

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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February 2018



*Celebrating
50 years,
because
of you*

*MICA President's
Message*

*Remembering
Bernado Bezos*

*Guest Commentary
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*Holiday Party
Photos*

*MICA Annual Meeting
& lots more!*



News and Reviews of What's Really Happening on Marco

President's Message

by Kathy Sullivan, MICA President

On January 10, MICA lost a dedicated volunteer and wonderful friend. Bernardo Bezos died peacefully at home following a short illness surrounded by his loving wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Leonore. Personally, I have been blessed to call Bernardo my friend for more than a decade. At MICA we refer to him affectionately as "Mr. Beach". He was the guy on the Board of Directors that headed our Beach Committee, expertly managed our finances in his role of Treasurer and was the first one to volunteer for any task large or small. More than anything he was a good, very good, friend. God bless you Bernardo and we'll miss you.

The events (Irma) of the 4th Quarter, 2017 are behind us and the island is looking great. It's been a lot of demanding work to get to where we are and now we can enjoy the "season". Our seasonal residents have returned, and the island is really buzzing. At MICA, we have a concert schedule that we think you'll enjoy. The Paradise Grill is operating on a full schedule. Our website, www.marcocivic.com, is a reliable source of information, including concert schedules, hours and menus for Paradise Grill, and a listing for special events of interest such as beach clean ups. Check it out. We've made a special effort to ensure the information is updated regularly and presented in a user-friendly way. We welcome your feedback on the website, or anything else for that matter. To provide feedback electronically, go to the website, click on the "Contact Us" tab and click on "Feedback". We take very seriously each comment we receive.

MICA Board of Director elections are coming soon. We have 12 board members elected by the members. They each serve a three-year term, with one third being elected each year. We believe in term limits to ensure an abundance of innovative ideas. Board members can only serve two consecutive terms. Leaving the board in March are Phyllis Marco, Brian Kudis, Kathy Nowosielski and Dr. Al Bismonte. Only Al is running for



*Kathy Sullivan, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

re-election. We thank them for their service. Our nominating committee (which is elected at our annual meeting) has nominated eight outstanding candidates. We also accept nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

You will receive a ballot in the mail with a short resume of each candidate. To assist you in your decision process, on our website you will find an answer from each candidate to the question describing what unique skills they will bring to the board and why you should vote for them. Go to the website and check out their answers. Again, the website address is www.marcocivic.com.

Look for your board members at the concerts and other beach activities. We'll be in our red shirts and would love to talk to you.

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Remembering Bernardo Bezos

by Ruth McCann, Executive Director

“If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know the man, don’t bother analyzing his ways of being silent, of talking, of weeping, or seeing how much he is moved by noble ideas; you’ll get better results if you just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he’s a good man.” This was said by Feodor Dostoyevsky.

Bernardo Bezos had a wonderful, hearty laugh and he was a great man. He will be sorely missed by all of us at the Marco Island Civic Association. Because you see, whatever Bernardo signed up to do, he did with gusto. He took his commitments seriously. He would pop into the MICA office or to Residents’ Beach a few times a week just to be sure everything was okay or to ask if we needed anything.

Bernardo served on the MICA Board of Directors and as President, Treasurer and Residents’ Beach Committee Chair over the years. He served for six years, took a year off the board because of required term limits and then back on for another four. Even when he was on hiatus from the board, he was still involved in Residents’ Beach.

Bernardo was born in Cuba, attended the University of Havana and came to the United States in 1960. He resided in New York and New Jersey and worked 33 years for the Phillip Van Heusen Corporation as Vice President of Financial Reporting before retiring to Marco Island, FL in 1998 with his beautiful wife, Eleanor and daughter Leonore (shown top right). His two older daughters, Gaudy and Dora, remained up north with their families.

He was 81 when he passed away on January 10,



Bernardo Bezos with his daughter Leonore and his wife Eleanor

2018. Until cancer was discovered in mid 2017, he was extremely active in our Marco Island Community. Bernardo loved Marco and volunteered wherever help was needed. In addition to MICA, he was President and on the Board of Directors of the Marco Police Foundation, Neighborhood Watch, a Beach Steward, volunteered for every beach cleanup, was a member of the City Beach Advisory Committee, Marco Island Foundation for the Arts, and the Cuban-American Club of Marco. He was also an avid tennis player at the YMCA.

Bernardo was a good friend to many people on our island and supported them with his strength and friendship.

A beach cleanup will be held on February 10, from 8 to 10 a.m., at South Beach in Honor of Bernardo Bezos. Please join us and honor Bernardo by doing what he considered a vital component to our island.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Marco Police Foundation at 1083 Collier Blvd., #123, Marco Island, FL 34145.



The City of Marco Island CodeRED Emergency Alerts

The City of Marco Island uses CodeRED to send notifications by phone, email, text and Twitter to keep citizens informed of emergencies such as significant weather events (hurricanes), evacuation notices, floods, chemical spills, or other relevant general city situations.

There is no charge to register for or use CodeRED and your personal information will be kept confidential.

To be notified of pending storm, hurricane, or other emergency situation, in the City of Marco Island, city residents, business owners and employees, and visitors are encouraged to sign up for CodeRED.

CodeRED enables the City of Marco Island to send voice, email, text and social media messages to thousands of citizens in minutes. The CodeRED system provides City of Marco Island officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire city in an emergency event.

In October 2017, the City of Marco Island updated its CodeRed offering and added additional features which now include the CodeRED Weather Warning service. Message recipients are now able to easily identify calls coming through the systems.

The message recipient's Caller ID will read:
For CodeRED Calls: OnSolve and/or 866-419-5000
For CodeRED Weather Warning calls:
OnSolve and/or the number 800-566-9780

Emergency Alerts:

The City of Marco Island uses CodeRED to send EMERGENCY notifications to keep citizens informed of emergencies such as significant weather events (hurricanes), evacuation notices, floods, chemical spills, or other emergency situations.

General Alerts:

The City may also activate CodeRED to send GENERAL notifications to registered subscribers to communicate large scale non-life safety matters. By selecting the box for GENERAL alerts, you will also receive these types of notifications.

CodeRED Weather Warning Service:

This is an opt-in only weather warning product that is linked into the National Weather Service's Storm Based Warnings. CodeRED Weather Warning automatically alerts affected citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued.

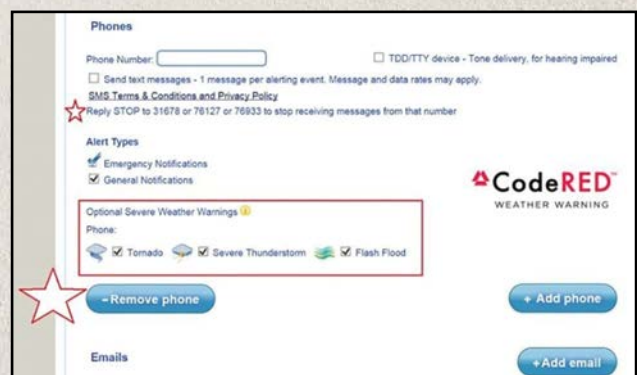
Call Back Capability:

Another great new feature is the ability to call back the system to hear the last message delivered. This will greatly reduce the number of inbound inquiries handled by City Staff, and more importantly, will offer residents an immediate replay of the message.

Enrolling with CodeRED:

If you are already signed up for CodeRED, you do not need to sign up again. If you are not sure that you are included in the database or want to enable the weather warnings, simply go to the City of Marco Island's website, www.cityofmarcoisland.com, and follow the link (<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BD7DF8D41311>) to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page.

Once logged into the website you will see the following screen element:



The screenshot shows a web form for CodeRED enrollment. At the top, there is a 'Phones' section with a 'Phone Number' input field and a checkbox for 'TDD/TTY device - Tone delivery, for hearing impaired'. Below this is a checkbox for 'Send text messages - 1 message per alerting event. Message and data rates may apply.' and a link for 'SMS Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy'. A star icon is next to the text 'Reply STOP to 31678 or 76127 or 76933 to stop receiving messages from that number'. Under 'Alert Types', there are checkboxes for 'Emergency Notifications' and 'General Notifications', both of which are checked. A red box highlights the 'Optional Severe Weather Warnings' section, which includes a 'Phone:' label and checkboxes for 'Tornado', 'Severe Thunderstorm', and 'Flash Flood', all of which are checked. At the bottom of the form, there are buttons for '- Remove phone', '+ Add phone', and '+ Add email'.

Please note the RED BOX AREA, which is highlighted above - This is where you can sign up for specific weather warnings as noted above, in addition to selecting emergency and/or general notifications to your contact number on file.

Canceling Notifications:

You will also note the two stars on the image on the previous page. These are the selections you can use to mute, pause, or cancel notifications from the system should you no longer want to receive messages.

CodeRED Mobile Alert App:

Residents and visitors alike can receive enhanced public safety alerts no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app - a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area so that you may also receive timely notifications when you're on the road, away from home.

If you are currently a CodeRED subscriber that has already registered your mobile phone to receive notifications from the City of Marco Island, you will continue to receive calls. However, if you download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, you will also be able to receive alerts via your smartphone anywhere in the country, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska.

To download the free CodeRED Mobile Alert app, visit the Google Play or iTunes store.

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Henderson Creek Cleanup a Success!

In September, Hurricane Irma blew trash and debris into much of the coastal environment near Naples and Marco Island. Rookery Bay Research Reserve teamed up with Red Bull to host a Henderson Creek Cleanup on Saturday, November 18. Nearly 100 stand-up paddlers, kayakers and water enthusiasts from all over Florida joined forces to help remove and load more than 60 yards of debris into dumpsters, restoring the creek's pristine beauty and making the shoreline safer for wildlife.



