

Meet Your City Manager: A. William Moss

A. William “Bill” Moss was hired as Marco Island’s first City Manager in March 1998. He was selected by the seven-member City Council to establish the newly formed government and to identify and provide required services to the people of Marco Island. His selection was based upon his previous education, experience, and qualifications necessary to meet the unique challenge of establishing and managing municipal services.

Bill has over 30 years of city management experience. His interest in city management developed while he was a student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Appointed by the student body president to serve with the Carbondale City Council, Bill was exposed to the council-manager form of government and the role of a city manager. He adjusted his curriculum to allow for more exposure to local government. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business with a major in Economics.

Bill Moss then enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended the Infantry Officers Candidate School in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was assigned to an infantry unit in West Germany as his first tour and then to Viet Nam, where he earned the Bronze Star. He left the Army after 3½



years and went to Australia to visit a young lady he had met earlier. Her name was Faye Gordon, and she has been his spouse and friend for 30 years.

Bill and Faye returned to the United States in order for him to pursue a career in local government management. He earned a Master of Public Affairs degree at Southern Illinois University while working with the City of Carbondale, Illinois where he became the Assistant City Manager. He was then hired as the City Manager of Atlantic Beach, Florida, where he served for 3½ years before assuming a position as City Manager for North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Bill served as their City Manager for 13 years. During that time, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Municipal Association, and he served on the Board of Directors and as President of the South Carolina

City/County Management Association. Bill also attended the State of South Carolina Executive Institute.

Bill and Faye have two children. Jason, their son, is an attorney in Columbia, SC, and Karen, their daughter, is a Speech Pathologist in Naples, FL.

Bill and Fay live on Marco Island. They enjoy meeting Island residents and visitors, exercise activities, including tennis, reading, and fishing.

Did you know???

According to a survey of 398 Carlson Wagonlit travel agents relating to all the domestic destinations booked for 2005, Ft. Myers, Florida, is ranked number eight in the top 10 destinations! You weren't surprised, were you? The destinations and their rankings are listed here.

- 1 Las Vegas
- 2 Orlando
- 3 Maui
- 4 Honolulu
- 5 New York
- 6 Phoenix
- 7 Anchorage
- 8 Ft Myers, FL
- 9 Kauai
- 10 San Francisco

Marco Island Utilities and Water Conservation

The City of Marco Island is finalizing its Business Plan for the Marco Island Utilities. The Plan will address such diverse issues as: long-term water supply, increasing water treatment capacity, expanding the wastewater treatment plant, providing sanitary sewers throughout the island to replace septic tanks, improving water pressure, improving reliability, etc. One important component of the Business Plan is water conservation.

Because irrigation is the single-family homeowner's largest use of water, the easiest way to conserve is to make sure your system is operating properly. Malfunctioning or improper settings of irrigation systems are the greatest cause of water loss. The following information should help you manage your water system and reduce your water bill.

Managing Your Irrigation System

Set irrigation times to adequately meet needs based on the season of year.

Irrigation Cycles

Set the timer to water based on the season rather than an automatic year-round setting of three days per week.

Fall and Winter. From November through February, temperatures get cooler and plants go into a dormant or resting stage. Irrigation should be limited to twice each week.

Spring. March, April and May are months with little rainfall and the driest soil conditions. A watering cycle of two days each week may suffice. Consider watering three times per week only if grass and shrubs show signs of stress. Most grass will fold along the blade line and will not open in the cooler evening hours when water is needed. Plants and shrubs will wilt. When spotted areas beyond the range of the sprinkler heads show signs of stress, consider watering using a hose and nozzle rather than lengthening the watering cycle or adding days for the entire sprinkler system.

Summer. June through September is historically the rainy season. During the summer months, lawns and landscaping need about 1 to 1½ inches of water a week. For normal rainfall during the summer, a sprinkler system may not be necessary at all. Turn off the automatic timer and turn on for just one cycle during a long spell without rain. If away for an extended period, consider setting sprinkler controls to operate one day each week. If the system is turned off, operate once each month to keep valves from freezing up. In October, if rain stops, consider irrigation similar to the spring cycle, two days each week.

Irrigation cycles should never be set for more than the three designated days each week, and only between the hours of midnight and 8:00 am. As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to irrigation by watering the lawn mid-day.

Lawns need only about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of water at a time. To determine how long it takes your irrigation system to put out 1/2 inch of water, place empty tuna cans around the yard and measure the water collected in 15 or 20 minutes. Spread several cans around your yard to test for even distribution of water. Increase or decrease the length of the cycle to achieve desired quantity of water.

To learn how much water is consumed by irrigation for one cycle, read the last four digits of your meter, including the fixed "0," before you go to bed. Read it again when you get up in the morning after your irrigation system has completed its cycle. Subtract the difference. You can then multiply that consumption by the number of times you irrigate each month to determine how much water is consumed by irrigation. Reducing your frequency from three days to two days each week will reduce your consumption by 33 percent.

