

MICA*wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

Read by Over 20,000 Members

February 2015

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Burrowing Owls**

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www.marcocivic.com

President's Message

by Dick Adams, MICA President

The MICA Board of Directors has been involved in many activities during the past year in the furtherance of achieving the key mission for MICA.

The purpose of MICA is to assist in the general welfare and civic improvement on Marco Island and to advance the best interest of its citizens.

Some of MICA's key activities in the recent past include:

- Sponsor of City Council Town Hall Meetings;
- The largest contributor to the annual Fourth of July Fireworks display;
- Playing a major part in the city monthly beach clean ups, by offering personnel, beach vehicle, and dumpster facilities;
- Maintaining the beautiful Residents' Beach for our Marco Island resident members;
- Producing the MICAwave, a quality magazine to inform and educate residents;
- Producing beach concerts for the members of Residents' Beach;
- Each year the Association selects and honors its 'Humanitarian of the Year;'
- Made a major donation to Veterans Park;
- Contributed to the large American flag at the base of the Jolley Bridge;
- Conducted Candidate Forums for City Council Elections along with the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Realtors;
- Published a special edition of the MICAwave with questions and answers from City Council candidates for election; and
- Organized the free public seminar regarding the Affordable Healthcare Act for all of our community.

Two major accomplishments to serve the public as well as our membership that were completed during the summer of 2014, were the publication of the hurricane preparation guide and installation of the Thorguard lightning prediction system.

As we move forward, your board has become much more involved in community events by increasing visibility, taking on educational projects and working side-by-side with other organizations. We look forward to a very productive year.



*Dick Adams, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover photo by The Marco Review



News from Across the Bridge

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

It's a wonderful time of year and the weather is certainly cooperating! Yes, there are more cars on the road, but thank heavens they are coming to see us and enjoy our sun, water and fun. The traffic has been proceeding through the intersection of U.S. 41 E and 951/Collier Blvd. at a nice pace, even with all that construction going on, except for the 3 pm to 6 pm time frame. So plan your trips around that area for other times if at all possible.

The construction is addressing not only that intersection (remember, they are reconfiguring the intersection right now to be wider and to take out most of that "kink") but also widening U.S. 41 E to six lanes, and then four lanes from that intersection East. There will be no overpass built at this time (although when they build it in about 10 years, Collier Blvd. will fly over U.S.41), but this new construction will become a footprint for the future overpass. It has been stated that the project would be completed

by January 2016, but the construction workers are working at night and even on some weekends, so they are progressing faster than anticipated. Hopefully they will be finished before next season begins, depending on the summer weather, storms, winds, etc. The finished product will astound you I'm sure. Building and funding this road is by the County Transportation Dept. along with the State FDOT, and the FDOT is solely funding the U.S. 41 east widening. This project is huge and they are working faster than we had estimated.

As this construction moves along, a new shopping center will come out of the ground at the SE corner of 41/951. Stores already planned for that area are Steinmart, Marshalls, Ross, Pet Smart, Michaels, and Ulta, to name a few. Across the street at the Freedom Square Shopping Center, the plans are in place to start building a "Restaurant Row", and construction should begin later this year. We've all been looking for new restaurants closer to home. Well, here they come!

Another huge project that is in the making right now is the Reef Project. This project has been in the planning stage for two years, the team has been requesting and receiving cement construction material, then storing it at various staging locations around the county, but mainly at the county landfill. Once the permitting was completed, the plans fell into place, and the celebration began! Surely you've noticed all of those construction pipes and poles, etc. sitting on the County side of the Marco Bridge waiting to be loaded. Each day a barge is loaded with the material and then once the tide comes in (so that the barge is lifted high enough to move forward) the tug pushes it out about 10 miles to build the Reef. When finished there will be 36 reefs, and it will become the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere! There will be 6 reefs off of Marco, 6 reefs off of the City of Naples, and 6 reefs off of Vanderbilt Beach. They should be coming alive with growth within 6 months, and should be fully functional within two years. It is expected to "live" for over 500 years! This project should bring a new scuba diving industry to Collier County, plus encourage fish to return to our waters. Take your boat out one day and follow the barge to the reef location, then watch the process of unloading all of the material. It's really a treat.



*Donna Fiala, Collier County
Commissioner, Marco Island
Representative*



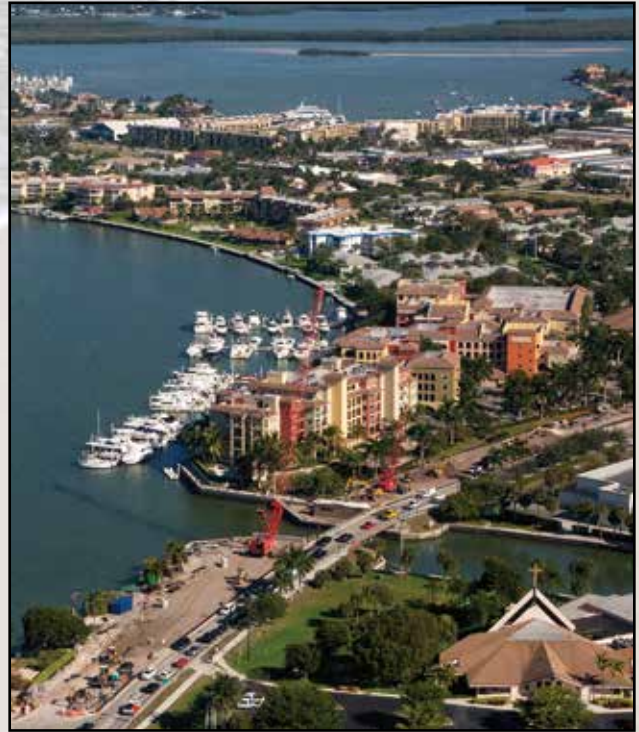
Smokehouse Bay Bridge Construction Update

In a memo dated January 20, 2015, City of Marco Island Public Works Director Tim Pinter provided the Marco Island City Council members with the following update regarding construction of the Smokehouse Bay Bridge.