Residents' Beach Playground

One of the most recent improvements at Residents' Beach involved the playground. MICA installed some new equipment at the playground at Residents' Beach and a complete playground at Sarazen Park at the south end of the island.

At Residents' Beach, new swings, drums and other musical instruments and the revolutionary "Expression Swing" were installed. The Expression Swing features two seats facing each other, one for a baby and the other for a parent, grandparent or older sibling. How exciting for everyone to see each

other's joyous face while swinging!

On December 30, 2017, MICA hosted a ribbon cutting celebration at the Residents' Beach playground. Nathan Olsen did the honors and was surrounded by many children as well as MICA board members Cathy Nowosielski, Megan Olsen, Al Bismonte and Kathy Sullivan.

Spend a little time at one of the playgrounds with your child or grandchild and check out the new equipment. We've come a long way since the days of the hot metal slides!



Owl Starter Burrow Program

by Maria Lamb



In 2017, Owl Watch volunteers counted 169 pairs of owls nesting in Marco Island. Of those pairs, 116 successfully raised 317 chicks.

The Audubon of Western Everglades' (AWE) Owl Watch Marco program first launched its Starter Burrow Program in early November. The response has been very positive and to date AWE has dug 20+ starter burrows. These are mostly in residential yards and two are located in a condo association's green space.

Habitat loss is the biggest threat to the burrowing owls in Marco Island. As Marco Island is getting more and more built-out, there will be less and less vacant lots for burrowing owls to call home. Audubon of Western Everglades (AWE), along with its Owl Watch Program, is encouraging residents to participate in its "starter" burrow program. By their participation, residents become active in the conservation and protection of the burrowing owls of Marco Island.

Burrowing owls are not able to dig through thick landscape grass, so most lawns on Marco Island are inaccessible to nesting. Burrowing owls can be encouraged to move to your property by installing a

starter burrow. Preferably, starter burrows are dug in an open lawn safe from curious pets and away from trees, shrubs, and buildings. Starter burrows are easy to integrate into a residential landscape, and can be incorporated into some suitable gardens.

Some of these owls lost their burrows from Hurricane Irma and are looking for new homes. Young owls that hatched last season were also looking to "move out" and dig new burrows before the start of the nesting season which runs from February to July.

Brad Cornell of AWE wants everybody to know that both owls and landowners can co-exist on Marco Island. Having burrowing owls in your neighborhood or as part of your landscape shouldn't be feared, but should be viewed as an amazing asset to the city. In addition to being a major draw for birdwatchers and tourists, burrowing owls provide a service to residents by eating rodents, lizards, and insects, including roaches and mole crickets.





*The Cooks of Tigertail Court
with their new starter burrow.*



*AWE's Allison Smith with Laura Scelfo
and Judy Hattendorf of Angler's Cove,
whose HOA voted unanimously to
re-landscape for owls.*

Karol Tenace, Assistant Manager for the AWE Owl Watch Program, is optimistic on the future of burrowing owls in Marco. Installing a starter burrow on your property can provide a pair of owls with a safe new home to raise their family next year. In exchange, homeowners get to enjoy endless hours of joy as they observe these charismatic raptors and their chicks up close.

If interested, please send an e-mail of interest to: owlwatchmarco@gmail.com. Staff from AWE's Owl Watch Program will schedule a visit to assess the best location for your starter burrow.

Photos by Jean Hall.

Protection for Burrowing Owls:

- *Listed as a State Threatened Species*
- *Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act*
- *City of Marco Island Protected Species Ordinance*

*Please report malicious destruction or harassment
of burrowing owls or their burrows to FWC Hotline:
1-888-404-FWCC (3922)*



The Marco Island Car Show Hosted by Kiwanis

The Marco Island Car Show hosted by Kiwanis will be held at the Marco Healthcare Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on February 18, 2018. Drivers of show cars will be asked to pay a \$20 entrance fee. This money will be used to help Marco Island Academy with hurricane repairs.

Trophies will be awarded in 15 categories, including a People's Choice Award. Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage and chili) will be available for purchase. The Italian American Club will be back again selling homemade cakes and preparing Zeppolas on site. NAPA is returning as a major sponsor and will be displaying various automotive products. A vendor will display miniature autos capable of transporting adults; they are really something to see.



A special exhibit this year is a 1963 original Indianapolis Race Car. Bring your camera and take pictures of this classic racing car.

The Celtic Spirit Irish dancers, a crowd favorite, will be back performing as well as the Marco Academy cheerleaders. The Judo club from the YMCA will be performing various skills. Steve Reynolds will be playing those great songs from '50s and '60s. This promises to be a great show!

The spectator fee remains at \$5 per person. All proceeds are used to fund and support various programs and needs of Marco children.

If you own a vintage, sports, hot rod, muscle car or truck you feel is show quality, bring it to the show. This is a great time to display your vehicle and help children.

Any questions or information please call John DeRosa at 239-272-0816.

38th Annual
Marco Island Shell Show and Shell Art Sale
March 8, 9 & 10, 2018 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
10 am - 4 pm

United Church of Marco
320 N. Barfield Dr., Marco Island

Magnificent Juried Artistic and Scientific Exhibits
-Beautiful Marco Shells, Fossils and shells from all over the world!
-Flowers, Frames, Jewelry and Caricatures

Beautiful Shell Art and Specimen Shells for Sale
COME SEE THE CREATIVITY IN THE SHELL WORLD

Kid's Day on Saturday, starting at NOON!
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Our Florida State Shell PRIZES!

The "Shell Love Bug" will be at the show on SATURDAY ONLY. (10th)



Guest Commentary

by *Jared Grifoni,*
Chairman, Marco Island City Council

In 2016, the issue of a potential hotel development project at Veterans' Community Park was brought to light. It became a major hot-button issue for many across our island who were concerned, not only about the lack of transparency, but also about the potential impact to current residents, businesses, and tourists. It also sparked an island-wide debate about the future of Veterans' Community Park and whether or not the then-current density transfer policy truly represented the best interest of our entire island community.

What is density transfer? Each land parcel on Marco Island has an assigned amount of density that is permitted. As a simple example, if all of the available density was not utilized on one parcel, the unused balance could be transferred to another parcel elsewhere on the island over and above what was originally allowed. This had the potential of allowing for a much larger, denser development on a parcel where it wouldn't have normally been permitted, creating a difficult and almost unpredictable situation for neighbors and a strain on surrounding infrastructure.

Citizens exercised their rights speaking out about the project and soon it became a key issue during the November 2016 City Council elections. The public spoke loud and clear at forums, in letters to newspapers, and ultimately at the ballot box. After the election, the newly elected City Council moved swiftly and voted to terminate the hotel project, not become a "co-applicant" on any project involving the Park, and approved a one-year moratorium on density transfer to allow for proper review and impact of the policy prior to considering a potential repeal. This would ensure that a situation wasn't created where another project application was submitted disrupting or jumping ahead of the review.

Now, after the first City Council meeting of 2018, the City Council voted on final readings to repeal density transfer and to rezone Veterans' Community Park officially as a "park" almost one year to the date of the approval of the density transfer moratorium culminating the review process. Your opinions are important and your activism in local government can really be the spark of change you desire. The process has been open and transparent, there has been no rush to judgment, and the debate through our citizens, Planning Board, and City Council has been deliberate.

It is often said that machinations of government move extremely slow, except when you don't want it to. In this case, the citizens of Marco Island can see that their strong feelings on these issues were heard and that the City Council followed a responsible and careful path to ensure that all opinions were considered and proper policy ultimately put in place that is in line with our citizens' visions.

As the new Chairman of the City Council this year, I will continue to listen to the citizens of Marco Island and hope that you will continue to reach out to me with your concerns. I can be reached by email at JGrifoni@MarcoCityCouncil.com or via cell at (239) 315-2089.



*Jared Grifoni, Chairman,
Marco Island City Council*

An advertisement for Café de Marco. The top left features the restaurant's name in a cursive font. To the right is a photograph of a plate of large, succulent shrimp. Below the name, text reads: "VOTED BEST SEAFOOD ON MARCO SINCE 1983", "EXPERIENCE THE FLAVORS OF OUR CHEF'S SPECIALS GUIDED BY THE 'PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABILITY'", and "RESERVATIONS (239)394-6262 www.cafedemarco.com". On the right side, there is a TripAdvisor logo and text: "2011 - 2017 award of excellence". At the bottom right, the address "244 Royal Palm Dr. | Olde Marco" is listed.

Café de Marco
VOTED BEST SEAFOOD ON MARCO SINCE 1983
EXPERIENCE THE FLAVORS OF OUR CHEF'S SPECIALS
GUIDED BY THE "PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABILITY"
RESERVATIONS (239)394-6262
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tripadvisor 2011 - 2017 award of excellence
244 Royal Palm Dr. | Olde Marco



Rookery Bay Research Reserve's Team OCEAN Receives Audubon Guy Bradley Award

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Team OCEAN (Ocean Conservation Education Action Network) was presented the Guy Bradley Award during the 2017 Audubon Assembly in St. Augustine. This prestigious award recognizes the volunteer group's contribution to environmental outreach and education regarding the reserve's natural resources and beach-nesting birds, as well as its conservation efforts at Second Chance Critical Wildlife Area (CWA).

