
MICA WAVE

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association. Read by Over 20,000 Members.
News and Reviews of What's Really Happening on Marco Island. May, 2006
Visit our web site: www.marcocivic.com 2006 Issue 2

Dedication of the Robert W. Sessions Pavilion

March 12, 2006, was one for the record books at the Marco Island Residents' Beach. After approximately nine months of construction the doors of our beautiful, new beach pavilion were opened to the members of the Marco Island Residents' Beach.

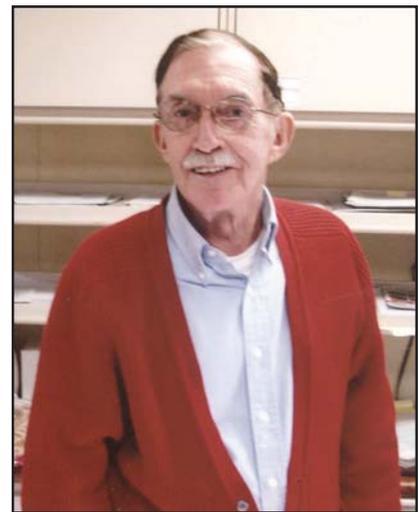
The pavilion includes expanded restroom facilities, the new and improved "Snack Shack," storage and maintenance areas, and covered and open eating patios. The covered deck may also be utilized as a stage for concerts and other special events.

On Sunday, March 12, the ribbon was cut by Dr. Roger Sessions, nephew of Robert Sessions, and MICA's Past President Jim Arnold, and the building was officially christened "The Robert W. Sessions Pavilion." The late Mr. Sessions was an outstanding and accomplished citizen of Marco Island. The Residents' Beach was one of his favorite locations on Marco Island, and he made a substantial donation towards the beach pavilion construction.



Dr. Roger Sessions, nephew of Robert W. Sessions, and MICA's Past President Jim Arnold perform the ribbon cutting ceremony

Approximately 6,000 members came out for the big event and enjoyed the music of the Marvettes and the Coasters, as well as a huge twist contest. The competition was fierce! Many children joined in the games, had nifty balloon art custom made for them by members of the Shriners, while the Shriners' wives showed their painting talents on the faces of the youngsters! As you'll see by the photos inside this publication, a good time was had by all!



The late Robert W. Sessions

President's Letter

by Kathy Sullivan

The new beach pavilion was ceremoniously dedicated at a beach celebration on March 12, 2006. The Robert W. Sessions Pavilion is named after Robert Sessions, a prolific inventor, a successful entrepreneur and a generous philanthropist. His nephew, Dr. Roger Sessions, and Jim Arnold, past president of MICA, cut the ribbon. The community, about 6,000 strong, gathered on the lawn under sunny skies and a soft breeze.

The pavilion provides a great venue for entertainment and MICA intends to continue our tradition of three parties per year, the 4th of July, a Holiday party in December and a mid-season celebration in February or March. If you're a Residents' Beach member and haven't been over to see the new facility, I encourage you to go take a look. If you're not a beach member, you might want to consider joining. It's a great place to stop in for a morning coffee or to gather with friends.

In the March elections Beverly Trotter, JoAnne Youman and I were reelected to the Board. Clark Morton was elected to the Board for the first time. He's been on the ARC (Architectural Review Committee) for years and makes a valuable addition to the MICA Board. Welcome Clark.

On the administrative front the ARC will continue under the leadership of Jack McGowan. Jim Arnold will provide over-

sight to the Residents' Beach Committee. The MICA Board has created four new committees to better manage our organization. The new committees are as follows:

- Member Affairs Committee- Howard Jordan, Chairman
- Community and Government Affairs Committee – Maury Dailey, Chairman
- Finance Committee – Beverly Trotter, Chairperson
- Legal Affairs Committee - Jim Arnold, Chairman

Each committee is comprised of experienced MICA Board members and newcomers to MICA. The idea is to provide continuity and, at the same time, look for fresh ideas. If you would like to help out in any way, please call the office and let us know. We would appreciate the help.

In closing I would like to express my gratitude to some special people who have helped MICA have a very successful year. Thanks to all our employees for

their loyalty and commitment to the organization. Phyllis Marco has earned our gratitude for her dedicated service to MICA. Our bylaws have strict term limits for the Board of Directors, and she was not able to run again. We will miss her ideas and support. Lynn Bradeen, former president, is no longer on the board but has agreed to be an advisor. He has a wealth of information on the history and traditions of MICA.

Special thanks to Jim Arnold, President of MICA for the past five years. Jim has done an outstanding job of improving the beach, protecting our property rights by vigorously defending the deed restrictions, leading the effort to purchase our office condo and developing the new pavilion. He remains active on the Board and in addition to leading two committees will continue to help select and contract for the entertainment for our parties.

Marco Island Civic Association

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Marco Island, FL 34145

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History and Importance of Tract K

by Terri DiSciullo, Chairwoman, Marco Island City Council

As you all know by now, Tract K has been in the news quite a bit. On February 16, 2006, the School Board of Collier County unanimously voted to declare as surplus and offer for sale Tract K. Their current appraised value was \$7,800,000. This was discovered by our city attorney during an unrelated matter and was reported to our City. Our Council, manager and residents were extremely upset because of not being notified about the proposed sale, because of possibly losing the only remaining school site on the Island, and because of the long history and intent to keep Tract K in the public domain. The outcome of the City's subsequent meetings and phone calls with School Board Members and Superintendent were very positive, and the results have been positive for Marco Island, but more needs to be done to permanently secure that land indefinitely for public use.

Tract K is an 11.6 acre parcel located along the west side of Tigertail Court between Somerset and Century Drive. The property was originally owned by the Deltona Corporation and deeded to the District School Board of Collier County. The history regarding the use and disposition of Tract K goes back more than seventeen years. City files give us a historical summary as follows:

1964 – Deltona provided school sites on Marco Island to the District School Board of Collier

County. Deltona retained ownership.

1989 – School Board sued Deltona over appropriate disposition of Tract K. Settlement negotiated and lawsuit dismissed. School site properties were conveyed by Warranty Deed to the School Board subject only to the restriction that the property be used for school purposes. If sold to any third party, proceeds were to be applied by the School Board for the benefit of the population of the public school students of Marco Island or Marco Shores or both, in schools where they attended on Marco Island, Marco Shores, or elsewhere in Collier County.

1994 – Marco Island Vision Planning Committee, formed to develop the Marco Island Master Plan, listed Tract K as the first item on the “land bank” provision.

May 12, 1997 – Marco Island Civic Association asks Collier County to purchase Tract K for a park/civic or cultural center.

May 21, 1997 – Collier County Public Services Administrator, Tom Oliff, informs the School Board that the County Commission directed County staff to determine if there was an interest from Marco residents to create a municipal service taxing unit (MSTU) in order to purchase and develop Tract K. The School Board was asked not to

sell the property to private parties until interest in public ownership could be determined.

May 23, 1997 – School District Superintendent, Robert Munz, advises that the School Board has looked at property owned by the City (with intent to exchange for Tract K) and was unable to find any size appropriate for school use. There was expressed interest that the County find a way to purchase the property.

June 20, 1997 – Collier County seeks the assistance of the Marco Island Civic Association to determine the public's interest in creating an MSTU to purchase and develop Tract K. A survey by MICA verified the interest of residents to proceed with a formal survey of registered voters (84% of those surveyed by MICA were in favor).

July 17, 1997 – The District School Board informs Collier County that they are under no specific time table to dispose of Tract K and will wait to allow the County time to complete its process.

August 28, 1997 – Marco Island incorporates.

February 20, 1998 – MICA requests City Council to consider acquiring Tract K.

March 6, 1998 – Collier County advises the School Board that due to the incorporation of the City and the City's

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Please come visit the
wonderful Dogs &
Cats
for Adoption!



Every Saturday
10am-3pm at

PETSMART

2255 Pine Ridge Road,
Naples FL 34109

**Collier County
Animal League,
Inc.**

www.collierrescue.com

Resident Hurricane Re-entry Stickers

The City of Marco Island will make every effort to provide immediate re-entry to the City after a storm event. If there is no significant damage as a result of a storm the city does not anticipate any road closures and access will not be restricted. However, if entry is restricted following an evacuation of Marco Island, those residents displaying a resident re-entry sticker will be allowed to return to the island when access is permitted.

These stickers do not provide a guarantee you will be allowed to return to the Island and may not prevent delays. We will make every effort to provide access for residents, but in the interest of public safety there may be reasons that access is restricted (i.e., flooding, road blockages, damage to bridges, power lines, etc.).

