments and was sympathetic and promised to speak to the FDOT stressing the inconvenience of this to residents and “demand” workers damp down the road more often to lessen the amount of sand dust transferring to pools and decks.

The vice-president of the HOA Mr Alan Oakley then stood up to reinforce the comments followed by a handful of other residents – the most compelling of whom was the lady who spoke last (I only caught her name as Amy). Amy lives at a far corner of Indian Ridge from the frontage road work but still was experiencing vibrations, and objects falling off the walls of the house. Amy had only moved in eighteen months ago and had a complete inspection of the house done then, she was contemplating having another inspection now to confirm her suspicion of damage to the house.

This raised the question of structural damage to houses and Mr Owen asked if any resident present thought they had damage from the works. No one put their hand up, however Mr Owens went on to say that anyone who thought they had damage could contact Christa Deason of the FDOT and request a survey of their house to assess if damage had been caused by the construction work. As work is still in its early stages, homeowners very close to the construction work might like to consider getting an inspection done now to have record of the state of the house, should damage occur at a later date.

From the nature of comments made at the meeting, it was apparent that homeowners in the immediate vicinity of the construction would need to make guests aware of the potential inconvenience to avoid any legal action. Equally, many guests on vacation are up and out of the houses early to get to the theme parks and will be largely unaffected by the disturbances.



Construction behind Indian Ridge at the corner of Sand Hill Road. Other photos of the construction work along Section 1 and 2 taken in Mid- April are available to view on our website www.floridahomesandtravel.com.

If subscribers visiting their homes would like to email more up to date photos as time goes by they would be most welcome and used to update the website to keep everyone in the picture (no pun intended!) email to elle@floridahomesandtravel.com.

Strokes of Genius: Unique Golfing Experiences in Florida

Boasting more courses than any other state in the country, there are plenty of golf experiences in Florida to keep you busy, whether you're a novice or an experienced golfer. With more than 1,100 courses and many designs by world-renowned architects, Florida's golf courses can challenge even the most talented golfers. Playing golf in Florida isn't just another round. It's a pure golf experience.

Beginning in Northwest Florida, Panama City Beach offers enthusiasts a chance to experience golfing at the Marriott's Bay Point Resort Village (www.baypointgolf.com). This course exhibits 36 holes of championship golf between two golf courses, including the Nicklaus Golf Course, opening in the fall of 2005. This will be the first Jack Nicklaus design in Northwest Florida. Both courses are incredible practice areas that feature manicured putting greens, sand bunkers and driving ranges. The Meadows Course at Bay Point is meticulously maintained in a beautiful atmosphere. Both courses are situated in Northwest Florida's natural terrain of scrub oaks, pines and salt-water marshes. Each layout is unique, challenging and unforgettable. Bay Point offers individual and group lessons by PGA professionals, a necessity for those serious about improving their game.

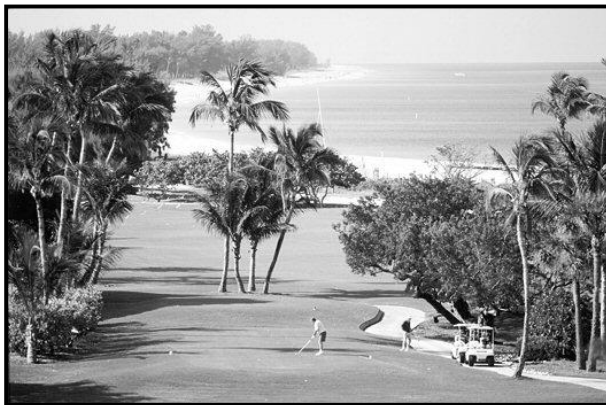
Marriott Bay Point Golf Club also offers a club-leasing program for those golf travellers who are seeking the newest and latest technology in clubs.

Going a little farther east, Amelia Island Plantation (www.aipfl.com) offers three extraordinary, challenging and beautiful courses, including five picturesque ocean holes. With the sandy dunes so close to the Atlantic, you can enjoy the scenery without having to leave the course. Ocean Links, designed by Pete Dye and Bobby Weed, is a 36-hole structure including the 6,500-acre Oak Marsh Golf Course and the beautiful, seaside Ocean Links Course. Perhaps the most noted course at Amelia Island is Long Point, designed by Tom Fazio. Long Point challenges its players with natural hazards, tight fairways and elevated greens. The fairways wind through breathtaking settings, including the thick oak and pine forest and scenic oceanfront dunes.

Just south of Jacksonville, the Tournament Players Club (TPC) of Sawgrass is a 6,974-acre course that beckons serious golfers. Considered by many to be Florida's "Number One" golf destination, TPC was

designed by Pete Dye to challenge the world's best golfers and to offer the ultimate golfing experience. Perhaps the most famed course at TPC is the Stadium Course, home to the PGA's Player Championship. Golf with the pros at TPC, where you can see professional golfers like Vijah Singh or Jim Furyk hitting buckets of balls on an average day. Consider yourself warned: the demanding courses show off dangerous greens and lots of water. Visit www.tpc.com to begin your experience of golfing with the pros.

Moving toward Central Florida, Ocean Hammock Golf Club (www.palmcoastresort.com) doesn't just offer a course—it offers 90 holes of championship golf. Boasting the highest course rating in the state and the only resort with signature designs by three of the game's greatest players, Nicklaus, Palmer and Player, Ocean Hammock has been called the "Pebble Beach of the East." All five courses located at Ocean Hammock are perfectly manicured with abundant water and wildlife, a diverse terrain that ranges from perfect windswept sand dunes to rich Florida wetlands. In addition, all courses are teamed by PGA pros who offer golfers professional instruction. All the courses also offer electric golf carts, caddies, club rentals, pro shops and snack bars.



In Naples, the LaPlaya Beach and Golf Resort (www.laplayaresort.com) is the perfect choice for golfers wishing to experience the most luxurious in Florida

golf resorts. The Bob Cupp-designed golf course is new and features a 6907-yard practice area and a 12,000 "square" foot clubhouse. LaPlaya is known for its spectacular sunsets, pure white sands and breathtaking views. LaPlaya Beach and Golf resort is also home to the David Leadbetter golf Academy, which offers golf instruction to both individuals and groups.

Travelling even farther south into the Ft. Lauderdale area, golfers won't want to miss the Golf Club at Emerald Hills (www.theclubatemeraldhills.com). Considered to be one of the best golf clubs in South Florida, it has been the host site for the Honda Qualifiers for the past ten years. Emerald Hills boasts beautifully maintained greens, rolling hills and challenging traps. The club offers golfers a fully stocked pro shop, free valet parking, beautiful practice facilities and full locker room facilities. This golf course is sure to offer South Florida's residents and visitors a welcomed challenge.

For information on travel to Florida or to order a copy of VISIT FLORIDA's free Vacation Guide visit VISIT FLORIDA's consumer web site, www.VISITFLORIDA.com.

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