"DEP's longstanding partnership with Audubon has resulted in the protection of many of Florida's beach-nesting birds," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "Rookery Bay is a special habitat, and I'm proud of Team OCEAN's dedication to preservation and education regarding its natural resources."

Team OCEAN volunteers were recognized for posting and maintaining crossover trails as well as "Important Nesting Area" signs that alert visitors of the beach-nesting birds. Additionally, volunteers regularly assist with shore bird and sea turtle monitoring efforts. Volunteers are also trained to respond to reports of wildlife in distress, and provide outreach and educational information to boaters, residents and visitors regarding the protection of natural resources within the reserve.

"Rookery Bay is honored to receive this recognition from Audubon," said Keith Laakkonen, Rookery Bay Research Reserve director. "Team OCEAN works hard to get the word out about some of the reserve's unique coastal habitats such as Second Chance CWA and Keewaydin Island, and we've made great strides in reaching tourists, residents and boaters about the importance of our natural resources and how to help protect our resident beach-nesting birds."

Rookery Bay, in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and



DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein; Team OCEAN Coordinator Jayson Horadam; Tom Marquardt, Team OCEAN; Audubon Florida Director Eric Draper.

Audubon Florida, closes the Second Chance CWA annually from March 1 - August 31, for nesting season. This closure increases the likelihood of successful breeding and preserves threatened Florida species such as the Least Tern.

Team OCEAN is a boat-based volunteer program. During the first half of 2017, Team OCEAN's 58 volunteers donated over 2,000 collective hours. Learn more about volunteer opportunities with Rookery Bay and Team OCEAN.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Office in partnership with NOAA. Its mission is to provide a basis for informed stewardship of estuaries in Southwest Florida through research and education. For more information, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal, www.nerrs.noaa.gov or www.rookerybay.org.

Celebrating 50 Years – MICA’s Golden Anniversary

By Ruth McCann

The Marco Island Civic Association is one of the oldest and largest associations of its kind in the state of Florida. MICA’s charter provides that our general purpose is to promote and advance the principles of civic improvement and betterment on Marco Island.

The Marco Island Civic Association, more commonly known as “MICA,” began meeting informally for several years, became more organized at the end of 1967 and incorporated in 1973, and has been running strong since.

Three very unique events took place that makes MICA stand out from all other civic associations in Florida. First was receiving the deed to the Residents’ Beach in 1975. MICA works hard to maintain our spectacular beachfront property and has made continual improvements over the years, including construction of the Robert Sessions Pavilion in 2006.

Another milestone occurred in 1986 when Deltona, as the subdivider of Marco Island, assigned MICA the subdivider’s rights to enforce the Deed Restrictions on Marco Island. MICA was then responsible for enforcing Deed Restrictions that are part of most of the property deeds on Marco. Deed Restrictions, which we have written about in the past, help to protect property values on our gorgeous island. In 1999, Deltona further assigned all subdivider rights it had retained to MICA in an out-of-court settlement.

In 1995 developer Jack Antaramian deeded the park property at Collier Boulevard and Swallow Avenue to MICA. MICA named the park in honor of golf legend Gene Sarazen, who lived on Marco Island. MICA later added electric, playground, restroom facilities and the largest chickee on Marco Island. In 2014, as a joint project between MICA and the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA), the magnificent bronze sculpture “Double Eagles”

was placed at the front of Sarazen Park.

The above unique events have allowed MICA to become the largest civic association in the state of Florida. MICA has two memberships - the Marco Island Civic Association and the Marco Island Residents’ Beach.

Since MICA’s incorporation in 1973 every major Marco Island issue has had MICA’s input involved in its development. Members now enjoy professionally staffed offices and beach properties. We have our own newsletter, member discount program, a professionally administered Architectural Review Committee, and we monitor all levels of government on behalf of our members. In conjunction with other island organizations, MICA sponsors the well-attended Candidate Forums that allow residents to hear and meet candidates for public office.

Every year the MICA board surveys the members regarding issues that may impact the community in the coming year. This survey is the only one of its kind on Marco Island. As the mix of our members is approximately 50% single-family homeowners and 50% condominium owners, the large membership offers a fine overview of our island population.

MICA continues to be the largest donor to the July Fourth Fireworks Display.

The Marco Island Hurricane Guide was developed by our association and was specifically prepared for our island residents. It came in handy during the 2017 Hurricane Irma emergency.

With regard to the Marco Island Residents’ Beach, I think we all can agree that it is one of the (if not the) most beautiful beach sites in our great nation. This wonderful facility, also known as “The Crown Jewel” of Marco Island, is a towering example of what an active and well-administered civic association can accomplish with the strong support

Continued on page 32



Local artist, Betty Newman paints a Hurricane

by Maria Lamb

Betty Newman has been painting all her life. She used to give her creations away and was so thrilled when someone actually bought her artwork. To Betty, “you get a little bit of me when you buy one of my paintings.”

This past summer, Betty was working on one particular piece. She was not particularly happy with the colors but she finished the piece just before Hurricane Irma. She left the island prior to the hurricane and when she came back home and was looking at this particular painting she gave a loud, “Oh my God.” The painting reflected Hurricane Irma.

While working on it, she kept adding an eye. Betty quickly realized that she has been painting this storm. There are no eyes in her other paintings. So, she decided to name the painting, Irma.

Her daughter always wanted her to paint mermaids. Her mermaid renditions are very popular. During hurricane Irma, when Betty was working on her little mermaids, they started out thin but as



Artist, Betty Newman with her painting she aptly named “Irma.”

“she ate” herself through Irma, her mermaids got a little bit more voluptuous. Her sets of “Irmaids” are fun and whimsical.

Betty loves painting hearts and kept her first heart painting. Clients buy her hearts as presents for birthdays, anniversaries and for special occasions. One client bought two hearts for her daughter who just had a heart transplant. The heart is a universal symbol and it touches people.

Betty had her first commission when she was in college. It was a landscape and it was for one of her friends’ parents. She received a scholarship to go to the Chicago Art Institute when her children were still in pre-school. She would take the train to Chicago from Bartlett, Illinois.

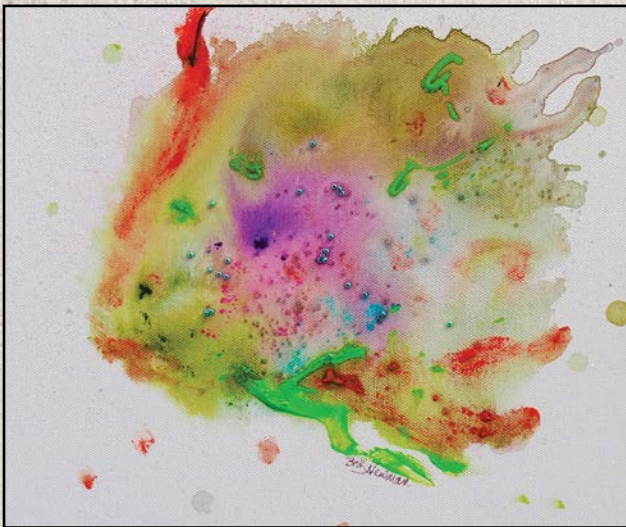
As an only child she took her pen and paper everywhere and she kept drawing. Even now, when she is on the phone, she will doodle.

Betty describes her paintings as “expressionism”, expressing her feelings through her art. Betty is constantly thinking about her pieces. It is not uncommon for her to wake up in the middle of the night and say, “Aha, that is what that piece needs.” Her paintings are sometimes bold, exotic and contemporary. Her collection also features



Heart is the universal language of all occasions and it touches people.





Easy to fall in love with these crazy, nosey, yellow, green and blue whimsical fishes.

whimsical creations such as seahorses and fish with fun expressions.

Betty's paintings, along with other local artists' collections, are on display at the Local Art Color Gallery located at the Olde Shops of Marco, 190 Palm Drive. The Gallery features Marco's finest island artisans.

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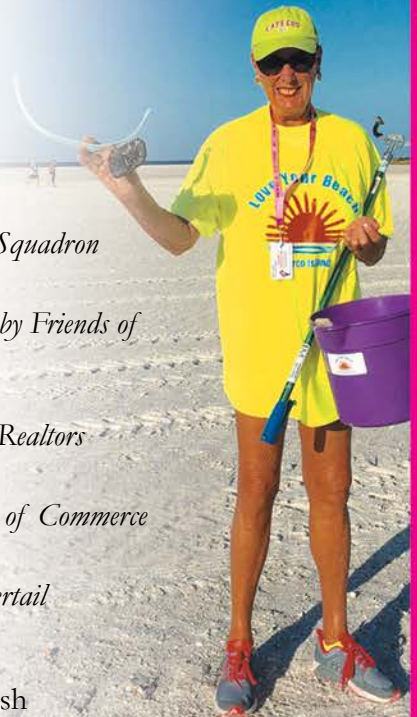
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galvanslawnmaintenance@gmail.com

Beach Clean-up Schedule

- **Saturday, February 10th, 8 a.m.**
Beach clean-up at South Beach *in honor of Bernardo Bezos, sponsored by friends and family of Bernardo Bezos*
- **Saturday, March 10th, 8 a.m.**
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron*
- **Saturday, April 14th, 8 a.m.**
Annual Keep Collier Beautiful/Bay Days at Tigertail Beach *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Saturday, May 5th, 8 a.m.**
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Area Assn of Realtors*
- **Saturday, June 9^h, 8 a.m.**
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce*
- **Saturday, July 14th, 8 a.m.**
Quarterly Beach Cleanup at Tigertail Beach *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*

MICA supplies gloves, water, trashbags and the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster. Leadership Marco supplies buckets and grabbers.





