

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association
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May 2017



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

President's Message

by Kathy Sullivan, MICA President

As our season ends, we can expect warmer weather, hopefully a few spring showers, less crowded streets and the ability to buzz through the grocery store in 10 minutes. One thing that will remain unchanged is a visit to our spectacular beach. Traveling is one of my husband, Silky's, and my favorite past times. We feel our beach ranks up there as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

MICA recently started enforcing our long-standing badge policies, and it has noticeably improved our parking availability at the beach. Only on concert days has the lot been full, and we have had to direct members to alternate parking. I realize that the new policies have caused a few inconveniences and, for that, I apologize. We are considering some innovative technology to speed up the beach entrance process and will weigh the benefits versus the cost to make the right decision for our members.

Our focus is on enhancing the value of our membership to our members. We have initiated a Fish Fry at the Paradise Grill on Friday nights. It will remain if the demand continues. Now you can order beer and wine to have along with your dinner. Some just order take out to enjoy their dinner at home. We have also started a "Bagels on the Beach" on Sundays complete with a refreshing Mimosa.

Reluctantly, we accepted the resignation of Jim Curran from our Board. He was a creative, active force on our board, and we thank him for his years of service. The Board has selected Cathy Nowosielski, who was serving on our Membership Committee, to fill the position for the remainder of Jim's unexpired term.

Another new face on the board is Patti Lamotte, who has served on ARC for more than a year. Patti replaces Dianna Dohm, who recently resigned to concentrate on her duties at the Chamber of Commerce.

We have welcomed several non-board members to serve on our various committees. Many thanks to John Coff, Steve Morgan, Ben Farnsworth and Dawn Marceau for volunteering their time to help. Our Membership/Marketing Committee, chaired by Megan Olsen, is developing plans to enhance our discount program. Look for that in late Summer/early Fall. And, of course, our Beach Committee chairman, Bernardo Bezos, manages a robust maintenance and repair schedule to keep our beach property pristine and ready for enjoyment by all our members. We are updating our playground area to ensure it provides a safe, fun place for the little ones. Andy Lazo will head up a new committee focused on our use of technology. Dick Adams oversees our Architectural Review Committee (ARC) to ensure our deed restrictions are enforced. Members of ARC include Jim Johnson, Patti LaMotte, Ken Molander, Dick Polinsky, Tom Valiente, and Bonnie Seigfried. Joe Swaja is chairing our Government Affairs Committee. Someone on that committee attends all City Council meetings and will initiate following news from the county, school board and state government to identify issues of interest to our community and members.

We are YOUR community advocates, and we will keep you posted on developments. Please respond to our upcoming survey because we use that as the source for developing our positions on community issues and concerns. MICA has a very powerful voice when we speak out in unison.

Our next event will be our day long Fourth of July Celebration. Again, this year we have made a \$5,000 contribution to support another awesome fireworks display.

For our seasonal members, please have a safe journey and wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you next season.



*Kathy Sullivan, President,
MICA Board of Directors*



People Can Help Nesting Sea Turtles

by The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

March is the beginning of Florida's sea turtle nesting season, when female sea turtles leave the ocean to dig nests and lay golf ball-size eggs in the sand.

People can help sea turtles that nest on Florida's beaches at night by leaving the beach as natural as possible. To do this, beachgoers should remove beach furniture and other obstacles before sunset each day.

"Anyone spending time on Florida's beaches can do something to help save Florida's threatened and endangered sea turtles. People's actions on the beach can have a positive impact on whether our loggerhead, leatherback and green sea turtles nest successfully," said Dr. Robbin Trindell, who leads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) sea turtle management program.

"Whether you are a resident or a visitor, remember to take beach furniture, boats and canopies off Florida's sandy beaches at night so these items won't block sea turtles attempting to nest," Trindell said. "When departing at the end of the day, beach visitors should fill any holes dug in the sand so nesting and hatchling turtles don't become trapped. Please be careful not to disturb nesting sea turtles by getting too close, shining lights on them or taking flash photos."

At this time of year, FWC-authorized marine turtle permit holders and volunteers begin their annual ritual too – walking beaches in the morning to look for "crawls" resembling tire tracks. Crawls indicate a sea turtle has landed and nested on a beach the previous night. On some of the beaches, nests are marked with a yellow sign and plastic tape, since sea turtles and their eggs are protected. This monitoring continues through October, the official end of sea turtle nesting season.

Exactly when sea turtle nesting season starts depends on where you are in Florida. While it begins in March on the Atlantic coast, it starts later in the spring, in late April or May, along the Gulf coast. Yet wherever you are in the state, what you do on the beach can make a significant difference on whether sea turtles nest successfully.

In the 2016 sea turtle nesting season, more than 120,000 loggerhead nests, more than 5,000 green



turtle nests and over 1,000 leatherback nests were documented by the FWC. With Florida hosting nearly 90 percent of loggerhead nests within this species' northern Atlantic Ocean population, the state plays an important role in its conservation.

You can help sea turtles by reporting those that are sick, injured, entangled or dead to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline, 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or *FWC on a cellphone, or text Tip@MyFWC.com. People also can donate \$5 and receive an FWC sea turtle decal.

Go to MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle for information on Florida's sea turtles and how to get decals, and click on "Research," then "Nesting" for more data on sea turtle nesting.

••••• **Marco Island Civic Association** •••••

• 1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204,

• Marco Island, FL 34145

• **Phone: 239-642-7778**

• **Fax: 239-642-8663**

• **www.marcocivic.com**

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MICA's 2017 Humanitarian of the Year Award



*MICA's 2017 Humanitarians of the Year
From left to right: Liz Pecora, Vicki Johnson, Shawnee Huff and
JoAnne Lundquist (not pictured: Jennifer Ludwigen)*

The Marco Island Civic Association's Humanitarian of the Year Award is one of the most prestigious awards on Marco Island.

This esteemed award was developed in 1998 to honor the unsung heroes of Marco Island, the people who do so much for so many; the wonderful, positive people you do not hear much about.

