



MICA*wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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February 2016

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

**Bill Patterson Retires from
MICA's Architectural Committee**

**Mangrove Restoration
Project Receives
International Support**

Habitat for Humanity Update

**Education Key to
our Pristine Beach**

**Residents' Beach
Concert Series Schedule**

President's Message

by Dick Adams, MICA President

As I write my final column as president having served three years, I am proud of the many accomplishments we achieved in the last few years.

To highlight, MICA plays a major part in the monthly beach cleanups, by offering personnel, beach vehicle and dumpster facilities; MICA maintains at a very high standard the beautiful Residents' Beach for our Marco Island resident members; MICA produces the MICAwave, a quality magazine to inform and educate residents; MICA conducts beach concerts for members; MICA selects and honors its "Humanitarian of the Year"; MICA made a major donation to Veterans' Park; MICA contributed to the large American flag at the base of the Jolley Bridge; MICA has sponsored City Council members' Town Hall Meetings; MICA has been the largest contributor to the annual Fourth of July Fireworks display; MICA conducts Candidate Forums for City Council elections; MICA published the island-specific Hurricane Preparation Guide; and installed the Thorguard Lightning Prediction System at Residents' Beach. It has been a very busy three years!

Without our strong and active board members, it would not have been possible to realize our objectives. A special thank you to the executive committee members, each heading up a committee responsible for executing the actions taken.

On February 11, at 10 a.m., MICA will be sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Allen Weiss, President & CEO of NCH. Do you want to live longer and better (and who wouldn't)? If so, you will want to attend and find out "What is a Blue Zone?"

We also recently said goodbye to Bill Patterson, MICA's Deed Restriction Specialist for the last 22 years. Construction plans on Marco Island require review and approval by MICA's Architectural Review Committee. Bill managed the deed restriction review process, reviewing plans and meeting with homeowners, builders, developers and city staff on a daily basis to ensure compliance with the Deltona Deed Restrictions. MICA is pleased to welcome Betty Hernandez, who stepped into the position and brings with her over 25 years of plan review experience with Miami-Dade County.

On behalf of the MICA Board of Directors, I appreciate the support of the membership and extend best wishes for a warm and healthy winter season on Marco Island.



**Dick Adams, President,
MICA Board of Directors**

Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover photograph by Debbie Barker of The Marco Review



Bill Patterson

by Steve Stefanides

When the Mackle Bothers and Deltona Corporation laid out the island they did so by adding deed restrictions which went with many of the individual pieces of property. These caveats that are found within the deeds on property dealt with what could be built, setbacks, height restrictions and other restrictive languages. They also designated certain special usages to ensure land would be put aside for churches, educational facilities, health care facilities, governmental buildings and other special requirements that would help fulfill their dreams for the island paradise they were developing.

When Deltona and the Mackles' plans for the island were derailed due to objections from conservationists they turned the responsibility for enforcing the deed restrictions over to the Marco Island Civic Association.

Since 1993 Bill Patterson has been the point person for the Marco Island Civic Association's (MICA) efforts to deal with deed restrictions on Marco Island. December 17 marked Patterson's last "official" meeting in that role, as he guided the Architectural Review Committee of MICA as they reviewed a stack of documents awaiting approval.

Growing Up In Construcion

Bill Patterson grew up on another island, but a little further north of here on Long Island Beach, New Jersey. He spent 5 years as a Marine and saw service during the Korean Conflict. When he left the Marines he began a long career in construction.

While working full time he would take courses and attend classes which would eventually see him graduate from Drexel University in Philadelphia with a Civil Engineering degree. During his career in the construction field he would travel throughout the Mid-Atlantic States on various job sites.

For Patterson, it was his job as Project Manager for Perrine Corporation building the Harrah's Casino / Resort in Atlantic City that was probably his largest. The \$177 million dollar casino opened in 1980 during the boom time there. If that project



Bill Patterson attended his last "official" Architectural Review Committee meeting for MICA after 22 years of service

was built with today's dollars it would be a \$542 million dollar endeavor.

Coming To Marco

Lynn Bradeen, another well-known developer in New Jersey and a competitor of Patterson, had told him about a little place called Marco Island. "I made a quick trip down to Marco and really didn't get excited about it. It wasn't until former Philadelphia Flyers Coach Keith Alan pressed me to take a second look at Marco that I purchased a vacant lot on Elm Court," said Patterson.

In 1990 Patterson would build his house on that lot that he and his wife Joan moved into. In 1993 Bradeen, who was president of the MICA Board, convinced Patterson to take on the part-time responsibility for reviewing the plans submitted to MICA for their approval and provide a more professional approach to the responsibilities of the organization.

Pool cages, new decks, pools, new construction and additions all come before the MICA ARC group for their stamp of approval. "This is to ensure anything to do with restrictions within their deeds are adhered to," said Patterson.

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2016 Kiwanis Car Show

Get ready to roar! The Marco Island Car Show hosted by Kiwanis is coming February 14, 2016. The event will be at the same location as previous years, Marco Healthcare Center, on the corner of Heathwood Dr. and San Marco Rd. The show will run from 9am-3pm giving you time to view all the cars on display. As always, admission is free to show your car, trophies will be awarded in 22 categories, and food and drink will be available for purchase. There will be entertainment by the Marco Island Academy for the second year in a row, and we also welcome back the Irish Dancers. Steve Reynolds, the guest emcee, will be playing great music from the 50s and 60s.