Residents' Beach Holiday Party, December 30th, 2017





See more photos on pages 18 and 19





Residents' Beach Holiday Party, December 30th, 2017





See more photos on pages 16 and 17



A New Year Begins for The Mini Reef

Throughout the course of 2017, waterfront residents of Marco Island have increasingly embraced the Mini Reef as a great way to make a positive difference in the local environment. The Mini Reef is an artificial habitat produced by S.W. Florida nonprofit Ocean Habitats, Inc that helps hundreds of fish and crabs grow up every year. A single Mini Reef can also clean 30,000 gallons of seawater everyday by giving filter feeders a place to live and eat the green plankton suspended in the water. The Mini Reef itself is placed underneath an existing boat dock where it is attached to some of the pilings and floats just below the water's surface riding the constantly changing tides.

During 2017, the 208 (at the time) Mini Reefs on the island faced one of their largest tests to date with hurricane Irma making landfall in Marco Island. After Irma passed it was initially believed that three Mini Reefs had been lost to the storm. As life slowly got back to normal on Marco, it was discovered that two were stuck on the bottom and were able to be returned to duty. The last unit was also found and although it had been damaged by debris and could not be reused, it was removed from the water to be recycled.

Ocean Habitats next installation trip to the area will take place in February of this year and afterwards there will be at least 350 Mini Reefs in the canals of the island. Those 350 Mini Reefs will be working hard during 2018 to make a positive impact. They will help over 105,000 juvenile fish and 87,500 crabs grow up in the waters of Marco Island. The Mini Reefs will also be cleaning over 10.5 million gallons of water everyday which equals over 3.8 billion gallons of water per year. Another way to put those numbers into perspective is the Mini Reefs will be cleaning the water of over 5,800 Olympic sized swimming pools each year. Just imagine, if every dock on Marco had four Mini Reefs the island would be able to clean 317 billion gallons of water per year. Marco could produce 8.7 million fish and 7.2 million crabs. These are the kinds of numbers Ocean Habitats wants to make a reality for Marco residents.

2018 brings a redesigned Mini Reef to help increase the already amazing impact these units can make. A new flotation system has been designed



with help of a Marco resident. This new system will double the lifespan of the unit to 15-20 years, increase the volume of water cleaned and animals grown by 15% and make it even more durable than before. Along with the redesign, 2018 also brings a larger size unit called the Mini Reef Plus. It is double the size of the original Mini Reef and is capable of producing three times the fish and crabs.

If you are interested in having your dock turned into an oasis for aquatic life and join the hundreds of Marco residents who already have, contact Ocean Habitats today at www.oceanhabitatsinc.com or call 786-520-6459. Ocean Habitats, Inc is a nonprofit organization and a portion of your payment is tax deductible. If you don't have a dock, you can make a tax deductible donation to help further Ocean Habitats work.

Ocean Habitats to Begin Canal Watch Program

Last fall, local nonprofit Ocean Habitats, Inc announced plans to begin monitoring water quality in the canals of Marco Island. This analysis will be conducted with the help of local residents volunteering their time to collect data from the water behind their homes. Ocean Habitats will be partnering with instructors and students from Marco Island Academy (MIA) and Florida Southwestern State College (FSW) to conduct the testing of water samples collected by the volunteers. Ocean Habitats is happy to announce that thanks to a grant from The Second Chance Foundation, all of the supplies have been purchased and sample collection and analysis began in January 2018.

Ocean Habitats already has over a dozen Marco residents who have volunteered to collect samples and conduct simple measurements from their dock. Instructors and students from FSW have already started conducting water quality analysis on samples taken from Marco this winter. There's still plenty of room for more volunteer homeowners that would



Local volunteers collecting data from the canal water around Marco Island

like to be part of this program. There are still dozens of canals in the city that Ocean Habitats would like to collect samples from and every canal has room for multiple sample sites. In all Ocean Habitats hopes to one day have 250 collection sites

Continued on page 23



An Educated Boater is a Safer Boater!

by *M.D. Schlit, Public Affairs Specialist 3, U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 95*

In the past 50 years of conducting patrols on the waters of Marco Island and the 10,000 Islands, the volunteer members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAux), Flotilla 95 Marco Island, have seen it all: excessive speed in “no-wake” zones; boaters not observing the collision regulations or right of way; straying outside marked channels; vessels run aground or stranded in the back waters; vessels operated in an unsafe manner; spouses unable to operate the vessel or call for help; vessels not equipped with the required and recommended safety equipment; and many, many more instances of inadequate knowledge and sometimes dangerous activity by the recreational boating community.

Unfortunately, unlike some other states, Florida does not require any kind of formal training or instruction before purchasing or operating a recreational vessel if born before January 1, 1988.

The solution: Enroll in a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved basic or advanced boating course taught by the certified instructors of the “Uniformed Volunteer Arm of Team Coast Guard”.



For 2018, Flotilla 95 is offering the following courses to the boating public:

Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S):

The most comprehensive basic boating instruction program offered. It is taught over four weeks, on Mondays and Thursdays from 7-9:30 p.m. and includes the following topics: Which Boat Is For You; Equipment For Your Boat; Trailering Your Boat; Handling Your Boat; Your “Highway” Signs; The Rules You Must Follow; Inland Boating; The Rest Of Our Story; Introduction To Navigation; Powering Your Boat; Lines & Knots For Your Boat; Weather & Boating; Your Boat’s Radio. In addition, the course provides a mandatory section on Florida specific boating laws and regulations.

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the student will qualify to receive a Florida issued Boater Safety Identification Card (BSIC) which is required for any individual born after January 1, 1988 to operate a motorized vessel of more than 10 h.p. Many insurance companies offer discounts with proof of the BSIC.

Classes: Four week sessions starting
February 26th and July 9th, 2018

SAFE BOATING..

***IT’S NOT JUST A
SLOGAN..***

IT’S A WAY TO LIVE!



Suddenly in Command: This course is a full-day program that includes classroom and on-the-water instruction. It is designed for “First Mates” or anyone who someday may find themselves “Suddenly in Command”. Do you know how to use the radio to get help? Do you know how to read and report your position? Do you know how to operate your boat? If not, this course may be for you. All attendees will operate a boat, and become familiar with the use of the VHF marine radio, GPS and the safety equipment.

Classes: 2/22/18 & 3/22/18

Boater’s Local Knowledge - Marco Island:

This course provides practical information on how to navigate various waterways in and around Marco Island. Aerial and on water photos are used throughout the course and allow attendees to actually see the areas they will be taking their boats through. This course is recommended for new, novice, and intermediate boaters, or boaters who are new to this area.

Classes: 2/12/18; 3/12/18; 4/2/18.

Boater’s Local Knowledge Backwater Edition: This course begins where Boater’s Local Knowledge ends, and provides those who want to explore the backwaters of the 10,000 Islands with the information they will need to safely navigate this unique area. Geography, tides and other navigating factors are thoroughly discussed. Aerial photos are used extensively in this course to aid boaters in knowing where to go...and where not to go. Six routes into the 10,000 Islands are reviewed in the class. This course is recommended for intermediate boaters and above.

Classes: 1/23/18; 2/13/18; 3/13/18; 4/3/18.

All courses are taught at the USCGAux Station, Caxambas Park, 905 Collier Court, Marco Island, 34145. For more information about these boating courses offered by the USCGAux, contact Public Education Officer Joe Riccio at (239)-384-7416 or cgauxcourses@gmail.com.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about the USCGAux, contact Human Resources Officer, Robert Shmihluk at (239) 394-5911 or www.USCGAuxMarco.org.

***Ocean Habitats Canal Watch,
Continued from page 21***

throughout the city. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ocean Habitats Executive Director David Wolff at 786-520-6459 or email him at david@oceanhabitatsinc.com.

As the number of test sites continues to expand, Ocean Habitats plans on installing equipment at some locations that will monitor water conditions 24 hours a day. These probes will be solar powered and will call out every day to upload their measurements to an online database. The database will be made available to the public and will be used by instructors to teach students about the environment using this real world data. Ocean Habitats will also be using the data to demonstrate the water quality difference between sites with Mini Reefs nearby and sites that do not have any units. After some time, the data will show the seasonal fluctuations and hopefully will help identify issues that need to be addressed. Ocean Habitats plans to replicate this program in other cities around Florida and include other high schools, colleges and universities in this work.

Ocean Habitats, Inc has been able to get this initiative started, but it needs your help to sustain and grow this program. Ocean Habitats is seeking donations from concerned residents, grants from any private or public foundations and sponsorships from any local businesses that want to see Marco Island remain as beautiful tomorrow as it is today. If we all work together, we can help protect this amazing island and help teach tomorrow’s leaders about the underwater world right here in our backyard.

If you would like to contribute please contact Ocean Habitats at 786-520-6459 or by email at david@oceanhabitatsinc.com.



Herb Savage Just Turned 99 Years Old!

by Maria Lamb

Herb Savage celebrated his 99 birthday on January 6, 2018 surrounded by members of his family. Herb and Emily Savage have lived in Marco since 1979, and they also celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in October. Herb Savage is an iconic figure in Marco's history. He is a devoted family man, patriot, visionary, community leader and history teacher to all of us.

Herb worked for the Mackle Brothers for 19 years and designed many of the original buildings and homes on Marco in the 1960s and '70s. He envisioned a friendly, family oriented community with lots of mom and pop style shops.