Resident re-entry stickers will

be issued to all residents providing proof of residency through one of the following:

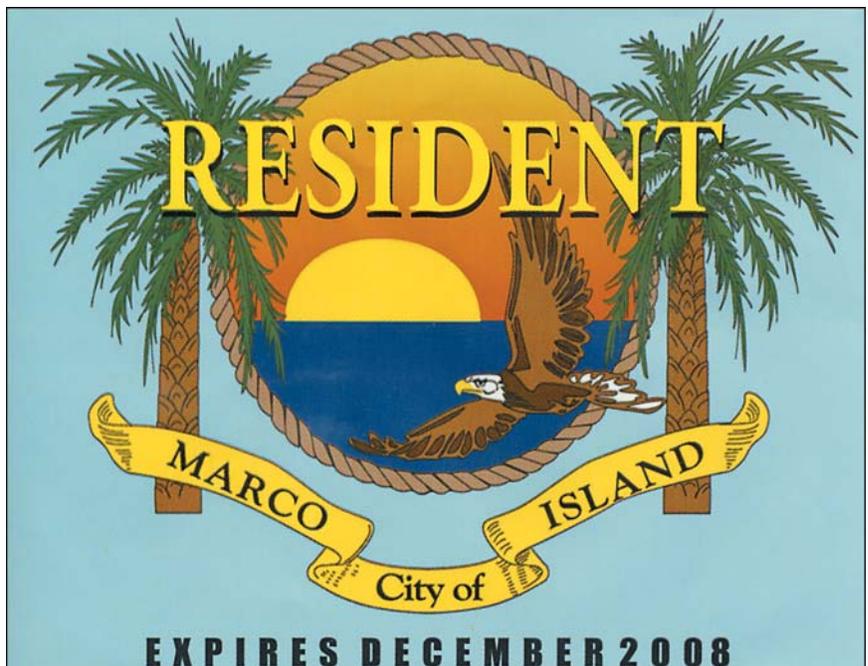
1. Drivers license with a Marco Island address.
2. Vehicle registration with a Marco Island address.
3. Homeowners tax receipt.

Residents can receive two (2) re-entry stickers unless vehicle registrations are provided for multiple vehicles. The re-entry stickers are available at the MICA office, City Hall, Mackle Park and the Fire Station.

Residents will not be given re-entry stickers for friends or neighbors.

The re-entry sticker should be placed on the driver's side front bumper. Resident's may prefer to store the re-entry sticker in the glove compartment of a vehicle and then apply to the front bumper before returning to Marco Island.

MARCO COMMUNITY BANK
MCB
Now Open
MCB takes great pride in serving
Our community.
For your convenience, we now have
A Marco Community Bank ATM
Located at Residents' Beach.
"Community" is our Middle Name
www.marcocommunitybank.com
Member FDIC



Residents Recycling More Than Ever

Recycling volume increases by 77%

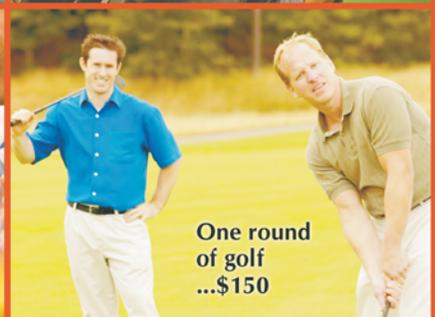
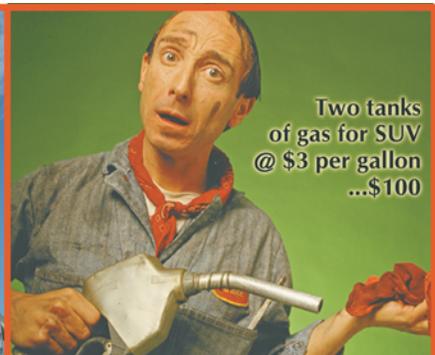
Yellow-lidded recycling carts in Collier County are a thing of beauty. Rolled out to over 92,000 households in October, the popularity of the wheeled, 64 gallon carts is catching on quickly. Results of the first three months of the new “single

stream” residential recycling program are impressive. Collier County’s recycling volume increased 49% for October 2005 over October 2004, to a total of 2,216 tons. November’s numbers are even better: a 77% increase in volume over November 2004, with a total of 3,067 tons. Estimates for December show an increase of nearly 40 percent.

Using the recycling carts is easy and convenient as everything recyclable goes into the cart. Paper, plastic, and glass - anything with the chasing arrows recycling

symbol and more goes straight into the cart. Recycling more means contributing less to the solid waste stream that ends up in the landfill, diminishes litter in and around your neighborhood, and helps to conserve natural resources. And remember,

buying items made from recycled materials closes the loop. For more information on recycling in Collier County, visit our website at www.colliercountyrecycles.com or phone the 24-hour information line at 239-213-5888.



Tract K, continued from page 3

interest in acquiring Tract K, any discussion regarding the property should be with the City rather than Collier County.

April 26, 1998 – City expresses interest in acquiring Tract K and reaffirmed a letter from Superintendent Munz that the School Board was in no hurry to sell the land until Marco Island could purchase it. MITA advises that a developer is attempting to acquire the property for multi-family units.

May 6, 1998 – Letter from District Superintendent, Dan White, affirms the District's understanding of the City's interest in acquiring Tract K and that the property will be held for the City's consideration.

May 6, 1998 – District School Board Chairman Quinby expresses support in the City's efforts to acquire Tract K. The letter advises that the School Board is willing to be patient and allow the process to proceed.

May, 1998 – City of Marco Island and School District begin negotiations for City's acquisition of Tract K.

July 8, 1998 – The School District commissioned an appraiser and determined that the value had increased to \$1.8 million.

August 21, 1998 – City learned that the District School Board was considering the retention of Tract K as a possible future site for a school. The School Board subsequently directed its staff to examine the potential and need to use Tract K as a future school site.

October 15, 1998 – School Board reverses its position and votes to retain Tract K as a future school site.

November 1998 – Marco Island City Council adopts a resolution urging the School Board to request a change to the Tract K zoning so that the property may be used only for school or other public use.

November 23, 1998 – City Manager requested School Board to confirm the Board's intent to offer the City of Marco Island the right of first refusal to purchase the property in the event the site would not be used for a school. The City Manager also requested that the District School Board submit a petition to the City of Marco Island to rezone Tract K to Public Use District (P). The School Board declined each request.

October 10, December 3, 2003 – Planning Board met with School Board representatives to discuss study on feasibility of a charter high school or other future schools on Tract K.

February 22, 2006 – City Attorney, Greg Urbancic, advises City Manager that the School Board is planning to declare Tract K surplus property and sell it.

March 8, 2006 – City Attorney, Greg Urbancic, advises City Manager that the School Board will be advertising a public notice on March 9, March 16, and March 23, and that the property has already been declared surplus by the School Board. Confirmed the property has been appraised at \$7.8 million.

The history of Tract K has been extensive. The City of Marco Island and its citizens have made it clear that Tract K should remain in the public domain as either a school site, park, or cultural center. Our City Council and City Manager worked swiftly to conduct phone calls and meetings with the School Board members. Our residents also worked hard to lobby for the School Board to put Tract K back into inventory. Because of all of our efforts, Superintendent Ray Baker recommended and the School Board Members voted to take Tract K off the surplus list and add it back to their land inventory.

Once the long history of Tract K was brought to the attention of the Collier County School Board members, they were very courteous and understanding of our position with Tract K. Chairwoman Curatolo and I plan to keep our lines of communication open and have a meeting to discuss school issues related to our Marco Island children. Through the years, Marco Island's relationship with the Collier County Commissioners has expanded to be a co-operative and cordial one. I look forward to that same relationship between the City and the School Board. Sometimes it takes a controversial issue to bring parties together in a spirit of cooperation. For now, Tract K is back in inventory, but more work needs to be done to ensure that it remains in the public realm.

Marco Island Civic Association



Mr. Raymond J. Baker
Superintendent
District School Board of Collier County
5775 Osceola Trail
Naples, FL 34109

Re: Tract K, Marco Island

Dear Mr. Baker,

March 20, 2006

On behalf of the more than 20,000 members of the Marco Island Civic Association, I am writing with regard to "Tract K" on Marco Island.

As you know, Tract K was donated by the Deltona Corporation to the Collier County School Board at no cost in December 1989. In all the documentation between the Deltona Corporation and the Collier County School Board, Tract K has always been referred to as a "school site." It was clearly Deltona's intention that the land it donated be used for the public as a school site to benefit the residents of Marco Island and Collier County. It was never the intent that the property be used as a money raising activity for the Collier County School Board. Just as properties that Deltona donated are still in use by the public and being used for church sites and park sites, it was expected that property donated as a school site would be used for this purpose and would not to be sold for profit.

The Marco Island Civic Association has repeatedly surveyed its members over the years with regard to the use of Tract K and the results each time showed that, by a margin of 85%-15%, the residents of Marco Island want the land retained for public use, such as a school, cultural/civic center or park.

The City of Marco Island dealt and negotiated in good faith during 1997 and 1998 with the Collier County School Board regarding Tract K, clearly making their intentions known that the City of Marco Island was intent upon retaining the property for public use for the benefit of the residents of Marco Island and Collier County. At that time the School Board voted to retain Tract K as a future school site.