The ice cream truck will be back with homemade ice cream and the Italian American Club of Marco Island is again providing zaepolas and home made cakes and pastries. Kiwanis will be providing the “chefs” to do the cooking and selling hot dogs, hamburgers and chili.

The spectator fee remains at \$5 per person with free parking, and children under 12 are free. All proceeds are used to fund and support various programs for Marco Island children. Place this event on your calender and bring the entire family to have a great day celebrating America’s love of the automobile.



***2016 Kiwanis Car Show
Saturday February 14th, 9am-3pm
Marco Healthcare Center***

***“Help Kiwanis help kids”
www.kiwanisclubofmarcoisland.org***



Rookery Bay Reserve Mangrove Restoration Project Receives International Support

~Innovative project to restore 225 acres of mangroves in Collier County~

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is partnering with China's Rilin Group to help restore 225 acres of mangroves in Collier County. The group has committed \$5 million to restore and monitor the mangrove forest at Fruit Farm Creek within the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR).

RBNERR and its partners have been researching causes of the mangrove die-off in the area, which includes construction initiated in the 1930s of State Road 92, to develop a plan to restore environmental conditions such as historical water flows in the estuarine area. This project will implement advances in research and restoration of water flows that support the conditions necessary for mangrove health.

The project's first phase, which entailed permitting, engineering and design, site surveys, vegetation clearing, excavation and fill removal, was completed in 2012 and included funding from private donations, a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and in-kind donations from local businesses.

"We are pleased to work with China's Rilin Group and our community partners to continue to restore this forest," said Keith Laakkonen, Florida Coastal Office southwest regional manager. "Mangroves are not only vital to our local economy but provide numerous benefits worldwide. This innovative project and accompanying research may prove beneficial to restoring and protecting these critical ecosystems around the globe."

"We want our investment in Rookery Bay to help restore that mangrove system, and other mangrove ecosystems in other parts of Florida and the United States," said Wenliang Wang, chairman of China's Rilin Group. "We believe the results can also be deployed to China's coastal areas where mangroves have been impacted, and urgently need to be restored and regenerated. The Rilin Group will continue to make strategic investments in environment and ecosystem preservation, and make its humble

contribution to the protection of international ecosystems and the environment."

Partners on the project include: Coastal Resources Group, Inc. (the project manager), the Ecology Group, Evans Engineering, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the City of Marco Island, Friends of Rookery Bay and China's Rilin Group.

Mangroves are instrumental in protecting Florida shoreline and providing habitat for marine life that are the basis of the \$7.6-billion fishing industry, which employs 109,000 people. The Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters on the Gulf Coast of Florida in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

***Rookery Bay Research Center is located at
300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113.***

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Education is Key to Our Pristine Beach

by Ruth McCann,

Executive Director, Marco Island Civic Association

The City of Marco Island Beach Advisory Committee is in the process of instituting an educational program aimed at the youngsters on our island. The hope is that by raising awareness of beach “etiquette,” the children will set a good example for everyone, even their parents and grandparents! The target audience will be children at learning centers, pre-schools, elementary and secondary schools, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts, etc.

There will be three modules for the program: Litter & Live Shelling; Nesting Shorebirds; and Sea Turtle Protection. Each topic will be geared to the particular audience but the message will remain the same: keeping our beaches free of debris and trash for the well-being and health of all.

The committee hopes to partner with local organizations, such as the Collier Shorebird Stewardship Program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Samantha Malloy, City of Marco Island Events Coordinator, at 239-389-3917 or smalloy@cityofmarcoisland.com.

A collection of straws recovered at a recent beach clean-up

A sand sculpture at Residents’ Beach



News from Across the Bridge

*by Donna Fiala,
Collier County Commissioner*

Being that I don't know of any Residents' Beach members that would ever need to go to other area beaches, such as Tigertail Beach or even parks such as the Kayak and Canoe Park at the entrance to Isles of Capri, I felt it necessary to provide information in case you would like to apply for a Beach Parking Sticker. Without a parking sticker, individuals must pay an \$8 parking fee at any Collier County beach parking facility. Full time residents must provide the original current vehicle registration and original drivers' license which must display the same name and Collier County residence address. Part-time resident property owners must provide the above plus their current Collier County Tax Statement or Deed, and must display the property owner's name. You may take your information to the Marco Island Library to obtain your free parking pass, or to selected parks in the greater Collier County area or the Government Center itself. This pass is accepted in any of the Collier County Parks, plus the City of Naples parks and beaches.

Many new and exciting retail stores are coming our way in this little corner of Collier County at the intersection of Collier Blvd. and U.S. 41E. You can already see the new shopping center quickly taking shape in that area with some stores getting ready to build their infrastructures such as walls, floors, ceilings, shelving, etc. beginning in February. Construction has gone smoothly (except for weather) so they might even be able to open for the later part of season, if all goes well. Just as a reminder, the names of the stores within Tamiami Crossings are Michael's Craft Store, Pet Smart, Stein Mart, Marshall's, Ross, and Ulta Salon and Cosmetics. There will be a few out-parcels available for businesses such as restaurants and banks at a future time.