Herb has very fond memories of his military career where he served his country for 20 years, both active and in the reserves. In 1940 he was sent to Italy and was released from active duty in 1946. In 1950 he was recalled to active duty for the Korean conflict. He is a member of the VFW and actively participates in local military celebrations.



*Herb Savage (wearing glasses) and Jim Vensel,
architects for Mackle Brothers
with their spouses
Emily Savage and Marie Vessel.*





Herb with his signature rendition of God Bless America at a Veterans Memorial celebration. It has become a tradition for Herb to sing God Bless America as a finale during social and civic gatherings.



Herb & Emily celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.



After 37 years, Herb closed his architectural office in October, 2016 and donated the contents to the Marco Island Historical Society.



Herb Savage with grandson, Herb Savage III.



Savage family (l-r) daughter Charlene Butler, Herb, Sr., Herb, Jr., Emily and daughter Sharon Stewart.

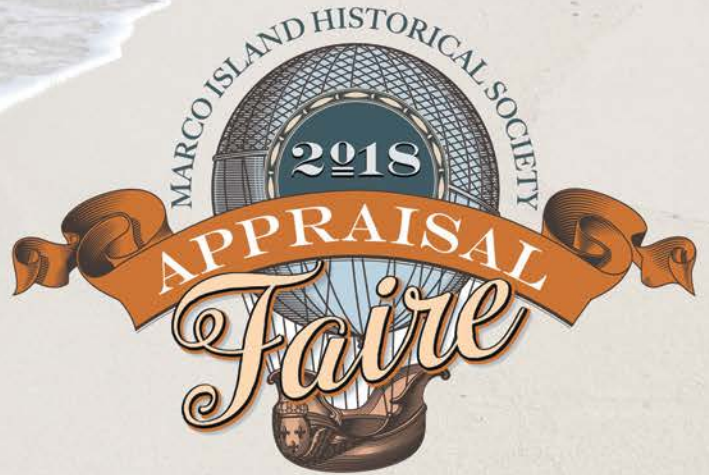
Photos by Sue Keller

Marco Island Historical Society Presents Third Spring Appraisal Faire

Would you like to know the value of some of your family art, antiques, jewels and other treasured items? Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) has announced the return of the popular MIHS Spring Appraisal Faire on Saturday March 3, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event takes place at Frank E. Mackle Community Park Community Center, located at 1361 Andalusia Terrace on Marco Island.

Nationally renowned appraisers Wes Cowan, Nan Chisholm and Ken Farmer - who appear regularly on the popular PBS program Antiques Roadshow - will be on site to evaluate items brought in by the public. Appraisers Pauline Archambault and Brad Wanstrath from Cowan's Auctions also will participate.

There is a limit of three hand carried items per person. Admission is exclusively for those bringing items to be appraised. The cost is \$40 per item for non-members and \$25 per item for MIHS members. Items to be appraised include fine art, fine jewelry and timepieces, sculpture, folk art, rare books and photographs, historic Americana, decorative arts, Native American objects and Western artifacts.



Saturday, March 3, 2018

Firearms, stamps or coins will not be accepted for appraisal. There also will be refreshments and live entertainment. The MIHS Spring Appraisal Faire event encompasses a celebration of the love of history and preservation of items from the past.

On March 2, guest appraisers will present "The State of the Antiques World" from 2-3:30 p.m. at the MIHS Rose History Auditorium on Marco Island. Cost to attend is \$40 per person for non-members and \$25 for MIHS members. On March 3, following the Appraisal Faire, the MIHS will present "An Affaire to Remember" gala, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Island Country Club with fine dining, dancing, silent auction and a live auction conducted by Wes Cowen and Ken Farmer.

Proceeds from Spring Appraisal Faire events benefit the Marco Island Historical Society for the preservation of our community's treasures. For information on Spring Appraisal Faire events, call 239.389.6447 or visit www.theMIHS.org.

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Conveniently located on Heathwood Drive next to Marco Island Public Library
239.394.0080 - www.themihs.org

Appraiser Bios

Nan Chisholm is an independent appraiser, art consultant and dealer in 19th and 20th century American and European paintings. After a long association with Sotheby's in New York and Los Angeles, she founded Nan Chisholm Fine Art, Ltd. in 2003. She has been featured as a paintings appraiser on *Antiques Roadshow* since it began in 1996, and has taped segments for *Oprah* and *Sex and the City*.

Wes Cowan is founder and owner of Cowan's Auctions, Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio. An internationally recognized expert in historical Americana, he is a frequently requested speaker at antique events around the country. He is a featured appraiser on the popular PBS *Antiques Roadshow* and, from 2003-2014, he appeared as a host on the PBS television series, *History Detectives*. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in anthropology from the University of Kentucky, and pursued his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Michigan.

Ken Farmer became a student of American antiques and a bluegrass musician more than 25 years ago. He began as a collector and dealer and entered into the auction, appraisal and real-estate brokerage business in the mid-1970s. His areas of expertise include Southern material culture, American furniture, folk art, decorative arts, musical instruments (excluding violins, brass and woodwinds), collectibles, and fine art. Farmer has been a guest appraiser on *Antiques Roadshow* since 1997. He is a member of the Certified Auctioneers Institute, the Virginia and National Auctioneers Association and the Appraisers Association of America.

Pauline Archambault is entering her fifth year as Cowan's Fine Art Specialist. A French native, she first arrived in the U.S. in 2007 for graduate school, earning an M.A. in Art History from the University of Cincinnati and an M.A. in English from Indiana University.

Brad Wanstrath, director of fine jewelry and timepieces, is in his sixth year with Cowan's. He has nearly 40 years of experience in the jewelry industry that includes owning and operating his own jewelry manufacturing company and selling international jewelry lines from Germany, Spain, Belgium, New York, and California. He holds certifications from the Diamond Council of America and the Gemological Institute of America.

Marco Island
2018

Annual Publication of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce

Stop by the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce at 1102 N. Collier Boulevard to pick up your FREE copy of the
**2018 Official Publication of the
Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce**
136 pages of great area information and chamber member listings
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Florida Manatees on the Move, Public Stewardship on the Water Makes a Difference

People who remembered in November to watch out for manatees as they began migrating to warmer waters made a difference in the species' survival.

Florida is home to more than 6,600 manatees. Manatee Awareness Month reminded people again to slow down and look out for these large aquatic mammals in waterways throughout the state.

Many seasonal manatee protection zones went into effect November 15. Though some signs identifying manatee zones may have been damaged by Hurricane Irma, information on manatee zone locations is also available online. If you see damaged waterway signs, report them at MyFWC.com/Boating by clicking on "Waterway Management," "Waterway Markers" and then "Damaged/Missing Waterway Markers."

Early in 2017, the Florida manatee was reclassified

from endangered to a threatened status, under the federal Endangered Species Act, in a decision announced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While this is a notable step, there is still work to be done to ensure continued progress toward recovery of our official state marine mammal.

"People's efforts to help Florida manatees are working. Let's celebrate the fact that conservation actions are making a difference and manatees are no longer endangered by thanking all the individuals and organizations that contributed to this milestone," said Carol Knox, who leads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Imperiled Species Management Section.

"It's important though to remain vigilant," Knox said. "Let's keep up the efforts that are helping with manatee recovery."

Photo by Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission



How Can People Keep Making a Difference for Manatees?

- Watch for these large aquatic mammals as they search for warmer waters to help them survive winter's cold, which they generally find in freshwater springs and the outflow of power plants.
- Wear polarized sunglasses to spot them moving, grazing and resting in the water. Keep a lookout for the circular "footprints" they leave on the surface of the water.
- Slow down when boating and follow posted manatee zones.
- Observe manatees from a distance to limit disturbance.
- Report injured, entangled, orphaned or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or *FWC on your cellphone or text Tip@MyFWC.com.
- Continue to support the manatee decal and license plate, and tell everyone how the decal and license plate support the FWC's manatee conservation efforts.
- Want to see a manatee? Go to MyFWC.com/Manatee and click on the link in the "Where Can I See Manatees?" box.

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FWC Monitoring Sea Turtles, Manatees During Cold Weather

As Florida's residents and visitors manage the current cold-weather conditions, the state's unique and treasured fish and wildlife species may need some extra care as well. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is prepared and ready to prioritize this critical mission.

"We are committed to conserving our natural resources, and are staged and ready in strategic areas throughout the state," said FWC Executive Director Eric Sutton. "Our team of FWC staff, partners and volunteers are monitoring the status of marine species affected most by the cold, and are prepared in case rescues are needed."

Sea turtles are one species that can be affected by cold weather. When the water temperatures drop, stunned sea turtles may float listlessly in the water on or near shore. Although these turtles may appear to be dead, they are often still alive. It is important to report these turtles to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline as soon as possible.

"Our staff, partners and permitted volunteers are already working to rescue sea turtles in northwest

Florida. Nearly 100 turtles have been rescued so far. We are also monitoring the Mosquito Lagoon and other areas of the state to see if sea turtles are being impacted there," said Kipp Frohlich, director of FWC's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation.

The Florida manatee is another species that can be impacted by extreme cold weather. When water temperatures drop, manatees gather in warm-water habitats such as discharge canals at power plants and natural springs. The FWC asks that boaters be extra vigilant in watching for manatees in shallow waters near the coast, both inland and coastal, and obey all posted manatee speed zone signs.

"Boaters should avoid areas where large numbers of manatees are gathered," said Gil McRae, head of FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. "Aggregated animals should not be disturbed, as this could cause them to leave the warm-water sites that help them cope with cold temperatures."