The 11.6 acre Tract K parcel is the last site large enough to house a school, cultural/civic center or park and this opportunity should not be arbitrarily taken away from the residents of Marco Island and Collier County. A middle school and high school on Marco have been discussed continually over the years. A middle school has become a reality and Tract K is the only appropriate site for a future high school. Facilities of this type are vital to our ever-expanding population. This parcel should rightfully be used for the benefit of the residents of Marco Island and other county residents.

Selling the Tract K parcel to a developer was never in any plans by the Deltona Corporation, the Collier County School Board, or the City of Marco Island. It is very disturbing to hear that the residents of Marco Island are welcome to "bid" on land that was donated on their behalf.

The Marco Island Civic Association strongly urges the Collier County School Board to retain ownership of Tract K so that the parcel remains in the public domain for the benefit of the residents of Marco Island and to consider granting or leasing Tract K to the City of Marco Island in order that the parcel may be used for the benefit of the citizens of Marco Island, as was intended by the Deltona Corporation.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sullivan
President

cc Board of Collier County Commissioners
Marco Island City Council
Jeffrey D. Fridkin, Esquire

Letters...

March 15th, 2006

To the Great Marco Island
Civic Association,

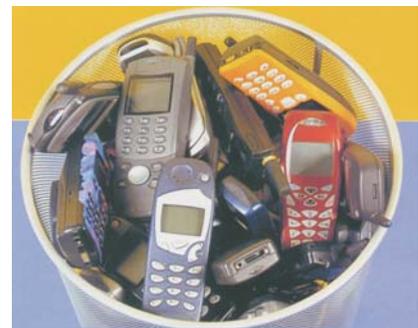
Just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much we enjoyed the celebration at the pavilion last Sunday. The entertainment was absolutely fabulous - the music brought back some great memories - it seemed to erase the years and we were back in the fifties again. Hope there will be many more events like that in the future.

The pavilion looks fantastic - what an accomplishment for all those involved.

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make it happen. We really appreciate your efforts. The Residents' Beach is truly a "jewel" in our paradise!! Can't wait for our family to see the "wall" - we kept it a secret!

Thank you.

Sincerely, Camille and Joe Cilli



Unused Cell Phones Cluttering Your Drawers?

Drop them at the MICA office
and The Shelter for
Abused Women and
Children will retrofit them
to dial 911 only.

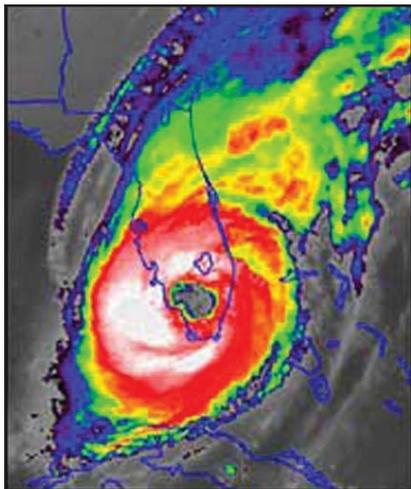
Collier County Emergency Management Hurricane Update

by Dan Summers and Jaime Sarbaugh, Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services

Last year's hurricane season was again historic by many measures; however, despite much in the way of precautionary activity, our county was very fortunate. While we did experience high winds, heavy rains and some flooding from Hurricane Wilma, damage was not nearly what it could have been had the storm's intensity been only slightly different. I wish I could tell you that because of last year's activity we, as a community, could rest easily this year, but we cannot afford to become complacent.



Governor Jeb Bush and Dan Summers entering the Collier County Emergency Management Building following Hurricane Wilma



*Hurricane Wilma Satellite Imagery
October 24, 2005*

Following Hurricane Wilma, Collier County Emergency Management and its many Federal and State partners worked to track the progress and fine-tune the efforts of debris removal, power restoration, disaster aid programs, temporary housing assistance, and

volunteer non-profit organization efforts, capturing information for future events, with a lot of self-critiquing of responses. Here are just a few of the dozens of forthcoming points that will elaborate on some of our successes and future challenges.

We must thank the cooperative, patient, and prepared citizens and guests of Collier County. Many of you took the personal responsibility assignment to study up on the issue, develop and activate your family action plan, leave harm's way early, and patiently wait for the correct time to return. Many of you assisted your church, civic organization or neighbors and provided assistance ranging from cash donations to sweat labor to assist friends or perfect strangers during difficult times.

In terms of additional successes, all of our community's emergency responders, both paid and volunteer, worked as a team to help the frail and elderly, responded to calls for service for days without a break, and went far and above their traditional mission. So many lent a hand both in-county and outside of the county and prior to Wilma.

The team-behind-the-team. From Facilities to Parks, from Public Utilities to the Health Department, every agency, both county and municipal, were on the ball assisting the Emergency Operations Center group not only to make sure their efforts were well coordinated, but also to ensure that the highest level emergency situations were being addressed and supported in a

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Flag Retirement Ceremony with Troop 234

Jared Cox and his fellow Eagle Scout Troup 234 members held a flag retirement ceremony at the Residents' Beach on April 22. More than 700 American flags were collected in the months prior and were retired at the ceremony. Just as our American flag is treated with respect when it is flying, the flags were retired with dignity and respect as well.

Jared Cox and his fellow scouts stated that the United States flag is a symbol of our nation. The seven red stripes and six white stripes represent the original 13 colonies that gave us liberty. The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of the brave men and women who were ready to die for their country. The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanli-



Jared Cox, Kris Knudson (behind Jared), Sabastian Ruiz, Joseph Giannone, Michael Andretta, Ricky Grootveld, Kolbe Jones, and Vincent Giannone

ness of purpose, thought, word, and deed. The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens. The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union.

When you next gaze up at our beautiful "Red, White and Blue," think of the true meaning of our lovely flag.

Collier County Emergency Management, continued from page 8



The Emergency Operations Center, October, 2005

coordinated manner. Many county departments and outside organizations had to step-up their efforts to cover for deficiencies

or shortfalls from national or federal organizations that simply were out of capacity due to the cost and on-going efforts

with Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, earlier in the year.

In closing, please understand that while Wilma made her mark in the history books in Collier County, we were very lucky and extremely fortunate. We experienced only light to moderate storm surge overall as a county, making for a simpler recovery process. We ask you to please use your experience from Hurricane Wilma as the base for your future individual and family emergency planning and be well aware that the next event may pose additional challenges and greater inconveniences.

Trustee Me

by Howard J Jordan, CFP®, AAMS

Vice President Investments, Raymond James and Associates

People of all shapes and sizes are establishing trusts. Credit shelter trusts, marital trusts, generation skipping trusts, life insurance trusts, charitable remainder trusts and living trusts are just a few examples of trusts that are in use today. All of these trusts have at least one thing in common – you need a trustee for all of them. The trustee plays an absolutely critical role in whether the trust will be successful. The question is, who should be the trustee?

Before answering the question, let's take a quick look at trusts. A trust is a written agreement between the **grantor** (sometimes called a settlor or trustor) and the **trustee**. Under a trust agreement, the grantor transfers cash and/or assets to the trustee and gives the trustee instructions regarding the distribution of the income and principal of the trust to the **beneficiaries**. The trustee is a fiduciary who must follow the instructions of the grantor with respect to the investment of trust assets and all distributions.

There are three types of trustees; professional, semi-professional, and amateur. Professional trustees are usually corporations who are engaged in the business of acting as a trustee for hire. Bank trust departments and independent

trust companies are the most common examples of professional trustees. Semi-professional trustees are typically professional advisors like attorneys and accountants. These individuals have some, but perhaps not all of the technical knowledge of a full-time professional trustee. However, they may have a long-standing relationship with the grantor and his/her family.

Amateur trustees include any individual who acts as a trustee on a part-time, infrequent basis. Appointing yourself, your spouse, your child, your brother-in-law, the doctor or most other family and non-family members typically means that you have appointed an amateur trustee. No one type of trustee is always right for every situation. Like any other aspect of financial planning, choosing a trustee involves weighing relative advantages and disadvantages and it should be done with the help of a lawyer.

Professional trustees do offer expertise in trust law, income taxes, investments and a variety of other topics that relate to trusts. Professional trustees also have staffs that can provide grantors and beneficiaries with various reporting services. There is very little risk of fraud when dealing with a corporate trustee and a corporate trustee won't

die or become incapacitated. Professional trustees can also be expensive. In addition, the quality of service varies widely from institution to institution and even among branches of the same institution.

Semi-professional and amateur trustees share many of the same advantages and disadvantages, although perhaps to a different degree. On the plus side, they may be more “in tune” with the grantor's wishes and the personal needs of the beneficiaries. They may waive some or all of the fee to which they are entitled. There are, of course, negatives as well. Semi-professional and amateurs are part-time trustees. They may lack the skills necessary in complex situations. They are also subject to the human frailties of injury, sickness, death and dishonesty. There is no one right answer for all situations. It pays to review your options carefully.

Of course, this brief article is no substitute for a careful consideration of all of the advantages and disadvantages of this matter in light of your unique personal circumstances. Before implementing any significant tax or financial planning strategy, contact your financial planner, attorney or tax advisor as appropriate.