Recent recipients have included: Maria Elena Pujol, Cheryl and Mike Mueller, Al Bismonte, and Dennis and Joan Pidherny.

On Sunday, March 19, before a crowd of more than 1,000 people gathered at Residents' Beach, the MICA Board of Directors honored five individuals who have spent countless hours volunteering as a team to work on behalf of the less fortunate residents of Marco Island. They are self-sacrificing givers, living their faith by giving back to their community.

MICA's President Kathy Sullivan noted that Marco Island is known for our beautiful beaches, restaurants and tourism. However, there is another side to Marco in which 40% of the children attending Tommie Barfield Elementary School qualify for free breakfast and lunch.

These children and their parents are living next door to all of us, and JoAnne Lundquist recognized a need beyond our insulated world and stepped up without hesitation. JoAnne conceived of a food pantry to feed these families. She saw an opportunity at The Family Church, and along with her friends they have grown "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" beginning in January 2016 to serve over 3,600 individuals in its first year!

The group of five women are from The Family Church and started Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. This faithful team includes JoAnne Lundquist, Operations Manager and the woman who conceived of the





MICA's 2017 Humanitarians of the Year receiving their award from MICA President Kathy Sullivan

pantry; Liz Pecora, Community Affairs Coordinator; Jennifer Ludwigsen, Food Procurement Coordinator; Vicki Johnson, Church Coordinator; and Shawnee Huff, Volunteer Coordinator.

The pantry is open two Saturdays every month and is open other times by appointment. A pantry representative will “shop” with guests when they visit and all records are completely confidential.

Our Daily Bread is truly a community effort with its mission to serve the community. Partners in the food pantry are:

- Marco Presbyterian Church
- New Life Community Church
- Wesley United Methodist Church
- United Church of Marco
- San Marco Catholic Church
- The Family Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- Marco Lutheran Church and
- Goodland Baptist Church.

These five women operate in-sync and make it look easy, which we know it is not.

Of course, there are many, many others, without whom this Herculean effort would not be as successful, including the husbands of the Team of Five, who refer to themselves as “Food Pantry Widowers!”

Marco Island is a better place in which to live thanks to the efforts of these five outstanding citizens. We are truly blessed on Marco to have such a loving, caring community.



*MICA's 2017 Humanitarians of the Year
From left to right: Jennifer Ludwigsen Liz Pecora, Vicki Johnson and Shawnee Huff
(not pictured: JoAnne Lundquist)*



News from Across the Bridge

by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner

Just a little state news coming from our Legislators: The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee killed a bill by Senator Tom Lee that would have repealed the Sports Development Program. The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee approved a bill that would remove the cap on how many trauma centers can open in Florida. The Senate Community Affairs Committee okayed an amended version of a bill aimed at vacation rentals. The amendment, put forward by Senator Jeff Brandes, essentially gutted the original bill which would have limited local government's ability to regulate short-term vacation rentals.

By the time you read this newsletter, America's largest pickleball park will have hosted the 2nd Annual Minto U.S. Open PickleBall Championship games. This year, the second year of this amazing sport, it will be hosting 1300 registered players from 46 states and 12 countries! There are 44 pickleball courts all located in the East Naples Community Park, (39 courts will be used in the tournament because part of the other courts are needed for the tv and news stations and the VIP Sky Box). New features include a huge shade structure covering the Zing Zang Championship Court, a seven day venue, a Sky Box for corporate parties with Margaritaville as the VIP lounge sponsor, and CBS Sports Network coverage, plus the Pickleball Channel and many local newspapers and tv channels. Some Marco Island players are registered to play in the tournament. More than 10,000 spectators are expected this year. The event brought a \$2.5 million economic boost to the Naples area last year in five days. We can only expect more this year. The event was also named a winner in Sports Destination Management Magazine's annual awards program and Champions of Impact Sports Tourism. It's amazing to see the excitement within the park. Hopefully some of you were

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



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MICA Presents \$5,000 Check to The City of Marco Island for July Fourth Fireworks Display

*Left: MICA Treasurer Bernado Bezos presents check to Interim City Manager Gil Polanco at the City Council Meeting on April 17th, 2017.
Below: MICA Board President Kathy Sullivan speaks to the Marco Island City Council.*



NCH Healthcare - Straight Talk

by Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

“As a health system caring for the people of Southwest Florida, we are actively improving well-being, not only by managing illness and injury, but also by identifying ways in which we can create a healthier and more active community for all our residents. We are bringing together schools, grocery stores, restaurants, employers, civic organizations and other groups in a true cross-community collaboration. Fifteen thousand early adopters (and counting) have joined us in this grassroots transformation, momentum that underscores our residents’ commitment to living their healthiest lives.” - Allen S. Weiss, M.D.

The good news just doesn’t stop. The quote above for a national press release reviewed by CBS news, the New York Times, the Naples Daily News and many others, was in response to wonderful news earlier this week naming the Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) the healthiest and happiest region in America for the second straight year in a row. Below are our impressive statistics:

Overall

- #1 in 2016, retaining our #1 rank from 2015. Naples MSA is one of only three communities to rank #1 more than once since 2008.
- Naples MSA has a 2016 Well-Being Index score of 66.3—one of only two communities with a score above 66, and one of only seven communities with a score above 65.
- Naples MSA has high well-being rankings across all five elements. In 2016, we were #3 in physical well-being, #1 in community well-being, #11 in financial well-being, #3 in social well-being, and #3 in purpose well-being.

