
MICA WAVE

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association.
News and Reviews of What's Really Happening on Marco Island.

Read by Over 20,000 Members.

February, 2005

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2005 Issue 1

MICA Discount Program Keeps the Bucks on Marco and in Your Pocket

by Ruth McCann

What is the ultimate program designed to keep Marco Islanders spending their Marco dollars at Marco Island businesses? Most business owners agree - it's the MICA Members Discount Program!

Businesses on the program cover many different areas, from boating to health care, from ice cream to seawall repair, and from pizza to dry cleaning! The next time you're in need of an air condition repairman or searching for a particular book, check the MICA Discount Program. You're sure to find a local Marco Island business waiting for your call or visit!

For example, Vantastic Tours, home based on Marco for almost 10 years, offers narrated eco tours of the Florida Everglades. They offer two five-hour tours each day in their air conditioned van, which includes stops for a nature walk, an airboat ride through the Everglades, a guided tour of Everglades City, and a wildlife habitat where their guests can hold a variety of animals. All along the tour the guests are soaking up facts about the Spanish settlers and later the American Indians, as well as the history of the Ever-

glades! Connie Fulmer of Vantastic Tours said that a good amount of their business comes from Marco Islanders who bring their family members and other visitors for this all-encompassing tour, and "they're happy to be able to use their MICA Discount Card."

Susan Vigneau, manager of Konrad's Restaurant at Marco Walk, stated that "the MICA Discount Card is used primarily by locals and those who have the card are sure to display it when they stop in for a delectable Konrad's dinner, making their meal even more enjoyable."

Marco residents, Joe and Kim Irigoyen, along with their three sons, started their mom and pop business, Islander Pool and Patio, 15 years ago, and built it on friendly and knowledgeable service. The Irigoyen's feel very appreciative to the residents of Marco Island for supporting their business and the local families they employ. "The MICA discount program is a great way to show residents our appreciation for all their support," stated Kim when asked why they participate in the program.

Past President Lynn Bradeen began the MICA Members

Discount Program nine years ago with approximately 12 businesses, by calling friends and business owners and explaining his thoughts on this clever idea to help keep residents shopping on Marco Island. The program has grown and now encompasses more than 90 local businesses whose owners now call the MICA office to inquire as to how they too can participate in the program!

Newly-installed Marco Island Chamber of Commerce President Judy Gewirtz said, "You can use it almost everywhere on the island. By using the MICA Discount Card, not only do you support island businesses, you also benefit from doing so." It's a win-win situation.

When you do use your MICA Discount Card, please remember to show your card prior to your order being rung up or tallied.

Why head off island when so much is here at your fingertips along with a nice discount? In addition, each time you use your discount card, you can reimburse yourself for your membership fee, making your membership quite a value!

President's Letter

by *Jim Arnold*

"Season" has descended upon Marco Island with a vengeance! The mad-pitched return of season is, of course, terrific for local businesses, and the traffic doesn't seem too terribly unbearable this year, either.

Our MICA Members Holiday Celebration was the best party MICA has ever thrown. J. Robert and Friends got the party started with bongos, steel drums, and some wild fiddling! When the children weren't sitting on Santa's lap, they put their muscles to work playing tug of war and other games which were run by MICA director Howard Jordan. Eddie the Elf had the kids jumping through hoops as well! The Drifters were spectacular and had everyone twisting in their seats and on their feet! As the fog rolled in from the Gulf, the night was capped with a colorful fireworks display to the delight of all. In the spirit of the holidays, many of you brought canned goods which the Kiwanis Club distributed to less fortunate families in the area.

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Of course, a successful event doesn't just happen on its own. I'd like to extend the thanks of the MICA Board of Directors to Richard Joyce, Jeanne LaPointe of LaPointe Gallerie, the Marco Dollar Store in Marco Town Center, the Kiwanis Club of Marco Island, the Marco Island Police Department personnel, the Marco Island Fire Department staff, and the Residents' Beach staff and Manager Dennis McCann.

MICA recently hosted seminars regarding two very hot topics in Southwest Florida: Mold and Water Conservation. Both seminars were very well attended and filled with information. You will find articles regarding both topics in this issue.

