

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association
Read by Over 20,000 Members

**Learn the ABC's
of a CRA**

**What is MICA's
Best Kept Secret?**

**Trees 'R' Cool
at Veterans' Park**

**Remembering Our
Sunset Singer**

www.marcocivic.com

News and Reviews of What's Really Happening on Marco Island

President's Report

by *Bernardo Bezos*

I am writing you as the newly elected President of the Marco Island Civic Association. The twelve members of the MICA Board of Directors appreciate the confidence of the membership and will strive to serve the members well over the next year.

As most of you know, this winter season was unusually cool on our island, as it was in most of the country! But we still managed to fit in some beach time and have a little fun at Residents' Beach with wonderful entertainment by J Robert, Frank Carroll and Friends; the Shindigs; Mixed Nuts; Gary & Kerri; Fakahatchee Band; Jim Long; and Deb & The Dynamics. In an effort to keep costs down, but still offer terrific, quality entertainment, the MICA Board sought out local talent this year. The concerts were enjoyed by many even if they had to don ear muffs and parkas! We're lining up a schedule for next season, so we'll keep you posted!

As we do every Spring, MICA will survey its members on major issues concerning MICA,

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Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover photo courtesy of The Marco Review

 2, MICAwave, April 2010

Residents' Beach and our city. If you have a suggestion for a survey question, please call the MICA office. When you receive your survey in the mail, please be sure to fill it out promptly and return it to us. As many of the questions concern municipal issues, the survey results are always shared with members of the Marco Island City Council and city staff.

If you'll be on Marco this summer, please join your friends for the biggest day at the beach on July Fourth. MICA will be hosting "Uncle Sam's Sand Jam" for members of Residents' Beach. The event will feature DJ music all day long, kids' games, a huge sandcastle contest, and the second annual hot dog eating contest. Funding of the fireworks display is an island-wide effort, with contributions from the City of Marco Island, island businesses and residents. The MICA Board has committed to contributing 10% of the total raised up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Lastly, we'd like to thank you for your support. We know it's been a challenging year for many and there are numerous expenses to which you could have applied \$160. We thank you for seeing the value of the MICA and Residents' Beach memberships and for your continued loyalty.

For those of you heading north, safe travels. To all, we wish you a happy Spring time.

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Fresh Seafood since 1983

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Reservations please 394-6262

The ABC's of a CRA

In reading recent accounts, attending and watching the City Council meeting of March 15, we at MICA were surprised to hear comments by some Council members that they had not heard from the community regarding the proposed Town Center Community Redevelopment Area until the evening of March 15. The Marco Island Civic Association must take exception to these comments. Members of the Marco Island Civic Association Board of Directors have been attending and voicing concerns at Planning Board meetings, City Council meetings and charrettes, meeting with and writing letters to city staff and City Council members for at least the past six years with regard to the Town Center area.

WHAT IS THE TOWN CENTER CRA?

A CRA, or Community Redevelopment Authority, is a new and additional municipal government entity separate from the county and city. For the record, the proposed Town Center CRA will consist of 250 acres. It is not simply the Town Center shopping center at the corner of Collier Boulevard and Bald Eagle Drive. Its boundaries are not yet cast in stone but will encompass about 250 acres ranging from Rose Marina along Bald Eagle Drive on the north to Hartley Drive on the south and from the Esplanade to Walgreens and the Chamber of Commerce Plaza along Collier Boulevard. Based upon the City of Marco Island's "Town Center Community Redevelopment Area Finding of Necessity" there are approximately 180 parcels of land included in the Town Center CRA. A CRA has many of the powers of a city such as:

- Bonding Authority
- Condemnation
- Land Acquisition
- Issuing of grants for development on private lands
- Hiring of staff
- Acquisition of offices, equipment, vehicles, etc.
- It is created by vote of the City Council
- It is controlled solely by its board who are appointees
- It is not under the spending cap
- It is not under control of the electorate.

HOW IS A CRA FUNDED?

A CRA is funded by diverting tax revenue from the city and county by freezing the tax base at the current assessed value and applying all subsequent tax increases over the next 30 year period to the CRA. The political buzz word is "incremental tax increases." Collected funds may only be spent within that area, either on public improvements to public ways, land acquisition or condemnation, grants for improvements to privately owned properties, staff, consultants, attorney's fees, etc. The Collier County Finance Department conservatively estimates that \$50 million will be diverted from the county general fund and \$25 million from the Marco Island general fund. In other CRAs funding typically applies 40% to administration and 60% to projects. This funding will have to be made up by increasing the taxing of others outside of the CRA district or reducing services. The county's estimate is based on modest cost of living increases for this area over the next 30 years. County staff has advised that other cities and counties in Florida have been bankrupted by the creation and funding of CRAs.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT REDEVELOPMENT?

The CRA will provide \$75 million for administration, staff, interest charges, underwriting fees, insurance, equipment, consultants, attorneys' fees, grants to improve private property, and public property improvements within the area, all without affecting the spending cap of the city. All expenditures would be solely at the discretion of the board of the CRA.

WHAT WILL THE FINISHED REDEVELOPMENT LOOK LIKE?

Nobody knows! There is no plan yet developed for this area. That plan would be developed and approved solely under the control of the board of the CRA after the CRA is created.

WHAT HAS OCCURRED TO DATE IN THIS AREA?

So far, large portions of this area have been "inadvertently" rezoned to allow 1600 additional