Supervisor of Elections Office Completes Student Elections for SSYRA & FRA

by Cyndi Young, Collier County Elections Office

During March and April, the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office partnered with 13 middle and elementary schools, four more than last year, to conduct student elections for the Sunshine State Young Readers Awards (SSYRA) Program and the Florida Reader Awards Program (FRA).

Since 2003, The Supervisor of Elections Office has partnered with the schools by taking an active role to conduct these elections by providing students an opportunity to vote for their favorite book on the iVotronic touch screen voting machines. Over 2,700 eligible pre-kindergarten through the 8th grade students voted for their favorite book, a 39% increase in participation over last year's program.

From Lely Elementary School 95 3rd-5th grade students voted, from Tommie Barfield Elementary 313 3rd-5th graders voted and from Manatee Elementary 129 3rd-5th grade students and 516 K-2nd grade students voted.

On Election Day, several students are selected to work as poll workers during their school's election. The students receive training and are given poll worker visors so they are easily identified as poll workers for their school's student election. Students work the polls as registration inspectors, ballot activators and poll deputies.

"Besides the obvious benefits students receive from reading, they also learn about the election process and how important and easy it is to vote with this

hands-on approach to the electoral process. After voting, students receive an official "I Voted Sticker" and an activity book about the voting process, noted Cyndi Young, Education Coordinator for the Supervisor of Elections Office.

"We believe it's important to involve students in the democratic process by familiarizing them with the ease of voting and what to expect on Election Day," said Jennifer J. Edwards, Supervisor of Elections.

"Our participation not only helps prepare these future voters but has tempted even the most reluctant child to read for an opportunity to take part in the voting process," she added.

For more information, contact the Elections office at (239) 774-8450.

Profile of the Marco Island Voter

There are 13,357 registered Marco Island voters:*

<i>Democrats</i>	<i>2,415</i>	<i>NPA (No Party Affiliation)</i>	<i>1,884</i>
<i>Republicans</i>	<i>8,072</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>986</i>

In the Marco Island City election held on March 14, 2006:

<i>Number of Eligible Voters</i>	<i>13,207</i>
<i>Number of Ballots Cast</i>	<i>6,443</i>
<i>Voter Turnout</i>	<i>48.78%.</i>

**As of April 30, 2006*

Cafe de Marco

*Fresh
Seafood
since 1983*

244 Palm Street, Olde Marco
Reservations please 394-6262

Your Home, Our Home

by Howard Montgomery, President of Marco Community Bank

Feeling good about home is a pretty universal characteristic. From the stickers on our cars to our annual “Main Street” parades, Americans declare their love for where they live. In many ways this attachment to our geography defines us and makes us feel connected to something greater than ourselves.

But pride of place takes on an entirely different meaning when it comes to Marco Island. What we truly love about Marco —what draws us to her day after day, year after year, then holds us so close—is something much deeper. You could call it her personality...her heart...her soul.



Earlier this month, I was invited to share some of my thoughts about Marco Island from my vantage point as the President of Marco Community Bank. It is not difficult to talk about our home. Physically, we share our facilities on San Marco Road with the Marco Island Civic Association. This is not just happenstance. Beginning with our formation over three years ago, we have recognized the value of working closely with such a fine organization that contributes so much to the heart and soul of the Island.

For many, MICA is the place you go to pick-up a beach pass. Yes, Residents’ Beach is a wonderful facility. We are proud to have participated in the recent improvements at the Beach with the installation of one of our ATMs.

As a banker serving Southwest Florida some 25 years ago, I had an occasion to be taught a valuable lesson in community service by one of our bank presidents. His name was Ben Turner. At the time, Ben was the President and CEO of University Federal in Coral

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**It is the VETERAN, not the preacher,
Who has given us freedom of religion.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us freedom to assemble.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote.**

**It is the VETERAN,
Who salutes the Flag,**

**It is the VETERAN,
Who serves under the Flag,**

And it's the VETERAN who is buried under the Flag.

**Eternal rest grant them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**



Meet the South Florida Water Management District & Big Cypress Basin

by *Judy Haner, Intergovernmental and Public Outreach Specialist*

A home-brewed pot of morning coffee and a quick drive to the grocery store probably don't get you thinking about water management. Yet you benefited from it in many ways. From the flowing tap at your kitchen sink to the well-drained roadways throughout your city, water management smoothed your way. Even the green lawns and the protected wetlands you may have driven by are there because of careful water management.

Who provides this vital service? Most directly, it is local water utilities and public works organizations in your city. But who works behind the scenes, keeping the water flowing for them? That's the job of the South Florida Water Management District. This government agency takes on the many tasks of managing water in a 16-county region that stretches from Orlando to the Florida Keys and from Naples to Miami.

Carol Wehle, executive director, describes the District's commitment to carrying out its broad mission. "Our agency works around the clock to meet the water needs of 7 million people, thousands of businesses—including vast agricultural lands—and various habitats and ecosystems in the natural environment," Wehle said.

With responsibilities much broader in scope than a local water utility, the District addresses water issues at the regional level, managing flows in South Florida's



primary rivers, lakes, canals, wetlands and estuaries. An important part of this responsibility is providing essential flood control, working with local and county facilities to quickly and safely move water in storm-related emergencies. During a drought, the agency manages limited available water supplies and calls for region-wide conservation efforts.

The District also protects water quality with pollution prevention requirements and ongoing monitoring programs. Additionally, the agency safeguards the natural environment, including a partnership with the federal government to revitalize the Everglades ecosystem. "All

of these tasks are accomplished with public involvement and a commitment to public service" said Wehle.

That's a lot to think about during a trip to the grocery store.

Yet managing water is only part of what this agency provides. By monitoring water quality, depths and flow in lakes, rivers, canals and wetlands, District scientists continue to gain deeper knowledge about the region's unique ecological needs. By bringing land into public ownership, long-term restoration projects can move forward. By constructing new pump stations, water storage sites and wastewater reuse systems, the District stays prepared to meet the needs

Continued on page 14

Nancy Dowdall
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Meet the South Florida Water Management District, continued from page 13

of South Florida's rapidly growing population.

Big Cypress Basin is the local arm of the South Florida Water Management District in Collier County and strives to:

- Inform the public of water resource issues, programs and policies;
- Formulate plans for the conservation, preservation and development of water resources;
- Fund acquisition and construction of Basin works to improve water resource management;
- Conduct efficient operation and maintenance activities; and
- Assist other entities' efforts in the management of water resources.

The primary landscape of the Basin is a patchwork of swamps, marshes, and sloughs that recharge aquifers relied upon for both urban and rural water supplies. The rapid urban growth in Collier County, and



resulting stresses on water and environmental resources, have required effective planning, operation, and maintenance to ensure the protection and sustainability of water resources for the long-term.

The Basin is currently responsible for operating and maintaining 169 miles of primary canals and 46 water control structures, which serve to provide storage and drainage of surface water. The Basin is also involved in developing short-term and long-range plans for efficient management of the water

resources, as well as providing capital improvements to the canals and structures.

In addition to its drainage and storage responsibilities, the Basin is involved in water conservation, education and awareness programs, and local government assistance through numerous resource protection and enhancement projects across Collier County. Rapid growth in Collier County and its municipalities results in an ongoing need to educate local leaders, businesses and residents on the District and Basin programs and priorities. From community events to leadership programs to discussions with local civic associations, the Basin works at all levels to promote water conservation, explain restoration projects, advance water supply alternatives with local governments and develop partnerships to further support the Basin's goals and objectives.

In South Florida's subtropical climate, water management can indeed be challenging. With wet and dry seasons, hurricanes and periodic droughts, extreme conditions may seem like the norm. "Fortunately," said Wehle, "after 57 years of ongoing service, the South Florida Water Management District knows what it takes to keep South Florida's feet dry, its thirst quenched and its natural areas protected."

For more information about the South Florida Water Management District, visit www.sfwmd.gov

Marco Island Water Restrictions

EVEN Numbered Addresses
Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday
12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for
irrigation systems

ODD Numbered Addresses
Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for
irrigation systems

New landscaping or sod may be watered for 60 days from planting Monday through Friday, 12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for irrigation systems

Remember, Fridays are Dry Days

Attorney's Advice — No Charge

Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice! A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company.

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel if need be. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed by stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.
5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important of all:
7. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact if your wallet, etc., has been stolen:

1. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
2. Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
3. TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
4. Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

High School Students:

*Get Your Volunteer Hours
(and a suntan) at the Beach!*

Volunteers needed to help with Children's Games -
July Fourth at Residents' Beach.

Please call Ruth at the MICA office at 239-642-7778 for further info.