Strengths

- Lowest lifetime diagnoses of depression in the nation (7.0%)
- Highest percentage of residents thriving in community well-being, with a 54.8% thriving rate, compared to the national average of 39.9%
- Highest percentage of healthy eating in the nation, with 75.3% of residents, indicating they ate healthy all day the previous day, compared to the

national average of 63.2%

- Highest in the country for those who like what they do every day. 86.9% of those living in the Naples MSA report they like what they do every day, compared to the 77.3% of the nation.
- Relatively low smoking rate (13.7%), well under the national average of 18.0% in 2016
- 6th lowest obesity rate at 19.3%, compared to the national average of 28.4%
- Lowest levels of those with stress, with 27.9% indicating feeling significant stress the previous day, compared to the national average of 40.0%

Opportunities for Improvement

- Low health insurance coverage at only 83.3% compared to the 89.0% national average
- High percentage of those with a lifetime diagnosis of heart attack (4.9%) compared to 3.9% nationally
- High percentage of those with elevated cholesterol (26.9%) compared to 22.8% nationally
- High percentage of those with a lifetime diagnosis of cancer (12.3%) compared to 7.1% nationally
- 48th in the nation for frequent exercise, with 56.2% of residents indicating exercising 30+ min, three days in the last week (above the national average of 53.4%), but an area that could continue to see improvement

Movement from 2015

Naples experienced a statistically significant improvement from 2015 to 2016 in overall physical well-being, those thriving in life evaluation, those thriving in financial well-being, and those having health insurance coverage. The NCH journey to help everyone live a longer, happier, and healthier life is progressing. Even though we remain first, we still have opportunities to improve locally and to share our success across America.

Naples Community Hospital is located at 11190 Health Park Blvd, Naples, FL 34110, and can be reached at 239-552-7000.

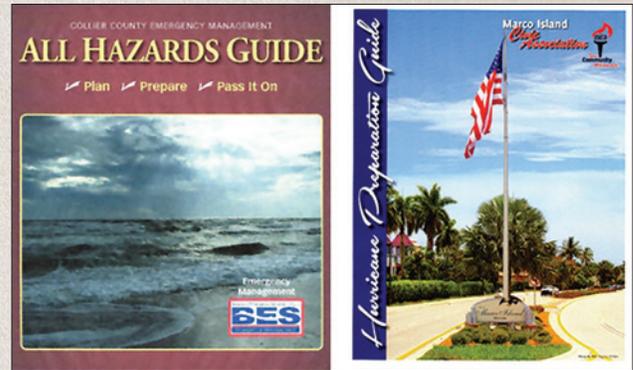


Now is a Good Time to Prepare for Hurricane Season

by *Jim von Rinteln, CEM, FPEM, CFM*

Seasonal hurricane predictions notwithstanding, now is the time to review your preparedness for this year's hurricane season. Even if at the end of last year's season everything was in order, the following steps are worth thinking about:

1. Review, or make an emergency plan. Actually two plans, one for if you stay in your home and one for if you need to evacuate. The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) Hurricane Preparedness Guide and the Collier County All Hazards Guide (AHG) are two excellent resources, which are designed to work together to assist you. Additionally, the State of Florida has an online tool that will give you step-by-step assistance (floridadisaster.org/getaplan, & see page 3 of the AHG and page 2 of the MICA guide).
2. Check your insurance - Homeowners or Renters insurance doesn't cover everything when you're dealing with the effects of a hurricane. Separate wind and flood policies are generally required - check with your carrier to be sure of what is covered. Also, auto and boat policies may have special requirements regarding hurricanes, like removing them from evacuation areas (see page 17 of the AHG).
3. Check your hurricane supplies to make sure things like batteries and food have not expired, or gone camping with the kids... Remember, 3-5 days of everything you will need - don't forget your pets (page 4 of the AHG and pages 2 & 8 of the MICA guide).
4. Know how to secure your property. In newer homes this can be as simple as making sure all the doors and windows are closed and locked, but if you have shutters and panels you need to check for serviceability and that you still have all of them. If you're planning on using plywood, you might want to purchase it now and pre-cut it to save time. If you have a boat



or other equipment that will need relocation or tying-down, it's a good idea to practice it all once before you need to do it for real (pages 6, 8, 9 & 23 of the AHG and pages 9 & 11-13 of the MICA guide).

5. What if you have to evacuate? We hate to do it, but we live on an island... Know where you want to go, how you're going to get there and what you're going to take with you - and plan to leave early. Make sure your family knows where you are going and how to reach you when you get there (pages 6, 13 & 14 of the AHG and pages 6-8 of the MICA guide).
6. What to do after the storm? Generally speaking, less if you do some preparation... But, with that said, the hardest part of a hurricane event is cleaning up afterwards and getting things back to a semblance of normal. With good community/personal planning and preparation it can be a little less painful and time consuming. If you evacuate, you may want to stay away until the power comes back on, otherwise things can be a bit like camping out in Florida in the middle of the summer (not my thing...) - if you remain, remember safety first! For some after the storm considerations, check out the guides (pages 8-12 of the AHG and 9, 13-15 of the MICA guide).

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Best Selling Author Sue Monk Kidd

by Nanette Finkle, Marco Island Chapter Friends of the Library

Wednesday, March 1st, local Marco residents and visitors were treated to a rare opportunity. Award-winning and best selling author, Sue Monk Kidd, spoke to a full house in Rose Hall at the Marco Island branch of the Collier County Library.

Ms. Kidd began her presentation with memories of growing up in Sylvester, Georgia, and the importance of her local library (a former Presbyterian church) in her personal development, love of reading and eventual passion for writing. She discussed

the courage it requires to “put yourself out there” as a writer as well as the inspiration behind each of her most notable works.

After her presentation, Ms. Kidd was gracious enough to stay to greet her guests, pose for photographs and autograph copies of her books.

Attendees of this free event were treated to refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library as well as a raffle of four of Ms. Kidd’s books, which she so generously donated for the event.



The Marco Ladies Book Club attended the Ms. Kidd presentation, left to right Bonnie Brown, Sophia Bartucci, Judy Lapinoja, (Ms. Kidd in the middle) Marie Johnson, and Kate Donnelly.



Sue Monk Kidd poses for a photo with Marilyn Sabatos



Penny Besculides shares a photo during book signing after the event.



