

A Voice from the Village

Neighbor to Neighbor

Dear Islamorada Friends and Neighbors,

We need major cuts in the next budget to achieve financial responsibility. What has caused us so much wealth reduction? The continued failed decisions and bad politics by Village department heads orchestrated by the unethical Village attorneys. They have cost us so much and hit the business community hard. These actions will continue to erode our resources and tax dollars. The select treatment in the Village of letting some businesses to expand without the permits and requirements, while most other businesses are not allowed to grow has to be dealt with.

While the businesses of the Rain Barrel need our support, Forester and other select folks cannot be allowed to grow their interests without permits, without the valid site plan, storm water, fire code, ADA, parking, and conditional use approvals that the rest of us have to go through. Forester does not have to comply with requirements that Wagner, Albertson, and Koconic demand of others. All the complaints of Forester's and others illegal actions are being ignored.

The Village employees that go along with the unethical attorneys actions including Albertson's, Wagner's, and Koconi's have cost other Village employees the beginning of overall wage and benefit corrections. Our wealth is being transferred into legal bills, yet these high earning Village employee have felt little pain, and the attorneys get rich.

Employees' salaries will decline until the Village employees fix their own house.

The honest employees need to stand up and say no to the Village attorneys, the dishonest Village employees need to be replaced.I ask you why doesn't the Village Council speak up publicly, or are they part of the problem?

Happy New Year and wishing long lasting reforms in our wonderful Village.

Best regards,
Paul Bates

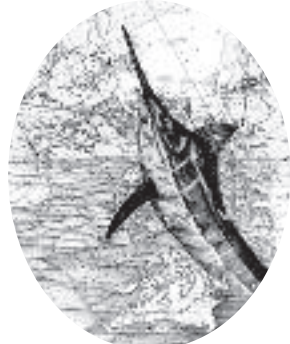
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BAD

Bartenders of the Month

The Coconut Telegraph has recognized many outstanding bartenders through the years but we haven't said anything about the bad ones... till now. Here's to those who spoil our drinks with sour disposition. Cheers!

Bad Habits of Bad Bartenders:

- They ride to work on their high horse and expect respect.
- Show up drunk or stoned and wander around accomplishing nothing.
- Make twice the tips of the "real" bartenders who work twice as hard because they short change customers and hide stolen money in pant pockets.
- They know 100 ways to sneak drinks at work.
- Even though most of their customers fought in wars for their country bad bartenders despise them because they don't worship them as the queen or king of the bar.
- Think their boss is a total idiot.
- Know they could never get a "real" job or work at a real bar.
- Spend more time gossiping with their friends and coworkers than serving customers.
- Refuse to serve people they don't like.
- Work with a cigarette dangling dangerously over the customers food and drinks.
- The only following they have is their own dog.

Witty Statements Frustrated Customers Can Give:

- If stupidity hurt you'd go through life on a morphine drip.
- Why don't you slip into something more comfortable... like a coma?
- Your fear of success is nothing to worry about.
- You are as useless as a screen door on a submarine.
- Are your parents siblings?
- Are you always an idiot, or just when I'm around?
- If brains were dynamite you couldn't even blow your nose.
- Your red shirt goes well with your eyes.
- Good thing for you there is an unlimited source of straws here.
- Anyone who told you to be yourself gave you the worse advice.
- You do the work of three men: Larry, Curly and Moe.
- Did you forget your Speed Stick today?
- They say opposites attract. I hope you meet someone honest, intelligent and good-looking.
- I never forget a face but you're an exception.
- I see why you haven't been recognized as Coconut Telegraph Bartender of the Month.