Set spray head zones for 15-20 minute cycles and rotor zones for 45-50 minutes.

If you don't want to measure your flow, set your cycle to last 15 to 20 minutes for zones with spray heads and 45-50 minutes for zones with rotor sprinklers.

While water uses for irrigation will depend on the landscape, turf, soil conditions and size of yard, a rule of thumb is that a six-zone system operating 15 minutes per zone on two days per week will use 1,500-1,800 gallons each day, or 12, 000-15,000 gallons each month. See the "[Meet your Water Meter](#)" section of the city's brochure to learn more about measuring water consumption and detecting leaks.

Water Conservation Tips

Many residents are looking to replace landscape plants, either for a change of scenery, or due to storm damage. Keep in mind that native plants will not only thrive on less water during the dry season, but will also survive the rainy season. Make a landscape plan before planting, grouping those with the same water and sunshine needs together.

Whether using irrigation at home or business, everyone

needs to closely monitor outdoor water use. Watering less frequently but thoroughly will help lighten the load on both pocketbooks and the shared regional pool of water.

Keep water conservation in mind, since only constant awareness will maintain a constant water supply. Big Cypress Water Basin offers free assistance with landscaping plans by calling 239-353-4244

Pick up your copy of the Marco Island Utilities and Water Conservation booklet for more information.

Cafe de Marco

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244 Palm Street, Olde Marco
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City of Marco Island Water Irrigation Restrictions

ODD Numbered Addresses
3 days each week: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday;
12:01 AM to 8:00 AM for irrigation systems

EVEN Numbered Addresses
3 days each week: Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday,
12:01 AM to 8:00 AM for irrigation systems

REMEMBER, FRIDAYS ARE DRY DAYS

Marco Players, Inc..

Visit our brand new theater in Marco Town Center Mall -
thanks to the Theater Angels, Marco Players now have tiered seating, new theater seats, stage and carpet.

Don't Dress for Dinner
February 17th - March 6th 2005

Over the River & through the Woods
March 31st - April 17th 2005

Season tickets are available (\$64) Call 642-7270
Tickets for individual performances (\$18) on sale at new BOX OFFICE in Marco Town Center Mall - call 642-3854



**MICA
Holiday
Party
2004**



more pictures on pages 36 and 37

The Homestead Exemption

by Todd L. Bradley, Esq.

What is meant by “Homestead”?

A “Homestead” is the primary dwelling owned by a Florida resident. In a municipality, the Homestead may not exceed one-half acre in size. Outside of a municipality, the Homestead may be composed of the residence and up to 160 contiguous acres.

Are there benefits to being Homestead?

Yes, the Homestead receives a \$25,000 exemption on its assessed value for real property taxes. In addition, the assessed value of the Homestead may only be increased up to 3% annually – which as most know is far less than what the actual appreciation has been for real estate in Southwest Florida. The Homestead is also exempt from the claims of unsecured creditors. Thus, a general creditor cannot take your residence. This exemption from creditors may also extend to one’s surviving spouse or heirs-at-law.

Should I title the Homestead in a Revocable or Living Trust?

It is generally not recommended to hold your Homestead in a Revocable or Living Trust. According to the Federal Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida (which includes Southwest Florida), holding the Homestead in a Revocable or Living Trust may cause the property to lose its creditor protected status under the Florida Constitution.

How do I file for the Homestead Exemption?

New applications for the Homestead Exemption should be made in person prior to March 1st at the Property Appraiser’s office. You are eligible for filing that year if you are a resident on or before January 1st of such year. Otherwise, you are not eligible for the current year but will be eligible for the following year and may pre-file for the exemption any time after March 1st.

How do I prove my residency in Florida in order to file for the Homestead Exemption?

Proof of legal residence will require that you have some ownership document identifying the property such as a deed, contract for sale or tax bill. You must have legal and equitable title to the property as of January 1st of the year in order to qualify for the Homestead Exemption for that year. Further evidence of residency can be provided by a Voter Registration, a Declaration of Domicile filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, or a Florida Drivers License or Vehicle Registration.

Can I file for homestead in Florida and my spouse file for a residency-based exemption in another state?

The Property Appraiser’s Office permits only one Homestead Exemption per

“family unit”. Thus, if you apply for a Homestead Exemption in Collier County, your spouse may not claim a residency-based exemption in another state. If your spouse does claim a residency-based exemption in another state, you are not eligible for the Homestead Exemption.

Are there any disadvantages to the Homestead?

There are certain restrictions on transferring or bequeathing your Homestead. For example, even if the Homestead is titled solely in your name, if you have a surviving spouse who has not waived any Homestead rights, he or she would be entitled to a life estate in the residence at your death. In addition, keep in mind that Florida residents as of January 1 may also need to file an intangible tax return. Thus, you should examine the timing for filing for the Homestead Exemption.