Attendees enjoyed the refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library. (Board member Dolores Siegel on right)



A full house in Rose Hall at the Marco Island branch of the Collier County Library



Collier County Life Jacket Loaner Program Comes to Residents' Beach

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

On February 2, 2017, the Naples Community Hospital (NCH) and Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) Residents' Beach to inaugurate the expansion of the Life Jacket Loaner Program (Program) on Marco Island. The Program, which uses the slogan: "Kids Don't Float, Life Jackets Do!" now has a total of 100 life jackets available for use at five stations/beaches on Marco: (Tigertail; JW Marriott North; JW Marriott South; South Beach; and Residents' Beach). Each of the Stations holds 20 life jackets in four sizes: infant (4); child (6); youth (6) and universal/adult (4). Each life jacket is labeled and numbered to match its respective station and peg at that station, and are for daily use only.

The Program was initiated after a two year old was found floating face down in the water at Sugden Regional Park in June of 2013. A mere five minutes had elapsed without adult supervision, and had that child been wearing a life jacket, she would not have drowned. The NCH Safe & Health Children's Coalition reacted to this child's tragic death by organizing a life jacket loaner program entitled "Kids Don't Float - Give Them Something That Does", modeled after an initiative adopted in Alaska in 1997. Inasmuch as Collier County does not employ Life Guards at its beaches, the goal of the Program is to save children's lives by making loaner life jackets available at popular beach/lake sites to borrow and return. Since the initiation of the Program, not a single drowning has occurred on Collier's beautiful beaches!

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAux), which manages similar programs throughout the Country, has agreed to be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the life jacket stations. Here on Marco, Flotilla, 95, located at



Caxambas Park, checks, on a bi-weekly basis, the condition of the life jackets. Life jackets, that are missing or that do not meet Coast Guard or Program requirements are replaced as necessary.

In addition to the USCGAux, the following Coalition Partners make it possible for this Program to continue to exist: Sprigg Yacht Consulting; Collier County Parks & Recreation; Kiwanis Club of East Naples; Lowe's; Renovations & Design, Inc; Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club; AutoTran, Inc.; West Marine; Accent Signs; Marco Island Fire and Rescue; and MICA.

MICA and the USCGAux strongly encourage the use of the life jackets by all who wish to utilize them, but we request that they be returned to the same station that they were taken from at the end of their use, and not taken home, even if extended use is planned. Nor should they be dropped off at another location, as it requires a member of the USCGAux to spend time retrieving and returning the errant life jacket to the proper station. By not returning the life jacket, you are depriving someone else of the opportunity of having one to use, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

REMEMBER: LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES!



Pineapple Plantation History Alive with Calusa Garden Club

by Maria Lamb, Calusa Garden Club

Today, the only visible indication that a once thriving pineapple plantation ever existed in Marco Island is a historical marker located on South Barfield (across from Wesley United Church). In 1991, the Calusa Garden Club adopted the Pineapple Plantation historical marker. It was faded and in need of maintenance, just like most of the other historical markers on the island. They planted small bushes around the marker, but since then, the marker has stayed mostly neglected and a repository for discarded water bottles and soda cans.

In mid-January 2017, members of the Calusa Garden Club renewed its interest in the marker. Members cleaned the perimeter around the marker, scrubbed the mildewed rock and polished the brass plate. Edible pineapples were planted in front of the marker and decorative varieties on the sides of the marker, which reads:

*Pineapple Plantation
1901-1906
Early Agricultural Venture
Plantation & Warehouse on
Caxambas Ridge
Hurricane with salt water surge
Destroyed crops and soil*

Just as they did in the 1890s, pineapples thrive well in Marco's sandy soil. Local residents successfully plant small groupings of pineapple along the sunny sides of their homes with great success, just as Frederick Ludlow did in the early 1900s. They are drought tolerant, fuss free, look great year-round and 18 months from planting, yield a tasty sweet



Calusa Garden Club members Donna Kay, Linda Colombo, Maria Lamb, Linda Turner and Susan LaGrotta at the Pineapple Plantation Historical Marker

fruit. Back in the day (circa late 1800s), Marco Island cultivated pineapples on a large scale. According to historical records, Frederick Ludlow was a well-established pineapple grower, shipping an estimated 12,000 pineapples to market in Tampa. Originally from Springfield, Ohio, Ludlow settled at Caxambas Village and in March 1897, married Emma White Collier, daughter of Captain William D. Collier. They had six children and lived in a large white house at the top of a hill near the west end of what is now Ludlow Road.

Records also indicated that in the late 1800s and early 1900s, pineapple farming was a major industry in South Florida. Pineapples thrive in well-drained sandy soil, making them ideally suited to the environment at Caxambas. Frederick Ludlow, Capt. John





Artist, J J Stinchcomb's rendering of Frank Ludlow's pineapple plantation which is on display at the Windows and Doors exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum

Horr, and the Barfields all cultivated large pineapple crops at or near Caxambas. By 1900, pineapples were one of Marco Island's leading exports along with canned clams.

An estimated 500,000 pineapples were shipped north from Florida, 50,000 (10%) of which were from Caxambas. Ludlow also had a 2,500 square foot packing house. The successful venture at Caxambas was halted by a 1901 hurricane, which salted most of the pineapples with its devastating storm surge. If the plantation was operating today, it would be located from San Marco and Barfield intersection at the Shops of Marco continuing south for about a mile.

For more information on the Calusa Garden Club, please visit the website at www.calusa.org and on www.facebook.com/CalusaGardenClub. Marco Island Historical Museum is located at 180 S Heathwood Dr, Marco Island, FL 34145 and can be reached at (239) 642-1440.

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Nourishing Choices: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Offers Guests Food, Encouragement & Hope

by Abigail Rodriguez , Volunteer, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

It's 8:45a.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. There's an energetic buzz in the air in Family Church of Marco Island's education building, between the ball fields and the church on Winterberry. The main door starts swinging open and closed with the more than 25 rotating volunteers signing in and getting their Our Daily Bread Food Pantry aprons on.

It's off to work immediately for the volunteers who sign up ahead of time online. Their work assignments posted on a nearby wall, fresh vegetables need to be sorted and displayed, the children's area setup, fresh eggs sorted, registration clipboards numbered, shelves restocked. The list goes on!