On Wednesday, February 16th MICA will be sponsoring a seminar at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room of Marco Community Bank on what you can do to lower your Marco Island property taxes. Various legal and property experts will be conducting the seminar and answering your questions.

On Wednesday, March 16th MICA will be sponsoring a seminar at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room of Marco Community Bank on "Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne."

MICA's Annual Meeting was held on January 25 and the highlight of our Annual Meeting is always the much-anticipated presentation of the "Humanitarian

of the Year" Award. To see who earned this top honor, please turn to page 4.

Construction of the pavilion at the Residents' Beach continues to be on track. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued a permit and bids are out for a contractor at present. The form to have a name engraved on the building appears opposite this page. Don't miss this last opportunity to participate in the construction of the beach pavilion!

We are looking forward to a very special event, the February MICA FEST, which will be held on Saturday, February 26! J. Robert & Friends will kick off the "Fest" at 3:00 p.m., followed by the Cornell Gunter Coasters, who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987! Their hits included songs such as "Yakety Yak," "Charlie Brown," "Searchin'," "Poison Ivy," "Young Blood" and "Along Came Jones." You won't want to miss this event, so mark your calendar now! Bring your lawn chair or blanket for the "Concert on the Green." Cold beer, wine, soda, and delicious food will be available for purchase. Come and reminisce at the Residents' Beach on the 26th. We look forward to seeing you enjoying yourself. Fireworks will top off the evening, as well!

Thanks to all our members for your continued support. It is appreciated by your Board of Directors, who works for the betterment of Marco Island.

Beach Pavilion Fund Raiser Sizzles!

by Lynn Bradeen

MICA members have signed up in record numbers to have their names prominently displayed at Residents' Beach.

The new members' pavilion is out for bids and construction will start in April 2005. This will surely be the last opportunity members and supporters of our beautiful beach will have to put their family names into the Residents' Beach history book. Space is becoming limited and all interested members are encouraged to fill out the enrollment form and bring it to the MICA office or mail it in.

Many members missed the deadline to have their names placed on the Millenium Fountain and by getting your application in now you can assure that your name is included at Residents' Beach. Because of the large response the cut off date is rapidly approaching.

Placing your name will be a gift that lasts forever and is the perfect family gift. All net proceeds from the fund raiser will be used to pay for the construction of the new members' pavilion.

Don't Miss the Last Opportunity!

The Marco Island Civic Association is pleased to announce that along with a new Beach Pavilion at the Marco Island Residents' Beach comes a very rare opportunity.

Columns that support the Beach Pavilion will be encased in granite slabs. The granite will be engraved with the names of supporters of the Beach Pavilion and the Marco Island Residents' Beach.

You may have your name engraved on the granite columns with a minimum of 15 characters and spaces and a minimum charge of \$450. Each additional

space is charged at a rate of \$30 per character or space.

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR NAME ENGRAVED INTO HISTORY!

Requests will be filled on a first come, first served basis. All net proceeds will be applied toward Beach Pavilion construction.

Simply fill in the spaces below with the inscription exactly as you wish it to appear on the column, enclose check made payable to "MICA-Residents' Beach" for the amount required and send it to:

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
1770 San Marco Road, #204, Marco Island, FL 34145.
Telephone: 239-642-7778

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Number of characters: _____ X \$30= _____

TOTAL: _____ (Minimum charge of \$450 applies)

And the Award Goes To . . .

by Lynn Bradeen

The highly regarded “Humanitarian of the Year” award is given to outstanding and dedicated individuals who unselfishly serve their community. The Humanitarian Award is designed to honor the many “Good Samaritans” in our community who we seldom hear much about. It is a thank you to the many unsung heroes who do so much for so many and ask for nothing in return.

The MICA “Humanitarian of the Year” Award has become one of the most prestigious awards on Marco Island due to the qualifications and dedication of the recipients. Past honorees are: Mimi Torbush, Shirlee and Brian Barcic, Ward Bradeen, D’Ann and David Brandt, Dr. Sam and Mary Ann Durso, Judy and Arturo Perez, Maury Dailey, and Art Segal.

The 2005 “Humanitarian of the Year” Award was presented to long-time Marco Island resident Stephanie “Stevi” Vann Walthour at MICA’s Annual Meeting on January 25, whose family joined her for this very special presentation.

