

live the island dream today!

Issue 13 | December 2011

The Amwaj Islander



Letter from the MD

Dear Amwaj Islanders,

Time really does fly when you're having fun and, on the islands, it feels like only yesterday when we rang in the New Year. It's been an eventful year for Amwaj, with its series of Amwaj Marina Markets, the annual Triathlon in May, Lend a Helping Hand Charity Drive in July and, the Bahrain Boat Show International (BBSI) just last month.

Our monthly Amwaj Marina Market is back in full swing with the second season having commenced last month. We're looking forward to bringing you the next edition on December 10th. Don't miss out on the market as each event gets bigger and better with surprises for the whole family. For any queries, or more information on the market, please feel free to call 16030605 or 16030607 Sunday to Thursday between 8am to 5pm or alternatively email info@amwaj.bh

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made the Boat Show a success. This event would not be what it is without its visitors and exhibitors. We look forward to seeing you all in next year's event!

December is a festive month for the island, with National Day on the 16th and Christmas and New Years later on. Everyone will have a reason to celebrate and on this occasion, we would like to wish all of you a Happy National Day and Happy Holidays. Looking forward to a bigger, better, prosperous 2012 on the islands.

Sincerely,
Jameel Almatrook
Managing Director, Amwaj Islands

Behind the Name Safeena



A fitting name for this development, 'Safeena' is the Arabic word for boat or ship. This development sits on the edge of Asdaf Island overlooking an azure-blue lagoon, enjoying picturesque views and direct access to the water as well as amenities such as a swimming pool, private car park, terraces, and 24 hour security.

A close-knit community of eight grand and luxurious villas that effortlessly fuse Islamic architecture with modern aesthetics, giving residents a fulfilling experience of living among the best of both worlds of tradition and modern practicality. The development was completed in 2006 and was developed by Al Saraya Properties W.L.L, which was founded back in 1999.

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: Amitabh Mathur

Position: Managing Director,
Gama Hotel Management

Tell us about yourself and your work background. With over 20 years of successful hospitality management experience in hotels, resorts, serviced apartments and restaurants in the Gulf region, my background is extensive and varied. It encompasses various facets of the hotel industry such as the pre-opening and construction phases, multi-unit management, with a broad exposure to the specific demands of the Middle Eastern markets. Having worked in Goa, Delhi, Bombay, Dubai and Bahrain, my knowledge and experience in project development and operational standards have been enriched.

How did you start working on The Dragon Hotel & Resort? We started working on The Dragon three years ago. The challenge was to ensure that The Dragon, as a resort, could offer guests the convenience of luxury hotel living while providing them with all the comfort of their own home.

What makes The Dragon Hotel & Resort different than other boutique hotels in Bahrain? The Dragon is situated in the azure waters of Amwaj Islands, a location that is ideal to meet the demands of your social, business and leisure lifestyle, and where you would find exceptional standards of food, services and accommodation, coupled with an over-water living experience. Whatever our guest desires or needs, the personal butler is there to make sure that everything is taken care of down to the finest detail. Prior to their arrival, information is sought after to include any special indulgences that they may need or desire; maybe a personalized chauffeur, catering to a perfect evening. From the moment our guests check in, to the moment they check out, our staff are devoted to ensure a magical experience for them and their families.



Good Food. Good Cheer. Good Times.

Corners, the first pub to open in the beautiful Amwaj Islands, is a place to socialize and unwind whilst enjoying the latest in live sports, bands and DJs including resident DJ Stevie George.

Corners is just what you would expect from The Dragon Hotel & Resort - a classy upmarket pub with its sleek lines and funky interior. With a diverse selection of food, including traditional pub grub like steak, kidney pie and bangers & mash - to name a few - as well as international classics to treat the taste buds, it is your ultimate gastropub.

Situated in The Dragon Hotel & Resort, Corners is 'your local pub in Amwaj'. You'll never miss a moment of your favourite games as they are shown live stream on multiple screens and three projectors. There will also be live bands performing monthly to entertain the crowd, with DJ Stevie George providing the warm up sessions.

Taxis are easily available. For groups of four or more, a complimentary taxi service is available only to residents of Amwaj, when booked in advance. For more information, please call 16 033 833

What are your preparations in The Dragon for the New Year and Christmas? Muju Restaurant & Lounge will have a Christmas brunch with sumptuous food and roaring log fires. While Corners, our new sports bar, will have a special menu designed for families and friends. New Year's will witness an exclusive performance by artists who will be flown out of Spain this year.

What is your vision in 5 years from now for business in Amwaj? Amwaj Islands has become a landmark for luxurious living. The last three years have witnessed constant positive changes with more hotels, the ongoing development of The Lagoon, and business corporate office shifting. At the same time, we are not too far away from the commercial districts with proximity distance to the Bahrain International Airport and approximately 15 minutes drive to City Center.