The volunteers aren't the first to arrive, however. Guests in need of food oftentimes arrive as early as 6:30 a.m., waiting under the rotunda for the registration to begin at 10:00 a.m. Anywhere between 31 to upwards of 50 families off-season will shop the pantry during the two short hours the doors are open. The nature of the need is often critical, impacting the entire family unit, including children.

It is through the teachers at Tommie Barfield Elementary School that a group of women (Liz Pecora, Vicki Johnson, Jo Anne Lundquist, Jennifer Ludwigsen and Shawnee Huff) from Family Church of Marco Island learned some of the children in the community didn't have enough food. Forty percent of the students at Tommie Barfield are on a federally subsidized school meal program. Weekends away from school meant these children were at higher risk of hunger.

Armed with this knowledge about children in need, this same group of women began exploring just how large the hunger issue is locally and discovered a geographical gap in food support available. No food pantries exist east of the Courthouse and to Everglades City. Also, they discovered summer is an



Our Daily Bread Food Pantry volunteer entertains a young child in the children's area while adults shop the food pantry

extremely high time of need as seasonal employment drastically declines, placing workers at high risk who suddenly find themselves down to one job from three, and with decreased hours.

With space donated from Family Church Marco of Island and partnerships established with Harry Chapin Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry on Marco Island officially opened its doors to guests in January 2016. All island churches also participate. In the first year of operation, over 3,600 individuals received more than





Fresh fruits and vegetables are available for the many families in need of food

50,000 pounds of food. As a 'choice pantry,' guests are able to shop for food to their family's tastes and choose from fresh breads, fruits and vegetables, as well as dry goods, paper products and frozen meats.

Many of the guests come not only with physical needs, but also spiritual needs and prayer requests for God's help. Before leaving, guests can pray with volunteers and also pick up Bibles in different languages or other spiritual guidance resources. Above all, the founding team and volunteers desire to share the love, encouragement and hope of Jesus Christ.

Volunteers are very welcome year-round, with even greater need in the off-season when guests' numbers increase. Opportunities aren't reserved to just Pantry Days. Throughout the week, food deliveries arrive and need to be marked, sorted and shelved.

For more information on available opportunities and to join the sign-up, please contact Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, 1450 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145 via telephone (239.394.1646 x225) or by email at PantryVolunteers@fbcmarco.com.

Help Wanted:

Driver to pickup fresh food from Harry Chapin Food Bank in Ft. Myers.

Two Days per month between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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Please contact Our Daily Bread Food Pantry at 239.394.1646 x225 or PantryVolunteers@fbcmarco.com

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Residents' Beach Concert, March 19th, 2017



The Ben Allen Band



Invasive Lionfish in Local Waters

by David Wolff, President/Executive Director, Ocean Habitats, Inc.

Lionfish have become a serious problem in the western Atlantic over the past 35 years, after being introduced most likely by saltwater aquarium owners releasing their fish. A native of the Indo-Pacific and Red Sea, lionfish have no natural predators in the waters of Florida. Lionfish have been slowly expanding their territory and in recent years, have been found in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, including areas near Marco Island. Once these fish move in, there is little that can be done to eliminate them. They simply out breed local fish and eat so many juvenile native fish that in most areas that lionfish are well established, native fish populations have decreased greatly.



Lionfish become capable of reproduction in less than a year - it takes our native fish three to four years on average. A single female is capable of spawning every 4 days, year around, releasing between 10,000-30,000 eggs every time. In the course of a

year, a single female will release over two million eggs in warm waters like southern Florida. They reproduce by the females releasing an egg mass that floats up to the ocean surface where a male fertilizes the mass. After just two days, the tiny juvenile lionfish are born and swim at the surface until they reach one inch in size. At this

point the baby lionfish swim to the bottom to find hard bottom, algae, shipwrecks and artificial reefs to hide on, grow up and call home. Their entire life cycle is found offshore in waters between 15ft and 1,000ft.

Lionfish have 18 venomous spines in their fins that contain a power toxin that is very painful if you are poked by them. These spines are what protect lionfish from other predators. If you are stung by a lionfish, apply hot or freezing water to the area. The toxin is protein based and hot or cold temperatures change the shape of the protein, which causes it to no longer work. After a few hours, your toxin will be gone and you will no longer feel pain.

Marco Island Foundation for the Arts

by Clark Lindberg, MIFA President

The Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA) is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization established in 2003. Our mission is to support the visual, literary and performing arts on Marco Island.

Through public arts events and art shows, we hope to engage people, to stir their imaginations, and inspire dialogue about the meaning of art. The arts help us to shape our community, celebrate history, and encourage pride of place.

MIFA sponsors nine public art shows between the months of October and May of each year. These popular shows are held at the Esplanade on N. Collier Boulevard with 40 juried artists with a wide range of artistic mediums including painting, sculpting, photography, pottery and custom jewelry.

We also sponsor a film festival for Arts in the Cinema. Four hallmark and classic films are shown during each season from February through March at

The Marco Movies. Each year, Nick Campo graciously volunteers the use of his theater for this film fest.

Each year, the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce sponsors a live painting exhibition. This 'Wet Paint Live' provides a public demonstration of art in action with painting exhibitions by local artists whose works are then sold at the culmination of the event. MIFA co-sponsors and volunteers support for this community event.

Another MIFA activity is a series of three two-dimensional art shows that we call 'Brushes and Paint' that is held each year during February and March. Local artists display their work at these popular shows.