Continued on page 4



CRA, Continued from page 3

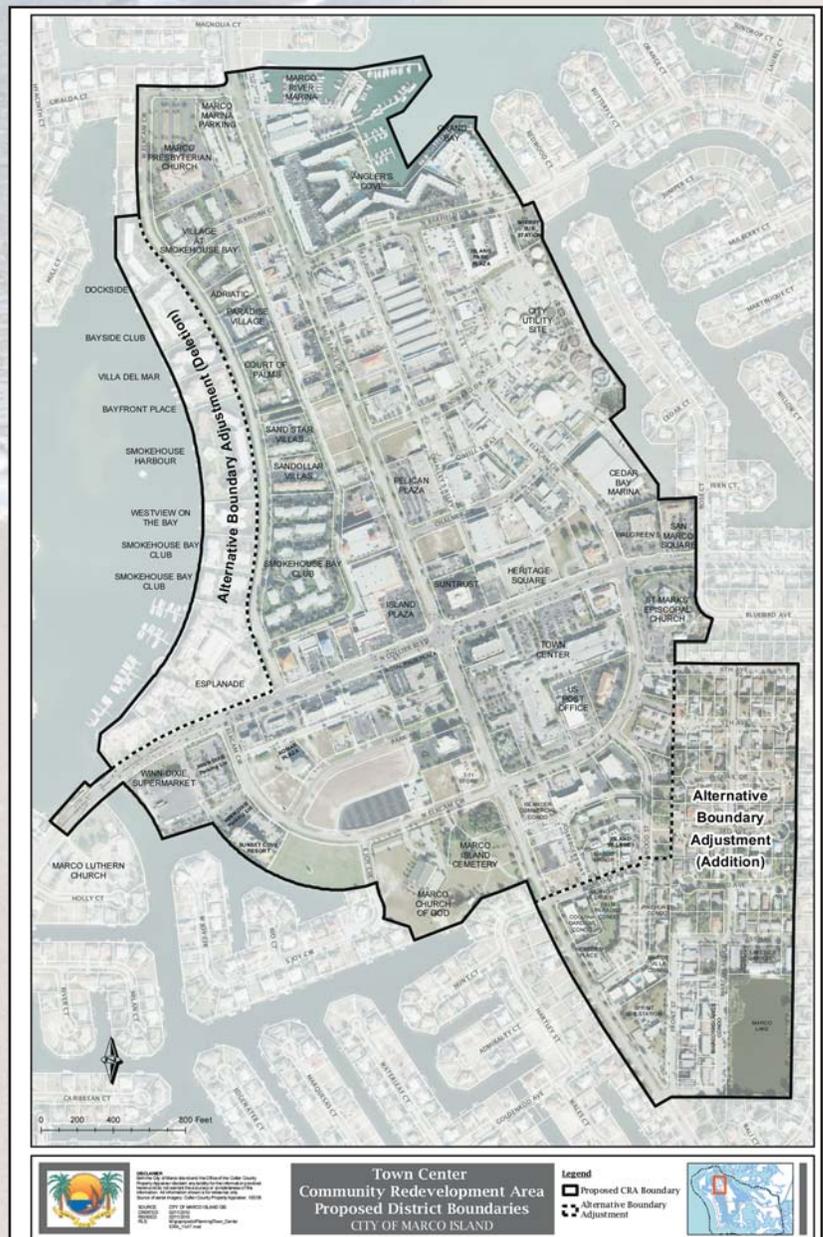
mixed-use residential units as a conditional use in this area. In November 2005 the City's then Community Development Director Vince Cautero informed MICA that, "the change was inadvertently made in December 2001/January 2002 when the Land Development Code was revised by the City of Marco Island." Conditional use requires approval by Marco Island City Council. To date, City Council has approved all applications for mixed use projects as a conditional use and has rejected none.

The central sewage treatment plant has been improved to provide this area with adequate sewage capacity based on the rezoned usage paid for by the septic tank replacement program. Collier Boulevard, running through the heart of the area, has been improved at the expense of the Marco Island general tax fund.

WHAT IS THE DOWNSIDE OF THIS PROJECT?

Several aspects must be considered:

- Adding 1600 additional residential units to an already crowded Marco Island will increase traffic and congestion
- Impacts on infrastructure such as electrical, water supply, telephone, internet and cable
- Elevation of commercial property values to the exclusion of land intense support services such as garden centers, auto repair facilities, boat repair facilities, dock and construction contractors, welding shops, tailors, storage facilities, repair shops, print shops, etc.
- Increased police, fire, and EMT services necessitated by increased population but not funded by it (all increases go to the CRA)
- Traffic impacts outside the CRA which must be paid for by the general fund, not the CRA.
- Can Collier Boulevard traffic capacity be increased? It is now governed by several intersections, not the Jolley Bridge. If not, then what – gridlock??



WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON?

MICA's annual membership survey provides valuable information gathered directly from residents. In a recent survey members of MICA voted almost 80% to oppose changes in zoning from commercial to mixed use. In the same survey, members voted 98.9% that Marco Island City Council should not grant additional density under any circumstance. Results of all MICA membership surveys are always shared with members of City Council and City staff. Yet, for some reason, the CRA is progressing. No one at the City claims ownership, rather it is just

Continued on page 11

December 3, 2009

Marco Island City Council
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145



Dear Councilman:

The MICA Board of Directors appreciated receiving a presentation today by the City's Community Development Director, Steve Olmstead, regarding a proposed Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for the Town Center Overlay.

All aspects of a CRA must be evaluated for its community value. In many communities mixed use projects appeared to be successful at the outset. Developers benefited from selling residential units on upper floors without properly preparing for the negative effects of vacant commercial storefronts. In many of these communities, including Marco Island, the residents are now facing the challenges of having to support very expensive, yet almost useless commercial properties.

On Marco Island several projects have been approved under conditional use zoning provisions which have resulted in overdeveloped mixed use properties with limited parking only capable of supporting the residential portion of the property, leaving the commercial space nonviable as commercial property. No provisions for ventilation were made to allow for restaurant or food service use. As a result, the commercial areas of these properties remain vacant and unmarketable. Additionally, the commercial space was merely included by the developer in the property to achieve the residential units which were marketable and profitable to the developer. The net result is the developer and the land owner reaped windfall profits and the island community as a whole suffered. The commercial units produced were of little commercial value. This approach drove up the land value of properties zoned commercial to the point where businesses which would be valuable to the community could no longer afford the price of the land to establish businesses.

Before yet another series of mixed use projects is even considered, let alone approved, we would suggest that city staff conduct a complete inventory of Marco Island's current commercial properties and determine the commercial occupation rate. We must tighten the conditional use approval process and only grant a conditional use if and only if greater benefit to the community is achieved by the granting of the conditional use.

Described in Mr. Olmstead's presentation as "the heart of Marco Island," the Town Center area needs to be handled with the same care and expertise we would expect from a world renowned cardiologist. There are specific procedures that should be followed, restrictions to consider with the overall goal of maintaining the health and well-being of our Island not only for today but for tomorrow.

Allowing mixed use projects in the Town Center Overlay has the potential of adding 1,600 living units to this area. Our Board has grave concerns about additional living units on the island. Over many years the MICA Board has surveyed its members and the results consistently show that they do not want increased density and that they do not want the city to take steps to allow more living units.

