

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF LELY PALMS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The genesis of Lely Palms Retirement Community came from a remarkable lady, Helen Morrison, who is memorialized in the chapel. Originally from Traverse City, Michigan, she was an R.N. who came to Naples via important administrative work in a New York hospital.

She felt the community needed a rental Health Care Facility associated with rental apartments and detached villas. She had the vision, the ability and the driving force to get the job done. Without Mrs. Morrison, Lely Palms would not exist.

As early as 1978, she set in motion a number of actions to reach this objective. She was the catalyst that facilitated the:

- Creation of Naples Retirement, Inc. (NRI)
- Involvement of Lely Development Corp.
- Initial participation of a Dr. Conard on Ormand Beach who operated as Retirement Living, Inc., a rental high-rise facility in Sarasota.

As early as 1980, local newspaper advertising launched the idea. In April, 1981, preliminary plans were being made and requests for necessary permits were initiated.

By April, 1982, rezoning of the area had been secured with land clearing starting in July. In November, 1982, permits to begin digging were granted. Ground breaking was December 3, 1982.

In March, 1983, the Collier County Commissioners reviewed the plans for Lely Palms and gave their OK. It was estimated that 60 additional job openings would be created, compared with the current staff of approximately 200. Opening of the facility was forecast originally for June, 1984, but the first residents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Taylor, did not move in until August, 1984.

On October 1, 1995, Lely Palms was purchased by ManorCare Inc., who continues the arrangement originally made with Beverly Corporation, whereby the owners of Lely Palms pay lease rent to *Naples Retirement Inc. (NRI)*, who is required by its status as a "Charitable Corporation" under IRS rules, to plow back earnings in ways that benefit the residents and meet IRS standards.

NRI continues in the spirit and vision that Mrs. Morrison had so many years ago, to bring joy and benefits to residents of Lely Palms.

One such gift is the new open-air shade structure that will be constructed near the putt-putt golf area. The shade structure will also have a brick paver patio, on where residents can enjoy the shade while being outdoors, year round. The brick pavers will be 12 X 12 in size.

Lely Palms at Manor Care and NRI, in partnership, bring this long awaited shade structure to Lely Palms, scheduled to be completed in December 2009.

Residents, family members, board members, vendors and employees are invited to be a permanent part of this new and long awaited structure by purchasing a 12" x 12" engraved brick paver for **\$125.00**. You may engrave your own name, your family name, even your pet's name, along with a personal message if you like. There is no additional charge for the engraving. This patio and your engraved paver will be a part of Lely Palms for many years to come.

NRI is a 501c3 charitable organization. Your support may be tax deductible.