INSIDER REPORT

Meet Kathi Osteen

“If you have a full, adventuresome mind and don’t want that adventure to end, come and experience the community.”

An invaluable asset to the community, Kathi is a permanent resident, and spearheads “Soup Night News,” a newsletter for owners. She also helps new owners understand life in Orchid Bay by offering various services.

Before moving to Belize, Kathi gained her life experiences from traveling the world and immersing herself in different cultures. Along the way, she captured many unique opportunities. During a trip to the Egyptian Pyramids, she stumbled upon the Grateful Dead’s concert and toured with the band’s followers for several years. As a spiritual healer, she also traveled and studied with world-renowned spirit guides.

Amidst all of the places Kathi has seen in her life, East Africa was one of her favorite places to visit because of the wide open spaces – a main reason why she also loves Belize.

After experiencing an Orchid Bay Buyer’s Tour, Kathi instantly recognized that this was the place for her; she felt its positive energy, simple way of life, and instantly knew she was home.

In Northern Belize, Kathi is comforted by the great sense of community, the promotion of personal well-being, and the adventurous spirit it supports.

A Look at Custom Homes In a Growing Community

If you take a walk around the community this spring, you can’t help but notice all the active home construction. Over the last year, home construction at Orchid Bay has been in full swing with several projects underway. With over 70% of lots sold, combined with new interests each month, the community will only continue to grow.

Building your own home in Belize can be less expensive than buying, especially in northern Belize where affordable building materials are more readily available from nearby Chetumal, Mexico. As a lot owner, you have the freedom to choose any builder for the construction of your home. For those looking to take the next step in building a home, your neighbors are a great source for information and recommendations. If you find that building a custom home is not ideal for you, there are turn-key options available such as the beachfront condominiums or waterway villas.

Like many expat havens, prime land in Belize is becoming more valuable. At the beginning of the year, land prices at Orchid Bay increased by up to 27%. From an investment standpoint, this is great news for current land owners. The value of land in Belize will continue to increase as the word spreads.

Whether you are in the process of building your own home or waiting to turn your plot of land into a beautiful estate, there are limitless options for your home design. Put your vision to reality by visiting Orchid Bay: get recommendations from your neighbors, meet the builders, draw your floor plans and outdoor living space, and look forward to creating a new home and visiting Orchid Bay more frequently.
Modern-Day Infrastructure at Orchid Bay

The major costs of building a home in Belize are underground. Orchid Bay is complete with modern-day infrastructure so the hard work is already done and ready for you.

Fresh Water Supply
Pressurized water lines will supply your home with water that comes from an on-site well and will be purified with a Reverse Osmosis system.

Waste Water Treatment
As part of our ecological initiatives (think globally and act locally) your home will be equipped with an Alternative Treatment System. Belize is blessed with a huge unpolluted aquifer which we are taking steps to keep in a pristine state. We at Orchid Bay are using de-centralized systems with proven track records of sustainability.

Electricity
Underground electricity will be supplied by Belize Electric Ltd. (BEL) which gets its power from hydroelectric facilities. We are committed to power sources with minimum impact to the environment and we encourage all homeowners to consider using alternative energy technologies.
We all love our pets and when the time comes to move to Belize, our pets relocate with us – after all, they are family. It is fairly easy to bring pets with you; it just takes a bit of preparation. Before traveling to Belize, you need to obtain an import permit from the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA). Always check the website at www.baha.org.bz for the most up to date import permit and information. To complete the application, simply obtain a Veterinary Certificate for Belize issued by a licensed vet in the country of origin within 14 days of entry, or within 10 days if your pet travels unaccompanied. You will also need a proof of rabies vaccination administered no less than 30 days, and no more than one year prior to arrival. A tick and tapeworm test will also be required before entry into Belize. Notify the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) of your arrival date, arrival time, and flight number two days before your pet is to arrive to ensure that a veterinary officer is present at the time of entry. Make sure your pet’s carrying case is new or clean and disinfected.

“Expets” - Bringing your pets to Belize

It is strongly recommended that you carry some form of identification indicating ownership of your pet. If your pet is not already micro chipped, it’s a good idea to do so. Aside from the required vaccinations, it’s a good practice to have your pet up to date on all vaccinations.

Once you get to Belize, present all of the appropriate paperwork to the veterinary officer. After your pet is briefly examined, you will be granted entry to the country with your pets – no quarantine required. All forms, a detailed list of requirements, and more information can be found at http://www.baha.org.bz/. Small dogs and cats can usually be carried in the cabin of scheduled commercial airlines. For example, depending on the animals’ breed, size and requirements, they can travel as a carry-on, be checked or transported with American Airlines Cargo. Southwest airlines does not allow in-cabin travel on international flights. Pets are transported in pressurized cargo holds. Charges vary depending on the weight of the animal. Check with your airline for international requirements or restrictions. You can also drive through Mexico with your pets.
Letter from Vice President, Sales & Marketing

I have had the privilege to oversee the sales and marketing of Orchid Bay for two years now. For the most part I remain behind the scenes, but the team thinks I should open up a little more. So here it goes. Prior to joining Orchid Bay, I was VP of Sales & Marketing for the Manhattan Club in New York City. My background consists mainly of luxury fractional ownership where I’ve had the pleasure of working in six countries including Turkey, France, and the Bahamas. Belize, however, is my favorite place.

The work at Orchid Bay is enjoyable and the experience is fulfilling; I like empowering people to realize their dreams of living abroad. Everyone wants to live in paradise, but not everyone feels they are capable of achieving that potential. What other “job” not only lets you talk about paradise, but experience it alongside those embracing their dream?

Since joining the team, there have been many changes. We added several new faces including five property specialists, a marketing director, and director of owner relations. We redesigned our website to make it more user friendly, visually appealing, and competitive. We made improvements to our monthly Buyer’s Tour to enhance the experience of potential residents. 2015 was the best year in sales to date and we are on target to have another great year. Our unique consultative approach to the sales process has proved successful. We have moved into Phase II of both the condominiums and villas, and over 70% of home sites are sold.

The sales and marketing team are making forward progress. Ninety-nine percent of sales happen on-site, and as much as I would like to take credit for this, our success would not be possible without the help of our owners and the positive vibe of the community. Our upcoming Buyer’s Tour dates are: May 12-15, June 16-19, July 14-17, 2016.

As a reminder, we now have a Director of Owner Relations, Kelli Berard, who is the key point of contact for owners. Kelli can be reached at (720) 316-4418 or email kelli.berard@orchidbaybelize.com.

Sincerely,
Edward Durkee

Orchid Bay Sales and Marketing Team

Edward Durkee, Joel Saenz, Kelli Berard, Sean Krueger, Mark Giuffrida, Karl Hatfield, Richard Brunson, Lucas Zoumas

Looking Forward

A new video series, titled “Life in Belize,” will share information and expectations for moving to Belize. The first video will give a general overview of life in Belize, and more specifically, Northern Belize and Orchid Bay. Many more will follow, including healthcare, banking, making the move, etc. Stay tuned for updated information and release dates.