As of January 1, 2015, the project is currently at 40% of the contract time (4 months) and approximately 34% of the budget. Based on the most recent submitted project schedule, it appears that the project is approximately 1½ months or 6 weeks behind schedule. The City will be sending the contractor a deficiency letter documenting our concerns requesting a corrective action plan. Council has agreed by consensus to provide 14½ days by change order to the contract time due to weather and unforeseen conditions, which is part of the 6 week delay.

Current construction activities include: Installation of the Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) retaining walls for both the north and south sides of the southbound bridge structure; repair of the damaged pile cap on the south side of the structure is complete; forming and pouring in place the new replacement pile cap for the north side of the structure due to delivery damage of the pre-cast cap; continued installing of the roadway embankment and the temporary retaining wall baskets.

The Public Works Director has informed the representatives of the Esplanade that contractor TY LIN will need additional information, such as



Aerial photograph of the construction at the Smokehouse Bay Bridge

the proposed landscaping plan, before they can complete the evaluation of the open sidewalk area adjacent to the Esplanade property. Once this plan is provided to the City, TY LIN can complete their evaluation of impacts to the project and any additional costs associated with the change.



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A Community Effort Makes a Difference

by Nancy Richie, Former Environmental Specialist, City Of Marco Island

As the fall weather settled into perfection and the island got busier, the locals were out on the beach early most Sundays keeping it beautiful.

On Sunday, October 12th, the Marco Island Police Department hosted a community beach clean-up to kick off the fall season on Marco Island. Chief Al Schettino along with his officers, staff and their families and friends gathered with a crowd of more than forty people at the South Beach access. City Beach Advisory Committee members Ruth McCann and Patti Miller organized the volunteers as they arrived. Once suited up with bags, gloves and water donated by Publix Supermarket, they canvassed the beach from the Tigertail Lagoon to the Cape Marco jetties in no time, removing many bags of trash. Though the beach is well-groomed, plastic items and pieces in all forms were still found along the beach. Cups, bottles, bottle caps, straws and zip ties to broken toys and food containers were

continued on page 18



An old tire from a "reef" Deltona Corporation made years ago washed up on the beach

2015 Beach Clean-Up Schedule

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, February 21, 8 a.m. | City Beach Advisory Clean-Up at South Beach Walkway* |
| Sunday, March 29, 8 a.m. | City Beach Advisory Clean-Up at South Beach Walkway* |
| Sunday, April 19, 8 a.m. | Friends of Tigertail at Collier County Tigertail Beach |
| Sunday, May 16, 8 a.m. | City Beach Advisory Clean-Up at South Beach Walkway* |

*Publix supplies gloves, water and trashbags; MICA supplies the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster.

The City of Marco Island Beach Advisory Committee invites the public to

BEACH AWARENESS DAY
Saturday, February 28th, 2015

FREE ADMISSION
9am - 1pm at South Beach

Displays and presentations by local and national wildlife and conservation groups to promote awareness & respect of local beach rules and the conservation of wildlife



Marco's Pint-Sized Predators

by Stephen Barker, photos by Debbie Barker

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) are a species that Marco islanders can easily observe. These pint-sized, endearing owls are often seen in open, treeless areas standing on the raised mound at the entrance to their burrow. Burrows on Marco are taped off by the City and crosses are planted near their nests to provide lookout perches for the owls. They are unique to Florida and the western United States.

There are five owl species – barn, barred, burrowing, eastern-screech and great horned – found year round in Florida. All are found statewide except the burrowing owl, whose territory includes only central and south Florida.

We are typically used to seeing owls high in trees in densely wooded areas, but burrowing owls are mostly found in open grasslands and vacant lots around Marco. Their homes are made by digging large burrows in sandy soil or taking over others' abandoned burrows. The burrows range from 4 to 8 feet long and are usually about 3 to 4 feet below the surface. They take materials such as grass clippings, feathers and paper into the end of their burrow to form their nest. They are one of the smallest species of owls, standing an average of 9 inches, but seem to be mostly leg. There are estimated to be around 60 nesting pairs on Marco Island.

We know that most owls are nocturnal, meaning active at night, but burrowing owls are diurnal and nocturnal, feeding on insects during the day and small rodents during the evening hours. Marco homeowners should consider them to be effective pest control since they eat insects, mice and snakes. These owls are proficient at flying, and treat the area around their homes as an obstacle course - they can even hover in midair, which aids in their pest control abilities by targeting a variety of flying insects.



A few places you can see Burrowing Owls

- Bald Eagle Dr., opposite Rose Marco River Marina
- Intersection of Hernando Dr. and Kendall Dr.
- South Heathwood, just north of Aruba Ct.
- Intersection of Swan Dr and Seagrape Dr.

The birds spend most of their time on the ground so their feathers act as a good camouflage from a number of mammal predators, which include cats, dogs, opossums and raccoons. Eggs and young are eaten by the prey adult owls hunt - snakes, as they can enter the in ground nests easily.

Due to the small numbers of burrowing owls, Florida state law protects the eggs, young, adults and their nests, but they still have man-made threats to overcome, including flooding of burrows during heavy rain, collapsing of burrow if vehicles pass too closely, and decreased food supply because of pesticide use. Permits are required to move or build over a nest, and will only be granted outside of the nesting season.

As you can see from the cover photo of this edition of *MICAwave*, the burrowing owl makes a great subject for both amateur and serious photographers as they are very accessible and approachable on Marco. But do not get too close! When threatened, they try to look ferocious and spread their wings to their fullest – 21 inches long, and make chattering or ducking call. And don't think you can sneak up from behind, they are able to rotate their heads a full 180° so that they can look directly backwards!

Unusual for their species, burrowing owls live as single breeding pairs or sometimes you will see a few pairs in close proximity. A breeding pair lays six to eight 1-inch eggs, sometime between October and May, with most in March. The female, which is slightly larger than the male, incubates the eggs for about 4 weeks. The male is lighter in color because he is bleached by the sun during the many hours he spends outside guarding the nest. After hatching, you can see the young venture from the burrow after around 10 days, but they stay close to their nest until they learn to fly at about 42 days old.



