

NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSEUP

CAPE CHARLES

Bay Creek Resort & Club

By Sandra J. Pennecke
Correspondent

CAPE CHARLES

Will and Sandra Lock were searching for a second home on the Eastern Shore when someone suggested they take a look in Cape Charles.

"We had been looking for months, but we were looking in the Upper Bay and in Kent Island," Will Lock said. "We were at a friend's birthday party, and we sat next to a family at dinner who recommended we come down to Cape Charles."

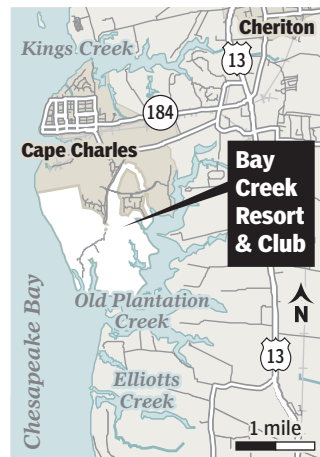
Later that month, at the end of October 2009, the Locks visited Bay Creek Resort & Club in Cape Charles, about an hour from downtown Norfolk and 10 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. They took advantage of the Discovery Tour, during which they spent several nights at the resort.

The Locks moved into their furnished condominium at Bay Creek less than three months later.

The couple, who still own a single-family home in Wilmington, Del., had driven past Cape Charles many times on their way to the Outer Banks. The Northampton County town, which dates to 1886, has about 1,000 residents and is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and two creeks. It is known for its collection of historic buildings and is the largest of the county's five incorporated towns.

"We never really explored the Virginia Eastern Shore and always wondered what was there. Now we know," Will Lock said. "We were really taken by Cape Charles and the lower Eastern Shore in general. We fell in love with it."

The Locks also fell in love with their 1,900-square-foot getaway home in The Fair-



SOURCES: ESRI, Tele Atlas VP

ways. It features three bedrooms and two bathrooms overlooking the 11th tee of the Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course.

Bay Creek residents don't have to look further than their own backyards for other amenities, including the Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer signature golf courses, private beaches, a marina, pools and walking trails.

Developed in 2001 by Dick Foster with Baymark Construction, the property was once farmland. Bay Creek was named because of its proximity to both the Chesapeake Bay to the west and Plantation Creek to the southeast. Today, the development encompasses 1,729 acres; more than 700 home sites, homes, condominiums and townhomes that have been sold.

The community consists of 10 villages: Bayside (cottages and beachside homes); The Fairways (condominiums);



SANDRA J. PENNECKE PHOTOS FOR THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Marina Village East (private gated community); New Quarter (duplex carriage homes); Heron Pointe (luxurious estate homes); Plantation Pointe (secluded estate village); and The Hollies, Kings Bay Village, The Colony and The Signature (all single-family homes).

According to Bay Creek sales manager Linda Buskey, the community could have as many as 2,700 homes when complete. Lots start in the \$70,000s, condominiums from the mid-\$200,000s and homes from the high \$300,000s to \$2 million.

Ron and Sherry Wrucke were ready to leave behind the hustle and bustle of New Jersey life when they moved to Bay Creek in June 2006.

The couple purchased a lot in The Signature village in Bay Creek in 2000 and waited several years to build on it. When they both retired

in the same week, they sold their home, looked at each other and said, "Let's go south."

"I rode the train into New York City for 30 years," said Ron Wrucke, 68 and a retired consulting engineer. "I was ready to kiss it goodbye."

With one of their daughters and grandchildren on the Eastern Shore and another in Chesapeake, they also desired to be closer to family.

As avid golfers, the Wruckes couldn't be happier than they're living and playing at Bay Creek each day.

"It's a very comfortable lifestyle and an entirely different way of life that's quiet, laid back and not hectic," Ron Wrucke said. "Bay Creek is a good place to hang your hat."

Sandra J. Pennecke,
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about the community

The Bay Creek Welcome Center and Sales Office, at 3335 Stone Road, Cape Charles, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Contact Linda Buskey, Bay Creek Resort & Club sales manager, at (757) 331-8742, 331-8743 or 678-6844.

Nearby schools Kiptopeke Elementary (pre-kindergarten to sixth grade) and Northampton High schools (seventh to 12th grade), both public; Broadwater Academy and Cape Charles Christian School, both private

Nearby recreation Chesapeake Bay and Plantation Creek; 6 miles of river, creek and bay shoreline; 2½ miles of private beach; walking trails; three swimming pools; tennis courts; 152-slip marina, and restaurant, retail and specialty shops. Also, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer signature golf courses with a tavern and pro shop. Kiptopeke State Park. Bicycles, fishing equipment, kayaks, golf carts and paddleboats are all available for rental.

Nearby shopping Bay Creek Marina Shops and downtown Cape Charles

Other info Property Owners Association fees are \$125 per month. There is also a condominium fee of \$237 per month, which includes the exterior maintenance, lawn care, trash pickup, master insurance policy and Fairways swimming pool.

for sale

At 135 Heron Pointe Drive, a four-bedroom, 3½-bath single-family home with 5,000 square feet on the Palmer Signature Golf Course with views of the Chesapeake Bay lists for \$1.1 million.

At 3 Kings Bay Drive, a four-bedroom, 2½-bath, three-story home with views of the Chesapeake Bay and 2,600 square feet lists for \$409,000.

In the Fairways Condominiums, three-bedroom, two-bath condos surrounded by Palmer Signature Golf Course and ranging between 1,500 to 1,800 square feet are priced from \$209,500 to \$253,500.

recently sold

At 18 Kings Bay Drive, a three-bedroom, three-bath, three-story single-family home with 3,000 square feet and a view of the Chesapeake Bay sold for \$429,000 in July.

At 404 Claret Court, a three-bedroom, two-bath condominium with 1,550 square feet and a view of the Palmer Signature Golf Course sold for \$240,047 in May.

At 701 Prestwick Turn, a three-bedroom, two-bath first floor condominium with 1,800 square feet sold for \$255,000 in May.

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