Jim Hughes

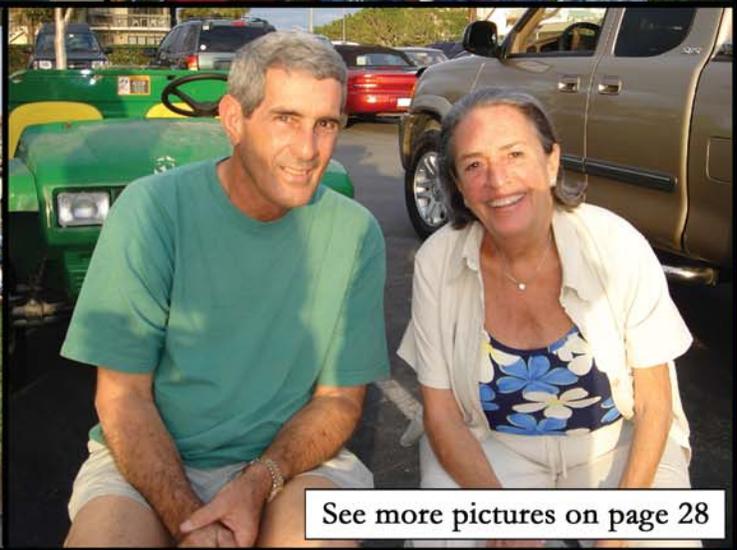
ELECTRIC CO. Inc.
Custom Service

394-7314



Robert
Sessions Pavilion
Grand Opening!
March 12th, 2006





See more pictures on page 28

They Paved Paradise and Put Up a Parking Lot

by Gina Blassneck

*This article appeared in the Marco Island Sun Times on February 23, 2006,
and is reprinted with permission of the Sun Times and Gina Blassneck.*

I was listening to the remake of the song mentioned in this headline while driving to Orlando for the annual YMCA state swim finals. It doesn't have the same appeal that Joni Mitchell gave it, but it did make me think of our own island that I consider paradise.

Don't get me wrong – I love Marco Island. It is my home. However, just like the newer version of the song, the island is beginning to lose some of its original appeal from when I first laid eyes on it seven years ago.

I'm slightly sad, because I left the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan city life to slow down and enjoy what is – or maybe was – “Marco Island Time.”

Marco Island Time, as I call it, is where one takes life easy because you don't need to rush to get where you are going. You leave when you want to. Because, what the heck, tomorrow is just another beautiful day in paradise. You could get to wherever you want on the island in five minutes, because that's just the way it is.

Now, you need to plan where you are going, even if it's Publix. A trip around the island has gone from five minutes to half an hour. You have to leave early from where you are, because currently you have to fight traffic

to even get back on the island. (Lest we forget the perils of route 951?) Just like the game of dodgeball, you dodge, duck, dive and dip against all the construction delays, detours, back ups and new traffic lights. (New traffic lights? Since when does a little island need so many traffic lights?) I don't want to make room for more traffic by widening roads – turning them into highways – and adding more stop signs. I want traffic to go away! I want this to be known as “the island that remains an island” because you have to take little goat paths to get to the Snook Inn.

Yuk! I don't like all this density. Just because our island is listed as a city doesn't mean we have to turn into a metropolis! I want it to be quaint, serene and peaceful. I want to breathe in the salt air from the gulf, not the fumes from all the traffic. I want to feel the cool breeze from the water, not the whoosh from passing traffic. I want to go to my favorite coffee shops and not have to worry that there is nowhere to park. I have to park at NeNe's to get a cup of coffee at Empire Bagel! Gee, where do the folks from NeNe's park with the overflow from Empire Bagel?

Okay, so now I'm thinking I

want a new island. A real island like the one that hosted the triathlon I competed in late last year. I believe this little slice of real paradise is called Boca Grande. It had that island feel – a quiet little town with a beautiful park and community center, a residential beach with a lighthouse, a cobblestone main street complete with antique shops, privately-owned dress shops and a little local diner. If you wanted to shop – that includes major food shopping – you needed to travel off the island almost back to the main drag to get what you needed. Unspoiled, untouched and beautifully maintained, a place where you can walk the dog, ride your bike and pick up the local paper without worrying about getting side-swiped by oncoming traffic. I dream of looking at property up there for a “get away” place. Hopefully, there is a cottage house left to buy “as is,” not as a “knock down.” (Why take away from the island's charm?)

The only thing that could possibly be better – and I think that you could all agree – is if our little slice of paradise could stay the way it was when we all first saw it. We realize that progress must happen, but we

Continued on page 27

The 2006 National Safe Boating Campaign

by Tony Saputo, Public Affairs Officer,
US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 95

National Safe Boating Week is an annual campaign to inform recreational boaters about the importance of wearing a life jacket. Boating accident statistics show that wearing a life jacket is the number one thing you can do to greatly increase your chances of surviving a boating accident. Because accidents happen so quickly, there is rarely enough time to locate one and put one on to survive an accident. Coast Guard statistics show that 85% of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets, even though life jackets were aboard.

Many boaters assume that all life jackets are the same. There are many different types of life jackets, each with its own special purpose and limitations. During this year's campaign which took place on May 20 at the Coast Guard Auxiliary station, located in Caxambas Park from 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM, all participating organizations (Marco Island Police and Fire departments,

Marco Civil Air Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Marco Sail and Power Squadron, the Coast Guard and West Marine) reiterated the purpose and limitations of each type of life jacket. The federal and state regulations were also reviewed. There were life jacket demonstrations, door prizes, refreshments, an opportunity to talk with the members of the different organizations, handouts on how to secure your boat for a hurricane and many other safe boating brochures. The National Safe Boating Campaign actually runs from May 20th -26th, but the principals of wearing a life jacket apply at all times!

"You're In Command" is the US Coast Guard's new public safe boating outreach initiative that encourages all recreational boaters to take responsibility for their actions on the water as boat owners or operators.

Wearing a life jacket saves lives, boater education saves lives, safe boats save lives and sober boating saves lives.

**Remember,
Boat Smart.
Boat Safe.**

Wear A Life Jacket!

Families First

Families First of Southwest Florida is looking for volunteers to help with children's activities on Saturdays once a month.

Families First is a local charity serving children with disabilities and their families. Volunteers are needed to help children with special needs and their siblings with arts and crafts, playing games and serving lunch/snack.

If you are looking for a community service project, we have a great way for you to connect with your neighbors in need. Please consider volunteering your time individually, with a friend and/or family member, or as a group. If you have any special interests that you'd like to share, such as musical talents or scrapbooking, we can arrange an activity for you and the children. The organization is also in need of financial support for the program, and donations are tax deductible.

For more information, please call Sheryl at 239-690-2900. Thank you!



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Introducing Dana Souza

by Ruth McCann

Dana Souza is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Marco Island. Under his direction, the department has gone from a one person division in the Finance Department to a multi-dimensional and full-service Parks and Recreation Department, befitting a city like Marco Island.

Dana has worked in municipal government for 22 years. Before arriving on Marco Island, he held director positions in New Bedford, Massachusetts; Union, New York; and Portland, Maine. Much of his work in these communities focused on developing strong Parks and Recreation Departments from agencies that suffered from poor identity following internal problems. In each community, his work has also focused on developing long-term master plans for park facilities. He has significant experience in historic park preservation and restoration and a solid track record in building sound employee and community relations.

While Dana has responsibility for Mackle Park and all recreation



programs, he also oversees Leigh Plummer Park, Jane Hittler Park, the Winterberry ball field, the Racquet Center, and the tennis courts at Tommie Barfield Elementary School. He also works with various city committees, such as Beautification, Parks & Recreation, and the Arts Advisory Committee.

Veterans Community Park, which most residents know as “the Glon Property,” will soon be cleared and the public will be asked to share their thoughts in developing a long-term plan. In the interim, McGee & Associates is preparing a temporary design for the waterfront lots so that the public can begin to enjoy the property.

Jane Hittler Park on North Collier Boulevard, which suffered some damage from Hurricane Charlie in 2004 and further damage from Hurricane Wilma in 2005, will receive an overhaul once construction is complete along that area of North Collier Boulevard.

An accomplishment Dana is extremely proud of is “Kids Cove”

at Mackle Park, the playground designed by the children of Marco Island and built by approximately 900 community volunteers in March 2005. The proposed children’s water spray park is temporarily stalled due to lack of bids, however, Dana is confident that it will be built, perhaps by sub-contracting portions of the project directly. With the summer heat on Marco, a spray park, which will feature a filter system similar to that of a swimming pool’s, thereby recycling water, will be a welcome addition to the playground.

Dana Souza studied Public Administration at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. He has received various awards for park planning and landscaping and has served on several boards including the Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Committee and the New York Parks and Recreation Association. He lives in Naples with his wife Kara and children Cullan and Michael.

Approximately 100 fence pickets surrounding the playground are available for purchase at a cost of \$20 each. The pickets will be engraved with your name, your grandchild’s name, etc. Please contact Mackle Park at 239-642-1666 if you’d like further information.

Tigertail Beach – Marco Island’s Wild Paradise

by Charlette Roman, President, Friends of Tigertail

After years of anticipation, the Great Florida Birding Trail is complete. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) unveiled the final segment of the trail on January 14 at a groundbreaking ceremony at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

The newly unveiled south section features 116 sites and winds through 12 counties in South Florida. Marco’s own Tigertail Beach made the cut in what was described as a competitive selection process. According to Victor Heller, Assistant Executive Director for the FWC, nearly a thousand quality bird-watching sites were



Photo by Beverly Anderson

Aerial of the TT Beach & Sand Dollar area pre-Hurricane Wilma 2005. Photo by Beverly Anderson, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

submitted for consideration.