Burrowing Owls

- 9" tall, less than half the size of barred owls
- Yellow eyes but no ear tufts
- Boldly spotted except for white barred belly
- Usually perches on ground

The Release of Sky Lanterns Prohibited on Marco Island Beaches

by Nancy Richie, Former Environmental Specialist, City of Marco Island

Over the past few months, the observation and evidence of “sky lanterns” have been seen and found on the Marco Island beaches. Sky lanterns are like a small hot air balloon typically made of paper or other material with an opening in the bottom to suspend a flame so it will float upwards. Recently, movies and television commercials have made them very popular for special events and ceremonies. Due to the high potential of trash, wildlife impacts and fire hazards they create, many countries have banned them altogether.


In January of this year, a visitor inquired if his group could release “sky lanterns” off the beach to the Gulf of Mexico in a symbolic ceremony. After review of the product with the City’s local ordinances and Florida Statutes, it was determined that releasing sky lanterns in the City of Marco Island would be prohibited. For reference, the rules



reviewed were the City’s Nuisance Ordinance (Article 11. Section 18-31), the City’s Beach Ordinance (Article II Section 54-31) and the Florida State Statute Chapter 372.995.

Also, after communicating with Collier County Government and Florida Fish and Wildlife Con-

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USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Checks

by Laurie Harris, FSO – PA, USCG Auxiliary

Boating safety is the number one goal of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. As part of this effort, each year the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts thousands of vessel safety checks - Free!



Randy Harris looks on as John Moyer conducts a vessel exam

Federal & State laws require each vessel to contain items including:

- Life jackets
- Fire extinguishers
- Registration and numbering
- Navigation lights
- Visual Distress Signals
- Sound producing devices

Depending on the length of your boat, additional safety items may be required. If your vessel is inspected by the local enforcement agencies and you are not in compliance, you may receive a citation.

If your vessel passes inspection, you are given a USCG Auxiliary decal to be displayed. Other law enforcement officials such as Florida Fish & Wildlife, Marco Island Police and the Collier County Sheriff recognize that this decal indicates your boat is in full compliance with federal and state laws.

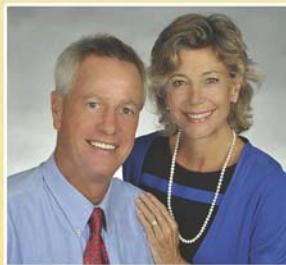
If your vessel fails inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, you DO NOT receive a citation. You will instead receive a report of items that require correction. Once the corrections are made, your vessel can be re-inspected.

In addition to knowing your boat is properly equipped in case of an emergency on the water, you may also be eligible for discounts on your insurance.

Contact the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as soon as possible to have a full year of the 2015 decal. Decals expire on December 31 annually or become void if you fail to maintain the proper equipment.

The vessel examiners will come to your boat at your convenience. To contact an examiner, please contact John Moyer, Flotilla Staff Officer, Vessel Exams jmoyer1528@aol.

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MICA Holiday Party at Residents' Beach, December 28th, 2014





See Page 21 for More Photos



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Offering Readjustment Counseling Services

Help for Veterans and their family members and significant others

Who We Are

Vet Centers started in 1979 as a Veteran peer counseling organization comprised of combat Veterans helping Veterans with readjustment challenges. Today, Vet Centers employ social workers, psychologists and specialists (many who are combat Veterans themselves) to work with readjustment issues that Veterans, their families and significant others face after they return from a war zone or conflict.

Our Mission

To Serve Veterans and their families/significant others by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for Veterans, families and communities.

Who is Eligible?

If you served in a theatre of combat operations or experienced military sexual trauma. Vet Center services are free to eligible Veterans and families.

Our Values

- Veteran-focused services
- Quality
- Community based
- Honor and Respect for the service of our nation's Veterans, and the sacrifices of their families
- Health, wellness and preventative care
- Diverse staff composition and military experience similar to the Veterans we serve

What We Do Counseling Services Groups and Workshops

We conduct several types of groups designed to help with readjustment issues. Some typical groups are: Symptom Management of Post Traumatic Stress, Significant Others Support Group, Anger Management, Women's Groups, Combat Insomnia Group and Caregiver Support Groups.

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Are You Team OCEAN?

*by Renée Wilson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is announcing a new awareness campaign developed to promote ethical boating practices among boaters using protected coastal waters. Called “I am Team OCEAN,” the campaign is centered around a call to boaters to pledge their commitment to minimizing negative impacts while enjoying local islands, estuaries and coastal waters.

Rookery Bay Reserve’s “I am Team OCEAN” campaign will be led by Team OCEAN (Ocean Conservation Education Action Network), a group of 45 dedicated volunteers at Rookery Bay Reserve who reach out to boaters with a focus on visitor education and coastal stewardship.

“Team OCEAN has been around for years, but the new ‘I am Team OCEAN’ campaign brings added focus and energy to the educational and stewardship messages,” said Kevin Claridge, Florida Coastal Office director. “Instead of only having 45 volunteers serving as stewards, this provides a way for boaters anywhere to be a part of Team OCEAN.”

“I am Team OCEAN” encourages ethical boating practices such as proper navigation for safety and protection of fragile aquatic habitats, packing out and tying down to reduce litter, and observing wildlife from a distance.

“Taking care of southwest Florida’s beautiful coastal areas is everyone’s job,” said Brooke Carney, Coastal Training Program coordinator for Rookery Bay Reserve. Carney developed the campaign in an effort to galvanize support for the program. “I’m excited to launch the ‘I am Team OCEAN’ campaign because it gives people the opportunity to learn how important their actions are, while joining hundreds of other local boaters in doing our part for the coast,” she added.

Team OCEAN is a boat-based volunteer program supported through a partnership between the Rookery Bay Reserve, Florida Sea Grant and other local community donors. Following a model at the



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, volunteers with Rookery Bay Reserve’s Team OCEAN have made weekly visits to high-use areas in the reserve since the program originally launched in 2005. Through this program, volunteers help serve as the reserve’s “eyes and ears” on the water.