In addition, the current City of Marco Island Adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), adopted by City Council on Feb 22, 2005, has a number of policy statements. Policy 1.1.5.1 states that "the City shall reduce the overall island-wide maximum density of 23,672 units [adopted March 15, 2004] by two percent (2%) by 2009, and pursue an additional two percent (2%) decrease by 2013." The EAR also states that "intensity of development is as important as project density." Adding 1,600 more living units to this area, which already has high traffic volume, would certainly "intensify" development there. Such a dramatic increase in density and intensity would greatly stress infrastructure like the road network, storm water drainage, electrical grid, and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

MICA takes seriously the enforcement of the Deltona Deed Restrictions. As we've pointed out numerous times, there are Deed Restrictions in the Town Center Overlay which may conflict with the city's allowance of mixed use as a conditional use. This could create a situation for property owners wherein zoning allows residential units and the Deed Restrictions do not.

The MICA Board of Directors is asking that you consider all aspects involved in the creation of a Community Redevelopment Agency.

Sincerely,

Howard Jordan, President



Memorial Service for Sunset Singer, Jim Greeley Sr.

Over the years many people knew that Dad went over religiously to the Residents' Beach at sunset to sing 'God Bless America' but they were curious as to 'why!'. He would usually respond with a pat answer, "I like to sing and it gives me something to do at the end of the day."

Men of Dad's generation were often reticent in revealing their inner motivations. He had a strong belief in the greatness and promise of this country. His mother died in the Great Influenza Epidemic shortly after he was born and his father passed away a couple of years later.

An aunt and uncle, recent immigrants from Ireland, took him in and raised him as their own. They provided him with a warm family life, a good education, and, despite the hardships of the Depression years, a solid foundation for a happy and productive life. Dad truly believed that such a story could only occur in America. His nightly visits to the beach were a prayer of thanksgiving for his good fortune and that others may be so blessed.

James J. Greeley Jr.



Jim Greeley Sr., leads the singing of "God Bless America" in 2007



Ray DeAnna on the left and Leo La Montagne (partially hidden on the right) led the SeaWatch group in the singing of "God Bless America."

MICA Elects Board of Directors

by Ruth McCann

Members of the Marco Island Civic Association recently cast their votes to elect fellow members to the MICA Board of Directors. Re-elected to the Board was Bernardo Bezos and newly elected were Dick Adams, Dave Caram, and James Mackle. They join a prestigious group already serving the membership: Allan Bristow, Bryan Hauser, Jim Johnson, Howard Jordan, Frank LaCava, Bill Patterson, Steve Stefanides, and Beverly Trotter. The Board also wishes to thank Barbara Dasti and Sandra Recker for volunteering their knowledge and time to serve the members.

At their March 4 Board of Directors meeting

the board elected officers for the year. Serving as President is Bernardo Bezos; as Vice President, Steve Stefanides; as Treasurer, Beverly Trotter; and Allan Bristow as Secretary.

Past President Howard Jordan continues to serve on the board, and we thank him for his dedication to the members of MICA. We'd also like to thank board members whose terms expired but who sat on the board for the past several years, namely Shirlee Barcic, Ed d'Alessandro, and Linda Shockley. Their commitment to the MICA members is truly appreciated.

As they say, "it takes a village" to run the civic association!

MICA's Best Kept Secret

by Ruth McCann

Our intention, certainly, is not to keep Sarazen Park as MICA's little secret. However, at times we mention Sarazen Park to members and the response is, "what, where?"

For the record, Sarazen Park is located at 930 Swallow Avenue and is directly across the street from the Collier County beach access along South Collier Boulevard. The property was deeded to the Marco Island Civic Association in 1994 by Jack Antaramian and the Point Marco Development Corporation. MICA later named the park after island resident and legendary golfer, Gene Sarazen.

Anyone who is a member of the Marco Island Residents' Beach may utilize Sarazen Park. What may look like just a parking lot is full of wonderful surprises! Yes, there is parking for members, but there is also an amazing private park with chickee huts, picnic tables, charcoal grills, a small playground area, shower, and restrooms.

In response to members' requests, several years ago MICA built the largest chickee on Marco Island. As is done at Residents' Beach, Sarazen Park is regularly upgraded. Electric was added to the picnic area approximately seven years ago, making music more accessible. Last year, pavers were placed under all the chickees at Sarazen Park and in December 2009 all of the chickees were rethatched. A super-size grill is on order and should be delivered any day.

If your goal is to find as many brilliant shells as possible within a half hour, then Sarazen Park at South Beach is the place to go. Shelling at this location seems to be ideal!

If you have a group of members who wish to gather at the biggest chickee on Marco, then Sarazen Park is also the spot to go. A form is available at the MICA office, which a member



completes and places a deposit of \$250, thus granting the exclusive use of the picnic area for the day. At the conclusion of the picnic, the trash must be taken by the member and cannot be left behind. As long as the rules are complied with, the deposit is returned to the member. Not a bad deal for the use of a pristine, private park.

MICA constructed the restrooms and shower area approximately 10 years ago and, again, they are for the use of the members of the Marco Island Residents' Beach.

As I mentioned earlier, a small playground occupies a portion of Sarazen Park. While it is not as large as the playground at Residents' Beach, if you're at the south end of the island, it's a good stop for the little ones. The younger crowd definitely enjoys this play area.

If you haven't been to our hidden gem, Sarazen Park, take a ride or walk down and check it out. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

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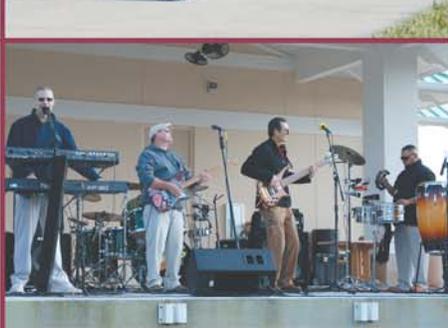
(239) 642-9050

www.greatgaragedoors.com





These pictures were actually taken at Residents' Beach on Marco Island!! Ear muffs and ski caps on Marco?? February 13 was a cool day, but that didn't stop many from enjoying the music of "Mixed Nuts."



News From Across the Bridge

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

The question arises many times as to when the County Parks & Rec will be building a walk-over and restroom at the south end of the parking lot at Tigertail Beach. They have been in the permitting process since 2005 and still do not have the permit, nor can they predict when it will be approved. Once the approval is received, the project will be built with TDC funds.

You might be aware that the County Transportation Department is purchasing the old, dilapidated Mobil gas station at the corner of U.S.41 E and 951. The funding source is a Developer's Contribution Agreement. Once the property is secured, they will demolish the old building and build a stormwater retention and treatment pond, which is required for the improvement of that intersection. Presently that improvement will be "at-grade", providing additional turn lanes, restriping, the pond, etc. In the future, the State plans to build an overpass along 951 over U.S. 41 E. When that will be, no one knows for sure.

