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live the island dream today!

Issue 8 | July 2011

The Amwaj Islander



Letter from the MD

Dear Amwaj Islanders,

We know from previous years that many of our residents travel for vacations during July and August. Many residents, though, choose to stay and may do so in greater numbers this year in anticipation of traveling after Ramadan. Whatever your plans, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important points that could save you money and, perhaps, some unwelcome inconvenience.

Summer is the time when the greatest demand is placed on the electricity and water supply systems, so if you are going to be away, set the AC around 80F/26C which is still comfortably cool compared to outside shade temperatures of 45 degrees or more. Many household electronic items trickle away power on standby. If you are not going to be using it for weeks at a time switch it off altogether whilst you are away. You can conserve water by thoughtful use, for example by closing the tap whilst brushing your teeth, or turning off the shower whilst 'soaping up', and save yet more electricity by switching off all lights during the day time. These measures can not only save you money, but also ease the pressure on the utilities that supply electricity and water, and they help protect the environment by reducing our carbon footprint!

Last but not least, a kind reminder that this is the last month in which we will be collecting donations for the 'Lend a Helping Hand' charity initiative, which aims to give back to those dedicated laborers who work hard day and night to build Amwaj. If you are interested in donating, or for more information, please refer to the last page of this newsletter. Just remember, "Appreciation is like salt - a little goes a long way to bring out the best in us." What may be considered 'small' for you, can mean the world to the recipients.

Thank you for taking time to read this issue and we hope you have a very pleasant summer!

Sincerely,
Jameel Almatrook
Managing Director, Amwaj Islands

Behind the Name

The name 'Nuetel' was driven from the words 'New' and 'Tel', where 'Nue' indicates that Nuetel is the leading company in triple play services on unique fiber infrastructure (FTTX), and where 'Tel' is for telecommunications, hence the name Nuetel. Nuetel is the first and the only provider of this technology in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and is a national triple play telecommunications operator with regional infrastructure and alliances. They are also the first telecommunications company to have built the country's first 'Intelligent City' at Amwaj Islands, where they have delivered voice, video and data services through an optical fiber network. These intelligent utilities are all managed from a core Network Operations Center (NOC) at Amwaj Islands.



If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, or contact the Editor, please email us on info@amwaj.bh

60 Seconds With...



Name: David I Tay
Principal of Y2:SPACE, Interior & Concept Designer for The Renaissance Hotel & Resort

Nationality: Singaporean

Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

Over the last 30 years, I have been involved with Hyatt, The Oberoi, Hilton, Pan Pacific, and the Sheraton, amongst others, in the hospitality industry. On a corporate level, I have worked with clients such as Citibank and Shell. I was also the concept designer for Estée Lauder's solid perfume museum collection 2001 exhibition, which was a most delightful experience. Additionally, I was fortunate to have worked with some of the finest furniture craftsmen in Italy from B&B Italia, when this prestigious company commissioned me to design the 'i Chair' which was produced on a limited edition basis. I also particularly enjoyed my museum projects.

We know that the Marriott chain usually have specific guidelines for their interiors. Will The Renaissance in Amwaj be a typical Marriott or will you be spicing it up and creating something different? We are aligning our design directions with Marriott interior guidelines but within a modern design concept reflective of a fresh perspective with a touch of Middle Eastern culture.

What can people look forward to seeing in The Renaissance design-wise? A revival of Arab values within a modern and futuristic context fusing both tradition and a new outlook in design in terms of hospitality concepts. With the new Renaissance, we push boundaries by taking "out of the box" concepts – looking at lifestyle values in the Middle East in the context of, say, the next 30 years. In the process, we seek to create an essence reflective of the magic of Amwaj as a unique island within an Arabic context.

Rimal Hotel- Asdaf Island



Rimal Hotel, developed by Faisal Al Matrook Company, will be ideally situated within Amwaj Islands. The 4 star 15-floor high hotel will boast magnificent views of the Arabian Gulf. Rimal will be situated within walking distance of the Amwaj Marina, The Renaissance Hotel & Resort and The Lagoon.

