

Dear Friends of Grand Baymen Belize:

This month you were supposed to hear about an overview of the Emergency Asset Protection Conference held here on Ambergris Caye. The reason it was an emergency meeting is that it was set up specifically to address the new "Hire Act" passed in March. This new act includes some draconian language about international banking and foreign asset reporting. It took place at the Caye International Bank building, in cooperation with Grand Baymen's resort, Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Caye International Bank is directly across the street from the resort and Grand Baymen property.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the conference. Life threw me a curve ball on May 16... That's when I took a bad fall and broke my hip.

As a Belize Correspondent, I'm used to sharing my experiences about adapting to a different lifestyle in Belize. Normally I wouldn't dwell on health issues in this monthly newsletter. But, this unexpected "event" has seriously interrupted my normal daily activities. Also, I thought it might help to share my recent medical experiences in Belize with those of you who are considering moving here.

Accidents happen. We do our best to avoid them. But, sometimes we can't. Possibly my personal experience will help some of you who are going through the healthcare thought process related to moving to a country like Belize. If that's the case, my accident will not have been in vain...

But, I'll start with several lighter topics. That way, you can skip my femur folly if you so choose! It's down at the bottom of the topic list.

For instance, the week before my fall, Mike and I traveled to the Cayo District to check out various furniture makers. The Cayo is a world apart from Ambergris Caye. Ironically, cayo means island in Spanish. But the Cayo is inland, in the lush rain forest of the Maya Mountains. The city of San Ignacio is surrounded by rivers. Years ago, it was only possible to reach the Cayo via the river. Thus, the mestizo inhabitants called it the "Cayo", although an inland island.

We had not visited this inland area for at least five years, so it was a pleasant surprise. I've included some pictures of the furniture artisan's handwork and of a few resorts where we stayed. So, if you visit this area, you will know of a few reasonably priced options.

During that trip, we visited four different furniture warehouses. The wood workmanship in Belize is superb, and the type and quality of wood diverse. We accompanied our interior designer, since she is evaluating furniture to select for our first building. Construction of Grand Baymen's Building A will start shortly.

Additional topics are listed below. Don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail or my Grand Baymen phone if you have lifestyle questions about Belize, or related to this newsletter. It was a pleasure

to receive quite a bit of feedback from a number of you last month. Keep it coming, whether positive or negative. This is a work in progress.

Enjoy!

Regards,

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