

The Jupiter Courier

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Jupiter Courier editorial: Local firm makes a wise investment

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This week Seven Kings Holdings Inc. of Jupiter made a wise investment in North County — the place where it and we and the Marinelife Center call home.

Seven Kings, which is owned by J.C. Solomon II and Raymond Graziotto, this week reopened Frenchman's Marina off Donald Ross Road under the name Loggerhead Marina & Club. The idea is to create a sort of grand hotel for boaters. But instead of walking into the lobby, these boaters — well-heeled boaters, to be sure — sail into one of Loggerhead's slips, where the marina and club staff give them the Four Seasons treatment.

Certainly, over time visits by the sort of folks who can afford that kind of luxury will pay dividends for our community. Thus, it's great to see another solidly grounded business open its doors here — especially one with its roots planted firmly in Jupiter.

However, Loggerhead/Seven Kings went beyond floating a mere business investment.

It was simultaneously announced that Loggerhead/Seven Kings is donating \$500,000 to the Marinelife Center just across the bridge in Juno Beach. For this generous gift, the company gets naming rights. Thus, the new facility will be known as the Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

To those who would look at this with a cynical eye — they only did it to get their name on the building — we say: Get over it. Because history has proven that many of our nation's most innovative projects have come when public interest and private business work hand in hand for the betterment of the community.

That spirit of community betterment certainly seems to be at work between Loggerhead and the Marinelife Center.

To those who find a Marinelife Center and a marina strange bedfellows — again, get over it — at least in this case. Loggerhead has been honored for its efforts in the state's Clean Marinas program. And, moreover, the majority of boaters — like most hunters and outdoors enthusiasts — are among the best stewards of our natural resources.

Finally, to those who argue that Juno's beachside tennis courts should not be razed to make room for the Loggerhead Marinelife Center need to take a broader view and ... get over it.

You can build tennis courts anywhere, but the symmetry of the ocean, the beach and the new Marinelife Center come together in perfect harmony. With the completion of the new structure — designed by Jupiter architect Rick Gonzalez Jr. — North County will have a new "destination location" for locals and visitors alike.

We applaud Seven Kings for showing both the community spirit and good business sense to invest in such a worthy North County institution as the Loggerhead Marinelife Center.