Over the years many Marco residents have wondered how much of their taxes goes to the county and where they are spent. Although this column doesn't allow me to expand on the answer a great deal, here is a simple explanation:

Your school board taxes go directly to the



Members of the MICA Board listening intently to County Commissioner Donna Fiala (l to r) Bernardo Bezos, Dave Caram, Dick Adams, Allan Bristow, James Mackle



Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala addressing the MICA Board of Directors, with County Budget Director Mark Issacson and Bayshore CRA Executive Director David Jackson.

school board, which is 46.1% of your 2010 tax bill. 31.4% goes to the county's general fund, 3.0% goes to Conservation Collier, including Otter Mound Trail (voter approved millage rate), 4.2% goes to South Florida Water Management District, .6% goes to Mosquito Control, 14.5% goes to the City of Marco. The General Fund is distributed thus: 44.6% to the Sheriff, 15.7% roads and capital, 6.9% to the tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections and clerk of courts, with other distributions to the airport, courts, county attorney and reserves. Finally, 26.4% goes to the county manager's agency, which is distributed to Emergency Services (hurricanes, fires, etc.), EMS, Medical Examiner, CAT system transportation and handicapped/disadvantaged transport, community development, public services (library, animal shelter, museums, Veterans' Services, Social Service programs, parks such as Caxambas, Tigertail, South Beach, etc), Marco Recycling Center, Water Pollution Control, Solid Waste, administrative support services, community development and management offices, and more that I just can't fit into this column. Marco's percentage for most of these services is 13.24%.

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Here's What's Coming Up for the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts

by Sandi Johnson, President

After experiencing the coldest winter on the island in a long time, we're all happy to welcome spring! Fortunately, except for the January Left Bank Art Fest at the Esplanade, which took place on a cold windy Saturday, events the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts presented during the winter were held indoors. Our February fashion show scholarship luncheon was well attended and raised funds for two scholarships. Thanks to Marco Movies and Nick Campo, we presented our 4th annual winter film series, as well as our first ever "almost" Live at the Met presentation of an opera performance. Political-thriller writer Karna Bodman enthralled us at our March luncheon with tales about her days in the Reagan administration. The Artist Colony at the Esplanade is alive and well, thanks to a joint venture by this Foundation and the Art League.

We've been busy at the Foundation, planning spring arts-related activities for you to enjoy. It's time to get outdoors again and experience great art exhibits. Coming up on April 10th and 11th we'll be presenting our 2nd annual Marco Masters art show at Veterans Community Park. This show will feature artists you'll see nowhere

else. Then on Saturday April 17th we'll hold our final Left Bank Art Fest at the Esplanade. This one-day, casual, free event features mostly local artists. The Left Bank fests have proved to be so popular that we're planning to do one a month during next season!

The Foundation's final event of the season will be our annual meeting and luncheon on May 18th at Hideaway Beach Club. Guests are welcome! Contact event chair Lynne Minozzi for tickets: 642-3836. We'll be presenting scholarships to Marco Island high school seniors, and awards to very special people in our community. We'll also have a much anticipated performance by guest violinists Marylee Valvano and Randi Zwicker, who are founding members of Bonita Strings.

More information about our organization, our events, and applications for our scholarship program can be found on the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts website: www.marcoarts.org. We welcome new members and volunteers. If you like what we're doing and would like to help, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Call me: 642-0015. Thank you for your interest.

MIFA Announces Scholarships Available

The Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA) is offering three \$1000 scholarships in 2010 to graduating Marco Island high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in and intend to pursue studies in the visual, literary or performing arts at the college level.

Applications are available from high school guidance counselors and MIFA's website:

www.marcoarts.org. Completed applications must be sent to Marco Island Foundation for the Arts, PO Box 1091, Marco Island FL 34146, received by April 30th, 2010 for consideration.

Interviews will be conducted May 3-5, and awards will be given at MIFA's annual luncheon on May 18, 2010.

Dial - Don't Drive

The City has partnered with the NCH Healthcare System to complete a new campaign with a public service announcement featuring the City's Fire-Rescue Department, Collier County EMS and a physician from NCH Healthcare system. It is called Dial 9-1-1, Don't Drive in medical emergencies and should be completed by mid May.

Did you know that about one-third of patients don't get a potentially live-saving shock within the recommended two minutes. For every minute of delay, the chances of survival worsens. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, such as chest pains or stroke like symptoms, you may lose consciousness and may not get the care you need. Getting the early access to advanced care will improve your chance of survival. Medical Crews are trained in Advanced

Life Saving Techniques. Often times they can respond to your emergency and begin treatment before you can start your car. By calling 911 and getting the early access to advanced medical care the odds of survival greatly improve. The ad is sponsored by: NCH Healthcare System, NCH Healthcare System, Marco Island Campus, Marco Island Fire Rescue Department, Collier County EMS and Marco Island Fire Foundation.



CRA, Continued from page 4

“there” and council is considering it. Yet, somehow, consultants were hired, criteria developed and things have progressed. For a \$75,000,000 or greater project, outside the spending cap, it is hard to believe the citizens of Marco are unaware. We have all seen similar situations with other projects. Only after projects were finalized and it was “too late” did the citizens get involved. Are we heading down the same path?

OTHER FACTORS

An option that has similar long range effects, but a different tact in doing so, is the creation of a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), wherein the property owners in a specific area choose to tax themselves an additional percentage above other taxpayers in the city or county. This money, in turn, is used to make improvements in the MSTU area. There are presently 53 MSTUs in Collier County. If the City's goal is to improve infrastructure and cure “blight,” perhaps a better option is an MSTU.

To address the Deltona-instituted Deed Restrictions, MICA is charged with enforcing these Deed Restrictions. When the Deltona Corporation and the Mackle Brothers planned our beautiful island, they created business areas. They set aside land for

parks and churches and the arts. It is Deltona's vision by which our little island operates today.

To say the least, the MICA Board has grave concerns with the City of Marco Island's plans for a CRA in the Town Center area. The MICA Board's most recent letter of December 3, 2009, individually addressed to each member of City Council, is printed on page 5, word for word.

Let your City Council members know how you feel. As we pointed out in the first paragraph, some council members say they have not heard from their electorate.

Address for City Hall:

50 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145;

E-mail: citycouncil@cityofmarcoisland.com

Drop Off Your Old Cell Phones & Eye Glasses at the MICA Office

and we'll donate them to the Abused Women's Shelter and the Lion's Club Eye Glass collection.