Sustaining adequate winter habitat for manatees remains a statewide conservation goal.

To report a dead or distressed manatee, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

Extended periods of unusually cold weather can kill fish outright by cold stress or make fish more susceptible to disease. Warm-water species, including the popular game fish snook, are particularly vulnerable to cold temperatures. Affected fish may appear lethargic and may be seen at the surface where the water may be warmer from the sun.

The FWC monitors fish disease and mortality events around the state. Report dead and dying fish to the FWC Fish Kill Hotline at 800-636-0511.

All other distressed wildlife may be reported to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

For additional information on fish and wildlife research, visit MyFWC.com/Research.



***2017-2018 Green Sea Turtle
By Lizabeth West, FWC***

You can help protect Florida's endangered and threatened marine turtles by making a donation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. With each donation of five dollars or more, you will receive your choice of a waterproof decal, like the one featured above by Lizabeth West.



Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

by Andrea McKenna, Donor Relations, Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County entered our 40th year of building homes and hope at the start of 2018. We are blessed to have partnered with volunteers and donors who joined hard-working women and men to make their dream of homeownership a reality. As 2017 came to a close, more than 2,000 families were able to celebrate Christmas and create special memories in an affordable home of their own. Because of these safe homes, children excel in school and go on to give back to their communities with successful careers and service in the armed forces. Parents are free from worry about rising rents and untenable living conditions. More than 400 families have paid off their mortgages and look forward to a rewarding retirement. With your help, 100 more families will enjoy Christmas in their new home next year.

Two families employed on Marco Island applied for Habitat homes last fall. One is the Canseco family. Rolando and Yesenia are loving parents to one year-old Gerardo and seven year-old Yatzary. Rolando has been employed by Marco Island Tile & Marble Inc. for six years. Since their arrival in the U.S, the family has only known life in a crowded trailer. First, they were sharing a trailer with Rolando's uncle. Then the family found a trailer where they could live alone but the rent is \$1,100 per month. For this price, they have two small bedrooms, a kitchen and tiny living area. They moved in just prior to Hurricane Irma but evacuated as the storm approached. When they returned, the trailer had suffered damage but Rolando repaired it without asking for assistance. Even with such high rent, he knew the landlord would not be willing to make improvements. Rolando and Yesenia wish for their children to have their own space and somewhere safe to live.

The second family employed on Marco Island is the Martinez family who applied for a Habitat home last November. After her husband was killed in an auto accident, Aurora was left to raise five children



The Canseco family - Rolando and Yesenia with their children Gerardo and Yatzary, applied for a Habitat home after suffering damage to their mobile home during Hurricane Irma.

on her own. Aurora suffered significant health issues in the past year but says her future prognosis is good. She works two regular jobs and a third seasonal job linked to the arrival of snowbirds. For 17 years, she has been a housekeeper at The Boat House Motel. Clearly a hard-worker, Aurora has lived in Collier County for over 20 years, faithfully paying her rent. Given the opportunity to own her own house and provide her children with the home they deserve, Aurora is confident that she will be a responsible homeowner and good neighbor.

As we celebrate all that has been accomplished in these past 40 years, we know that there is so much more to do. Even with the minimum wage increasing to \$8.25 per hour as of January 1, 2018, workers earning this would need to work an impossible 162 hours each week to afford Collier County's average rent of more than \$1,600 per month. This rent would afford an apartment comparable to a Habitat home where the interest-free mortgage payment is approximately \$650 per month. Rents continue to increase and rental occupancy remains at 98% even for substandard housing, making it easy to understand why 16 families inquire for every one home Habitat Collier is able to fund and build.

Continued on page 32



***Celebrating 50 Years -
MICA's Golden Anniversary***
Continued from page 13

of its community. At Residents' Beach, in addition to the snack bar, playground, showers, restrooms, chickee huts and grills, and parking facility, we offer a wonderful beach concert series.

In 1998 MICA began presenting a "Humanitarian of the Year" award. This award recognizes individuals who do much for others without much fanfare. MICA presents this award to the unsung heroes in our community.

Members of the MICA Board of Directors and MICA staff have participated in each and every city beach cleanup event since 2011. MICA's beach vehicle is utilized to distribute bags, gloves and t-shirts, as well as to collect debris and deposit it in MICA's dumpster at Residents' Beach. It is our duty to help keep our beach pristine.

***Habitat,
Continued from page 31***

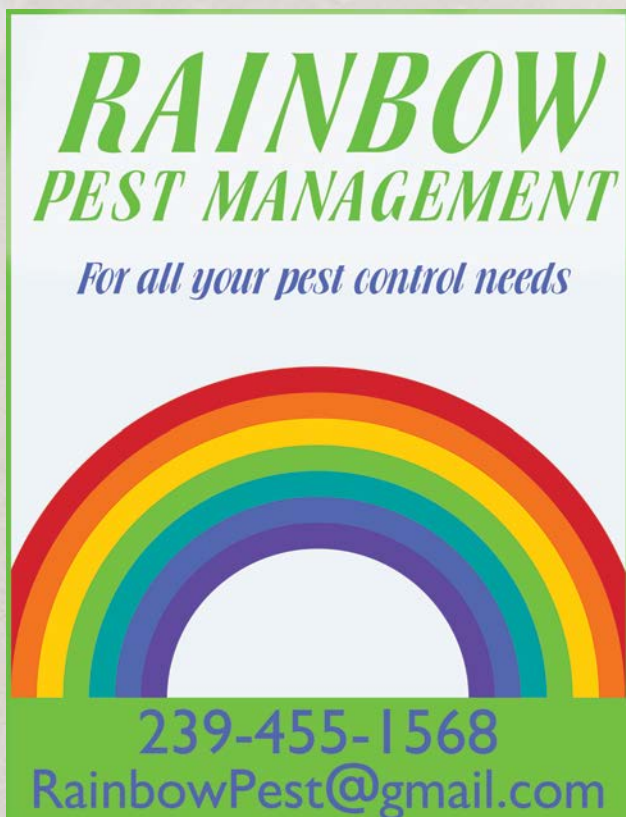
Help us mark the milestone of our 40th anniversary. Volunteer, attend a dedication, take a Habi-Tour, become a Legacy Builder, advocate on our behalf and make a gift.

On February 10, 2018 at 10 a.m., we will celebrate the dedication of our 2,000th home built in memory of Marco Island resident, Dr. Sam Durso, who tirelessly led Habitat Collier for more than 24 years. The home is located at 5206 Hardee Street in Naples Manor.

A special Habi-Tour will depart from Marco Island on Thursday, February 15, 2019 at 9 a.m. We will depart from the office of Mutual of Omaha Bank at 1770 San Marco Road for a two hour guided tour.

Join our first ever Global Village Trip. Volunteers from Habitat Collier will travel to Central America for a week in Fall 2018 to build a home for a local family. An informational meeting will be held at Habitat Collier's office, 11145 Tamiami Trail East, on January 25, 2018 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

These are just a few of the activities that are planned. Details for all upcoming events are available on our website www.habitatcollier.org. For more information or to reserve a seat on the Habi-Tour please call Andrea at 239-775-0036 or email amckenna@habitatcollier.org.



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**About Habitat
for Humanity
of Collier County**

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is a 13-time four-star rated Charity Navigator organization. In 2014, we were recognized by Charity Navigator as #1 in the nation for housing and community development. Habitat Collier was also among the 1% of charities to have earned a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator.

Sailing Association Of Marco Island

Founded in 1969



*48th Annual "Change Of Watch" Sailing Association of Marco Island
New 2018 Bridge Vice Commodore - Micki Gobeil, Commodore - Ken Bardon,
Treasurer - Fiona Winter, Secretary - Leigh Breeden, Fleet Captain - Rob Reiley,
(Not Pictured) - Rear Commodore - Peter Coggins*

Purpose

The purpose of the Sailing Association of Marco Island shall be to encourage the sport of sailing and promote the science of navigation and seamanship among all who love to sail!

Cruising/Sailing

Monthly Cruises - Local and long distance!

Explore new anchorages and marinas - have fun relaxing, eating and enjoying wonderful "Happy Hours" - year round!

Education

A variety of guest speakers, at our monthly dinner meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month, never disappoint. The sharing of nautical knowledge benefits all of us - novice through experienced!

Racing

Sailing Association of Marco Island joins other clubs to compete and participate in: SWFL Boat of the Year Races including the Avow Hospice Regatta!



*"First Cruise of the Fall" -
Raft Up in Champney Bay with the
Gulf Coast Sailing Club in Naples*

All Are Welcome!

www.samisailor.org

***Visit website for calendar
and membership info***



Marco Island Center for the Arts

The Marco Island Center for the Arts is looking forward to the hustle and bustle of high season where seasonal residents and tourists swell the population and there is always something exciting to do. Our upcoming art exhibitions are as follows:

February 5th-23rd, 2018

Exhibit : **Marco Island Center for the Arts Members Only - Mixed Media**

- La Petite Galerie: Rick Granneman
- Second Tuesday Reception: February 13th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

March 5th-27th, 2018

Exhibit: **Art Council of SW Florida Spring Show**

Artists from 19 Art Organizations and 5 Counties - Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry

- La Petite Galerie : Donald Sunshine
- Second Tuesday Reception: March 13th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The Musical Interludes Series continues with:

- **Glenn Roth Guitarist** (February 11th, 2018 at 4 p.m.) **NEW ADDITION**
- **Gypsy Soujurn** (Gypsy Jazz) (February 20th)
- **West of Galaway** - Irish music just in time for St. Patrick's Day (March 7th)
- **Swanee Swing Saloon** - Western Swing (March 20th)
- **Gulfshore Opera's Steffanie Pearce and her Emerging Artist** (April 4th)
- **Cuban Singing Sensation Anibal Cruz** - Direct from Miami (April 25th)

Performances start at 5:30 p.m. and tickets for all performances are just \$25 for Art Center members and \$30 for non-members. Seating is limited and several concerts sold out last year. Purchase early so you don't miss the chance to spend an intimate evening with these musical marvels.