At a very young age Stevi became a leader. She attended a local middle school and graduated from Lely High School in Naples. While attending Lely our award winner served as president of both the Junior and Senior Class and was also a member of the Student Council



as well as being very active in several service and civic clubs. While earning a degree in Communications at the University of South Florida, Stevi continued working hard for several organizations that helped other people. Fund raising for worthy causes has always been a passion for our honoree.

Eventually, Stevi, her husband, and two other couples opened the popular Rookies Bar and Grill. Stevi organized and ran the Rookies Golf Tournament for many years that successfully raised money to benefit Kids with Cancer and helped numerous Marco Island families. The Marco Island Kiwanis Club was

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Taking Care of Business

by Ruth McCann

According to the bylaws of the Marco Island Civic Association, a meeting of the membership is required to be held each January, and that meeting was held on January 25 at the United Church.

President Jim Arnold reviewed the highlights of the association over the past year, including the July Fourth Celebration, which was full of fun and festivities at the Residents' Beach. MICA is planning another day of celebration for our country's Independence Day in 2005! Mr. Arnold highlighted the importance of the conclusion of a long-fought lawsuit, in which MICA was successful in upholding the deed restrictions and protecting the single-family neighborhood. The MICA office relocated during August to the Marco Community Bank building on San Marco Road and members have found us!

Jim Arnold invited all members to attend several upcoming MICA events, including a Property Tax Seminar, a seminar to review "Lessons Learned from the Four Hurricanes of 2005," and the February *MICAFEST* on February 26 at Residents' Beach featuring the Cornell Gunter Coasters.

At the Annual Meeting the members accepted the nominees recommended by MICA's

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Insurance & Mold Topic Draws Crowd

by Maury Dailey

Calling your insurance company to ask what would happen if you had mold could be on your record affecting future insurability. The record is called a CLUE Report, Comprehensive Loss Underwriters Evaluation Report. This is but one of the areas of discussion that drew a standing room only crowd at the Marco Island Community Bank Community Room in November.

The Marco Island Civic Association kicked off a series of home owner awareness programs with its first program, "Mold, It's What You Don't See That Gets You". The event was developed by Maury Dailey of Sunrise Realty. Dailey, acting as moderator, had a panel that included Ann Carlano of Carlano Home Inspection Services and Joel Cox of Advanced Insurance Underwriters. In addition, George Wilson of Fire-Water Restoration Services added valuable information from a restoration perspective.

A relatively new instrument to determine the risk of insuring a property or customer is a report called a CLUE Report. This report documents any claims including inquiries that customers make to their insurance company. The report was initially set up to prevent insurance fraud. But with rising insurance losses over mold incidences these reports are becoming prevalent in determining the risk of insuring a

property or consumer.

Joel Cox confirmed that an insurance company has up to 60 days to review a customer's risk potential. The insurance company can drop a customer anytime during that period. The real estate ramifications are significant. "If a home buyer doesn't get their insurance until right before their closing they could find out after closing that due to the property or the buyer's claim history, either here or back home, their insurance can get dropped. The lender will demand insurance. Once dropped by one insurance company it's unlikely another will pick them up", said Cox. It would force the buyer to an alternative source at a much higher rate.

Dailey recommended buyers ask sellers for a copy of a CLUE Report on their property to see if adverse insurance issues might exist before buying. Only an insurance company, lender or property owner can request a CLUE Report.

Saying that mold is everywhere, Carlano differentiated types of mold. Toxic types of mold affect your body beyond the sneezing or allergic level. George Wilson said he experiences a kind of tremor in his hands when he is around a certain type of toxic mold. Carlano also discussed when mold is a serious problem and when it isn't. Much of that has to do with the size of the affected

area. A specialist should be contacted to determine the course to take. "Mold is made up of spores. The first thing consumers do when confronting a musty home is turn the air-conditioning system to a low setting. That spreads the mold spores throughout the ventilation system and the home," said Carlano.

Humidistat systems were debated. These systems, either serial or parallel types, take moisture out of the air. However, consumers, property caretakers and renters can get easily confused on how to use them. The temperature in a home can reach 85 degrees before the humidistat calls for the air-conditioner to go on. Wilson pointed out that some large homebuilders have eliminated humidistat systems as an optional feature due to problems surrounding these systems.