And, speaking of shopping, the land is being cleared right now for a Hobby Lobby behind the Outback Steakhouse! Also, "Restaurant Row" is in the beginning stages of construction. You might have noticed the tall mounds of sand and dirt along the 951 border of Freedom Square, which is where they will begin. One of the restaurants will be Texas Roadhouse.

A new Indian Restaurant has opened in the East Naples area: "21 Spices by Chef Asif" (Chef Asif was the head chef at the Marco Hilton for 15 years prior to opening this restaurant). He has completely redesigned the interior and has added a charm and elegance that never existed in that building before. The food is outstanding; the dining experience is awesome and upscale. In this place you dress for dinner. We are always looking for restaurants that are rated above the rest – and this restaurant is indeed that caliber!

Lastly, a WaWa Convenience store and gas station will be coming out of the ground shortly, across U.S. 41 E from the Outback Steakhouse. That intersection will be the "Happening Place" for our area, and I'm sure we will all embrace its emergence.



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

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***We have many visitors to the MICA office.
In January, Reese "The Diva"
stopped by the office with her parents,
Pamela Geppert and Peter Cunningham.
Reese's outfit is from
Critter Café on Marco Island!***

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Bill Patterson, continued from page 3



Bill Patterson reviewing plans with the MICA Architectural Review Committee

"We really like to take a common sense approach to these matters and don't feel it's our job to make life difficult for anyone. Those restrictions go with the land and can't be simply changed by someone putting their finger up to test the political winds and that should be something that residents can feel confident about," said Patterson.

MICA has been challenged a number of times on the validity of the restrictions, and in each occasion their stance and that of the deed restrictions have been upheld in the court.

Patterson, like so many other longtime residents of the island, has concerns regarding the changing face and character of Marco. "Unfortunately, a middle class family would be hard pressed to move here today due to the ever rising cost of real estate," said Patterson. "This community was designed by the Mackles for the middle class. Unfortunately they were not able to realize their dream when the Corps of Engineers and the environmentalists caused them to abandon those plans. They were no longer in control. Now builds have gotten bigger and the smaller homes are being demolished and larger ones built."

Betty Hernandez, who was once a member of the City's planning department will take over the reins for Patterson as he leaves behind 22 years of dedication to his responsibilities. "I'm not sure anyone will ever fill Bill's shoes around here," said Hernandez.

Ruth McCann who has been the executive director of MICA for the last 18 years agrees; "When Bill walked out the door the entire MICA staff and board of directors lost a great asset, as did the community," said McCann.



Plastic - It's a Dirty Word for the Environment

by Ruth McCann, Executive Director, Marco Island Civic Association

Plastic. It was a wondrous invention back in 1905 when Bakelite was formulated and later in 1938 with the invention of nylon. Since then our love and craving for plastic has caused the global production of plastic to double every 11 years!

According to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, plastic pollution in the ocean is a rapidly emerging global environmental concern due to the increased production of plastic. Seabirds are particularly vulnerable to this type of pollution and are often seen ingesting floating plastic.

The international publication Defenders of Wildlife states that 9 in 10 seabirds have plastic in their guts and in less than 35 years nearly all seabirds will have plastic in their bodies. Eating plastic causes the birds to feel full and die from malnutrition. Fish are in a similar predicament.

What can we as a community do? Follow the lead of some European countries that have banned single use plastic items, such as straws, lids, take out boxes, and plastic bags. In just one decade of these bans, quantifiable changes have been realized!

Please say "no thanks" to plastic straws and plastic bags. Encourage the restaurants you frequent to switch to paper straws and take out boxes. Recycle and NEVER, EVER leave anything behind on the beach!

How long does it take for items to break down in a marine environment?

Paper Bag	1 Month
Cardboard	50 Years
Aluminum Can	200-500 Years
Plastic Bag	500-1000 Years
Plastic Bottle	450-1000 Years
Disposable Diaper	550 Years
Plastic Straw	700 Years
Glass	1-2 Million Years
Styrofoam	1+ Million Years
Monofilament Line	NEVER
Cigarette Filters	NEVER

*Get involved.
Volunteer for a City of
Marco Island Beach Clean-up.
It's fun and you'll be
surprised at what you find!*

BEACH CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|--------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat, Feb. 20 | 8 am | City of MI clean-up at South Beach, sponsored by Truly Nolen |
| Sat, Mar 19 | 8 am | City of MI clean-up at South Beach, sponsored by MI Sport Fishing Club |
| Sat, Apr 9 | 8 am | Friends of Tigertail - Bay Days clean-up at Tigertail Beach |
| Sat, May 14 | 8 am | City of MI clean-up at South Beach Boardwalk, sponsored by Publix |
| Tues, May 31 | 6 pm | City of MI clean-up at South Beach, sponsored by Beach Advisory Com. |

- * Publix supplies gloves, water and trashbags;
- MICA supplies the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster.
- Leadership Marco supplies buckets and picker-uppers.



Updates from Marco Island Center for the Arts

by Hyla Crane, Executive Director Marco Island Center for the Arts

In keeping with the rest of Marco Island, Marco Island Center for the Arts is bursting with activity during season.