Rimal Hotel, by Chic & Unique Hotels Group, will consist of 280 lavishly furnished rooms and will comprise a roof-top reflecting pool, swimming pool, recreational area and spa, three multi-cuisine restaurants, ballroom, night club, two health clubs, four function rooms, a café, bar lounge, atrium lounge, lobby lounge and main lobby.

Rooms will feature sea or atrium views. Guests rooms will have flat-panel televisions with premium cable channels and DVD players. Complimentary wireless Internet access, phones, newspapers, and voice mail will also be available for guests.

Rimal is due for completion during the second quarter of 2015. For further information, please call 17 534 435.

Renaissance Hotel - Q2 2011



As you are based in Singapore, does it create any limitation as to what you can carry out here? Not at all – we have an excellent project team in Bahrain employed by the owners.

Can you tell us a little about what you find most intriguing about The Renaissance? A revival of old values from a uniquely fresh perspective by creating stylishly contemporary and futuristic forms, for example, the leather-inspired tent at the lobby or the tent-inspired skyframe at the porte cochere that inspires surprise upon arrival when the visitor alights from his limousine into a futuristic "oasis in space".

What differentiates your style and ideas from other designers? Let's put it this way – if you look at any of our best projects today, you can't tell which project was completed last month and which 10–30 years ago. We leave it to the clients to decide if that's 'timelessness.' I think our unique style is not having a specific style. The client's purpose and vision defines the style of the projects. Because we enjoy our work and interaction with our clients, the occasional wit that we put into our work can only brighten our design expressions with the client's style always refining it. And that is why the look, feel and character differ from project to project.

Are you only involved with the interior design of The Renaissance or in other aspects as well? Although our main discipline for this project is interior design, we are also the concept designer, setting the concept perimeters for lighting, architecture and landscape within the interior design spaces.

What is your motto in life? In pursuit of the truth.

This Summer... Water Sports at The Dragon Hotel & Resort

Summer and water sports go together very well, and at The Dragon Hotel & Resort the opportunities to make a splash have just been expanded to include four different (and way cool) types of water sports everyone can enjoy - jet-skis, paddle boats, canoes and even a banana boat!

Fun in the sun for the whole family is what it's all about at The Dragon. Kids of all ages can enjoy the water, using equipment that's right for the activity. The jet-skis, for instance, are available in two sizes, small and large.



Another great thing about enjoying water sports at The Dragon is the reassurance of having a life guard on duty between 9am and 5pm every day. Guests can therefore concentrate on just enjoying the water! A fee of BD12 ++ for adults and BD5++ for children is charged to use the pool and beach. Equipment rentals are available in time slots starting at 15 minutes up to an hour or longer. A 15-minute ride on a small jet-ski costs BD10, or BD40 for one hour, while an hour on the big jet-ski costs BD50. The banana boat only gets leased in half hour increments of BD20, with the paddle boat and canoe both costing BD10 an hour.

So, as summer grips Bahrain, the best thing to do is cool down and enjoy the water, and nowhere is it better (or wetter!) than at The Dragon. You don't have to be a guest at The Dragon or a resident to have fun. For more information, or to make a reservation, please call 16031111.

International School of Choueifat's Second Graduation Ceremony

Under the Patronage of the Minister of Education, H.E. Dr Majid bin Ali Al – Noami, the International School of Choueifat, Manama, celebrated the graduation of their senior class on Thursday, 9th of June 2011.

The event, which coincided with the school's 125th year anniversary, is the second graduation ceremony to be held at ISC Manama. Inspirational speeches were presented by the Director and members of the graduating class while an atmosphere of pride filled the auditorium as the graduates bid an emotional farewell to their peers. The event was followed by a tradition conducted in all SABIS schools, the planting of a tree to commemorate the graduating class.

The senior class will join the hundreds of other SABIS graduates from seventy-four schools found in fourteen different countries. We wish the graduates the best of success in all of their future endeavors.



Did You Know?