Boaters can take the “I am Team OCEAN” pledge online at www.rookerybay.org/teamocean or in person if they see a Team OCEAN volunteer in the community or on the water.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters between Naples and Everglades National Park. It is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with NOAA.

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Calusa Garden Club

by Nancy Reynolds

Marco Island's Calusa Garden Club is in the middle of a busy year. Dr. Gary Schmels (wild flowers) and Monica Brandies (garden specialist) presented programs at the October and November meetings. Club members Opi DeFalco and Connie Lowery offered the December program, *"Easy Holiday Table Decorations."* In January, president Dale DeFeo did double duty by also presenting the program *"Blue Ribbon Horticulture Entries and Pote'fleur."* Workshops on the subjects of floral design and horticulture occurred prior to the monthly meetings. For example, the January workshop featured Tillandsias (or air plants, as they are commonly known). Additionally, club members sponsored a floral design workshop at the Marco Island library on November 18, supervised the monthly meetings of the Tommie Barfield Junior Gardeners (there's a waiting list!), donated floral designs for the Flowers in Public Places program, and attended Gad-A-Bouts trips to area spots of interest such as the Butterfly House in Ft. Myers and the Naples Zoo and Gardens.

In the near future the organization will sponsor a tea and design program, aptly named *"Tea by Design,"* by noted floral designer Anthony Swick at the Yacht Club on a yet to be determined date in March. The public is invited to attend. A field trip to Fairchild Garden will occur in March and the public will be invited to participate too. The annual flower show will be held at the Marco Island Center for the Arts on March 7 and March 8. Sue Oldershaw is chairing the event. This year's flower show is entitled *"The Beautiful B' of Island Living ~ Beach - Birding - Boating -*



Members of the Calusa Garden Club

Building." As always, it is free and open to the public though donations will be much appreciated.

All work and no play make for unhappy club members so a Christmas party was held in December. A grab bag raffle was held and the food and drinks were enjoyed by all.

Plans for February include a Gad-A-Bouts trip to Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk on February 2 and a Kathleen Hawryluk program, *"Multi-Rhythmic & Construction Designs,"* following the meeting on February 9.

March will bring two Gad-A-Bouts: On **March 14** to the Clyde Butcher Gallery and on **March 27** to the Naples Botanical Gardens and the Naples Flower Show.

Our annual flower show will be on March 7th and 8th and the regular meeting will be held on the 10th. The program following the meeting will be presented by Craig Morell, *"Bridging the Generation Gap from Older Gardening Tactics to Modern Horticulture."* *"Tea by Design"* with Anthony Swick at the yacht club will be later in March.

To close out the year, the garden club will have their **Annual Spring Luncheon at the Yacht Club on April 23.** The program will be presented by Bryan Fluech, UF/IFAS Collier County Extension Director, and is entitled *"Who's in Our Estuary?"*

Information about Calusa Garden Club membership or activities may be found at www.Calusa.org or by calling 239-394-1425.

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The Bargain Basket Celebrates Forty Years Serving Marco Island

by Yvonne Hall, Bargain Basket Committee Member

Congratulations to the Bargain Basket of the United Church of Marco Island for forty years of service to Marco Island and the surrounding area. This is something BIG to celebrate—a real milestone!! Happy Birthday to the Bargain Basket for the forty special and happy years of community service.

The Bargain Basket, a mission of the United Church of Marco Island, moved to its own building, the former Kimball Building at 750 Bald Eagle Drive in 2010. This present store opened for business on September 20, 2010 and has been a lively place to meet and greet for the purpose of helping others.

The Bargain Basket is the oldest thrift store on the island, opening for the first time in a former coin laundry on Collier Blvd in January 1975. In 1978 it moved to a store at 525 Bald Eagle Drive, and 12 years later moved to a larger site at the island Professional Building on Collier Blvd. In 1995 the Bargain basket moved to a location in Lanai Plaza at 828 Bald Eagle Drive and is now found in its own building at 750 Bald Eagle Drive.

This Thrift Store was a dream of its manager and church member Betty Ringler, followed by Ruby Rutherford who served as store manager for eight years. In 1989 Ann Hudnut became manager followed by Nancy Leisher, Cheryl Axelson and Sandy Goldstein. Sue Woods has been our present Bargain Basket manager since the new store opened in its new location in 2010.

Activity at the Bargain Basket has consistently demanded additional floor space over the years. Recently in season there have been as many as twenty or thirty customers waiting for the store to open at 10 am. The present Bargain Basket building provides about 5,000 square feet; considerably more than any of its former locations, enabling open display of furniture and large decorative items. There is also a display area for clothing (men's, women's, teen's, and children's), including a boutique department, plus housewares, accessories, books,



The Bargain Basket at its current location on Bald Eagle Drive

audio and video, artwork, decorations and giftware. It's a place where you can shop until you drop... just a couple of bucks. Our mainstay is clothing

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Marco Island Shell Club, 35 Years of Shell Shows

by Jae Kellogg - Past President (2010-2012), 2015 Shell Show Chair

Thirty five years - that is a pretty daunting number - considering the club started out in the garage of Carol Johns in 1978 - making various flowers, "critters", and gluing shells on about any objects that needed shell decoration! In circa 1980, the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce called Carol and asked if she would officially start the Marco Island Shell Club! The first "2 day shell show" was held at St. John's Episcopal Church - a "few" card tables were set-up with displays! The rest is history! Our 2014 juried Shell Show had 174 Scientific and Artistic Exhibits from Novice to Professional - from all over the world, an amazing Shell Art Gift Shop, a "Live Mollusk(shell) Tank", Raffle Items, Local Shells for sale, People's Choice Awards, 19 Trophies and numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons given out by our fantastic judges - and more!.....and so it is today, the Marco Island Shell Club with 170 members strong and one of the most well-founded non-profit organizations in the State of Florida!

Extraordinary Scholarship/Grants Program from our Shell Show Proceeds

The club depends upon the proceeds from the Holiday Sale in December and the Shell Show in March to underwrite scholarships and grants to Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of South Florida! Through the remarkable leadership of our board and all of the hard work and talent of our members/volunteers and the support of the Marco Island Community - Marco Island Shell Club is able to fund 2 Graduate Research Scholarships - 1 Undergraduate Research Scholarship - 1 Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship - for a total of 4 Scholarships in Marine and Environmental Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University!