In February our gallery will present Miami artist Oscar Glottman's exhibition, "Time Zippers/Reflection Pools." The exhibition interlocks horizon lines and skies with temporal zippers. These large-scale color photographs, printed on cold-pressed cotton rag paper or carpet (using a high-definition chromojet printer), investigate Glottman's interest in relativity, time and the environment. Spacetime captions are zipped together to birth a third. Nuanced and meticulous renditions of reality, a new space for reflection and awakening emerges.

February is a month when Jazz enthusiast can enjoy two concerts in our intimate gallery setting. On February 12, the Peter and Will Anderson jazz trio will bring a fresh perspective to classic pop and jazz tunes. Peter and Will attended Juilliard in New York City, where they currently reside. They have headlined at The Blue Note, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, New Orleans Jazz Festival, Sarasota Florida Jazz Festival, Miami-Dade's Cultural Arts Center, and The Arizona Music Festival.

On February 24, the Rebecca Richardson Jazz trio will return to the Art Center after their sold out performance in 2015. Rebecca's love of jazz music has led her down many paths - from Seattle to New York, Paris and Amsterdam - landing now here in Naples, where she and her trio enchant audiences. Enjoy an afternoon of mood transforming jazz standards with sultry, swinging vocals.

In March the Art Center welcomes Emily James and her artwork to our galleries. With her acrylics and oils on canvas, Emily has received



numerous Best-in-Show ribbons, and has had many one-woman shows. She was selected as the official artist of the tournament for master golfers held in Georgia each spring. Known for her versatility in both subject and style, she enjoys painting landscapes, seascapes, abstracts, and contemporary works, and she is a portrait artist as well. Emily specializes in creating custom artwork with the feeling, colors, and subject the owner will enjoy viewing. On March 10, join us as violinist/composer Dr. Jeff Leigh performs original musical compositions inspired by the work of Emily James. This world premiere collaboration that partners art and music is not to be missed!

The Art Center is thrilled that well known art dealer and collector, Robert Chase will return this

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Golden Gate Jewelers of Marco

Buying jewelry can be a daunting experience for those who don't have an extensive knowledge of the field. It is very important to most buyers that they can trust that their jeweler really knows his craft and isn't going to misrepresent anything to them. So it may surprise you to learn that Golden Gate Jewelers of Marco, despite only having been open on Marco Island for less than two years, has quickly established itself as many islanders' jeweler of choice.

This may have something to do with the fact that it is a family run company which has owned a popular and well respected jewelry store in Ft Lauderdale for over 30 years. Or perhaps it is because the family has thrown themselves into the community and become involved in well loved Marco Island charities like the local chapter of the American Cancer Society and designed custom pieces for local organizations like the Historical Society and The Marco Island Center for the Arts. It may be the fact that they are members of the MICA Discount Program. Or it may just be that they are very good at what they do and they've created a beautiful and wide ranging collection of fabulous jewelry in their gorgeous store.



Customizable Marco Island Charms

Ari is a really busy guy at the moment... he describes himself as a geek with two great passions in life (apart, of course, from his wife and young son) ... jewelry design and comic book characters. And recently he has been able to bring those two passions together in a new company "What's Your Passion Jewelry" which, he is excited to announce, has just closed a licensing deal with Marvel Comics. He is creating a collectible line of fine jewelry pieces for them that pays homage to the iconic comic book characters.

The collectibles, which will initially be sold on his website (www.ComicBookJewelry.com) and in the two family stores, will be available in sterling silver at very affordable price points. They will come in beautiful display boxes with certificates of authenticity and everything will be made in the USA.

With his in-depth knowledge of Marvel characters like Captain America, Ari has incorporated many fine details into his intricate designs, which will be immediately recognizable to other comic book aficionados... "I'm a geek making geek jewelry for geeks" admitted Ari.

It's early days for this young company and it has already been a long hard road to reach the point of being awarded such a prestigious license. But he isn't resting on his laurels - he says he is living his dream and he hopes to extend the range to include 14k and 18k gold rings, pendants and bracelets. He is also planning a class ring and engagement ring line in the future.

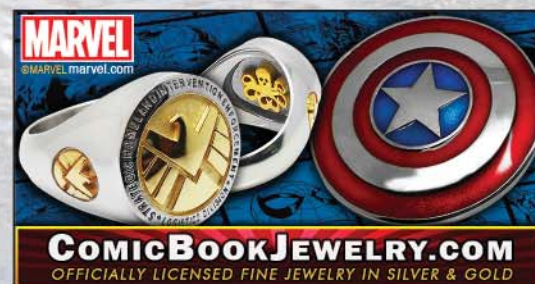
Luckily Ari's wife shares his passion (she even suggested that they go to Comic-Con for their honeymoon, which was where this dream started to take shape). His sister, Avital is also involved in the new company, which seems to have a marvelous (pun intended) future ahead of it!

Golden Gate Jewelers of Marco is located in the Shops of Marco, 133 S Barfield Drive, www.ggjmarco.com • 239.259.8937



"Paradise Found" Bangles

What's Your Passion?