Trees 'R' Cool at Veterans' Park

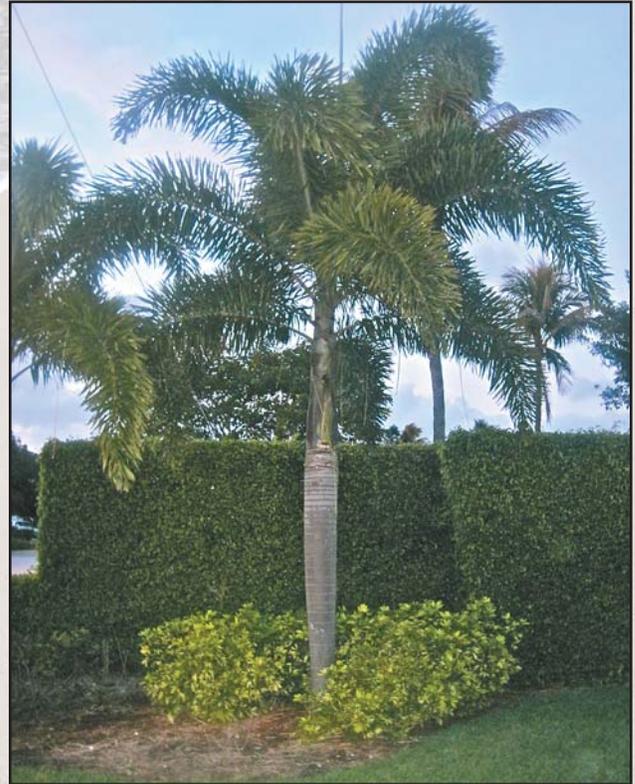
Submitted by Steve Stefanides

Since 2008 when Marco Islanders enjoyed the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Veterans Community Park there have been numerous events, festivals, crafts fairs and community gatherings at Marco's little spot of green in the middle of the island.

"Speak to anyone on the island and they really enjoy this venue," commented Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Milk when speaking about the property near Park Avenue which islanders voted to purchase in 2003. "Islanders had the vision for this type of gathering place when they voted overwhelmingly to make the purchase over seven years ago and today we all benefit from that decision."

Although capital funds have been lacking to make any major upgrades to the park, the city has been able to make some changes that allowed community organizations to utilize the property. The sod was added in the fall of 2008, a temporary parking lot was placed on site along with restroom facilities and utility services to meet the initial needs of groups utilizing the area.

A Veterans Community Park Planning Committee spent eight months working with city staff to come up with a visionary plan for the park which will allow for incremental develop-



ment of the property as funding is available.

However, it became evident at the end of last year that the need to look at the addition of some shade and sitting areas to allow residents to enjoy their park in a very passive way couldn't wait; so Milk reached out to a couple of his committees and community activists to assist in a public fund raising effort to make that reality come about sooner rather than later.

Milk reached out to Val Simon, a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, Barb Murphy of the City Beautification Committee, Bryan Hauser of the Kiwanis Club, Bob Bowe and Carla Mickes who



are neighbors to the park and community activist Steve Stefanides to work on making the shade and benches a reality.

The committee has chosen the theme "Trees 'R' Cool" and is launching a public fund drive to pay for the purchase of some trees and benches for the park. "The City will plant and maintain both a variety of palm, canopy and flowering trees", said Carla Mickes, chairperson of the committee.

"Barb Murphy has done a great job designing a fund raising and informational brochure which islanders can find all over Marco. We'll also have a presence at the Farmers Market on Wednesdays to explain to residents the opportunity they have to be part of this" said Val Simon.

Those that donate a tree or a bench can have that donation acknowledged by the placement of a plaque at the base of the tree or on the bench that they donate in the name of a loved one, recognition as a family donation or in the name of a service organization according to Bob Bowe, committee member.

"This gives Marco Islanders a chance to be part of making this not just a park but a great park" said Bryan Hauser who works in the landscaping business and is a contributor to the park's many activities and one of the first volunteers for this effort.

"We have a diverse group here with great talents and the wonderful goal of doing something nice for the community, and we hope residents take advantage of being part of it" added Steve Stefanides.

VETERANS' COMMUNITY PARK DONATION PROGRAM



Canopy Trees	(\$300.00)
Flowering Trees	(\$350.00)
Palm Trees	(\$300.00)
Royal Palm Trees	(\$500.00)
Benches	(\$1,000.00)

DONATE MONEY FOR TREES AND
BENCHES WITH YOUR NAME,
ORGANIZATION OR IN REMEMBRANCE

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY EFFORT TO PUT TREES IN OUR
PARK. PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF MARCO ISLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION.
389-5035 OR www.cityofmarco.com

The City is also applying for grant monies for additional plantings and upgrades to the park, but the public participation here will be a major part of what can be done initially according to Milk.

Brochures explaining the effort can be found at City Hall, Mackle Park, the MICA office, and at island businesses and restaurants, or by calling the Parks Department at 642-1666. Members of the all volunteer committee will also be able to answer your questions and help you fill out the forms if needed.



What's the News on VHF-FM Radios?

Submitted by Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 95

Since 1999 all marine radios manufactured have included a little red door on the front labeled "DISTRESS." This feature may be giving boaters a sense of security that if they flip the red door up and press the red DISTRESS button someone will come to their rescue. This will only happen if you have a Maritime Mobile Service Identity number put into your radio and if your radio is hard wired to your GPS.

This distress button represents a new technology that is part of an international initiative started by the International Maritime Organization. For recreational boaters this new technology is called, Digital Selective Calling. When wired correctly and the red button is pressed, DSC radios will automatically send a DISTRESS alert and message to Coast Guard stations and other DSC equipped boats in the immediate area.

If you press the red distress button, you want to make sure that everyone hearing that



message knows information about you and the exact latitude and longitude of where you are. Once again, this will only happen if your radio has a MMSI number and your radio is hard wired to your GPS.

To learn more about the capabilities of the new DCS VHF-FM marine radios and how to obtain a Maritime Mobile Service Identity number, a FREE seminar will be held on April 29 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the Coast Guard Auxiliary station located in Caxambas Park, 905 Collier Court, Marco Island. To register, please call Doug Johnson @ 239-642-8406.

Elections Office Mails Election Notice/ Absentee Requests

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office mailed 2010 Notice of Election/Absentee Ballot Request forms to each registered Collier County voter. Notices were sent to over 175,000 registered voters in Collier County.