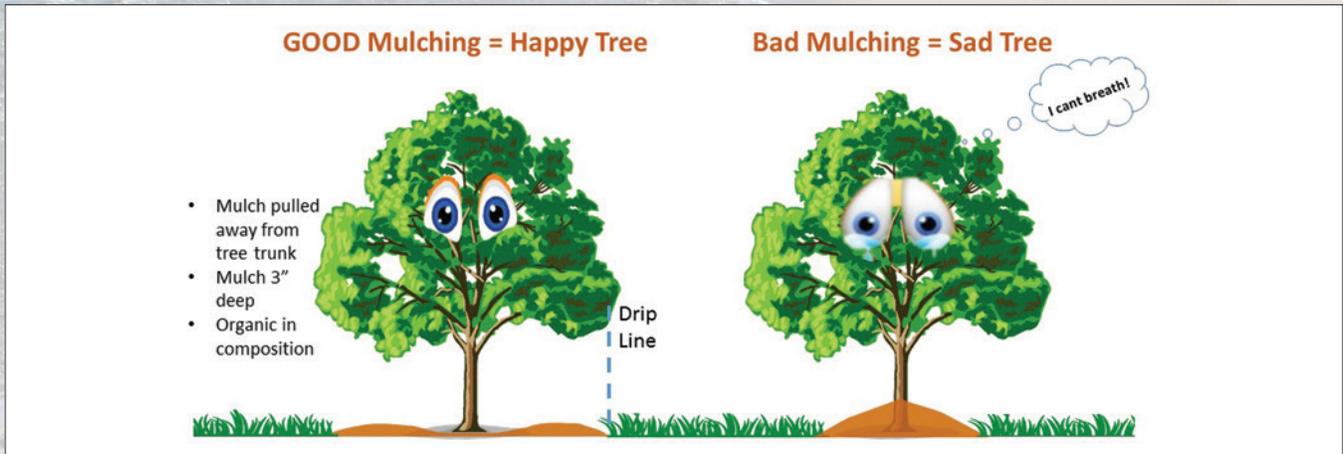
MIFA maintains a special fund for the care of bronze sculptures that are publicly displayed around Marco Island. The most notable of these is the

Continued on page 27



To Shell or Not to Shell

by Sammie Gibson, Environmental Specialist, Collier County Pollution Control



When people think of Florida, they often think of the beach and mouse ears. However, living in Florida is so much more than just a tourist destination! Consider the diversity of flora and fauna present in our community - osprey, armadillos, Florida panthers, burrowing owls, palm trees, and cypress domes. The ecosystems in South Florida are different than any other region in the United States, so when designing your landscape, it is important to incorporate this same diversity to maintain our natural ecosystem functions. Your landscaping choices directly affect local habitats and wildlife, as well as our waterways.

Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) allows you to create low maintenance yards that look great and are sustainable too. There is an abundance of information about FFL at <http://www.floridayards.org/> to help design your landscape, choose which plants and where to put them. Lastly, you must choose the filler that pulls it all together. There are multiple options, but mulch is an essential component to overall landscape health. Mulch prevents erosion, reduces weeds, and protects plants from our intense Florida heat. Mulch comes in a variety of materials that function quite differently.

Inorganic mulches, like crushed shell, are low maintenance options that provide a formal or beachy look that many Floridians enjoy, but there are better options for a FFL yard. Stone and shell mulch may be appropriate in small areas where rainwater impacts are high; but any landscape comprised of entirely mulch, no matter what kind, is not FFL. Inorganic

mulches can raise the pH and temperature of the soil, which in turn increases the amount of water needed to maintain the plants. Conversely, using approximately three inches of organic mulch like melaleuca, pine, or eucalyptus, can help landscape plants maintain moisture and moderate temperature while slowly adding nutrients to the soil as the mulch breaks down. Just remember to protect your trees from pests and fungus by maintaining a clear space around the trunk and never pile mulch at the base of woody plants. Reducing mulched areas completely and opting for more groundcover by plants is FFL too. These buffers allow the rainwater to recharge local drinking water supplies and absorb nutrients that would otherwise flow into our waterways.

Therefore, the next time you need to mulch, consider an organic mulch to increase both the aesthetics and efficiency of your yard. Organic mulch will reduce the amount of water required to keep the green parts of your yard green, help prevent weeds, can be placed in full shade areas where plants struggle, and looks nice. To be even more environmentally friendly and cost effective, utilize recycled mulch from your own yard clippings or a local tree service.

Collier County Pollution Control is located at 2685 S. Horseshoe Dr, Ste 103, Naples, FL 34104, and can be reached at (239) 252-2483.



New, Interactive Marine Life Exhibit Unveiled at Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center

~ State-of-the-art display invites visitors to learn about sea creatures ~



The new exhibit houses sea stars, horseshoe crabs, mollusks and other species.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has unveiled a new, 180-gallon marine life exhibit at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. More than a dozen species of marine animals are now on display and available for guests of all ages to discover during regular visiting hours.

“The opportunity to observe and interact with a pygmy sea cucumber, horseshoe crab or lightning whelk provides guests with an intimate connection to our natural environment,” said Keith Laakkonen, Reserve director. “This hands-on, interpretive tank will provide an immersive experience for thousands of students and visitors.”

The new exhibit features a partitioned, state-of-the-art flow-through system, which improves water quality and enables visitors to interact with animals throughout the day. The imaginative, Florida west coast-themed tank includes live sand on the bottom and view-through windows along the side, adding opportunities for guests to observe the diversity of species in the exhibit from different angles.

The 180-gallon display is designed to look and feel like Rookery Bay Reserve’s natural environment with detailed rock formations and a mangrove-themed overflow box. In addition to self-guided engagement with these animals, docent-led programs will also be scheduled throughout the day.

“As we celebrate 40 years of coastal conservation, we remain committed to bringing new and improved opportunities to build local knowledge and respect for our beaches, mangrove forests and estuarine waters. The more engaged our community members and visitors are, the more likely we are to appreciate, enjoy and protect this remarkable ecosystem for future generations,” said Laakkonen.

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth 6 to 12 and free for Friends of Rookery Bay members and children under 6.

The Environmental Learning Center is located at 300 Tower Road.



Help Keep Nesting Waterbirds Safe: Give Them Space

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida are reminding beachgoers and boaters to give nesting waterbirds and their young space to help keep them safe this nesting season.

Shorebirds build shallow nests out of sand and shells on beaches in spring and summer, and eggs and hatching chicks are difficult to see. Wading birds, such as herons and egrets, as well as pelicans, are also nesting now on islands around the state. Both types of birds can be easily disturbed if people approach too closely. Such disturbance can cause birds to abandon their nesting sites, exposing eggs and chicks to predators, sun exposure and other harm.