MICA Holiday Party at Residents' Beach, December 27th 2015





See pages 22 and 23 for more photos



Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

by Andrea McKenna, Donor Relations

This year Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is reaching out to the Marco Island community to raise awareness about the tremendous need for affordable housing in Collier County, especially for some who are employed on Marco Island. Currently 25 Marco Island businesses employ 75 Habitat homeowners.

Over the last five years, on average 8 families working on Marco Island partnered with Habitat to make their dream of homeownership come true. With rents continually rising and wages remaining stagnant, the number of people coming to Habitat's office to inquire about a home has skyrocketed to 15 for every one that Habitat has funds to build.

Marco Island needs a dedicated workforce to support its year-round and seasonal residents as well as tourism. These workers struggle to find safe and decent housing for themselves and their families anywhere in Collier County.

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is asking for support from Marco Island businesses, civic organizations, congregations and individuals. In 2016 Habitat is kicking off a Marco Million Campaign to raise funding to build 8 Habitat homes specifically for deserving families employed on the Island.

Habitat CEO and former Island Club President, Sam Durso, has been a Marco Island resident for 25 years and is a past recipient of MICA's Humanitarian Award. He recently said "I have been continually amazed at the philanthropic efforts of our small community. Over the years so many Marco Island friends have supported the critical work that Habitat does, likely because it is easy to see how the lives of Habitat families are intertwined in daily island life. Seeing increased enthusiasm to support our vision,



Anse Villard, pictured with his wife and sons, has done landscaping at the Marriott on Marco for 14 years. He said "those flowers that you see when you arrive, those are my flowers." He has brought the same beauty to his Habitat community with his landscaping talents.

a world where everyone has a decent place to live, is heartwarming."

Sam went on to say "As we embark on the campaign to fund 8 houses for Marco Island workers, I ask each island resident, business and congregation to consider what they can do to help change lives. Every gift truly makes a difference. I am humbled to partner in building dreams, building hope and building homes and I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supports the work of this ministry."

Please consider attending a complimentary Habi-Tour to experience first-hand the work of Habitat Collier. On Tuesday February 16 at 9:00 a.m., we will meet at the office of Mutual of Omaha Bank at 1770 San Marco Road for a guided tour.

We will board a charter coach to visit a completed Habitat community and hear from a homeowner



family how their lives have changed. You will see the untenable conditions in which some homeowner applicants are currently living. The highlight of the tour is having a family welcome us into their Habitat home to relay their personal story. The family shares their journey and their profound gratitude for those who have offered a hand-up to make the dream of homeownership come true.

The Habi-Tour runs approximately two hours and will begin and end at Mutual Of Omaha Bank's office at 1770 San Marco Road. Habitat is grateful to Mutual of Omaha Bank for their support of the Marco Million Campaign.

For more information or to reserve a seat on the Habi-Tour, contact Andrea McKenna at 239-775-0036 or amckenna@HabitatCollier.org. www.habitatcollier.org



Sam Durso, Habitat for Humanity CEO and former Island Club President, is joined by children living in a Habitat community.

About Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

As one of the most productive Habitat affiliates in the nation, Habitat Collier has built 100 homes each year for more than a decade. 1850 families are now living in the safety of their own home thanks to their hard work, the generosity of so many in our community and their partnership with Habitat. Families BUY their homes with an interest-free mortgage.

Homeowners undergo an exhaustive application process prior to being approved for a Habitat home.

Once approved, they invest 500 hours of "sweat equity" building their home and the homes of their future neighbors.

Habitat Collier was rated #1 in the nation for Community and Housing Development in 2014 by Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities. 93¢ of every dollar is used to build homes and serve families.



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36th Annual Marco Island Shell Show

by Jae Kellogg, 2016 MISC Shell Show Chair

We've certainly had a GREAT start to our Shell Club season! It's hard to believe that we are just a short time away from our biggest event of the year - our shell show! As always there will be great Scientific and Artistic exhibits, a fabulous Shell Art Gift Shop, live tank, and raffle items. This year on Saturday (the 12th) we are going to focus on kids!!! Please bring us your kids/grandkids for some great experiences in the shell world! On Saturday, March 12th, the show will open at 10am as usual - then the schedule will be as follows:

12noon "Live Shell Tank" Presentation -

Amazing - all ages

1pm Make your own shell necklace - all ages

2pm Contest - Prizes for the largest and smallest "lettered olive" shell - all ages - adults, too!



3pm People's Choice Awards presented
Raffle Drawing for all items
(no need to be present to win)

People's Choice Awards

Did you ever think you would have the opportunity to be a "judge" at this year's shell show? Your part in the "judging" is very simple! Two color coded ballots (artistic and scientific) will be handed to you at the door to write down your favorite choices after viewing all of the exhibits - then - just drop them in the ballot boxes!

2016 Trophy Sponsorships

Delaware Museum of Natural History
Conchologists of America
Florida Gulf Coast University
Friends of Rookery Bay
Bistro Soleil - Denis and Lisa Meurgue
Iberia Bank Dr. William Reid
University of South Florida
The Mary C. and John B. Maerker Plaque
- Valerie Maerker
The Mary Ciaramello Trophy - Eddy Ciaramello
and Joy Burdick
Fred and Marsha Prunetti
Patrick and Jae Kellogg



Blue sea urchin trophy to be awarded to best scientific exhibit. Blue starfish trophy to be awarded to best artistic exhibit.