In addition, the Marco Island Shell Club Graduate Scholarship in Ecology has been established at the University of South Florida to help finance a Doctoral Student's Research. Each year, FGCU and USF preliminarily screen their best students for scholarship assistance in marine biology or a related field. These applications are then anonymously evaluated by the Club's Scholarships/Grants Committee, from which finalists are selected. A requirement of the scholarship or grant is to report their research to the club and give presentations throughout the season at our seminars, shell show, and end of season Thank-You Dinner for our volunteers. Many diverse topics have been presented this past year - Carter Davis, "*Clam Farming off of Pine Island*", Emily Nickol, "*Salinity and Temperature Variations in Oyster Beds*", Shannon McAskill, "*The Invasive Apple Snail and the Effects on Cord Grass*" - all 3 are grad students from FGCU. USF Doctoral Student - Elizabeth Salewski, presented "*3D Images of Our Oyster Beds*".

"Club members are pleased to support such outstanding young adults who will hopefully be our future researchers, teachers, and scientists!" - Carolyn Ginther, Scholarship/Grants Committee, Chair.

Come Help Us Celebrate Our 35th Annual Shell Show! CONTEST! CONTEST! CONTEST!

We're having a contest to help kick off this year's show! It doesn't matter whether you are a Newcomer or an Old-timer in the shell-collecting world! Here on Marco Island, there are so many unique local shells right on our beaches! This will be like a treasure hunt - you have about 6 weeks to look for these incredible treasures. They both have a big spot in the "heart" of Marco Island Shell Club History! We are asking the community - whether you are a MISC member or not - to go shell collecting and bring



us back these finds! You have 2 choices - maybe some will bring both! We will have beautiful prizes for the winners - and a presentation on the last day of the show(Saturday - 1PM)! The first choice - The MISC Logo is the Right-Handed Whelk. The Right-handed whelk is an “anomaly” (a deviation of the norm) - because the aperture is normally on the left when you find it! It is rare to find it on the right!



Right-Handed Whelk

The second choice is to find 2 Alphabet Cones with the number 3 on one and 5 on the other! As many of you already know, the Alphabet Cones are just that - they have letters of the alphabet and numbers all over them! Once you discover a number or a letter - you will be addicted! It will become one of your favorite shells - some even have short words on them! This is to signify our 35th Annual Shell Show!



Alphabet Cones displaying the numbers 3 and 5 hidden in their patterns

35th Annual Marco Island Shell Show March 12-14, 2015

10 am to 4 pm

Disseler Hall -

United Church of Marco

320 N. Barfield Dr., Marco Island

Meet Our Judges

Scientific Judges will be:

Dr. Jose H. Leal - Science Director and Curator,
Bailey-Mathews Museum - Sanibel, FL

Dr. Gary Schmelz - Marine Biologist and
Paleontologist - Naples, FL

Artistic Judges will be:

Bill Jordan - a renowned shell artist - he will be
a first time judge for us this year in the
Artistic Division - Sanibel, FL

Phyllis Gray - Experienced Shell Show Exhibitor
and Judge - Orlando, FL

See You Soon!

Mark your calendars - Prepaid tickets for the show are available from any shell club member - you won't have to wait in line!! - If you are looking for a new activity on the island, check us out on our website - marcoshellclub.com - visit the shell show - you won't be disappointed - it's an incredible thing for kids of all ages - they marvel at the Live Tank - the creativity of our exhibitors and shell artists is overwhelming - BRING YOUR CREDIT CARD - come see why we're so excited!!

“Our mission is to promote the study, conservation, history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as shell collecting, crafting and shell art.”



A Community Effort...

continued from page 5

removed along the surf line, in the dunes and in the rocks at the jetties. The number of straws collected were very much decreased compared to past clean ups, but cigarette butts were still collected by the hundreds, especially by the chairs and umbrellas of the resorts. Chief Schettino stated, "It was great to have the department out on the beach and helping the community."

On Sunday, October 19th, Marco Island Civic Association, gathered its members along with the Marco Island Power Squadron, Marco Island Academy students and other volunteers. City Beach Advisory Committee member Ruth McCann was there to provide friendly greetings and clean up supplies as the participants arrived at Residents' Beach. Over fifty people of all ages attended. Katie O'Hara of the Chamber of Commerce handed out the "green" trash "grabbers" and buckets donated by Leadership Marco alumni. The Marco Island Academy students



were participating to help the beach and accrue volunteer hours necessary for their curriculum and school's use of City facilities. The owner of the well-known Goodland restaurant, the Little Bar, Niki Bauer, was joined by her daughter and family and friends – three generations enjoying the morning and supporting our beach together! Most beach sweepers headed towards the Marriott beach and north to the Tigertail Lagoon and Sand Dollar Island. An old tire, once part of a "reef" Deltona Corporation dumped off Marco Island, was found and removed from the beach.

The Marco Island Women's Club hosted their second annual beach clean-up on Saturday, November 15th at 8am at the South Beach access. They have also already planned one in 2015! Members of the City's Beach Advisory Committee, including Ralph Barnhardt, Ruth McCann, Patti Miller, and Tony Ferrara were on hand to greet and assist participants; Marco Island Civic Association provided coordination with their beach vehicle and trash disposal, the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Marco Alumni provided trash "grabbers" and buckets and Publix donated supplies of water, bags and gloves. Thank you to all people and organizations that make these successful monthly Marco Island beach clean-ups happen!

For more information on the City of Marco Island's beach clean ups, the beach and its wildlife or if you are interested in hosting and/or participating in a beach clean up, please contact the City of Marco Island at 239-389-5000.

Let's keep our beach beautiful!



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Reaching Out to the Community

The Marco Island Foundation for the Arts is now offering grants to non-profit organizations and individuals to help bring the arts to Marco Island.