Cars as Art - Vintage Car Show (March 31st from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

This event is free and open to the public. Please check the Art Center's website www.marcoislandart.org for a full listing of all classes, workshops, programs and events. You will certainly want to visit our Gift Gallery where you can find paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery and many one of a kind gift items. There is something for everyone.

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American Cancer Society of Marco Island Will Reach For the Stars to Walk Through the Ages

By Maureen Chodaba, American Cancer Society, Publicity Lead

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer through prevention, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. On Marco Island, the ACS is a united force in the fight against all cancers.

On February 10, 2018, the JW Marriott Marco Island will shine with hope as we “Reach For the Stars To Find a Cure” at the American Cancer Society Imagination Ball, presented by Corrie Grado and chaired by Debra Shanahan. This gala fundraiser will feature fine food, music by the Stacey Allison Band, and both live and silent auctions.

The 2018 event will celebrate 35 years of fighting cancer with funds raised at the annual gala. It all began in January 1983 when a black tie social, then known as the American Cancer Soiree, was held at the original Island Country Club. Corrie Grado, then known as Corrie Llewellyn, was the general chair, assisted by co-chair Norma Beckwith. Funds that have been raised through the years have aided in research and the development of new treatments that have saved many lives.

Each year at the Imagination Ball, the prestigious Grado Award is presented to individuals who have contributed significantly in the quest for a cure and mission to save lives. This year’s award recipients are Marco Island residents Ray and Louise Jean.

There are so many ways in which you can participate and make a difference:

- Stop by Kathein Jewelers in the Shops of Marco on February 7, 2018 for their Shop For a Cause event. Just as they did in 2016 and 2017, Kathein Jewelers will be donating a portion of their sales from the event to the Imagination Ball.



Bill and Karen Young

- With a \$100 donation to the Imagination Ball, you may purchase “Baboo”, a plush cuddly panda bear that will be delivered along with your personal note to a child in a hospital. Imagine that huggable message of hope! Imagine the power of healing!
- Visit <https://acsfdmi.ejoinme.org/ImaginationBall> to make your personal donation in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of a loved one. Many companies offer a matching gift program that will double the amount of your donation.

To purchase tickets and learn more about the event, please visit the website above or contact Sue Olszak, ACS Senior Development Manager, Distinguished Events at Sue.Olszak@cancer.org or 239-642-6217.

On April 7, 2018, the American Cancer Society will reach for a cure once again at Veterans’ Community Park with the Relay For Life, presented by Robert J. Flugger and chaired by Cathy Nelson.

continued on page 36



Cancer Society, continued from page 35

The 2017 Relay For Life of Marco Island placed first in fundraising in the state of Florida.

The JW Marriott Marco Island received the Hero of Research Award in recognition of raising over \$162,000 for the 2017 event. As a recipient of the award, the resort will secure naming rights for a fully funded research grant for three years.

A common misconception is that the Relay For Life is an athletic event. On the contrary, no athletic ability is necessary. There is a track, but it is merely symbolic of the continuous journey to find a cure. The Relay For Life is a community festival in the spirit of teamwork with a goal to celebrate, remember and fight back. Each registered team works diligently to raise funds in the fight against cancer. Much of the fundraising takes place before the actual event with activities like karaoke nights and a fashion show, all leading up to a fun-filled day of food, music, games and chance drawings.

The 2018 event, “Walking Through the Ages” will be a celebration set to sounds of the ‘40’s, ‘50’s, ‘60’s and so on! Imagine yourself walking to the beat of Frank Sinatra, Earth, Wind and Fire, some hip hop, rock ‘n’ roll and maybe even a little bit country! It will be a community event you will not want to



miss! A dinner for survivors and their families will be held at the adjacent New Life Church. As they complete the opening lap of Relay, cancer survivors and caregivers will relay the message loud and clear that someday soon we will live in a world without cancer! The event will conclude with the very moving Luminaria Ceremony when survivors, caregivers and loved ones are honored with beacons of light, illuminating the Marco Island sky with the promise of more birthdays and many beautiful tomorrows.

Please join us to reach for the stars to find a cure as we celebrate life in a walk through the ages. Imagine a world without cancer! For more information about the Imagination Ball and the Relay For Life of Marco Island, please contact your American Cancer Society at 239-642-6217 or Sue.Olszak@cancer.org.



Prescribed Fires in the Forecast

Resource management staff at Rookery Bay Research Reserve conduct prescribed burns as part of its management efforts. Every January through March, burns are planned for areas around Tower Road, Shell Island Road and Keewaydin Island. Residents and boaters in the adjacent areas will see and possibly smell smoke.

When weather conditions permit, Rookery Bay Reserve staff coordinate burns with the Florida Forest Service and work with partnering land managers and local fire departments to get the job done safely and efficiently. Fire personnel make contact with visitors in the area to ensure their safety while traveling near activity areas and carefully monitor the fire until it extinguishes.

“The main purpose of these burns is to reduce fuel loads and manage wildlife habitat,” said Rookery Bay Reserve Resource Management Coordinator Jeff Carter.

A large portion of Collier County is comprised of plants that are dependent on fire to maintain species composition and diversity. These species are the same as those that are prone to lightning-strike wildfires and the controlled reduction of those fuels will prevent catastrophic wildfire damage. Fire-dependent plants include the South Florida slash pine, gallberry, saw palmetto and scrub oaks.



A prescribed fire at Shell Island Road

Prescribed fire as a land management tool in natural areas has many benefits, including:

- Reduction of fuel load to decrease threat of wildfires;
- Stimulation of food and seed production;
- Opening areas for wildlife feeding and travel;
- Ecosystem diversity;
- Enhanced endangered and threatened species habitat; and
- Invasive plant control.

For more information about Rookery Bay’s prescribed fire program, visit www.rookerybay.org.



Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday year-round, with special “Science Saturdays” on the last Saturday of every month. Enjoy the two-story visitor center, art gallery, gift shop, nature trail with viewing platform and more. Themed naturalist programs are offered daily on topics such as manatees, sharks, sea turtles, Estuary Encounter marine life exhibit and more. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 6 - 12, and free for kids under six and Friends of Rookery Bay members. The Learning Center is located at 300 Tower Road, one mile south of the intersection of US41 and Collier Boulevard.

Guided Boat and Kayak Tours

Two-hour guided kayak tours let you explore backwater bays and mangrove tunnels while learning about your surroundings from an experienced guide and naturalist. Boat tours provide opportunities to see wildlife such as wading birds, osprey, fish and dolphins. All tours include free admission to the Environmental Learning Center on day of trip and proceeds support the non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay, Inc. kayak and boat tours are offered Tuesdays through Fridays from November through April. Learn more and register for tours and events at rookerybay.org/calendar. Friends of Rookery Bay member discounts apply to most events.

Birding Basics February 2nd, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Enjoy this fun and informative class with Randy McCormick designed to help novice birders identify birds. The classroom session explores how to use birds’ plumage, shape, behavior and habitat to recognize various species as well as effective use of binoculars and field guides. Attendees will then learn more tricks of the trade during a field trip to a nearby park to practice new skills.

Photography Annual Exhibit February 5th - March 28th

Hosted by the Friends of Rookery Bay and the United Arts Council of Collier County, the annual exhibit includes juried works submitted by artists from Collier and Lee counties. Following Rookery Bay’s environmental mission, works share a central theme of flora and fauna.

Art Gallery Opening Reception: Annual Photography Exhibit February 8th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Photography exhibit opening reception: enjoy wine and cheese and mingle with the artists, supported by the Friends of Rookery Bay and United Arts Council of Collier County.

Essentials of Digital Photography Workshop February 12th, 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

If you want to get the best pictures possible, and truly understand your camera’s features, the Essentials of Digital Photography: How to get the most from your digital camera workshop is for you. This class covers the essentials of your digital camera. You will learn how to use your camera’s shutter, aperture, ISO control and the drive modes to create images with impact and creativity. No previous camera or photography experience is necessary, just a desire to learn. Sonny Saunders has over 35 years of experience in photography and instruction and is renowned for his ability to communicate to a wide variety of students.

Darwin Day February 12th

In celebration of the birthday of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin, the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center offers “buy one, get one free admission.” Cannot be combined with other offers.



Birds of the Beach Workshop February 17th, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

In this class, Adam DiNuovo of Audubon Florida will discuss the life history of beach birds and the amazing journeys many of them make annually. The classroom session is followed by a field trip to practice identification skills.

Lunch & Learn: Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida February 20th, 12 - 1 p.m.

Hear from expert speakers and enjoy a meal during the Lunch & Learn Lecture Series sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council and the Friends of Rookery Bay. Registration fee is \$15 (includes lunch). This month's lecture, "Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida" recounts the life of Dr. Anna Darrow who, in 1909, became only the second woman doctor licensed in Florida. Portrayed by Florida Humanities Council Chautauqua Scholar Carrie Sue Ayvar.