Meet Our Judges

Scientific Judges will be:

Dr. Gary Schmelz - Marine Biologist and

Paleontologist from Naples, FL

Robert Pace - Florida Award Winning Exhibitor -
Prestigious COA and DuPont Awards, Miami, FL

Artistic Judges will be:

Sharlene Totten - experienced shell show judge and
exhibitor from Sarasota, FL

Mary Burton - 2016 Sanibel Shell Show Chair and
shell artist from Lehigh Acres, 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 a great thing for kids of all ages! Marvel at the Live Tank and the creativity of our exhibitors and shell artists is overwhelming. Bring your credit card - come see why we're so excited!

2016 Marco Island Shell Show
March 10-12, 2016, 10 am to 4 pm
Disseler Hall - United Church of
Marco, 320 N. Barfield Ave.



News and Information from the Friends of the Marco Island Public Library

by Nanette Finkle

***GREAT NEWS! The Marco Island Library, 210 S. Heathwood Dr.,
is NOW OPEN on SATURDAYS from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.***

MICA members invited: The Friends of the Marco Island Public Library have recently purchased a new puppet theater and hand puppets for the Children's Room. Please come by with friends and family and enjoy this new addition. Story Time is Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

The Lego Club meets once a month and is for children from 5-11 years of age. The next meeting is March 10th from 4-5:30 p.m. Donations of Legos you no longer have use for or have outgrown are appreciated. Come join the fun!

"LEAP" (Library Electronic Assistance Program) into 2016: Our tech savvy student is available to help you understand your electronic devices. Assistance is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 1-5pm. Please call the Library (239-394-3272) to schedule your visit.

Books And Brews: February 26th at 10:00 a.m. Marco Island author Michael Coleman will be doing a presentation of his local bestselling book, *Marco Island, Florida's Gulf Playground* for our next event. His book chronicles the transformation of Marco Island from an alligator-infested swamp to one of America's top travel destinations. Please call the library to register (239-394-3272). Hope to see you there!



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MICA Annual Meeting, January 26th 2015



Marco Island's Blue Star Memorial Marker

by Maria Lamb, Calusa Garden Club

In 2016 the National Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Marker project marks its 70th anniversary. Back in 1945, patriotic members of the National Garden Club in New Jersey began a Blue Star Memorial Trail that evolved into a national highway beautification program. They believed that it was better to honor the men and women of all the services in all of the wars by beautifying the landscape rather than building monuments. They planted 8,000 flowering dogwood trees down a 5½ mile stretch of highway as a living memorial to all veterans.

The Blue Star was taken from the Blue Star in the service flag and it was chosen to symbolize the memorial because it was used during WWII on flags, in homes of families that had a son or daughter away at war, in churches and in businesses. The Blue Star Memorial marker was adopted by the National Council of State Garden Clubs as its symbol to honor our veterans.

There are 3 types of Blue Star Memorial Markers. They are: Blue Star Memorial Highway markers placed along dedicated highways; the Blue Star Memorial markers placed on National Cemeteries and Veterans' Centers; the Blue Star Memorial markers which are intended for garden settings such as parks and civic historical grounds.

The Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island dedicated its own Blue Star Memorial marker on November 11, 2013 and the 7 foot marker is located at Veterans' Community Park. This is a unique way for our local garden club to show their support for our service men and women, who risk their lives every day to protect our freedom.

Calusa Garden Club's past president, Dale DeFeo, spearheaded the initiative to bring a Blue Star Memorial marker to Marco Island. The Veterans' Memorial Committee supplied the concrete foundation for the installation. Affordable Landscaping

continued on page 28



*Calusa Garden Club members with
Blue Star Memorial marker*



*Mike Chidester (left) & Fidi Mireles (right)
of Public Works re-installing marker.*



*Calusa Garden Member Mary McIntosh
tending plants*



Sailing Association of Marco Island Celebrating 46 Years of Sailing Fun!

by Patrick and Jae Kellogg

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

With the return of all of our seasonal friends and the ongoing residents of our island paradise, maybe you are looking for something “new” to enjoy in this water wonderland! It doesn’t matter if you are here for 3 months, 6 months, or a permanent fixture on this rock - you can be a part of our group - check us out - SAMI - the Sailing Association of Marco Island!

Organized in 1969, SAMI is one of the oldest clubs on Marco Island! Vince and Helen Tateo and their three young sons left Norwalk, Conn. in 1966 and after a 2 month voyage on their 32’ cruiser - arrived in Marco Island! Vince started the first sailing school on Marco, while Helen opened an art studio and gallery, which in time evolved into the Marco Art League. Vince was founding member of the Sailing Association of Marco Island and served as the first Commodore in 1970 - 1971!

Our Personal Story....When my husband and I first came to the island in 2000, we brought our small sailboat to sail the waters of the south west coast of Florida - the 10,000 Islands area and hopefully the Keys! For the next five years we lived on that little boat while still working full time - had our boat in Naples, Marco Island - Goodland, and Key West. It was while we lived in Key West after selling our house in the Midwest, that we had the opportunity to buy a bigger boat which we have lived on full time since 2005. After settling back to Marco Island, we were looking for a sailing community - we didn’t have to go far!