Since its founding in 2003, many events have been sponsored by the MI Foundation for the Arts such as luncheons, sculptures, outdoor art shows, lectures and performances. Malenda Trick's large mural honoring veterans that she painted at the Marco Island Historical Museum over the past summer was sponsored by the MI Foundation for the Arts. This season, the organization sponsors the Left Bank ArtFest each month at the Esplanade and the Brushes & Paint Outdoor Art Shows at the Marco Walk Plaza and Mackle Park. They have also joined with the Marco Island Historical Museum to bring the "Painting SW Florida History" art show to the community from **January 6th to March 21st**.

And each spring, scholarships are presented to local students who are majoring in the arts after high school.

Now the non-profit organization wants to help support additional art events by providing grants to other nonprofit organizations or individuals on Marco Island, Goodland and the Isles of Capri. In order to be considered for a grant, the event must meet the mission of the Marco Island Foundation for the Arts. Their mission is to bring literary, visual and performing arts to the community. Interested persons can contact Carolyn Burger, President, at 239-389-0280 for more information and to request a grant application.



For additional information about upcoming events, you can visit MIFA's website at www.marcoarts.com

Marco Island Center
for the Arts presents

Art Flicks 2015 Theme: Wine, Women and Song!



February 17:
"Young at Heart"



March 3:
"Bottle Shock"

Special showing at
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Showing: 10AM at Marco Movies
599 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island

For more information: Call 239-394-4221

It's Free! But donations happily accepted





MICA Holiday Party at Residents' Beach, December 28th, 2014





Continued from page 11



Another Electric Rate Decrease in 2015!

by Karen Ryan, LCEC

While the price of just about everything is increasing, LCEC is reducing electric rates for the second year in a row! More notably, 2015 begins the seventh year LCEC has not raised electric rates, and the not-for-profit utility continues to work hard to keep rates competitive.

The LCEC Board of Trustees approved a decrease in the PCA from \$16.65 per 1,000 kWh to \$14.60 per 1,000 kWh beginning January 1. As a cooperative, LCEC shares any realized savings with customers.

Although the cost of materials, labor and purchased power has risen over the past few years, a calculated business strategy has helped LCEC manage operating costs. Process improvements, proactive maintenance, constant budget oversight,



the use of technology and the diligence of employees have all contributed to holding the line on LCEC electric rates.

Customer support is also an important factor in managing costs. When customers utilize green payment methods, pay on time and wait to run appliances and equipment in off-peak hours, they are also doing their part. Thank you!

LCEC Procedure for Reporting an Inoperative or Malfunctioning Streetlight

Well-lit areas and functioning streetlights are important for safety. LCEC has a simple procedure for customers to report a streetlight or area light that is out or malfunctioning. Simply complete a secure online form at www.lcec.net. You may also call our Customer Care Center at 1-800-599-2356 or 239-656-2300.



1. A description of the problem.
2. Description of the location or the number located on the pole. The number should have alphabetic characters before and/or after it.
3. Your contact information including account number, address or phone number.

This message brought to you to ensure speedy service and in compliance with Florida Statute 768.1382



Marco Urgent Care Center



The Marco Urgent Care Center is open 7 days a week from 8am - 7:30pm for the treatment of non-emergencies, illnesses, and minor injuries. Our center is staffed by board-certified physicians and licensed clinical professionals. The Urgent Care Center is a part of the NCH Healthcare System - the first in Florida to become a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. That means our medical staff has access to all of the world-renowned resources NCH and Mayo Clinic have to offer our patients. If a condition arises which you feel cannot wait until you can schedule an appointment with your physician or it's after hours, urgent care may be an appropriate choice for you. Some reasons you might choose to come to the Marco Urgent Care Center include:

- Mild asthma
- Animal - insect bites/stings
- Cold & flu symptoms
- Eye redness/irritation
- Workman's comp
- Minor lacerations
- Nose bleeds
- Rising fever
- Sore throat
- Sports injuries
- Urinary infections
- Vomiting/diarrhea

40 Heathwood Dr. • Marco Island, FL

239•394•8234

8am-7:30pm



www.NCHmd.org



Lanterns

continued from page 8

ervation Commission about the concerns of more reports of the releases on the beach, it was concluded that the release of the sky lanterns is equivalent to littering and that the lanterns act and look like balloons and are considered to be a balloon under the Florida Statutes. Even though most of the manufacturers of these lanterns tout “100% biodegradable”, there is a period of time, a least several months, which the lantern material would persist in the Gulf of Mexico. The “biodegradable” label typically equates to less time in a landfill, not that it instantly decomposes. The debris or trash left from the sky lantern when it lands on the Gulf or on land is often ingested by wildlife and does cause harm. There is also concern about the open fire and winds over the Gulf. Under the Beach Ordinance, open fires are prohibited on the beaches.

Therefore, the release of the sky lanterns is prohibited in the City of Marco Island. They are beautiful and are thought to be meaningful in an event to release, but littering and added trash to the

Gulf is not a precedent to set for the City of Marco Island. Just recently a ban on straws and cup lids at businesses adjacent to the beach was proposed. Thousands of plastic straws were all over the beach, found by regular beach walkers and in beach clean ups. The hotels and businesses on Marco Island’s beach stepped up monitoring, clean up and education, and in four months’ time, the straws found on the beach have significantly lessened. The City of Marco Island, Collier County and the state of Florida is serious about keeping litter off the beaches and out of our waterways and the Gulf of Mexico.

Please be aware of this information on the prohibition of sky lanterns, balloons or similar products that are released off the beach and over the Gulf of Mexico. Please educate your residents and visitors of the prohibition. Under the City code, a citation for \$100 may be issued for the first offense and up to \$500 for subsequent offenses. Let’s keep trash out of the Gulf and off our beaches - please keep our beach beautiful and the Gulf of Mexico healthy.

For more information, please contact the City of Marco Island at 239-389-5003 or the Marco Island Police Department at 239-389-5050.