Science Saturdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Science Saturdays provide an opportunity for families to spend the day at the Environmental Learning Center enjoying programs, labs and activities centered around a different science theme, on the last Saturday of every month. Scheduled activities include: Estuary Encounter, Activity Lab, Show and Tell, and Nature on the Silver Screen.

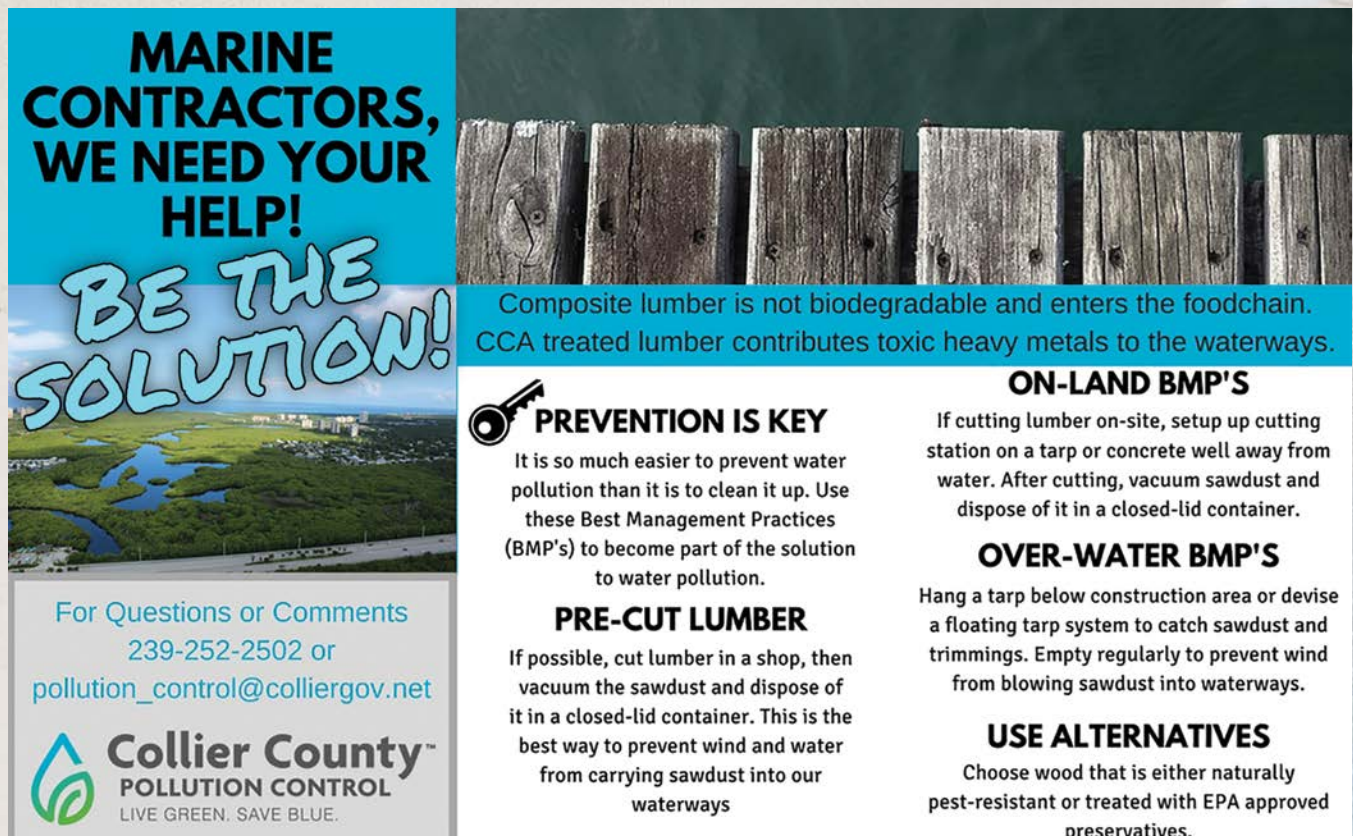
February 24th **The Wonders of Water.**

March 31st **Critter Photography.**

April 28th **Science of Sand.**

Batfish Bash for the Bay March 16th, 6 - 10:30 p.m.

The Friends of Rookery Bay invites you to save the date for a relaxed evening of Old Florida hospitality. Enjoy sunset views, cocktails, dinner and dancing and Southern Charm, of course. Advance registrations can be made at rookerybay.org/bash or by calling 239-530-5971.



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Piping Plover Discovery on Keewaydin Island



Piping Plover, found on Keewaydin Island

Photos courtesy of Jean Hall

Southwest Florida has some very important bird habitat. On October 23, Anne Mauro, Avian Ecologist on staff at the Reserve, spotted a Piping plover on Keewaydin Island, one of the barrier island beaches protected within the reserve boundary. Through her spotting scope she was able to see some colored bands on the bird's legs, so she reported her sighting to plover@umn.edu. The colored bands showed that the bird had originated from the Great Lakes area, where the Piping plover is an Endangered species. After getting more details about what to look for, Anne returned to the area again on November 17.

Banded Piping Plover, originally from the Great Lakes area



Amazingly, the plover was still around and she was able to get a good enough look to read two of the digits on the bird's leg band, confirming that the bird was born in 2017 in Pennsylvania. Piping plovers haven't nested in Pennsylvania in 60 years.

In 2017, 4 chicks were banded there, and two of those chicks (including the one Anne saw) have been re-sighted in Florida this year. It is very exciting to learn that two of the four chicks survived the long migration south to the Florida coast and at least one of them is able to spend the winter on this relatively secluded beach. With luck, both will make it north in spring and settle along Lake Erie, continuing the re-population of historic Great Lakes Piping Plover nesting territories.

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Little Free Library Now at Residents' Beach



What is this little box standing tall and proud next to the shell display box at Residents' Beach? It has books in it and sometimes magazines.

The box is part of the "Little Free Library" concept, a world-wide organic, grass roots campaign to promote reading books. So many people now pick up their smart phones or Kindles rather than turn the pages of a book.

Gary LaMotte, a retired builder from Maryland and husband of MICA board member, Patti LaMotte, tackled the project and turned out a very fine book house! We thank Gary for constructing an attractive, sturdy, dry home for our lending library.

Take a Book - Leave a Book - Share a Book



MICA'S Annual Meeting

MICA's Annual Meeting was held on January 24 at the Robert Sessions Pavilion at Residents' Beach. It was a cool afternoon under the pavilion, but everyone hung in to see that business was taken care of.

Kathy Sullivan, MICA's President, reviewed that MICA board members and staff attend every City Council and Planning Board meeting, as well as various other city committee meetings. MICA plays a major role in monthly city beach cleanups, along with the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce. Board members and MICA staff operate the beach vehicle, distribute trash bags and gloves, pick up trash collected and use the MICA dumpster facilities. Beach cleanups are held monthly.

Along MICA's access road to the beach sits the newly built Marco Island Police Department chickee hut, which houses their ATV and amphibious vehicle. This location allows the police to place

lifesaving vehicles on the beach quickly when they are needed.

MICA's 2017 Humanitarians of the Year were the organizers of "Our Daily Bread" food pantry. Our members continue to support this food pantry based out of the Family Church by donating food at each of our concerts. MICA is extremely grateful to our membership for their generosity.

MICA gate house and office staff were recognized for their dedication to the members and for keeping the Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park properties in pristine condition.

Maria Lamb, Chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee, presented the eight nominees for the MICA Board of Directors and nominees for the 2019 Nominating Committee. The evening ended with questions from members, socializing, drinks and hors d'oeuvres.



MICA President Kathy Sullivan addresses the meeting



Leonore and Eleanor Bezos cutting the ribbon on Bernardo's Happy Place Chickee!



MICA Board Members (L to R) First photo: Ray McChesney, Dick Adams, Patti LaMotte and Al Bismonte. Second photo: Cathy Nowosielski and Megan Olsen





MICA'S Annual Meeting January 24th 2018



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Complete Restaurant Listings Every Marco Island restaurant categorized by location, type of fare, average cost and other specialties like happy hours and seasonal specials. Regularly updated, complete with descriptions, direct links to contact info, website, TripAdvisor reviews, and interactive maps.

Calendar of Events Be in the know about all local events, shows and festivals in our constantly updated **general calendar**, and see the **live entertainment in restaurants** schedule for live music at local restaurants and bars. Even add events of interest to you, to your own Google calendar with one click, so you won't miss out on the fun.

Local Coupons and Exclusive App Specials All coupons found in The Marco Review, PLUS exclusive money-saving specials only available on the app. Check the **Message Center** for current specials, new offers and competitions.

Marco Island Information Beaches, parking, shopping, fishing, biking, live Marco beach cam, weather, local tips PLUS so much more **invaluable** information for you to get the most out of Marco Island! Just tap the "Island Info" section.

The **MARCO ISLAND APP** is available FOR FREE in the **App Store & Google Play**



Visit our **WEBSITE**

www.marcoreview.com

Everything in the magazine and a whole lot more...

in depth articles, more advertiser information, past editions, and our page-turning e-magazine

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Constantly Updated with amazing photographs of Marco Island and the surrounding areas and information of interest to residents and visitors.

Competitions for amazing prizes from Marco businesses.



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MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204, Marco Island, FL 34145

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Marco Island Residents' Beach Members Only Concerts



Sunday, Feb 11th, 3 pm
The Sean Fleming Band



Sunday,
March 4th, 3:30 pm
The Galaxy Band



Sunday, March 18th, 4 pm
TripleShot

Sunday, April 15th, 4:30 pm
The Ben Allen Band



Please bring your Residents' Beach ID card to gain entrance to all events