- The main purpose of the breakwater at Amwaj is to reduce wave energy levels, thereby helping to protect the shores of the islands in the longer term.
- More than 2000 palm trees have been planted in Amwaj Islands.
- SABIS Summer Day Camp in the International School of Choueifat will commence on July 3rd, 2011. The camp will include in-school activities such as arts & crafts, baseball, football, taekwondo, badminton, computer, table tennis, swimming, dancing, gymnastics, fun games, field games, aerobics, car track, face painting, gardening, puppet show, board games, movies, storytelling, volleyball, basketball, tennis, Math and Science games, treasure hunt, horseback riding and picnics.
- Amwaj Waves is the biggest individual project in Amwaj Islands to date.
- Tala Island has 2 common swimming pools for their residents to enjoy.
- Alia Mansions has an indoor swimming pool for their residents.
- The Peak offers a 'lease-to-own' scheme for its luxurious 52 semi-furnished and furnished apartments.
- Amwaj Marina was officially launched on October 2009.



Amwaj Updates

Shammal Residence- Asdaf Island



Shammal Residence will be located in the north west of Amwaj Islands, enjoying unhindered sea views, and is just meters away from the Amwaj Marina and The Renaissance Hotel & Resort.

Shammal Residence consists of two towers - 8 and 15 storey's, with a total area of 36,714sqm and will comprise 19 studio apartments, 91 one-bedroom apartments, 50 two-bedroom apartments & 22 three-bedroom apartments. Shammal will have a basement, ground floor, mezzanine, four parking floors and a service floor. There are 23 floors together and have 193 parking bays for a total of 182 apartments. The project is due for completion during the third quarter of 2015. For more information please call 17 534 435.

Corner's, Your Local Pub Opening Soon in Amwaj!



This 60 seater gem is what Amwaj has long been waiting for! Finally residents can enjoy a pint on tap and even bangers & mash at The Dragon Hotel & Resort on Amwaj Islands!

The Dragon Hotel & Resort boasts two magnificent outlets with both class and elegance - MUJU Restaurant & Lounge and Yamin Jana Mediterranean Seafront Shisha Lounge. This successful duo led to the establishment of a more relaxed and casual baby sister - Corner's! The slogan "Good food, Good cheer, Good times" aptly sums up what Corner's is all about. In addition to an extensive Asian menu, Corner's will offer a full English breakfast, as well as cottage pie, fish & chips and, in keeping with the times, contemporary classics like sushi. This delicious fare can be enjoyed while watching TV on large pull-down screens or plasma sets at convenient angles all around the pub.

Noria Beach..Building Dreams!



Experience luxury living at its best with Al Saraya Properties' latest upcoming development, Noria Beach.

Noria Beach, a 9 beach-front villa development, lies at the heart of Amwaj Islands, on the edge of beautiful turquoise lagoon waters. Each villa has direct access to the lagoon with 4 bedrooms distributed on the first and the second floor, a living hall and dining area that open to a spacious veranda, a kitchen, a large garden, as well as parking space and a maid's room.

Noria Beach is under construction and due to be completed in October 2011. The houses are on sale and a show villa is now open. For more information, or for viewing, please call 39 271 024 or 38 849 036.

Alosra Supermarket Official Opening



Alosra Supermarket, the fresh and friendly subsidiary of BMMI, welcomed H.E. Dr. Hassan Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, together with other notable dignitaries, to the grand opening of its state-of-the-art outlet on Amwaj Islands, May 16th. Guests were given a tour of the supermarket to experience first-hand the unparalleled ambience offered at Alosra.

"Having welcomed our first customers over a month ago, we have received a lot of positive feedback about the look and feel of our new outlet," said Jaffar Al Asfoor, General Manager of Alosra Supermarket. "We have gone to great lengths to ensure we provide our customers with a wholesome shopping experience, and I can confidently say that we have succeeded."

Safety & Security in Amwaj

Summer is well underway and many of our residents like to beat the heat by swimming from the beaches, riding on their jet-skis or taking a boat out.

There are some important points to be aware of to make the water safer and more enjoyable for you, your family, friends and other residents.