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Being Green Starts with Your Mind in the Gutter

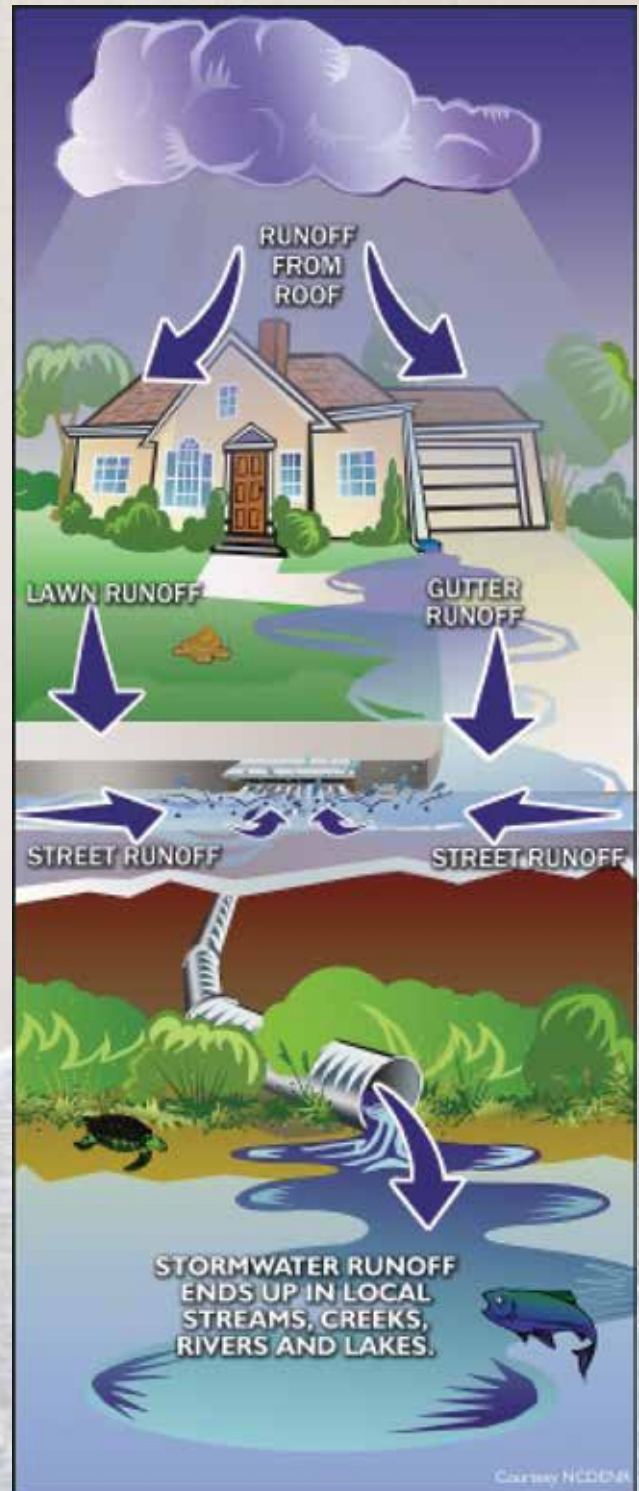
*by Kamila Diddle,
Collier County Engineering & Natural Resources Department*

What does being “green” really mean? Is it that you don’t litter, that you recycle, or that you buy all organic products? Everyone has a different idea of what it means to be green but you can be green by taking small steps to prevent personal pollution in your backyard. You just have to get your mind in the gutter!

The first step is to become knowledgeable about your local watershed, the common activities within it, and how your activities affect ground and surface water. What goes into your stormwater system (the gutter) will reach your local beach through a series of swales, pipes, ponds and canals. Realize that some stormwater runoff is unavoidable; however, polluted stormwater runoff can be minimized or eliminated. Is your gutter directed right to the driveway and out to the street? Can you hold some of that water on your property longer by using a rain barrel or rain garden? Are you irrigating your driveway or is your irrigation system maintained so that no water is running onto hardscapes or into the stormwater system?

Be aware of the chemicals that are used on your property. To protect ground and surface waters, the stormwater runoff that leaves your property

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Veteran Services
continued from page 12

Individual and Family Counseling

We also provide individual, couples and family counseling for Veterans and their family members or significant others.

Bereavement Counseling

Vet Centers offer bereavement counseling to parents, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who died in the service of their country. Also eligible are family members of Reservists and National Guardsmen who die while on federally activated duty.

Military Sexual Trauma Counseling

We provide treatment and make referrals for any Veteran that experienced sexual trauma or sexual harassment while on active military service.

Outreach and Education

We conduct outreach programs or workshops to educate organizations and the community about combat readjustment issues and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

*The Ft. Myers Vet Center is located at
4110 Center Point Drive, 204,
For more information call 239-652-1861
or visit www.vetcenter.va.gov*

*Being Green Starts with Your
Mind in the Gutter*
continued from page 25

should be free of chemicals, fertilizers and other pollutants. Consider that the excess pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that you use on your lawn will all end up percolating into the groundwater or being carried into the nearest waterbody. Can you use less of the product or is there a nontoxic form?

When maintaining your property, little acts can make a big difference. Vehicles, equipment such as lawn mowers, generators and fuel tanks should never leak onto any surface. If spills occur, they should be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly. Even throwing away dog poop instead of leaving it in the yard will reduce the fecal bacteria living on your property and in the stormwater runoff.

The Collier County Engineering and Natural Resources Department is here to help. Take the first step by increasing your personal awareness with a presentation on your watershed, stormwater system, water quality, Florida Friendly Landscaping™, proper fertilization techniques or creating rain gardens.

*For a presentation, more information
about our services or to report illicit
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pollution_control@colliergov.net.*



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thirty years makes!***

Thank you to Gerry Stoller for sharing the aerial image of Marco Island shown on the left, taken in October of 1985, and Debbie Barker of The Marco Review for the above image, taken on a helicopter trip with Island Hoppers recently. See the intersection of Tigertail Court and Hernando Court marked on both images with the yellow arrow.