Enter SAMI!!!! Wow, what a wonderful little jewel we found in this sailing club! To our delight, this little club was a way to meet wonderful people with sailing/cruising in mind, educational speakers on sailing/navigation, sailing adventures from our own members and cruising right here in our beautiful 10,000 Islands and the south west coast of Florida! Our membership is 70 members strong and with that comes activities for the entire season as well as summer! We come from all walks of life - a wide range

of novice to experienced sailors - you may participate as much or little as you wish - and there are various activities for all ages and abilities - men and women alike!



SAMI members celebrating another year of membership and fun!

Cruising/Sailing.....Whether you are a day sailor or monthly cruiser - short or long distances - this is the club for you! We explore new anchorages and marinas in the 10,000 Islands and Southwest Florida cruising areas! You may meet around-the-world sailors in our club, but you and they will have just as much fun right here with us doing a weekend jaunt to Panther Key, a week in the Dry Tortugas via Key West or head north to the beautiful Punta Gorda/Cayo Costa/Sanibel area - and if you want to go further, take the GICW on the West Coast of Florida up to Sarasota/St. Pete/Tampa cruising grounds! Each month, an interesting cruise is planned! Want to go to the islands? You can always find someone in our group ready to leave for the Bahamas in late March, early April!

Racing ... Do you like to get out and compete for speed on your sailboat? January through December, SAMI joins other clubs to compete and participate in the SWFL Boat of the Year Races - including the Avow Hospice Regatta. SAMI also sponsors the Bud Light Regatta, The Captain’s Cup and the forever fun - Ladies Day Races! Our SAMI /Bud





Member boats anchored

Light Regatta benefits the Civil Air Patrol, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Marco Island Community Sailing Center!

Social....Did I mention that we have a very social bunch of members? We do have monthly dinner meetings (pot lucks, restaurants, catered etc.) the 3rd Thursday of the month. With our January meeting comes the "Change of Watch" - the installation of our new Bridge - the welcoming of our new Commodore - Around-the-World Sailor - Ken Bardon - and the rest of the CREW - Vice Commodore, Phil Litow - Rear Commodore, Micki Gobeil - Secretary, Robin Singer - Treasurer, Mary



Member boats racing

Lee Cale - Fleet Captain, Bronwen McKiever! They, like the Bridge from 2015, are full of promise for another banner year in SAMI!

Check out our complete calendar of upcoming events on our website - it includes all regattas, planned cruises, monthly meetings - even the July 4th boat parade!

Sailors with a small boat, big boat, or no boat; we would love to meet you, and have you meet us!

Contact us through our Commodore on the SAMI website: www.samisailor.org

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MICA Holiday Party at Residents' Beach, December 27th 2015





See pages 12 and 13 for more photos



LCEC Reduces Rates Again in 2016 – Marking More Than Seven Years Without A Rate Increase

by Karen Ryan, APR, CPRC, Public Relations Manager LCEC

Beginning January 1, LCEC customers saw the fourth rate decrease in two years. LCEC electric rates are below the national average, and among the lowest of 56 utilities in Florida. LCEC employees work hard to provide the best possible price for reliable service to customers and it was possible to reduce rates again due to a calculated business strategy, process improvements, cost management, use of technology and efficient work practices.

As an electric cooperative, LCEC is not in business to make money, only to serve its members/customers by delivering reliable, cost competitive

electricity and service. LCEC is governed by its members represented by a ten-member Board of Trustees. At their December, 2015 meeting, the Board reached a unanimous decision to reduce rates again. This marks a residential rate reduction of nearly seven percent since 2014, bringing rates from \$114.16 per 1,000 kWh to \$106.55 per 1,000 kWh. Customers are paying less for electricity now than they were in 2008!

According to the Florida Municipal Electric Association, the average investor-owned electric utility rate in Florida is \$128.59 per 1,000 kWh. The average rate for the 33 municipal electric utilities in Florida is \$114.41 per 1,000 kWh. LCEC rates are well below the state average and the lowest among Florida cooperatives.

LCEC also returned more than \$10 million to active and inactive cooperative members in 2015 in the form of retired equity. Cooperative members invest in the electric system and are allocated equity annually. This reduces the need for costly loans or bonds that would increase electric rates. When it is financially feasible, a portion of the equity is retired and returned to members/customers. Over the years, LCEC has retired and returned more than \$231 million in equity.

One of the LCEC long-range business objectives is to become one of the lowest-cost residential electric providers in Florida. LCEC is currently among the lowest ten and striving to balance low rates with maintaining and operating a reliable electric system.

2016 equity allocation coming soon!! Make sure LCEC has your correct address so that any equity retirement payment can be sent to you. Retirements less than \$250 are seen as a credit on your bill.

For more info, visit www.lcec.net

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Hop off to Key West with Island Hoppers

Only ten minutes over the bridge, Marco Executive Airport sees many private aircraft coming and going. From the middle of February there will be a new scheduled service taking to the air.

Well established Island Hoppers has long provided air charters from Marco Executive Airport to the Keys and other cities in Florida, but in November they received all of the necessary paperwork to start scheduled service to Key West.