This important mailing serves two purposes – it notifies registered Collier County voters of the upcoming August 24th Primary Election and the November 2nd General Election as well as providing voters a convenient way to request an

absentee/mail ballot for one or both elections. Collier County voters may also request an absentee/mail ballot by completing the 'Absentee Ballot Request Form' on the Supervisor of Elections Office website: www.CollierVotes.com

For more information contact the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office at (239) 252-8450 or visit the website – www.CollierVotes.com.

Lions Help People

Submitted by Lion Tim Kenney

Ever wonder what those blue, yellow and white boxes you see in the banks, grocery stores, hardware stores are for? That's the Lions Club fulfilling a dream of Helen Keller's. She asked us to be her Knights of the Blind and we are happy to still be serving her cause.

The glasses that are collected are cleaned, refurbished and sorted by prescription. Several times a year, eye screenings are held to determine if glasses are required. Glasses are then provided to those in need. To see the looks on their faces when they try out their new glasses warms the heart.

But that isn't all we do. We screen for glaucoma, diabetes, and preschoolers are screened for vision and hearing problems. Our leader dog program is known worldwide.

Would you like to help? Our local Lions Club is looking for men and women who would be willing to volunteer a few hours a month. If you would like to join the Lions Club or just come and see first hand what we are all about, join us for our monthly dinner meeting the first Wednesday of the month.

Contact Lion Tony Klein 394-2045 for additional information or to make reservations.



Tim Kenney and Bruce Miles

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Planning a special gathering or celebration? Leave it to us! Call today to speak with our Event Planning Professionals



Project Rescue: Art League

Submitted by Christine Neal, Art League Executive Director

The Art League is celebrating 40 years of service to the community in providing educational awareness and social activities as well as participating in partnerships and providing a venue for others.

We have grown from the original 19 members to a membership today of 422 and from a one room facility in 1980 to an approximately 12,000 square foot facility that was completed in 2002.

As we grew so did our programs, offerings and outreach. Initially, our organization's focus was on the visual arts. Our mission now promotes all the arts with concentration on visual, dramatic, literary and music. We started as a group of painters. We then grew to add stone and clay. We have offered quilting, stained glass and basket weaving just to name a few. Now we even have harp playing, drama classes and creative writing. This enhancement to our mission allows us to serve a larger part of our community. It also allows for the support of our message that the Art League is not just for artists.

As our community demographics changed so did we. As the population grew, year round families settled and age median dropped, we changed with it. Initially in 1983 with our Scholarship program for Collier County High School Juniors and Seniors and then with the development of Art Talks in the 1990s; both programs continue to exist today.

Over the years we have grown from a one week summer camp for kids to year round youth programs in visual and dramatic arts. In addition we now offer Kids Summer Art Kamp for 4 weeks, a year long Young Artist Academy and an Artist Visiting Kids programs while continuing to serve our seasonal and retired community.

As the economy across the nation and throughout the world declined, so did we.

Our earned income dollars dropped. Fundraising efforts fell short of goals. Membership renewals declined as did volunteerism. And costs



continued to rise. However, our organization continued to bring service to the community by offering education and exhibition opportunities in addition to community events. In 2008 we began to become dependent on our "line of credit." It became apparent that we needed to make financial changes quickly in order to survive.

There are three necessary components to sustainability for our organization: earned income, membership and fundraising. Over the past 24 months we have recognized the necessity to improve our long range plans by focusing on the importance of initiatives that provide enhancements to revenue from these critical components. One of these initiatives resulted in the Project Rescue Campaign.

Project Rescue, a campaign to Save Marco's Art League, was established in November 2009 and announced to include two phases. Phase I is designed to reduce the Art League's debt while keeping the doors open and the programs running. Its target by June 30, 2010 is to have a debt of \$0 dollars; Phase II is designed to develop a new business model for implementation by October 1, 2010.

"Phase I as of April 1st has been very successful," stated Project Rescue author and Volunteer Fund Raising Consultant to the Art League, Dave Rice. "The balance needed to reach Ground '0' remains at about \$24,000 and is a reachable goal." The Project Rescue campaign offers an opportunity for everyone in the

community to take part; from the \$1 Monthly Island Wide 50/50 raffle, to 1st Tuesday Art @ Five Socials, to special events and dedicated donations.

Phase II, which began in January, will provide a new business model, incorporating a new marketing plan and a mandate to operate on a balanced budget, all key factors that will ensure the Art League's continued existence and mission.

.....

Congrats Lou and Barbara!

Lou and Barbara Prigge, full-time residents of Marco Island, were married January 10, 1960 in New Jersey. They celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary over two fabulous weekends. On January 9, 2010 they renewed their vows at San Marco Catholic Church, followed by an evening of dinner and dancing at the Parish Luau.

On Saturday Jan 16, they were driven in a 1955 Chevy to Residents' Beach for a sunset toast to this wondrous occasion followed by a party at the Bistro Soleil, where family and friends waited to surprise them.



.....

MICA Welcomes New Members to its Discount Program:

- Marco I-Net Café & Boutique
 - Mutual of Omaha Bank
 - Sunflower Services of Marco, Inc.
 - Vaughan & Associates LLC
-

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The Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron

by Lt/C Carl W. Thieme, SEO

IT'S THE LAW - Starting January 1st 2010 any person born in 1988 or later must have a Florida Safe Boating Certificate to independently operate any boat over 10 Hp. on the inland or coastal waters in the State of Florida. America's Boating Course 3RD Edition is the latest public boating course offered by the United States Power Squadrons. The course is recognized by the United States Coast Guard, and by the State of Florida as meeting their requirements for the Florida Safe Boating Certificate. The course is being offered free of charge to the public by the Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron as a public service.

The new ABC 3rd Edition is a completely updated course divided into five chapters with outstanding graphics. The first four chapters cover the rules of the road, required safety equipment, navigation aids, lights and sounds, anchoring, communications afloat, boating under adverse conditions, water sports safety, trailering, personal watercraft safety, and knots and lines. The fifth chapter, which is optional, provides an introduction to using and reading marine charts and introduces the fundamentals of GPS waypoint navigation, a key skill for safe boating on coastal waters in the Ten Thousand Islands and Southwest Florida. The Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron will be offering the America's

Boating Course three times over the next year. The starting dates are November 8, 2010, January 10, 2011 and March 7, 2011.

The Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron is part of a national organization dedicated to safe boating. We offer courses on safe boating, Coastal Piloting and Off-Shore Navigation, Sailing, Cruise Planning, Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, Weather and a series of topical two hour public seminars including Introduction to Navigation, GPS, Advanced Boat Handling, Onboard Weather Forecasting, Using Marine VHF Radio and many others. All classes are fun and informative, and bring you into contact with people interested in safe boating. We also provide free vessel safety inspections for all boats.

The squadron hosts monthly meetings with guest speakers, monthly luncheons, group boat trips (both extended and overnight) and raft ups. We have an annual fundraiser that's both practical and fun.

For membership information, call 239-393-2133. For information on the public boating course and seminars, call 239-394-2344 and for free vessel safety checks, call 239-389-1487. Our web site is www.marcoislandsailandpowersquadron.org.

News from Across The Bridge

Continued from page 9

Another question asked repeatedly is what services are provided by the Sheriff to Marco Island. Many of those services are county wide services, but I'll name a few: Jail and related services, immigration program, traffic enforcement, 911 dispatch, aviation unit, K-9 unit, crime scene, swat team, bomb squad, dive rescue team, hostage negotiation team, fugitive warrants bureau, human trafficking, Dare program, junior deputies, crime intelligence, and more.

Hopefully many of your questions have been answered through this column, but if not, please e-mail me and I will send you the complete list and breakdowns for everything. It's about 20 pages, so make sure your printer has paper.

High Speed Rail is coming to Florida for a corridor between Tampa and Orlando. The President announced that Florida will receive a \$1.25 billion "down payment" for a high-speed rail corridor. Construction is expected to begin as early as the end of this year, so says Senator Bill Nelson in his Legislative Update from December.



Marco Island Civic Association "Members Only" Discount Program

DINING

Present discount card before ordering CJ's on the Bay, Esplanade
Excludes Gazebo Bar, 389-4511

Cold Stone Ice Cream, Esplanade
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake
393-0046

Gino's Olde Marco Trattoria
Entrée items only.
1095 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-4368

House of Mozart
Shops of Marco
642-5220

Joey's Pizza & Pasta House
Entree items, excludes pizza (dine-in only.)
257 N Collier Blvd, 389-2433

Kerry's Café
Shops of Marco, 394-4696

Konrad's Restaurant
Regular menu items only
Marco Walk, 642-3332

LaCasita Restaurant
Shops of Marco, 642-7600

Lee Bee Fish Co.
Fresh seafood from local waters - will
prepare & cook to order - carry out only
350 Royal Palm Dr, 389-0580

Little Caesar's Pizza
Regular menu items only
911 N Collier Blvd, 394-4422

Mongello's
10% off entree or free glass of house
wine with dinner,
4221 E. Tamiami Trail, 793-2644

Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American
2 Happy Hours: 3-6 & 10-midnight
Thurs-Ladies Nt with DJ,
reduced drink prices.
Fri & Sat-solo guitar.
Marco Walk, 389-2222

Ne Ne's Kitchen
Breakfast & Lunch (dine-in)
297 N Collier Blvd, 394-3854

Porky's Last Stand
701 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-8727

The Sand Bar
5% off food, regular menu items only
826 E Elkcarn Circle, 642-3625

Snook Inn
1215 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-3313

Sunset Grille at Apollo Beach Front
900 S Collier Blvd, 389-0509

Vic's Island Pizza 642-5662
Free delivery on Marco. Pizza, subs, salads,
wings. Marco's only wheat pizza. Open for
lunch and dinner. 910 N Collier Blvd,

HEALTH CARE/WELLNESS
Always There Home Health Care
Loyalty Program, 389-0170

Chiquita Rica Shake & Tone Class
Club Marco, 686 Bald Eagle Dr
Call for class schedule, 394-8104

Curves, Shops of Marco
1 free week, 389-0016

Healthy Body by Nina
Initial personal training sessions & group
classes, 1000 N Collier Blvd #12, 564-6262

Marco Dental Care
Non-surgical procedure. Free bleaching with
new patient exam, xrays & cleaning @ reg.
price, 950 N Collier Blvd, 389-9400

Nikken
Retail wellness products
651 S Collier Blvd, 394-1580

The Spa at Marco Island Marriott Resort,
10% off spa services & 15% off salon services
400 S Collier Blvd, 389-6029

Summer Day Café, Town Center
Vitamins only, 394-8361

RETAIL STORES
APPAREL/JEWELRY
Angelica's Boutique
681 S Collier Blvd, 394-6632

Beachworks, Town Center Mall
Excludes sales items, 642-7777

Beach Unlimited
1001 N Collier Blvd, 642-4888

Georgie's & the Shoe Resort
Town Center Mall, 394-2621

JetSet Surf Shop
Excludes hardgoods, 674 Bald Eagle Dr
394-5544

Jewelry by Laura, Marriott Resort
394-2511

Prime Outlets (Pick up VIP Coupon
Brochure in office at rear of mall)
6060 Collier Blvd #121, 775-8083

Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters /
Crosswinds, Marriott Resort, 389-6051

NON-APPAREL
Around Again Furniture & Décor
Nearly new furniture from model homes,
antiques & décor. 860 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-7000

China Rose Florist
Fresh flowers only, excludes out-of-town
orders, 678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-6663

Critter Café
Excludes dog and cat food
810 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-8488

First Pawn Jewelry & Loan
5%-20% off jewelry, firearms, instruments
and tools. Discounts vary.
889 Airport Road S, Naples, 434-7296

In the Light
Shops at Olde Marco, 821-5243

Islander Pool & Patio
Patio accessories & pool toys
559 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-4844

Keep In Touch, Shops of Marco
Excludes Post Office, copy & internet service
& sale items, 393-6300

Optical Boutique of Marco
Marco Walk, 642-4776

Radio Shack-Island Electronics, LLC
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5888

Reflections Liquors
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-1118

Royal Palm Hair Studio
Joico & Paul Mitchell hair products
981 N Collier Blvd, 394-7800

Something Olde Something New
Excludes sale & used items
207 N Collier Blvd, 389-9700

Sunshine Books
Hardback books only
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5343
677 S Collier Blvd, 393-0353

Your Island Home
Town Center, 642-7366

DRY CLEANERS
Cache Dry Cleaners
666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099
Dry Clean & More
1763 San Marco Rd, 642-7222

Professional Dry Cleaners of Marco
571 East Elkcarn Circle, 394-4579

HOME SERVICES /
IMPROVEMENT
A. Pinto Self Storage
5% off new rentals & document shredding,
994 N Barfield Dr, 394-1822