Shorebird nests, eggs and chicks are well-camouflaged and can easily be missed and even stepped on unless people know to look out for

them. The snowy plover, least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher and Wilson's plover are several of Florida's beach-nesting shorebird species facing conservation challenges. Vulnerable tree-nesting waterbirds, such as brown pelicans, reddish egrets, tricolored herons and roseate spoonbills, have also experienced declines. These coastal waterbirds can benefit from increased awareness by the public.

"Florida is renowned for its diverse and spectacular bird life," said FWC Chairman Brian Yablonski. "We want to ensure these birds are here for future generations to enjoy."

People can help keep nesting waterbirds safe by keeping their distance from them and Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs).

CWAs are established by the FWC to protect congregations of one or more species of wildlife from human disturbance during critical life stages such as breeding, feeding or migration. Last November, FWC commissioners approved an unprecedented effort to create 13 new CWAs and improve five existing CWAs.

"Some of the CWAs are so new that they have not yet been marked-off as CWAs. In these areas, we are asking people to be extra vigilant in their efforts to avoid disturbing the birds," said FWC CWA coordinator Michelle van Deventer.

There are several CWAs posted for waterbird nesting in Lee and Collier counties. These include ABC Islands, Big Marco Pass, Little Estero Island and Second Chance. Also in Lee and Collier counties, the FWC is working to create or update several new CWAs, including Rookery Island, Matanzas Pass Island, Big Carlos Pass-M52, Coconut Point East, Broken Islands, Useppa Oyster Bar and Hemp Key. These CWAs have not yet been posted.

In addition to observing the marked-off areas around CWAs, people can also help by following

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Photo by Debbie Barker

a few simple steps while enjoying the beach this season:

- Keep your distance from birds, on the beach or on the water. If birds become agitated or leave their nests, you are too close. A general rule is to stay at least 300 feet from a nest. Birds calling out loudly and dive-bombing are signals for you to back off.
- Respect posted areas. Avoid posted nesting sites and use designated walkways when possible.
- Never intentionally force birds to fly or run. This causes them to use energy needed for nesting, and eggs and chicks may be left vulnerable to the sun's heat or predators. Teach children not to chase shorebirds and kindly ask fellow beachgoers to do the same. Shorebirds outside of posted areas may be feeding or resting and need to do so without disturbance.
- Do not take pets to the beach. Pets are not permitted on beaches in Collier County.
- Keep the beach clean and do not feed wildlife. Food scraps attract predators, such as raccoons and crows, which can prey on shorebird eggs and chicks. Litter on beaches can entangle birds and other wildlife.
- Spread the word. If you see people disturbing nesting birds, gently let them know how their actions may hurt the birds' survival. If they continue to disturb nesting birds, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or *FWC on a cellphone or by texting Tip@MyFWC.com. You may also report nests that are not posted to our Wildlife Alert Program.

"These charismatic birds make Florida the special place that it is," said Julie Wraithmell, Deputy Executive Director for Audubon Florida. "Giving these parents and their babies a little space will ensure they're here for generations to come."

For more information, go to MyFWC.com/Shorebirds and download the "Share the Beach with Beach-Nesting Birds" brochure. Or go to the Florida Shorebird Alliance website at FLShorebirdAlliance.org to learn more about how to participate in shorebird conservation efforts.

For more information about Florida's CWAs, visit MyFWC.com/CWA.

To learn how you can volunteer your time to protect nesting coastal birds, visit FL.Audubon.org and scroll over the "Conservation" tab at the top, then click on "Coastal Conservation" and "Coastal Bird Stewardship," or you can email FLConservation@Audubon.org

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Second Chance Sandbar Closed for Summer Nesting Season



Photo by Debbie Barker

Second Chance Sandbar is a protected nesting area for many threatened bird species, and is closed to the public from March 1 - August 31, 2017.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR), in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida, has closed the emergent sandbar located one mile southeast of Cape Romano, known as “Second Chance.” The sandbar, which is closed to public access annually from March 1 - Aug. 31, was designated as a Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) by the FWC in the fall of 2015.

“Last year we saw marked improvement in nesting success for threatened least terns and other species,” said Rookery Bay Reserve Director Keith Laakkonen. “Protecting this habitat during the nesting season will increase the likelihood of successful breeding.”

The area has been closed annually since 2001 to protect nesting habitat for Least Terns, Black Skimmers and Wilson’s Plover. This is the second year that the CWA rules are in place prohibiting vessels,

in addition to people and dogs, from visiting the sandbar during summer nesting season. Rookery Bay Reserve offers numerous other recreational options throughout its 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters.

RBNERR and FWC have installed perimeter signs on the island to clearly mark the sandbar as closed. The signs will be removed on Aug. 31 after the birds have left and boating visitors may return.

The Least Tern is listed as a threatened species in Florida by the FWC and Black Skimmers are listed as a Species of Special Concern. Nesting areas will be monitored throughout the nesting season and harassment or removal of endangered or threatened birds, their eggs or young is a violation of state law and may subject violators to criminal penalties. Additionally, the attempt to remove or possess any migratory bird, their nest or eggs is a violation of federal law.



Habitat for Humanity

by *Andrea McKenna, Donor Relations, Habitat for Humanity Collier County*

Many of you join the Habitat Collier family in mourning the loss of our long-time CEO and friend, Dr. Sam Durso, who passed away in January after a two year battle with brain cancer. Sam settled in Marco Island nearly 25 years ago and was often heard to say it was the most beautiful place in the world. Sam was past president of the Island Country Club and an avid tennis player even into the last weeks of his life.

Sam leaves a legacy that is life-changing for so many local families. Funding construction of Habitat's 2,000th house in Collier County was one of Sam's final acts. The walls were raised in his honor on March 18, 2017. Family and friends gathered to honor him and celebrate the good work made possible through his direction at Habitat Collier.

Sam knew firsthand how critical it is for service industry workers who support island life to have affordable, safe and decent shelter. He would be pleased to know that two such families will soon escape the untenable conditions in which they are living.