Please observe the following to help keep Amwaj safe and tranquil:

- The lagoons of Amwaj are restricted to swimmers and boats without motors including canoes, peddle boats, etc. Jet-skis and motor boats are not allowed within the lagoons.
- When riding your jet-ski or motor boat ensure you are using an area designated for them, that is the open sea or the area between the marker buoys and the breakwater. The areas between the beach and the marker buoys in the breakwater channel are designated for swimmers only - a distance of around 75 meters from the beach.
- Always strap the jet-ski cut-out to your wrist before you set off.
- Always wear a life jacket when you are on a jet-ski.
- Always keep a sensible distance from other jet-skis, boats or permanent structures.
- Do not use a jet-ski or speedboat near swimmers (whether in a swimming area or not).
- Do not allow children or minors on jet-skis alone and unsupervised.
- Do not ride a jet-ski at night.
- Do not get on a jet-ski or speedboat when intoxicated or fatigued.
- Make sure you notify someone when you head out to sea, and always check the weather forecast and sea state.
- And last, but by no means least: NEVER allow small children or non-swimmers to be near water (sea or pool) without the supervision of a responsible adult – preferably themselves a competent swimmer!

Have a pleasant summer and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting security via email on security@amwaj.bh or call 39 866 952



For the safety of the Amwaj Islands community, please adhere to the 40 and 50 km/hr speed limits. If you would like a copy of the Amwaj Islands rules & regulations, kindly send an email to info@amwaj.bh

Motor boats and jet skis are not allowed in areas designated for swimming. The only exception is for motor boats powered by an electric motor not exceeding 5hp. The maximum permitted speed is 3 knots.

As per the Deed of Restrictions of Amwaj Islands – article 3.1.4, Pets should be kept on a leash when in common/public areas. Pet owners, or anyone who is walking the pet for them, should always clean after the pets.

Photo of the Month!



Congratulations to Eizabeth Smuts who won a BD25 shopping voucher from Alosra Supermarket for July's 'Photo of the Month' competition with the above picture! To participate, please send your pictures to info@amwaj.bh. Special thanks to Joao Barroso, who was our June's "Photo of the Month" winner, who used his voucher to purchase food items for our 'Lend a Helping Hand' initiative.



Upcoming Events

July 2011

ALL JULY Amwaj Cooperative Playgroup holds regular playgroups for newborns and kids up to 4 years old. For more information please visit the group 'Amwaj Cooperative Playgroup' on Facebook.

ALL JULY Mums in Bahrain have daily activities going on all month for families, children and parents. For more information, please contact Mums in Bahrain through their website www.mumsinbahrain.net

Once a month Amwaj Ladies Dinner Group, join the group and try a new restaurant. For more information please visit the group on Facebook.

1,2,8,9,15&16 SUAVE Beach Party at the Amwaj Marina from 10am - 7pm. For more information please call 17 500 173 or email info@suavebeachparty.com

14 Collection for the annual Ramadan drive 'Lend a Helping Hand' is ongoing until July 14th. All donations, money or food, go to labourers who work hard to develop the beautiful Amwaj Islands. For more information please call 16 030 605 or 16 030 607, Sunday to Thursday between 8am and 5pm.

16 Every third Saturday of the month a **Book Swap** takes place at Choco Loco, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm where you can drop an old book and pick up another free of charge!



25 Amwaj Ladies Book Club meets every last Monday of the month to discuss a common book. For more information or to join please e-mail: abarr13@hotmail.com



@AmwajIslands



Amwaj Islands



Name: Rosario Marco Venturine, his wife Katia & their children Vanessa & Alessio
Nationality: Italian
Place of stay: Meena 7

What attracted you to Amwaj Islands and how long have you been living here? First attraction was that it was within the vicinity of the airport, Choueifat School, and the amenities of Meena 7. We have been residents since September 2009.

What would you like to see more of in Amwaj? There used to be a lack of supermarkets in Amwaj but with Alosra and Waitrose we are fine now. It would be good if The Lagoon was fully operative. A petrol station, pharmacy and liquor shop are not present in Amwaj at the moment.

What is your favourite thing to do in your spare time? Just to stay and enjoy the amenities, beach, pool and gardens.

What criteria did you set when you were looking for a place to live in? Just what I found, easy to reach the airport, being close to Choueifat School and not really far from down town, Manama.

Are you happy with your choice of residence in Amwaj? Yes.