Adam Peters Construction
Fine finish carpentry: Crown molding
over \$1000, 207-7650

Esplanade: Collier Blvd & Elkcarn Circle. Marco Walk: South Collier Blvd & Winterberry Drive
Shops of Marco: North Barfield Drive & San Marco Road

Bella Faux Finishes, 272-3090
15% off for first time clients

Collier Tropical Landscaping
All landscaping, tree trimming or new lawn service contracts. Sergio 821-3213

Dry & Clean Carpet Cleaning
Carpet, Tile, & Upholstery cleaning. 642-0092

Easy Street Moving, 248-4136

Fabulous Faux Finishes
394-5747 or 537-1879

Fussy Fraulein, Inc.
First cleaning only, 394-0562

Great Garage Doors
Torsion spring repairs, 642-9050

Gulfcoast Painting & Pressure Cleaning,
642-1005

Gulfside Electric, 784-8086

Island Pet Sitters
Overnight jobs, 389-1837, 272-1659

JCR Screen Repair & Service 394-9410

Marco Island Floor Covering
Discounts vary. 1711 San Marco Rd, 394-1711

Marco Pool Service & Tropical Island Pools
\$5 per mth off for first 6 mths new service,
537-3039

Marco Upholstery
Cornices & headboards only
1759 Sna Marco Road, 394-8338

Naples Wood Floors
20% off wood floors
1673 Pine Ridge Rd, 514-5088

Polished Performance 304-6350
Initial service (cleaning, condo monitoring)

Sealco of SW FL 642-0906
Exterior repaint with premium paint package

Shattuck Lawn & Landscape 389-6244
First 3 mths for new customers

Southern Comfort Air
10% off repairs, 5% off installation of new equipment, maximum of \$100, 642-6642

Sparkle Carpet Cleaning
Carpet, tile, grout, upholstery & emergency water damage, 394-8808

Sparkle & Shine Cleaning
Maintenance, handyman & repair services
919-9137, 866-476-0575

Storm Smart Industries 239-939-1000
'Go Energy Smart' supplies homes & businesses with solar hot water, electricity & variety of energy saving products

Sunflower Services of Marco Inc.
Lawn Maintenance, 465-8086
First month free lawn maintenance

Tiny Tikes Treasures (Rentals)
247 N Collier Blvd., 389-1868

ADVENTURES/TOURS
Dolphin Explorer by Sea Excursions
Rose Marco River Marina, 642-6899

**Island Hoppers-Helicopter
Sightseeing & Charter**
10% off tour pkg, except "Discovery" tour
Marco Island Executive Airport
2005 Mainsail Drive, 207-4100

Marco Island Princess
Rose Marco River Marina, 642-5415

Marco Island Ski & Watersports
Marriott, Hilton Resorts, 394-4344

Saboutime Sailing, LLC
Rose Marco River Marina, 207-475-6248

Marco Scuba Adventures
10% off goods, scubamarco.com
1141 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-7889

Sea Gone Fishing Team
Excludes 3 hour charters, 642-0657

Vantastic Tours, 394-7699

MARINE/AUTO
Ion1 Professional Limousine, Inc.
Lowest rates, dependable professional service, Ion1limousine.com 389-0004

Anchor Saver, 877-4080

Autocraft
5% off non-insurance repairs
754 Elkcam Circle, 642-5309

Blue Marlin Marine Construction
Seawall inspections only, 642-4284

Carriage Limousine
Affordable, prompt, professional service
394-0308, 866-942-9932

Cedar Bay Yacht Club
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705 E Elkcam Cir, 394-9533

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Daily & weekly rate, 642-4488

Gulf American Marine Inc.
Parts only, 642-9515

Rose Marco River Marina
10% off men's, women's sportswear, shoes, hats & bags. Excluded: sale items, fuel, boating acc, fishing dept, bait, boat rentals & food. 951 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-2502

Sailmaker, Bronwen McKiever
20% off do-it-yourself Sunbrella cloths, vinyls & cleaning products
800 East Elkcam Circle, 248-3169

Sea Tow Marco Island
Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

Southwest Marine, 394-4168

Walkers Marine, 642-6764
Parts & service for customers in WM computer, 785 Bald Eagle Dr

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Constance Aria, Licensed Psychologist, Royal Palm Mall, 394-5599

Avon by Lucinda
Cosmetics, 642-0297, 821-7976

Diva Boutique, Pamela Broad
10% off facials & purchase of skin care or makeup, Marco Walk, 642-0506

Jeffery M. Bogan Insurance Agency,
15% off annual prem. for long term care,
261-6533

H.I. Studios, Ltd. Memorable Keepsakes, 821-9458

James Karl & Associates
Free initial consultation
678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-9988

Lotus Blossom Feng Shui Designs
First consultation, 404-0678

Marco I-net "Café & Boutique"
12% off any purchase,
Marco Walk, next to Chico's, 970-0250

Marco Island Photography
Portrait sitting & finished portraits by Peter Berec, 642-3500

Mutual of Omaha Bank
1770 San Marco Rd, 389-5200

Vaughan & Associates, Financial Planning Services
Dennis M Vaughan, CFP, 970-2800
Dennis@vaughanassociatesllc.com

Veronica McNally, Ind Beauty Consultant,
10% off every order, plus free lipstick with new customer facial & makeover.
389-4852

The above businesses participate in MICA's Members Only Discount Program and extend a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members. Please present your card at time of purchase. Discounts are not valid with any other offers. Discounts are for MICA & Residents' Beach members' purchases only.



March 14 featured Gary & Kerri and the Fakahatchee Band at Residents' Beach. The sun was shining and we finally traded in our blankets and ski caps for sunglasses and baseball caps!



MICA's Scrapbook

If you have any images you'd like to share with other members either e-mail them, along with some information about your subject or subjects, to: marcoislandcivicassociation@embarqmail.com, or mail them to the address on page 2. Please note that by sending us your images you are giving us permission to use them in the MICA *wave*.



Luke & Mark DiCuffa (left to right) visiting their grandparents, Bob & Kathy Crieghton, on Marco Island.

Maureen McHale Hull's 9 year old nephew Carson McLaughlin made his first trip to Marco Island this past June - it was also his first time fishing. He no sooner put his line in the water than he landed this monster Snook!



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Join your friends
at Residents' Beach for

UNCLE SAM'S SAND JAM!!



DJ begins at 12 Noon
Kids games begin at 1 PM
Hot Dog Eating Contest at 1PM
Sandcastle Contest Judging at 2PM



Please bring your Residents' Beach ID card to gain entrance