

Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower wins three national awards

The Crowne Plaza hotel at Bell Tower has won three national InterContinental Hotel Group awards. The local hotel, which was the first in Fort Myers to “go green,” received a Quality Excellence Award, Newcomer Award and Community Affairs Award. The awards will be presented at the annual Intercontinental Hotels conference in Los Angeles later this month.

Quality Excellence Award recipients are made up of the top 5 percent of all hotels in the system open for more than two years and are given based on a 12-month overall satisfaction score, given by guests.

The Newcomer Award is given for compliance with all brand standards and hallmarks as well as service and quality achievement based on the hotel’s overall customer satisfaction score. Only one Newcomer Award is given throughout the entire United States and Canada annually.

Recognizing their efforts on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County, Relay for Life and the American Cancer

Society and the Florida Green Lodging Program, the Community Affairs Award was particularly special to Jim Larkin, general manager, and his team. The hotel held numerous events and fundraising activities on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs and Relay for Life, getting the entire staff involved, and even created a “Green Team” to facilitate making the hotel the first in Fort Myers designated as a “Green Lodging” establishment by the state of Florida.

“I am so proud of our team, the superior service they offer our guests and their personal involvement in the community,” Larkin said. “Together we made an impact for the betterment of our area and our guests.”

The Crowne Plaza hotel has freshly updated accommodations, a full restaurant and bar, as well as many meeting rooms. The hotel is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive. It is just a few steps from shopping and dining as well as a 20-screen theater. For information or to book an event, call (239) 482-2900 or visit www.CPFortMyers.com ■

REIS meeting to discuss airport growth and development plans

The influence of airports on growth and development will be discussed by Robert Ball, executive director of Lee County Ports Authority, at the Oct. 14 meeting of the Real Estate Investment Society.

Ball will review the progress of Port Authority plans to expand facilities and services at both Page Field and Southwest Florida International Airport. Topics will include the construction of new access roads to Southwest Florida International Airport, development of Madden Research Loop at the 750-acre Skyplex Commercial Center, and the commercial development activity in the

airport vicinity. Following the presentation, Ball will answer questions of specific interest to the real estate investment and development industry.

The meeting is sponsored by Lifestyle Interiors and will begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14 in the Osprey Room at the Pelican Preserve Clubhouse, on Colonial Boulevard at Treeline Avenue, one mile east of I-75 exit 136 in Fort Myers. Admission is \$25 for members and \$35 for guests, which includes lunch. Reservations and payment are required by Oct. 8 and may be made by visiting the REIS Web site: www.reis-swfl.org. ■

Fall workshops focus on success

Deborah Shane of Train with Shane presents a series of four workshops this fall focusing on success from the inside out.

► **Your Image Matters, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

This workshop will teach how to groom for success. Image consultants Lisa Kitner, Kelly Walsh and Christine Sherlock from Image Matters, and Kathleen Cantu, owner of Red Salon & Spa, will be on hand to discuss wardrobe, color and style elements. One lucky businesswoman will receive a complimentary makeover.

► **The 7 Steps, Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

The 7 Steps explores closing business and retaining more customers. It begins with your mindset and attitude and continues with excellent customer service and follow up.

► **Is your marketing plan work-**

ing?, Oct. 22, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

What’s the right mix for your business and your budget now and looking ahead to 2009? Review, rework and re-tool it to make sure it is relevant, current and effective.

► **EQ vs. IQ, Oct. 29, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Explores the evolution and revolution of women and how EQ — Emotional Intelligence — is allowing them to emerge and lead, changing the face and culture of business, family, health care and the environment. Presented with Nancy Smith of Lee Business Information Services.

Each three-hour workshop is held at the Beacon Executive Suites at 8359 Beacon Blvd. Individual workshop price is \$49. Special pricing options are available at www.trainwithshane.com. Register online or call Deborah Shane at (239) 939-1848. ■

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