What is your favourite project in Amwaj Islands other than The Dragon? I personally like The Lagoon and The Renaissance Hotel. Both look nice.

Can you tell us a little about your family and how you like to spend your spare time? My wife is employed as a General Manager of a hotel company in Bahrain and my daughter is in school. I enjoy watching sports and I am fond of reading too.



Amwaj Marina Market Kicks Off!

The first outdoor Amwaj Marina Market for 2011 was held on November 12th in the stunning Amwaj Marina. The market attracted over 800 visitors, throughout the day, of various nationalities from around Bahrain.

The market featured a variety of goods ranging from paintings and frames, photos, clothing, organic fruits and vegetables from 'Al Ghalia Farms', baked goods, jewelry, shoes, children's books, home electronics, juicy burgers, pizza's, healthy smoothies, seasonal decorations, furniture, traditional arts & crafts and even a corner for henna and face painting. Families enjoyed the great weather and the stunning views of the Amwaj Marina as ACES Taekwondo School preformed several shows throughout the day. The little ones enjoyed the bouncy castle and kiddie rides as well as 'Once Upon a Story Time' and art & craft stations by 'Studio Ceramics' and 'Imaginarium Art'. This market, pets also got the royal treatment with a photo shoot courtesy of 'Pet Arabia'. The outdoor markets are scheduled to be held throughout the cooler months on the first Saturday of each month, unless a public holiday and, of course, weather permitting.



Due to popular demand, the December market has already been fully booked, and registration for the January market has begun, to register, or for any questions, please call on 16 030 605 or 16 030 607, Sunday – Thursday, 8am – 5pm.


Amwaj Marina Market season 2


When? Saturday, December 10

Where? The Amwaj Marina, Amwaj Islands

Time? 10am - 5pm

For more information, or to book a table for January's market, please call 16030605/ 16030607 Sunday to Thursday 8am to 5pm

 Amwaj Islands

 @amwajislands


AMWAJ
MARINA


AMWAJ ISLANDS



Amwaj Updates

Levante Café.. added a golden touch to Amwaj



Levante café, the recently opened café in The Lagoon, Amwaj Islands, is the place where customers can escape the hustle and bustle of the city to relax and enjoy fine dining in an exceptional setting.

The café fits more than 300 guests and enjoys a strategic location in The Lagoon with a wide terrace facing the water. The café also offers a wide variety of delicious Lebanese and Italian dishes that are definitely worth trying. Corporate sections can be provided upon request and areas are separated in smoking and non-smoking to guarantee comfort for all customers.

For more information, please call 16 030 393 or email eiffeltowermgmt@gmail.com

Diva Festival at The Lagoon



Diva Festival, the first of its kind event in Bahrain, started and will continue in the Kingdom's most-definitive lifestyle outdoor destination The Lagoon, Amwaj Islands. The first edition of the festival was held on 18th & 19th November. The festival visitors enjoyed the spectacular shopping exhibitions stalls, entertainments and kids shows.

A wide variety of entrepreneurs, companies and organizations participated and marketed their products and services. Diva Festival is going to be held on two days monthly, where it commenced in November and will go on to April.

For more information or to participate on 16th & 17th December, please contact Diva Events & Media Company on 36 226 440 or email contact@diva-bh.com.

Monica's Chocolate Boutique



Opening soon in The Lagoon is Monica's Chocolate Boutique. A unique setting for chocolate lovers, with a large variety of desserts, fondues, coffee drinks, boxed chocolates, gifts and flowers. Catering for everyone's sweet tooth with deluxe European chocolates, Monica's Chocolate Boutique is a unique shop with both indoor and outdoor seating. It's a place to just relax and enjoy the beautiful view while having a delicious treat with a friend. Monica's Chocolate Boutique is located on the 1st floor of The Lagoon beside Citibank. For more information, please call 33 711 008.

Clean Beaches Campaign to Kick-off on Amwaj Islands this December, 9th



Over the last 30 years, pollution has aggravated the seas and coasts of the planet due to the generation of 6.4 million tons per year of waste dumped in the oceans of the world, 80% of which originated on land. In light of this, a group was formed within Amwaj called 'Eco Island'. The group aims to do something about the environmental situation on the island, and the first message being promoted is 'at the beach, only leave your footprint on the sand'. Eco Island is starting a 'clean beaches' campaign on December 9th and they are asking everyone to join! Everyone will gather at 9am on the beach next to Kazerooni Villas, where the kite surfers usually gather. Trash will be collected and weighed at the end, where it will be disposed of appropriately. Overall, the campaign will serve as a platform to continue work to conserve the island's natural beauty for all to enjoy. Eco Island believes the new clean beaches campaign will allow the group to continue to make a difference; they want residents and visitors to take ownership by doing their part to preserve it. We hope everyone participates in this campaign. For more information, please email ecoislandamwaj@gmail.com or call 33 339 719

Safety & Security in Amwaj

The security department would like to remind our valued residents once again of the importance of placing the Amwaj resident sticker on your cars. This is to help the security department control and ease traffic coming into Amwaj Islands, especially during holiday season, and help identify Amwaj residents.