Name: Christina Bainbridge & Mark Haskell
Nationality: British
Place of stay: Meena 7

What attracted you to Amwaj? It is away from the hustle and bustle of Bahrain but still close enough that it is not a long commute to work or too far to travel to go into town. We both enjoy being on the water, sunbathing, swimming, sailing, kayaking or fishing and were attracted to Amwaj as it has all this to offer on your doorstep.

What made you choose the development you are in right now rather than other developments in Amwaj? Definitely the pool, beach and BBQ area at Meena 7. We also have one of best views in Bahrain from our balcony!

What event that hasn't happened in Amwaj would you like to see take place? We enjoyed watching the triathlon, so more sporting activities. Also maybe beach events which cater both for families and adults only.

We hold charity events, where we donate proceeds to people or causes in need. Which institute(s) do you think we should support next time? The Bahrain Cancer Society and any local charity that promotes the awareness of environmental issues and how we can all do our bit to help.

Do you usually look forward to receiving the Amwaj Islander? What is your favourite section? The Islander comes as a pleasant surprise when I get home from work, we like to read about which restaurants or shops are opening up next in The Lagoon.

How do you think we can improve the newsletter? What sections should we add to it? Including a fact of the month that serves to raise environmental awareness, e.g. how much garbage is removed from Amwaj each week; or a "Did You Know?" section which would include interesting facts like what kind of fish or sea life you can expect to see in and around the waters of Amwaj.

In your opinion, what makes Amwaj different than the other projects in Bahrain? Other projects appear to be luxury housing and amenities, similar to city living. Amwaj goes further than that – it's more than just a place to live, it's a lifestyle!



Name: Frederik Haentjens, his wife Inge and their children Soetekin & Ellemein
Nationality: Belgian
Place of Stay: Al Marsa Floating City

How did you hear about Amwaj Islands? In a real estate exhibition back in 2006.

What attracted you to the islands and what made you choose Al Marsa Floating City rather than the other developments? Access to the sea and the beach. I wanted a place for my boat, we also like to jet-ski and kayak, that is why we chose The Floating City!

What event that hasn't happened in Amwaj would you like to see taking place? No need for events! The Floating City offers already a lot of activities.

If the islands weren't called "Amwaj", What would you name them? Venice of the Middle East.

We hold charity events, where we donate proceeds to people or causes in need. Which institute(s) do you think we should support next time? Organizations that care for the preservation of marine and coral life.



The Annual Amwaj Triathlon

The Annual Amwaj Triathlon was held on May 27th at the Amwaj Marina. A total of 127 athletes competed in two different categories for the title, while visitors enjoyed the family bazaar and carnival. Funds raised were donated to the Bahrain Special Olympics team to secure their participation in the Athens 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.



The International School of Choueifat expresses loyalty to the leaders and the nation

On Thursday May 19th, the International School of Choueifat, Manama, held a festival under the slogan 'We love Bahrain'. It was through this festival that the students and staff were able to express their full loyalty, love and support for the Kingdom of Bahrain and its leadership, under the rule of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.



POSH Pool Parties at The Dragon Hotel & Resort

The Dragon Hotel & Resort hosted two POSH pool parties on April 30th and June 3rd, 2011. Guests enjoyed the sea views and warm weather teamed up with great live music.



Directory

Amwaj Islands Security
Working Hours: 24 hrs
Location: Amwaj Islands entrance
M 39 866 952
E security@amwaj.bh

Amwaj Islands Main Office
Working Hours: 8am – 5pm,
Sunday to Thursday
Location: Amwaj Islands entrance
T 16 033 100
E info@amwaj.bh
W www.amwaj.bh