Before becoming a Florida resident, you should consult with an attorney as to the best procedure and timing.

Todd L. Bradley is a shareholder in the law firm of Grant, Fridkin, Pearson, Athan & Crown, P.A. Todd obtained his Masters degree in taxation from New York University and is Board Certified in Wills, Trusts and Estates.

Dehydration

by Sarah Asbell and Jessica Valencia, Summer Day Café

As you check off your list of things for the beach don't forget one of the most important things, water. We all know we need to "drink more water", so when heading out anywhere take it with you. Sipping at stop signs and lights can help improve your concentration, your metabolism and help ease muscle cramps. Why? These are some results of dehydration. Drinking water throughout the day can help hydrate your body and improve your body's well being.

Did you know that 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated? Dehydration causes stress and stress causes further dehydration. The "dry mouth" is the very last sign of dehydration. Not to mention 37% of Americans' thirst mechanism is so weak it is often mistaken for hunger. So, before you feed what you think are hunger pangs, try drinking a glass of water and waiting fifteen minutes before choosing to eat something. This can help cut down on extra calories, and in turn help reduce weight gain. A study at the University of Washington showed that 100% of dieters who drank a glass of water shut down their midnight hunger pangs.

Unintentionally chronic dehydration is at the root of many serious diseases, including asthma, renal dysfunction, endocrine system and adrenal fatigue, high blood pressure and

other cardiovascular problems, arthritis, ulcers, pancreatitis, digestive difficulties and lower back pain. It is also one of the leading causes of Alzheimer's disease. The number one trigger of daytime fatigue is lack of water. Not only can fatigue get you down but a 2% drop in body water can also trigger fuzzy short-term memory. (Can't remember where you parked your car? Time to drink a little more water.)

I'm sure everyone has heard the "eight 8-ounce glasses a day" line, but is that what you really need? Yes and No. The latest study by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies recommends that women should get 91-ounces of fluid a day while men should get 125 ounces a day. If it seems like a lot to drink, don't worry. They also say that 19% of that can come from the fluid in food. For example, cucumbers, tomatoes and zucchini are all more than 90% water. Another recommendation for the amount of water you should drink suggests dividing your weight in half to determine the number of ounces you should consume (ie: a 150 lb person should consume 75 ounces of water). In reality, the size of each individual and the physical activity that one does in a day can also change the body's requirements of fluid. If you

try to drink eight 8-ounces of water a day you are headed in the right direction.

So how do you drink all this water without running to the restroom every half an hour? The more pure the water you drink, the better your body absorbs it. When you drink liquids such as tea or soda your body is busy breaking down the molecules in these drinks to see what it needs and what needs to be excreted, it doesn't have much time to absorb the benefits of the water molecules found in those liquids. When you drink pure water, your body is able to absorb it more rapidly into your cells. Purified and distilled water comes highly recommended.

If you choose to drink bottled water, please make sure that you recycle your bottles. Every year more than 14 billion plastic water containers (not including gallon size or larger) end up in the trash. With Marco's curbside recycling bins, there is no excuse not to recycle. One easy way to cut down on waste is joining a water delivery service and filling up your reusable bottles. Not only does it cut out waste but it helps the pocketbook as well.

The Summer Day Café participates in MICA's Members Only Discount Program, and is located at The Marco Town Center Mall and can be reached by calling 239-394-8361.

Bill, Bill, Bill!

by Ruth McCann

We're still playing "Meet Your Gate Attendant" and in this issue we're getting "up close and personal" with Gate Attendant Bill Ames, who grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey. He attended Jersey City Junior College. Bill met his wife, Gloria, at the lake where his parents' had a true log cabin. Bill has fond memories of those times, recalling that the cabin was built of full oak logs and situated on a rustic lake. Bill and Gloria were married in 1950 and moved to Bergen County, about 30 miles from his birthplace. There Bill's part-time job working in electronics turned into a lifelong career and a business he eventually purchased. Until his retirement, Bill's company serviced electronics and security systems.

Bill and Gloria raised a large family, four girls and a boy, Mary Beth, Christine, Kathleen, Julie, and Timothy. All their children attended college in Colorado, and some have remained there. Julie and Tim relocated to the Boynton Beach, Florida, area, as did Bill and Gloria upon their "retirement." They lived for 11 years with Bill working in management at St. Andrews Country Club, before their move across the state to Marco Island in 1998. By 2000 Bill and Gloria had enough "togetherness" and Bill began to work as a



fill-in gate attendant at the Residents' Beach. He has since graduated to the mid-day shift on a permanent

basis! Bill enjoys boating, kayaking, biking, and spending time with his seven grandchildren.



*Obviously, this photo wasn't taken on Marco!
Just a glimpse of what we are not seeing in
Southwest Florida!*