If you have not received one yet, please contact the security department—or drop by the security office, which is open Sunday to Thursday from 8am to 5pm, to arrange for your car pass. You will need to bring a copy of your homes ownership deed, or rental contract if you are renting, as well as a copy of your ID card and your car's license plate number. The security office is located on the left hand side of the Amwaj (Ossis) main office, at the entrance of Amwaj Islands.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the security department on 39 866 952 or via email on k.manahi@amwaj.bh

For the safety of the Amwaj Islands community, please adhere to the 40km/hr speed limit. 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.

Jet ski owners have to submit a picture of their jet ski along with the owner's address in Amwaj to the security department. Boat owners must submit a copy of their boat's registration.

Upcoming Events & Sessions

December 9 **Battle of The Bands** again in Amwaj. For more information, please email info@budlivebahrain.com.

9 Clean Beaches to enhance the beauty of Amwaj Island's beaches, protect our mother earth and raise awareness, please join the campaign. For more information, or to join, please email ecoislandamwaj@gmail.com or call on 33 339 719.

10 The Amwaj Marina Market comes back this Saturday, and every first Saturday of every month, until April. For more information, please call 16 030 605 or 16 030 607.

10 Love of Bahrain Carnival, in The Lagoon, Amwaj Islands from 10am-9pm. Many activities will happen throughout the day, such as kids entertainment, a bazaar and lots of surprises. For more information, please email info@royalevents-bh.com

16 & 17 Diva Festival in The Lagoon, visitors can enjoy shopping, music, live performance, kids entertainment and much more. For more information, or to participate, please call 36 226 440 or email contact@diva-bh.com

26 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

Weekly Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) and The Circle- Eating Disorders and Obesity Support. Sessions held by Dr. Anne Mostafa in Amwaj. For more information, please call 36 317 033 or visit www.bahrainpsychologist.com.

Once a month Join the **Amwaj Ladies Dinner Group** and try a new restaurant every month. For more information please visit the Facebook group 'Amwaj Ladies Dinner Group'.

All December Amwaj Families is back in full swing after the summer break. Swim classes, buggy and blading walks (and more!) will all resume. Check the group out 'Amwaj Families Bahrain' on Facebook for more information. Bambino Bazaar will also be taking place soon. People who are interested in buying or selling maternity, baby and toddler items, please keep checking the Facebook group for updates.

Every Sunday & Monday Amwaj Cooperative Playgroup holds playgroups for newborns and kids up to 4 years old. Sundays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and Mondays from 9am to 11am. For more information, please visit the group 'Amwaj Cooperative Playgroup' on Facebook.

Every Tuesday Amwaj Arabic Playgroup holds playgroups from 10am to 11am. For more information, please email shaemaimam@hotmail.com

Every Tuesday Kindermusik, Music and Movement Program for children aged up to 7 years with a different theme every time. It will be held every Tuesday starting 20th September to 10th December. For more information, or to join, please email kindermusikwithnatasha@gmail.com or visit Facebook group 'Kindermusik with Natasha'.

Classifieds

FOR RENT: Luxury 4BR plus maids room villa on the beach with common pool. SF BD1300 or FF BD1500 inclusive, please call 36 732 632

FOR RENT: Executive 4BR waterfront villa. Beach, pool, gym, squash court, playground. SF BD1400 inclusive, please call 36 732 632

FOR RENT: 2BR Flats. FF BD450 inclusive, please call 36 732 632

FOR RENT: Floating City 2BR flat with canal access and very large balcony. Partly furnished. BD600 inclusive, please call Rashid on 33 338 484

FOR SALE: Fully furnished 3BR flats BD85,000- negotiable. Please call Rashid on 33 338 484

FOR SALE: Magnificent 6BR family villa with private pool, on the beach. Choose you own finishes! BD380,000-negotiable. Please call 33 338 484

Photo of the Month!



Congratulations to Mark Rowe who won a BD25 shopping voucher from Alosra Supermarket for December's 'Photo of the Month' competition with this picture! To participate please send your pictures to info@amwaj.bh



Name: Samar Albayati & her husband Osamah Alrufaye
Nationality: Iraqi
Place of stay: Raniya Row

What attracted you to Amwaj? How long have you been living here? It was my life time dream to live on an island and it has now come true! We have been living here for the last 6 months- we really love it!