Tala Island Security
T 16 060 033

Nuetel Communications
Working Hours: 8am – 5pm
Saturday to Thursday
T 16 033 000

International School of Choucifat
T 16 033 333

Amwaj Marina
T 16 011 160

Nearest Hospitals to Amwaj
Al Hilal Hospital
T 17 344 199

Bahrain Specialist Hospital
T 17 812 000

King Hamad Hospital
Opening Soon

Car Services
Ecowash
T 17 490 565

Amwaj Hotels
The Dragon Beach Hotel & Resort
T 16 031 111

The Sea Loft Boutique Chalets
T 16 033 833

Home Maintenance Services
AXEM
T 17 500 260

MASY
T 17 822 404

ReactFast
T 17 585 367

Amwaj Food Outlets
Muju Lounge & Restaurant
T 16 039 800

The T-Club
M 38 887 107

Tuga Bakery
T 16 010 284

ChocoLoco
T 16 123 456

Yamin Jana
T 16 033 800

Burger Lounge
T 77 055 772

Curry Tree
T 16 030 660

Houseboat
T 77 033 444

Leewan Al Khor
T 16 010 666

Johnny Rockets
T 16 011 199

Mei n Yu
T 16 010 160

Persian Room
T 16 010 166

Laundry Services
Black & White Laundry
T 17 532 268
M 36 308 889

Closest Post Office to Amwaj
Al Hidd Post Office
Working Hours: 7am - 2pm
Saturday to Thursday
T 17 673 157

Amwaj Beauty Salon
Joz Salon & Spa, The Dragon Beach Hotel Resort
Working Hours: everyday
9am – 7pm
T 16 031 120

Amwaj Health Clubs
Maya Beach Resort & Fitness - Meena 7
Working Hours: Saturday -
Thursday, 6.30am - 10pm
Friday 8am - 10pm
T 16 030 070

Tala Leisure Center
Working Hours:
Weekdays 6am - 10pm
Weekends 9am - 6pm
T 16 071 007

Amwaj Supermarkets
Al Odra Supermarket
T 16 033 773
Working Hours:
Everyday 7am - 11pm

Jawad Express
T 16 034 501

Waitrose Supermarket
Working Hours:
Everyday 8am - 11pm
T 16 030 636

24-Hours Supermarket
T 16 034 498

Closest Vets to Amwaj
Dr Nonie Coutts
T 17 245 515

Dr Mohammed Hussain
T 17 292 125

Bahrain International Airport
T 17 339 339

Food Deliveries:
Hunger Line
T 17 506 070 (Papa Johns,
Dairy Queen, Burger
King, Quiznos, Chilis)

Breadtalk
T 17 535 371

Little Ceasars Pizza
T 17 675 552

Pizza Hut
T 17 111 113

KFC
T 17 111 111

Hardeez
T 17 111 112

China Express
T 17 717 598

Wahid Pastries
T 17 466 771

EZ Burger
T 17 241 111

YO! Sushi
T 17 583 373

Shanghai Hut
T 17 292 988

The Clay Oven
T 17 717 008

Chickey's
T 17 467 771

Pizza Inn
T 17 671 777

Closest Pharmacies to Amwaj
Al Quds Pharmacy
T 17 470 080

Ibn Sina Pharmacy
T 17 677 207

Nasser Pharmacy
Opening Soon in Amwaj

Taxi Services
Bahrain Taxi
T 17 682 999

Bahrain Limo
T 17 266 266

Arabian Taxi
T 17 461 746

Emergency Numbers
Emergency line
T 999

Al Hidd Police Station
T 17 671 212

Samaheej Police Station
T 17 334 401

Coast Guard
T 17 700 000

Traffic Police
T 199

Shopping Malls
Seef Mall
T 17 581 111

Aali Mall
T 17 581 000

City Center
T 17 179 779

Moda Mall
T 17 533 140

Lend a Helping Hand

The 'Lend a Helping Hand' initiative is taking place again for the third year in a row, where boxes of essential food supplies are given to the laborers in Amwaj Islands for the occasion of Eid and Ramadan.

If you would like to be a part of this initiative, you may either donate items from your own household (as long as they are new and not reaching their expiry date soon) or purchase the items from your local supermarket. Alternatively, you may donate an amount of your choice and we will purchase the items on your behalf.

Please note, all donations need to be handed in to the Ossis B.S.C(c) Office, at the entrance of Amwaj Islands, by July 14th to either Sara Ebrahim (s.ebrahim@meritas.bh), T: 16030605 or Naseem Fekri (n.fekri@meritas.bh), T: 16030607.

On behalf of the Amwaj Islands and Meritas Teams, thank you all in advance for your help, enthusiasm, and encouragement.