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Marco Island Civic Association "Members Only" Discount Program

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

Gino's Trattoria
Entrée items only. 969 N. Collier Blvd,
389-4368

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

Kurrent's Restaurant @ MI Marriott
10% off bill with purchase of 1 entrée per
person, Sun thru Thurs. Complimentary
valet parking. Other offers do not apply,
no discount weekends & holidays.
400 S Collier Blvd, 642-2695

Marco Island Princess
Rose Marina, 642-5415

Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American
2 Happy Hours: 3-6 & 10-midnight
Entertainment, reduced drink prices.
Marco Walk, 389-2222

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

Porky's
5% off entire bill, 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

Vandy's/5 Brothers on Elkcarn Circle,
Town Center, 1089 N Collier Blvd., #439
394-8767

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consultation 573-356-1727
featherlightliving@gmail.com

Healthy Body Fitness Training
Initial personal training sessions & group
classes, 860 Bald Eagle Dr. #4 & 5, 394-3705

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

Personal Training & Pilates Studio
Above Subway on Collier Blvd.,
650 Bald Eagle Dr. www.101fit.com
333-5771

Royal Fitness of Naples
Initial enrollment fee waived
4880 Davis Blvd., 732-5899

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

Xcel Fitness Spa
10% off regular price of annual membership
1817 San Marco Road, 394-XCEL(9235)

RETAIL STORES

APPAREL/JEWELRY

Alvin's Island - www.alvinsisland.com
Card should always be presented at time of sale
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Beachworks, Town Center Mall
Excludes sales items, 642-7777

Beach Unlimited
1001 N Collier Blvd, 642-4888

Butterfly Beach 394-0837
Esplanade, 760 N. Collier Blvd #103

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Town Center Mall, 394-2621

Golden Gate Jewelers of Marco
10% off silver jewelry
Shops of Marco, 259-8937, 259-8943

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

Jewelry by Laura, Marriott Resort, 394-2511

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www.OMGthatschic.com, Town Center

Patchington Ladies' Boutique
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Naples. Fun for organizations, such as fashion
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store and out of store events

Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200
1106-1/2 N. Collier Blvd., Chamber Plaza

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

NON-APPAREL

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

Critter Café
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810 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-8488

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889 Airport Road S, Naples, 434-7296

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1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5343
677 S Collier Blvd, 393-0353

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



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
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www.asaplockofmarcoisland.com

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Collier Tropical Landscaping, 821-3213
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service contracts not less than \$125. Sergio

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Global Cleaning Services, 389-9140
gcs-clean.net Free estimates, free rental unit
setup consultation, and 10% off service charges

**Gulfcoast Painting & Pressure
Cleaning**, 642-1005

Gulfside Electric, 784-8086

JCR Screen Repair & Service, 394-9410

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

Southern Comfort Air
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equipment, maximum of \$100, 642-6642

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

Tiny Tikes Treasures (Rentals)
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Aviation North,
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747-226-KEYS
www.AviationNorth.com
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Rose Marina, 642-6899

Marco Island Princess
Rose Marina, 642-5415

Marco Island Watersports
Marriott, Hilton Resorts, 394-4344

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

Vantastic Tours
394-7699

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754 Elcam Circle, 642-5309

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Pelican Pier Marina, 389-2628
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Rose Marina
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ing acc, fishing dept, bait, boat rentals
& food. 951 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-2502

Sailmaker, Bronwen McKiever, 248-3169
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& cleaning products, 800 E. Elcam Cr.

Sea Tow Marco Island
Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

Walker's Hideaway Marina
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705 E Elcam Cir, 394-9333

Walker's Marine, 642-6764
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The above businesses participate in MICA's Members Only Discount Program and extend a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members unless otherwise noted. 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.



Kiwanis 2015 Car Show

The Marco Island Car Show sponsored by Kiwanis is scheduled for February 15th, 2015. The event will again take place at the Marco Healthcare Center at San Marco Road and Heathwood Drive. The starting time has changed from 10am to 9:30am. Last year 180 cars were displayed. This year we will have additional spaces to accommodate more great cars.

Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, and Italian sausage), soda and water will be available for purchase; various vendors will be on site. The Italian American Club will be there too selling cakes, pastries and preparing Zeppoles (Italian pastries). As always there is no charge to display your vehicle and trophies will be awarded in 20 different classes.

The Marco Charter High School band and cheerleaders will be performing. Steve Reynolds will be back as guest emcee.



Over the years this show has allowed the Kiwanis Club to do many wonderful things for children from scholarships to purchasing computers. As always, all proceeds are used to benefit children in the community.

If you own a vintage, sports, hot rod, muscle car or other vehicle you feel is show quality, bring it to the show. This is a great time to display your pride and joy and at the same time help raise money for children.

There is a \$5 spectator donation and children under 12 are free.

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



Bargain Basket
continued from page 15

about \$3 an item, but more expensive goods such as Waterford Crystal and china are proportionally higher priced. One satisfied customer blogged estimates of 80 to 90 percent off normal retail prices.

Nearly eighty volunteers (not all members of the church) work to keep the Bargain Basket running. Our volunteers can be seen working daily Monday thru Saturday, sorting, pricing and maintaining displays, etc. Very little goes to waste. Badly worn or stained clothing items are bundled and shipped

overseas. Excess housewares and worn accessory items are picked up for distribution in Immokalee. All proceeds go to the church and its missions.

The Bargain Basket is one big happy family of folks who enjoy this opportunity to serve others. Our customers and our contributions of merchandise are THE BEST!

Everyone has loved the Bargain Basket for 40 years, and they still do. We look forward to serving the community far into the future - moving on to Birthday number Fifty... We are truly blessed by our volunteers, merchandise, contributors, our customers and being on Marco Island.

We are pleased to welcome

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Marco Island Residents' Beach Members Only Concerts



Jimmy Stowe and The Stowaways

Sunday, February 8th, 4pm



Turnstiles - The Ultimate Tribute to Billy Joel

Sunday, February 15th, 4pm



Marco's Favorite

Johnny Fusco

Sunday, March 1st, 4pm



America's Premiere Tribute to the Beatles

Let It Be

Sunday, March 15th, 5:30pm



All the way from Naples: **It's Radio Flyer!**

Sunday, March 29th, 4:30pm

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