Can you tell us a little about what you do for a living? I'm a Civil Engineer and an Artist.

What is your favourite sea-related quote? It has to be: 'For whatever we lose (like a you or a me), It's always our self we find in the sea'. - e.e. cummings.

What are your top three destinations outside Bahrain and why?

Firstly, is my home town Baghdad. Secondly, Dubai, which is the best city for entertainment. Finally California where we can enjoy the best weather ever.

Where did you spend your last vacation? We spent it in Dubai.

If you get to choose one road/street/area in Amwaj and have the chance to pick a name for it, which one would it be and what is the name? I'm thinking of the name Mermaid or Mermaids maybe for a new area!

Can you share with us one or two cooking, gardening, decorating or other tip(s) on how you are taking care of your home.

My first advice is to manage time and use it wisely. For your home you can occasionally get fresh flowers, use colourful sheets in the bedroom, or on the dining table, to create a new look for the same room every day.

We hold charity events, where we donate proceeds to people in need. Which institute you would like us to support next time, where you feel they need the help the most?

Well, I don't have in mind a specific institute but I would recommend donating to organizations that help orphan children.

What is your favourite event that happened in Amwaj? The bazaars held in The Amwaj Marina and The Lagoon.

How can we improve our newsletter? I suggest dedicating one special page for advertisements for Amwaj's residents.

Photo Gallery: Diva Festival at The Lagoon on 18th-19th of November.



Bahrain Boat Show International (BBSI) 2011, 24th-27th November.





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

Nuettel Communications

Working Hours: 8am – 5pm, Sunday to Thursday, 8am – 2pm on Saturdays
T 16 033 000

International School of Choueifat

T 16 033 333

Amwaj Marina

T 16 011 160

Amwaj Hotels

The Dragon Beach Hotel & Resort
T 16 031 111

The Sea Loft Boutique

Chalets
T 16 033 833

Amwaj Outlets

Muju Lounge & Restaurant
T 16 039 800

The T-Club

T 38 887 107

Tuga Bakery

T 16 010 284

Franky Joes

T 16 011 601

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 16 010 321

Leewan Al Khor

T 16 010 666

Levante

T 16 030 393

Johnny Rockets

T 16 011 199

Mei NYu

T 16 010 160

Persian Room

T 16 010 166

Costa Coffee, The Lagoon

T 16 071 003

Costa Coffee, Tala Island

T 16 034 509

Starbucks Coffee

T 16 010 233

Black & White Laundry

T 17 532 268
M 36 308 889

Joz Salon & SPA, The Dragon Hotel & Resort

T 16 031 120

Al Osra 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

Maya Beach Resort & Fitness - Meena7

Working Hours: 6.30am - 10pm
Saturday - Thursday
8am - 10pm on Fridays
T 16 030 070

Tala Leisure Center

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

Pet Arabia

T 16 010 501

Movie Time

T 16 010 491

MAZ Business Center

T 16 030 646

Al Rifai Roastery

T 16 010 475

Speed rent a car

T 16 010 131

ACES Taekwondo Academy- Tala Island

T 39 658 741

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

Amwaj Banks and Financial Services

Bahrain National Insurance
T 16 030 400

Citibank, The Lagoon

T 16 010 203

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

Nearest Hospitals to Amwaj

Al Hilal Hospital
T 17 344 199

Bahrain Specialist Hospital

T 17 812 000

King Hamad Hospital

Opening Soon

Closest Vets to Amwaj

Dr Nonie Coutts
T 17 245 515

Dr Mohammed Hussain

T 17 292 125

Closest Pharmacies

to Amwaj

Nasser Pharmacy
T 16 010 505

Al Quds Pharmacy

T 17 470 080

Ibn Sina Pharmacy

T 17 677 207

Taxi Services

Bahrain Taxi
T 17 682 999

Bahrain Limo

T 17 266 266

Arabian Taxi

T 17 461 746

Travel Services

Aradous Travel and Tour
T 17 234 417

Car Washing Services

Ecowash
T 17 490 565

Home Maintenance Services

AXEM
T 17 500 260

MASY

T 17 822 404

ReactFast

T 17 585 367

Al Saber Group

T 13 643 287

Atlas BMS

T 36 558 827
T 36 191 810

IT Home Services

TechnoServ
T 39 609 876

Cargo Services

Baz Cargo Services
T 17 771 132

Closest Post Office to Amwaj

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

Bahrain International Airport

T 17 339 339

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



Amwaj Islands



@AmwajIslands