Additional homeowner awareness programs are scheduled. They include challenging real estate taxes and more. Jim Arnold, President of Marco Island Civic Association, said, "We created this series of programs to keep property owners aware of current issues affecting them." Maury Dailey of Sunrise Realty said, "Our company enjoys conducting events to protect and inform consumers of various issues before them. Last May we held

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Humanitarian*

fortunate to have our honoree as a board member for several years, and she still heads their Scholarship Fund for high school seniors. As Co-Chair for an event of the local Cancer Society, our honoree raised a record amount of money for the time.

Stevi became a Den Mother to lend a helping hand while her son was a Cub Scout. From the Tommie Barfield Pumpkin Patch to the Kiwanis' Fourth of July t-shirt design contest to the Kiwanis Christmas Children's Fund, Stevi was there taking charge and making everything she volunteered for a complete success. She was also named

the "Kiwanian of the Year" in 2001 for her tireless work with children. Our "Humanitarian" chaired a Kiwanis fund raiser that provided \$23,500 to the Marco Island Charter Middle School.

Stevi's home and garage are usually stuffed with clothing, toys, and furniture that gets sorted out and designated to the Abused Women's Shelter, Manatee School or the girls in Immokalee. Stevi personally arranges transportation and delivery of all the donated items.

One of Stevi Walthour's most rewarding and heartfelt endeavors is the dedication of many hours of service to the Immokalee PACE Center for

Girls. PACE provides girls and young women, 11-17, an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Our "Humanitarian of the Year" is a mentor and a member of the PACE Advisory Board. In addition, raising funds for the PACE Center is almost a full-time job.

Of course, our 2005 "Humanitarian of the Year" Stevi Walthour also has to devote time to her husband and two children, Cullen and Kira, and a full-time job at the Marriott Marco Island Resort. The MICA 2005 award winner personifies the word "humanitarian."

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Annual Meeting*

Nominating Committee, and the nominees are Jim Arnold, Jim Johnson, Howard Jordan, Preston Mottram, Thomas Pollak, and Beverly Trotter. Ballots will be mailed to all MICA members in upcoming weeks. The MICA Board of Directors thanked Nominating Committee members, Jack Patterson, Jan Brewer, and Arleen Soldano for their service to the association.

Past President Lynn Bradeen then presented the prestigious "Humanitarian of

the Year" Award to Stephanie "Stevi" Vann Walthour for her exemplary, selfless service to the community. An article appears on page 4.

Pieter VanBennekom spoke to the audience recalling stories as an international journalist for United Press International. Mr. VanBennekom stated that he had seven expulsions from countries on his record, the most of any news reporter! During that time he was assigned to countries in South America, and there was some speculation that a couple of

the expulsions were due to a curse placed on him by a Venezuelan witch at the World Congress of Witchcraft! Eventually, just to be on the safe side, he flew to Rio de Janeiro for a ceremony to have the curse washed away by another practitioner of black magic! Pieter later became President and CEO of United Press International, so it appears that the curse was lifted! He now oversees the publication of business to business newsletters and is based out of a much safer locale, Malvern, Pennsylvania!

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Insurance & Mold

a program on renovation issues affecting condominiums. It was well attended and will be repeated this Spring.”

For additional information about the programs you can contact the Marco Island Civic Association. Contact your professional Realtor® for more information about mold. There are web links and other information sources they can direct you to.

*Maury Dailey is the Broker/
Owner of Sunrise Realty of
Florida, Inc. You can direct questions
and comments to him at
SunX@MarcoRealty4U.com.*



The members of the MICA Board of Directors express their deepest sympathies to MICA's Vice President Preston Mottram and his family. Preston's wife, Lou, passed away on November 22, 2004. Preston and Lou enjoyed more than 56 wonderful years together along with their daughters, Gayle and Susan and their families.



*The Marco Police Foundation presents
the second annual*

Spring Frolic Dinner Dance

featuring The Lords of Cool!

Saturday April 9, 2005

**Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund for
Police Officer's Children**

**Tickets \$50 per
person.**

**For tickets call
Dick Shanahan
389-4546
or Debra Sanders
394-1758**

**Come join the fun and support the Marco Police
Department**

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