Here’s the description of Tigertail Beach from the new trail guide:

“One of the best all-around

birding spots in southwest Florida. The tidal lagoon at the “beach” offers great views of shorebirds including Wilson’s, piping and snowy plovers, as well as least terns, roseate spoonbills, red knots, and a host of other sought-after species. Peregrine falcons ply their trade among the terns and gulls, while osprey, bald eagles, and pelicans dive offshore. This corner of Marco Island is a true “hotspot” during migrations, and rarities occur here often. When visiting this site, be aware that the actual shoreline beyond the lagoon is a state-owned critical wildlife area designed to protect the nesting colonies of some of the species of concern mentioned here. Please respect all beach closings and practice good

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Photo by Beverly Anderson

*A Black Skimmer chick in the foreground blends in with the sand.
Photo by Beverly Anderson, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*

Tigertail, continued from page 21

birding etiquette.”

On March 4, in a special celebration at Tigertail Beach, the City of Marco Island issued a proclamation recognizing the remarkable ecosystem which makes Tigertail such a magnificent birding habitat. The proclamation also lauded the volunteers of the Friends of Tigertail, who in partnership with city, county, and state organizations, have provided stewardship and education to foster community appreciation and understanding of this local treasure.

Sand Dollar Spit

As part of barrier island dynamics, sand is continually being moved and reshaped within the shallow Gulf waters. Formed initially as a sand bar, Sand Dollar technically became a spit when it attached to the Marco Island shoreline.

Sand Dollar was designated as a Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1988 and is protected by law because the sandy beaches, dunes, and mudflats, provide valuable nesting, resting and feeding grounds for over 60 species of migratory and resident coastal birds. In 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Sand Dollar critical habitat for the Piping Plover, a species which is considered Endangered or Threatened throughout both their breeding and wintering ranges.

Migratory Birds

Each fall thousands of shorebirds make their annual migration from distant nesting grounds on the tundra of Canada and Alaska – high above the arctic circle – to spend the winter months at warmer spots as far away as southern South America. In the spring they repeat the long, arduous journey in reverse. Much like our human snowbirds!

En route, exhausted migrants stop at Sand Dollar beach and Tigertail lagoon for both food and a brief rest before continuing their travels. A variety of birds gather in the lagoon to feed. These shorebirds use stored fat as energy and need to feed frequently to refuel. The Tigertail lagoon hosts a complex food web for birds with bills of different shapes and sizes to eat during this stop on the migration superhighway.

Nesting Birds

As our wintering visitors head north in the spring, four species of nesting birds, the Black Skimmer, Least Tern, Snowy Plover and Wilson’s Plover, gather to begin laying their eggs. This transition has already begun on Sand Dollar Spit.

As the birds begin nesting, sea turtles are traveling to our beach to lay their eggs. In fact, the first sea turtle nest of the season was found on Monday, May 1, on Sand Dollar Spit by Mary Nelson, “the turtle lady.”

Least Terns, a Threatened Species in Florida, nest on open sandy beach in the CWA during

this time of year through August. Least Terns lay two to three eggs in a shallow scrape they make in the sand. These birds are easily frightened and disturbance may cause the parent to abandon nests. Without the parents, the eggs and chicks are vulnerable and exposed to the blazing sun.

The latest census conducted the end of April by Ted Below, Avian Ecologist, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, recorded 617 adult Least Terns with 189 scrapes. One nest had three eggs; most of the other nests had at least one egg.

According to Below, nesting activity was spread out on the northern end of the spit but some nests were south of where the two spits separate. South of the split were 150 Black Skimmers that were pairing up and another 595 Black Skimmers roosting near the water along the north lagoon. Black Skimmers, a Species of Special Concern, are year-round residents of SW Florida and nest from May through August. Nests are simple scrapes in the sand just above the high water mark. The normal clutch is three to five eggs. Black Skimmers often nest in mixed colonies with Least Terns.

Snowy Plovers, a Threatened Species, live in Florida year round and also nest on Sand Dollar. Among the runners in the shorebird world, this bird moves rapidly across the sand of the same color and can be lost in plain sight. Their chicks

Hurricane Season is Upon us Again!

What should you do if you are in the unfortunate position of experiencing damage as a result of a hurricane, fire or flood?

“Dealing With a Property Insurance Claim” is a comprehensive article written by Michael D. Baril, owner of Baril Construction, Inc., a restoration and remodeling company located on Marco Island. You can view the in-depth article on MICA’s website, www.marcocivic.com. We encourage you to read Mr. Baril’s piece which will guide you through the insurance claim process. You will learn the importance of hiring a professional public insurance adjuster, why some claims get rejected, and how to protect yourself from rejection of your claim.

The article also stresses the importance of preparing for a loss prior to hurricane season by keeping an inventory, photographs and videotape of your property and contents. Intricate record keeping following any loss is also very important for

your claim. Learn what you will need to do to protect yourself and ensure you have fulfilled your obligations as a client of an insurance provider. Please log onto MICA’s website and discover the many details of an insurance claim.

It’s all about Attitude....

- A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug – Patricia Neal
- Patience is the companion of wisdom. – Saint Augustine
- The greatest discovery of my generation is that man can alter his life simply by altering his attitude of mind. – James Truslow Adams

Tigertail, continued from page 21
can run just a few hours after they hatch but depend on their parents for food and shelter until they can fly at about 30 days.

The number of Wilson’s Plovers has decreased sharply since 1980. These birds prefer running to flying and often make a shallow scrape nest near a piece of driftwood, a clump of grass or other objects. Their “big bill” is used to capture fiddler crabs along the mudflats, a favorite food.

The other night while visiting the lagoon, I observed many Least Terns catching small fish and a Wilson’s Plover running into large groups of fiddler crabs, snapping up several tasty morsels.

Birdwatching

Tigertail Beach is truly a special place rarely found in today’s modern world. This new distinction as one of Florida’s premiere birding sites is something we can all be proud of.

According to “Florida Trend Magazine,” bird-watching is becoming more popular as Baby Boomers age. An estimated one in four people lists bird watching as a hobby according to national figures yet, this 46 million Americans and an uncounted number of foreign birders are not widely recognized by traditional tourist destinations. The 2000-mile Great Florida Birding

Trail is a conservation tool, fueled by the expanding popularity of bird-watching. There is both an educational as well as economic benefit to protecting this unique natural environment.

Each member of the community shares in the stewardship of Marco’s “hotspot” on the Great Florida Birding Trail to ensure future generations of our citizens will be able to view its amazing diversity of shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds.

How you can help

You can help by practicing positive birding etiquette while enjoying the beach: avoid closed posted areas and encourage

Continued on page 25



On Feb. 7, 2006 Kristine Levasseur and William Davis II were joined in holy matrimony on the Residents' Beach on Marco Island at sunset. Approximately 60 guests attended a reception at The Olde Marco Inn. The couple honeymooned in the Bahamas for one week and will reside in Palm Coast, Florida

**Welcome New
Members of the MICA
Discount Program!**

<p>Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning 642-0092</p> <p>Sea Tow Marco Island 394-1188</p>	<p>Cost Cutters Town Center 642-1115</p> <p>Under the Roof Inc. <small>Lic #CGC1504200</small> \$200 off all reroofs 289-5165</p>
---	---

Marco Island business owners wishing to join the MICA Members Only Discount Program may call Ruth McCann for more information at 239-642-7778

July 4TH Celebration!!

*Members, please join in the festivities at the
Marco Island
Residents' Beach*

12-9 p.m.

DJ Music

2-5 p.m.

Games/Patriotic
Swimsuit Contest

3 p.m.

Sandcastle
Contest Judging

9 p.m.

Fireworks Display

Food, Ice Cream, Soda,
Water, Beer & Wine
will be available for purchase

As this event is for members
only, please remember to
**bring your
photo identification
in order to gain entry.**

*Also be reminded:
NO GLASS OR
PERSONAL FIREWORKS
permitted!*



Re-Introducing “The Snack Shack”

by Amy Lypen

There have been so many new additions to our Residents’ Beach this year. We have a beautiful new pavilion with an expanded kitchen and dining area, as well as a new baby.

We wanted to let everyone know that we are open all year long, weather permitting! There is an extensive breakfast menu, ranging from omelets to bagels and muffins. There is definitely no better view from which to enjoy your coffee and breakfast. Where else can you dine while watching your children on the playground or having a cup of coffee and reading the paper after an invigorating walk down Marco’s beautiful beach?

During the summer we are open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with breakfast served until 11 a.m. There is a daily special and a wide range of lunch items, not just the usual hamburgers and hot dogs, although those are always available. We have salad plates, half sandwiches and salads, coconut shrimp, and a



variety of grilled cheeses. We hope you will remember us on your lunch hour or half for the fast service and the small break away from the office! The fresh air is good for you!