If you have friends or family visiting and you're running out of ideas for keeping them busy or you are looking for something different, this is sure to fit the bill.

Although Key West is only 90 miles due south, it is nearly 250 miles by road, making it really only practical for a three or four night visit. Now, this convenient service from Island Hoppers changes that, allowing you to enjoy a full day or maybe two nights and three days in the southernmost city in mainland USA, before returning just in time for dinner back on Marco.

There's plenty of great fishing in and around Marco but fishing in the Keys is different. Deep sea for sailfish, dolphin (or should be say mahi mahi?) king mackerel and tuna or sight-fishing on the flats in the gin clear water for bonefish and permit.

There's also many great restaurants and bars and, no matter how beautiful the sunsets are on Marco, the entertainment at Mallory Square as the sun goes down adds a certain uniqueness for sure!

Island Hoppers operate this service using a nine passenger Cessna 402C for this 45 minute flight, providing great views of Marco, the Everglades and

the middle Keys en route. One way from Marco is as low as \$89 plus taxes and they are currently offering a "commuter" book of 10 one way tickets for \$800 which are transferable. Great value and maybe a novel gift idea.

In addition to the flights from Marco, Island Hoppers will also be starting scheduled flights to Key West from and to Sarasota and Punta Gorda.

Marco Island to Key West

Mon, Fri & Sun - Departs 9am. Arrives 9.45am

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4 & 5, 394-3705 www.marcofitnessclub.com

Nikken, Retail wellness products
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www.101fit.com
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Vitamins only. 394-8361
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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.



**Marco Island Center for the Arts,
continued from page 10**

season after his presentation on Salvador Dali in 2015. "Transcendence and Renewal." will provide unique insights into the work of American master sculptor Frederick Hart who is recognized for creating work - at once traditional in its adherence to the human figure, radical in its sensuality, and innovative in its materials. Hart is known for his "The Creation Sculptures" on the west façade of Washington National Cathedral as well as the heroic bronze statue Three Soldiers, Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Hart was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States Government in 2004.

*For more information
visit our website –
www.marcoislandart.org.
Marco Island Center for the Arts
is located at 1040 Winterberry Drive.*

**Calusa Garden Club,
continued from page 19**

assisted with the cost and installation of the plantings surrounding the base of the marker. Maintenance of the marker is the responsibility of the Calusa Garden club members. Due to salt and the humid weather, the memorial recently had to be removed for cleaning and restoration and in mid-January, a crew from the Public Works Dept., re-installed it back at Veterans' Community Park.

Donation of any amount is greatly appreciated to maintain the Marker. Calusa Garden Club is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Please send to Calusa Garden Club, PO Box 1763, Marco Island 34146.

*Calusa Garden Club meets the 2nd Monday
of the month from October through April.
Most meetings are held at the Fellowship Hall
of Wesley United Methodist Church, 350 S.
Barfield. For further information, please visit
the website at www.calusa.org.*



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For the Love of History – Join The Marco Island Historical Society for a Special Preview!

You are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day making history with The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS).

On Sunday, February 14 from 3pm until 5pm, the MIHS will give the community a preview of their Windows and Doors to History Project. This project represents the final phase of completing the Marco Island Historical Museum - inside and out. As the permanent exhibits are being constructed inside the Museum, the 20 faux windows and three doors will vividly portray scenes from Marco Island's past, from the Ice Age to Modern Marco. The MIHS is working with seven renowned artists on this project.

Join us on February 14 to hear more about this monumental project and meet the artists who will bring the past to the present. The MIHS Windows and Doors to History Project is also the primary fundraising vehicle to bring "home" on loan to Marco Island many of the 2000 Key Marco Calusa artifacts excavated during the 1896 archaeological expedition on Marco. These objects, whose artistry captures the glories of Calusa culture for the world, are located at the Smithsonian, the University of Florida, the University of Pennsylvania, and the British Museum. Before any of these institutions will agree to lend artifacts to the Marco Museum, extensive preparatory work in terms of climate control, lighting, and security must be completed. Most of the funds from these gifts are reserved to support the return of the Key Marco artifacts.

Pat Rutledge, President and Executive Director of the Marco Island Historical society noted that "all artists chosen to work on this historic project have a shared "history" with the MIHS

and will be at the announcement on Sunday, February 14."

The introduction of the Windows & Doors to History artists as well as other special announcements begin promptly at 3:15pm in the Rose History Auditorium.

***The Marco Island Historical Society is
located at 180 S Heathwood Dr.
For more information about the Windows
and Doors to History Project, contact
Susan Pernini at (239) 389-6447.***

Paradise Grill at Residents' Beach

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*The Marco Island Civic Association
presents*

“WHAT IS A BLUE ZONE?”

featuring NCH President & CEO Dr. Allen Weiss

*Thursday, February 11th, 10am
at Rose History Auditorium*



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Marco Island Residents' Beach Members Only Concerts



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Monday, February 15th, 4pm



**Boots on the Beach with the
Ben Allen Band**

Sunday, February 28th, 3:30pm



**Jimmy Stowe
& The Stowaways**

Sunday, March 13th, 5pm

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