If you have not been to this sandy oasis in a while, you are encouraged to take a rest from the daily routine and come visit us. We are looking forward to seeing our local members this summer and getting to know you better.

From the staff of The Snack Shack, we thank all of our returning, faithful customers and the new ones, too, for your patronage. On a final note, we

thought you’d enjoy seeing a recent picture of our newest (and cutest!) beach member, AJ.



Tigertail, continued from page 23
others to do the same; enjoy the birds but please keep your distance – if birds appear agitated and take flight or swoop down at you...they’re trying to tell you that you are too close; never intentionally flush or force birds to fly – repeated disturbances cause birds to waste valuable energy reserves or leave nests to bake in the sun;

observe no-wake zones with personal watercraft along shorelines; share what you’ve learned about our local treasure with a friend or neighbor and report any violations of the Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) postings or lagoon to the Marco Police, 389-5050 or if no answer call 911.

Violations of City Ordinances and State Law include dogs on the beach, personal watercraft

traveling at fast speeds in no-wake zones along the shoreline, which includes inside the lagoon, and people violating the posted areas.

Educational birding posters of this area are available on request for local businesses or condos.

For more information visit www.FriendsofTigertail.com, or to download the new South Florida Trail Guide, visit www.GreatFloridaBirdingTrail.com

Your Home, continued from page 12
 Gables. University Federal was a savings and loan association dedicated to the communities that surrounded the University of Miami, thus the name. From time to time Ben would visit Southwest Florida, always seeming to have a luncheon appointment or doing something related to students. As life happens, Ben retired from banking and shortly thereafter, passed away in his sleep. One could not help but notice that the first rows of the church during Ben's funeral celebration were occupied by young men and women who seemed to be outside Ben's family yet, in some way, very much a part of Ben. As we all came to know during the service, the young men and women were all graduates of colleges and universities and who had a unique relationship with Ben, a relationship known only to Ben and those young men and women. Perhaps you have guessed the relationship as Ben was the financial support for their individual college educations. Ben once told me that sometimes community service is not so much about what a community knows, as about what the community does not know.

When I think of MICA and the many "unseen" contributions they make to our community, it is difficult not to remember Ben's comment to me. They truly do far more for Marco Island than we will ever know.

Early in our existence as a bank, we developed a VIP package of banking services for

How To Get Your MICA Membership For Free!

by Ruth McCann

The Marco Island Civic Association founded its "Members Only" Discount Program almost ten years ago. What began with a handful of businesses participating has now blossomed into a very successful membership program with more than 100 businesses offering a percentage off of their services or products.

We urge you to take advantage of this wonderful member benefit. When your grout or rugs need to be cleaned, consult the Discount Program list and call Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning. Clothing or bedding to be dropped off for dry cleaning? There are two dry cleaners on the island that want to give you a 10% discount – Cache Dry Cleaners and Dry Clean & More. If you're considering pool service companies, consider Crystal Blue Pools and Islander

Pool & Patio. Need something for the four-legged member of your family? Don't forget Critter Café and Island Pet Sitters. There are a number of top-rated restaurants that are waiting to serve you a delectable meal. Don't keep them waiting!

The list of services and items offered under the umbrella of the MICA "Members Only" Discount Program is too numerous to list each and every one here, but if you turn to page 30 you can scan the entire list. Keep in mind that each time you use your discount card, you are reimbursing yourself a portion of your annual membership fee. After a few trips to the store or out to eat and your MICA membership cost you nothing!

Sounds good to me!

MICA members. It includes a number of free services, special rates and promotions. Central to the VIP package is a special no fee checking account and a no annual fee VISA credit card. It could be one of the best kept secrets about the benefits of MICA membership.

As the President of Marco Community Bank I invite you to

bank with us and experience our bank's personality and our commitment to Marco Island through products and services designed with Marco Island in mind. You see, our goal is to not just talk about being a community bank but to be Marco Island's Community Bank. After all, Community is our middle name.

They Paved Paradise,
continued from page 18
 are not – and don't want to be –
 a Miami or Los Angeles.

A little side note: Let's have a big "thank you" to the nice folks at MICA. If it wasn't for them maintaining the beautiful spot of land called Residents' Beach (for a nominal yearly fee – it costs more to go out for dinner at a restaurant), we wouldn't have what is left of our paradise. It would be filled with more condos and hotels.

That seems like the only piece of paradise that hasn't been busted wide open, littered or paved and turned into a parking lot.

Gina Blassneck is the senior program director at the Marco Island YMCA. She has been in the recreation field for 23 years. You can reach Gina at ginablassneck@earthlink.net.

High School Students:

*Get Your Volunteer Hours
 (and a suntan) at the Beach!*

Volunteers needed to help with Children's Games -
 July Fourth at Residents' Beach.

Please call Ruth at the MICA office at
 239-642-7778 for further info.

Remember.....

No Glass at the Beach!

Marco Island Princess



Marco's Most Unique Waterfront Dining Experience

Daily Narrated Eco/Sightseeing Cruises,
 Lunch & Dinner Cruises and
 our famous Gulf Sunset Cruises

Enjoy the air conditioned salons
 or open air upper deck

Great for birthday parties
 weddings... any occasion!

SAILING DAILY FROM MARCO RIVER MARINA



SUNSHINE TOURS



Backcountry Fishing

Private & Shared Charters

Offshore Fishing

Island Shelling

Gift Certificates Available

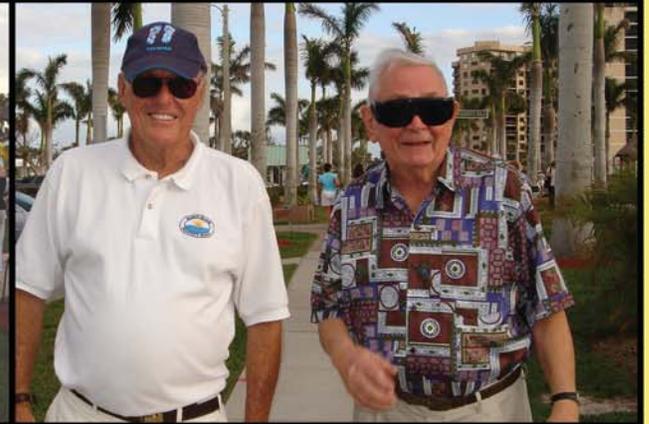
FOR RESERVATIONS & INFO CALL 642-5415

Look for the Sunshine Tours "Chickee Hut"
 or visit our website at www.sunshinetoursmarcoisland.com



Robert
Sessions Pavilion
Grand Opening!
March 12th, 2006





MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION "MEMBERS ONLY" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The following businesses would like to say "thank you" and are extending a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members who present their MICA membership cards AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. These discounts are not valid with any other offers and are at the discretion of each business. Discounts are for MICA & Residents' Beach members' purchases only.

A. Pinto Self Storage

10% off self storage rental fee & 10% off document shredding
994 N Barfield Drive, Unit 23
394-1822

Airboat Experience

Base of Goodland Bridge,
642-3141

Always There Home Health Care

After first month of service, deduct 5% discount on weekly billing. Not to be combined with other offers.
317 N Collier Blvd #201,
389-0170

Angelica's Boutique

Latest fashion in clothing & accessories including handbags, costume jewelry, shawls, sunglasses, belts, etc.
Your styles at your price!
681 S Collier Blvd. 394-6632

Dr. Constance Aria

Licensed Psychologist
997 N Collier Blvd, Suite D
Royal Palm Mall, 394-5599

Autocraft

5% off non-insurance repairs
Present card prior to estimate being prepared
754 Elkcam Circle, 642-5309

Avon by Judy & Lucinda

10% Discount, 642-0297

Balloon Dreams & Party Themes

850 Bald Eagle Drive-Lanai Plaza
642-9698

Beachworks

10% off excluding sale items
Marco Town Center Mall, 642-7777

Beach Unlimited

1001 N Collier Blvd, 642-4888

Blue Marlin Marine Construction

10% off seawall inspections
418 S Barfield Drive, Suite A
642-4284

Jeffrey M. Bogan Insurance Agency, Inc.

15 % off annual premium for long term care
261-6533

Cache Dry Cleaners

666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

Carolyn's Personal Growth Ctr

Carolyn Katchmar, Counselor-
Marco Healthcare Center
40 Heathwood Drive, 394-1784

Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning

642-0092

Cedar Bay Marina

10% off boat rentals & .10/gal off fuel
705 E Elkcam Circle, 394-9333

Champions Pizza

10% off any Large Pizza
910 N Collier Blvd, 642-5662

China Rose Florist

10% off fresh flowers,
excluding out-of-town orders
678 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-6663

Cold Stone Ice Cream

\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake
Esplanade, 111 N Collier Blvd, 393-0046

Mai Cooley Cleaning

393-1727

Cost Cutters

Town Center, 1089 N Collier Blvd #434
642-1115

Critter Cafe

10% off all goods excluding dog & cat food
810 Bald Eagle Drive, 389-8488

Crystal Blue Pools

New customers take 10% off first
3 months' service
799 E Elkcam Circle, 394-8240

Dry Clean & More

Shops of Marco, 642-7222

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

10% off daily & weekly rates
Across from Texaco
717 Bald Eagle Drive #1C, 642-4488

GNC, General Nutrition Cntr

Shops of Marco, 642-3336

Georgie's & the Shoe Resort

Town Center Mall, 394-2621

Great Garage Doors

10% off tension spring repairs, 642-9050

Gulf American Marine Inc.

10% off parts
994 N Barfield Drive, Suite 4
642-9515

H.I. Studios, Ltd, Memorable Keepsakes

239-821-9458

Habitat for Humanity Home Store

11145 Tamiami Trail East, 732-6388

Holiday Rentals

10% off all crib rentals. 1759 San Marco Road
394-6349 or 1-800-472-4064

House of Mozart Restaurant

151 S Barfield Dr, 642-5220

Island Electronics, LLC Db a Marco Island Radio Shack

10% off any item in store
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5888

Island Pet Sitters

389-1837, 272-1659

Island Print Shop

10% off all printing-excludes copies & typesetting
11 Front Street, 642-0077

Islander Pool & Patio, Inc.

10% off patio accessories & pool toys
559 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-4844

JetSet Surf Shop

10% off everything except hardgoods
674 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-5544

Jewelry by Laura

at the Marriott Hotel, 394-2511

Joey's Pizza & Pasta House

10% off entree items. Dine in Only
257 N Collier Boulevard, 389-2433

Kahuna Sailing Catamaran

10% off all trips, including Dolphin Explorer & Sailing Club & School
1081 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-7704

Karisma

Pottery, jewelry, mixed media with an island flair, 389-0955
Marco Walk, 599 S Collier Blvd #315

Kid'n Around

An old fashioned kid's store
1089 N Collier Blvd, Town Center
389-0966

Konrad's Restaurant

Marco Walk, 642-3332

La Casita Restaurant

1817 San Marco Road, 642-7600

Laminate & Exotic Wood Floors of Naples

10% off hardwood flooring material
2348 J&C Blvd, Naples, 598-0913

Little Caesar's Pizza

10% discount off regular menu prices
911 N Collier Boulevard, 394-4422

Lotus Blossom Feng Shui Designs

10% discount on first consultation
404-0678

Maintain Domain, etc.

Joan Jennings, 394-1971

Marco Cat
Town Center Mall,
394-6944

Marco Community Bank
1770 San Marco Road,
389-5200

**Marco Island Fine Jewelry &
The Magic Dragon Gifts**
Jewelry & Fine Gifts
Town Center Mall,
394-3377

Marco Island Floor Covering
Special discounts vary from product to
product.
1711 San Marco Road, 394-1171

Marco Island Photography
10% off portrait sitting & finished portraits
"Portraits on the Beach" by Peter Berec
642-3500

Marco Island Princess
Marco River Marina, 642-5415

Marco Island Ski & Watersports, Inc
10% off their water sports activities at the
Marriott & Hilton Hotels, 394-4344

Marco Pool Service
10% off chemicals
812 Elkcam Circle, 394-3946

Marco Island Small Engine
10% off parts
47 Front Street #6, 389-0200

Marco River Marina
10% off retail goods-excluding
sale items & fuel
951 Bald Eagle Drive,
394-2502

Marco Tanning Salon, Inc.
20% off all products
1000 N Collier Blvd #13B, 642-3646

Marco Upholstery
10% off cornices & headboards, not to be
used with any other offers
919 N Collier Blvd, 394-8338

Margie's
Please present at time of purchase
137 South Barfield Drive
Shops of Marco,
389-4224

Mobile Tactics
20% off CCW & other private classes,
by apt
555 E Elkcam Circle,
866-662-4400

Ne Ne's Kitchen
10% off breakfast & lunch, dine-in only
356 North Collier Blvd, 394-3854

Nikken
10% off retail wellness products
651 S Collier Boulevard, 394-1580

Off The Hook Adventures
Sailing, Shelling, Sightseeing Charters
\$30 off half day sailing charter
& \$50 off full day sailing charter
239-571-HOOK

Optical Boutique of Marco
Marco Walk #309
642-4776

Chet Palys Screens
PO Box 801, Marco,
394-0310

Paradise Shrimp Company, Inc.
10% off all fresh, raw seafood
Not valid with other discounts.
721 Bald Eagle Drive,
394-3686

Prime Outlets
Discount pack at Management Office
1722 Isle of Capri Rd, Naples
775-8083

Roberto's Gourmet Coffee
Marco Town Center Mall
1031 N Collier Blvd,
394-8388

Rolsafe Shutters
10% off upgrades only
909 N Collier Blvd,
394-7489

Royal Palm Hair Studio, Inc.
10% off all hair products by Joico
& Paul Mitchell
981 N Collier Blvd,
394-7800

Sailmaker, Bronwen McKiever
20% off do-it-yourself Sunbrella cloths, vinyls
& cleaning products. "The only sailmaker
between Ft. Lauderdale & Sarasota"
350 Royal Palm Drive,
248-3169

The Sand Bar
10% off food. Regular menu items only
(please present card before ordering)
826 E Elkcam Circle
642-3625

Scubadventures
1141 Bald Eagle Drive,
389-7889

Sea Tow Marco Island
10% off Sea Tow membership
394-1188

Sealco of SW FL, Inc.
10% on any exterior repaint with premium
paint package,
642-0906

Shattuck Lawn & Landscape
New customers take 10% off
first 3 months service,
389-6244

Shells by Emily
The Resort Bldg, 651 S Collier Blvd
394-5575

Sherwin-Williams
15% off to MICA preferred customers
814 Bald Eagle Drive,
642-3236

Snook Inn Restaurant
10% off entire bill
1215 Bald Eagle Drive,
394-3313

Southern Comfort Air
10% off any repair or service work
107 North Sunset Drive,
642-6642

Southwest Marine
960 Chalmer Drive #101
394-4168

Summer Day Cafe
10% off vitamins
Town Center Mall, 394-8361

Suncoast Pools
594-9353

Sunrise Realty
Commission discount for MICA members
that Sunrise Realty represents
606 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-2054

Sunshine Books
10% off hardback books
1000 N. Collier Blvd. 394-5343
677 S. Collier Blvd. 393-0353

Tide Beachfront Bar & Grill
(at Apollo Beach Front)
900 S Collier Blvd, 389-0509

Tiny Tikes Treasures
247 N Collier Blvd 389-1868
4776 Radio Rd, Naples
417-2742

Townsend Retirement Services
10% off Long Term Care Insurance
650 Bald Eagle Drive
642-7299 or Toll Free 800-831-8328

Two By Faux Finishes
10% off master bathroom color wash
272-3090

Under the Roof Inc. Lic. #CGC1504200
\$200 off all reroofs
289-5165

Vantastic Tours
10% off up to 2 children's fares when each
child is accompanied by an adult.
394-7699

Walkers Marine
Parts & service discounted 10% to
customers in Walkers Marine computer
785 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-6764

A Sand Bar With Food & Drinks!

by Ruth McCann

As you enter the Sand Bar, you almost expect to hear “NORM” shouted in unison from the bar! Of course, I’m referring to the comfortable, friendly atmosphere that engulfs the Sand Bar and is so similar to one of America’s favorite all-time television bars, “Cheers.”

While the Sand Bar does have a large horseshoe-shaped bar, it’s likely that the outstanding food is a big draw to many on Marco Island. The 27 televisions, which include four big screens and even a TV in the men’s room, showing sports games via satellite continuously is definitely a draw. Arcade games, pool tables, and Buzztime or NTN Trivia games are other reasons residents head to the Sand Bar or maybe it’s the pickles on the bar and tables!

The Sand Bar is popular with locals year round. They feature two happy hours each day, 3 to 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to close. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served seven days per week and specials are listed on the huge blackboard. Monday through Friday they have a theme lunch and dinner as well; Friday is Mexican day, which is a favorite of many. No



surprise to anyone who’s ever tasted it, the Sand Bar’s number one seller is grouper, either on a sandwich or a platter. Their special one-pound lobster tail, burgers and Philly cheese steaks with French fries are cooked to perfection. You’re even welcome to bring in your own cleaned, fresh caught fish and they’ll cook it up for you and serve it with sides! In addition to food and drinks they also offer fun memorabilia for sale, such as t-shirts, hats, mugs, pitchers and hot sauces!

There is always something to keep you busy at the Sand Bar, besides eating! Each Thursday at 4 p.m. the Buzztime Trivia neighborhood league meets and

competes nationwide with other trivia players. They’ve recently been the national champions! A poker league played all season and a new pool league will soon be forming.

The Sand Bar’s casual, relaxed atmosphere also comes complete with familiar faces. The wait staff, bartenders and kitchen staff have been with the Sand Bar for years, so there are no strangers here! You can see some of the familiar faces on their new website, www.sandbarmarcoisland.com. The Sand Bar participates in the MICA Members Only Discount Program and is located behind Walker’s Marine at 826 East Elkcam Circle, 239-642-3625.

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204, Marco Island, FL 34145

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