Single dad, Raul, is the head of one of these families. He is desperately trying to provide his five year old daughter with security, comfort and stability. Sadly, her mom was killed in a car accident. As Raul struggles with his own grief, he must learn to handle the roles of both mom and dad for their beloved child.

"Please help us to have a place we can call home." That was Raul's request when he came to Habitat Collier. He has been working at Marco Island Painting, Inc. for almost a year, but it has been a challenge for him to afford rent with his income alone. At \$800 per month, their apartment is not air conditioned and windows are taped to hold broken glass in place. The apartment is sparsely furnished leaving plenty of room for his daughter's few toys.

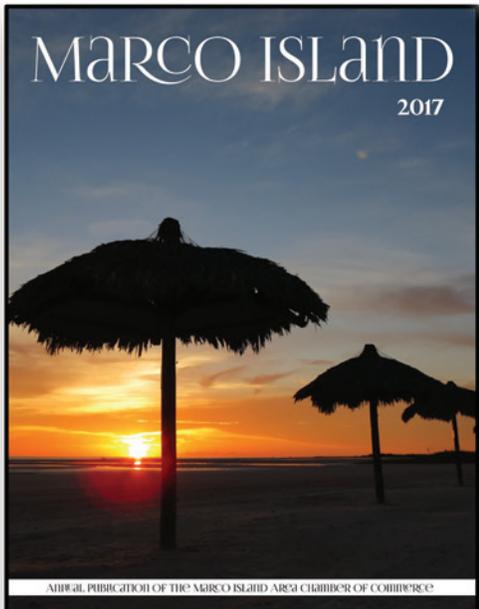
To make ends meet, Raul has been forced to take in a tenant and rent one bedroom of this tiny apartment. Now he and his daughter share the other bedroom. A mattress leans against the wall of the

small bedroom during the day. At night Raul puts the mattress on the floor so he has a place to rest while his young daughter sleeps in the bed.

In March, Raul learned he was approved to purchase a Habitat house. He has begun working his 500 hours of "sweat equity" and looks forward to settling into a safe and decent home where his family will continue to heal from their loss and celebrate happier times.

Another newly approved partner, Julissa, is one of the rare Habitat applicants who found a rental apartment on Marco Island but her rent is exorbitant. At nearly \$1400 per month, she struggles to cover all of the necessities for herself and her four year old daughter. For five years, Julissa has worked at Publix on Marco Island but, from time to time, she takes a second job to afford the expense of caring for her daughter. When Julissa came to Habitat Collier she said "it would be so nice to own

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Stop by the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce at 1102 N. Collier Boulevard to pick up your FREE copy of the **2017 Official Publication of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce**

136 pages of great area information and chamber member listings both alphabetically & categorically!
www.marcoislandchamber.org



Fishing Line and Tackle Disposal - It's about more than just monofilament

by *The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

Fishing is a key component of the Florida lifestyle as well as the state's economy. But fishing line and other fishing tackle frequently enter Florida's aquatic systems as a result of incidental snags or improper disposal. When left in the aquatic environment, fishing line and tackle create potential traps for unsuspecting wildlife that can become entangled and snared, leading to injury and death.

Monofilament is the most common type of fishing line, however, modern advances have produced several other varieties with higher tensile strength, reduced visibility and greater abrasion resistance. These newer, non-monofilament lines, such as braid and fluorocarbon, are fairly popular but not all of them can be recycled like monofilament fishing line, and they are commonly disposed of improperly.

How you can help?

To help reduce the negative environmental impacts from improper disposal of all fishing line and tackle, anglers can follow these general guidelines:

- Check line frequently for frays that may break easily.
- Don't leave bait unattended since pelicans, herons and other birds may attempt to take the bait

- from the line, which may result in entanglements.
- Cast away from trees, utility lines, wildlife and areas where line may get caught.
- If you see improperly discarded fishing line while you are out, pick it up and stow it to be disposed of later.

Anglers can purchase or make their own fishing line storage bins to keep with them while they are fishing so that line can be stored securely and out of the way. Products such as the Monomaster and Line Snatcher are designed to help anglers store their unwanted fishing line; however, homemade versions can also be made by cutting an "X" in the lid of something as simple as a tennis ball container or coffee can.

Monofilament recycling

Once on shore, monofilament and fluorocarbon line can be recycled in designated bins found at most boat ramps, piers and tackle shops. However, anglers should not use these bins to discard any other type of fishing line or leader material such as braid or wire. Also, the bins should not be used to discard any type of tackle, such as hooks, lures or soft plastics, which

Continued on page 29

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Making 9-1-1 Work for You

An informed caller is 9-1-1's best caller. It's important that you know how to help 9-1-1 help you. In an emergency, seconds matter, so being knowledgeable and prepared can make all the difference. Here's what you can do:

Know WHEN to call 9-1-1. 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should only be dialing 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire, or medical assistance. If you aren't sure if your situation is an emergency, you should err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1 and let the expert who answers your call make the decision whether to send help or not.

Know WHEN NOT to call 9-1-1. Don't call 9-1-1 just because you burned dinner and your guests are arriving any minute, or because you are late for a meeting and need help finding an address. While those situations may count as emergencies for you, they aren't for public safety. Inappropriate use of the 9-1-1 system wastes resources and ties up the lines at the 9-1-1 center, and nobody wants to be on hold when they are in the middle of a real crisis. Not to mention that in most states harassing or making prank calls to 9-1-1 is a crime, and you don't want law enforcement showing up at your door.

Know the capabilities of the device you are using. 9-1-1 can be contacted from pretty much every device that can make phone calls (traditional landline, cell, VoIP), but the callback and location information that accompanies your call to the 9-1-1 center can vary drastically amongst technologies and between geographic regions. 9-1-1 and telecommunications professionals are hard at work to make sure 9-1-1 works the same on all devices in the future, but until then it is your job to be knowledgeable about benefits and limitations associated with various technologies. Contact your service provider(s) for more information.

Know where you are. This is probably the most important information you can provide as a 9-1-1 caller, so try to be aware of your surroundings. Make a real effort to be as detailed as possible. If you are outside and don't know the street address, take a look around and try to find landmarks or cross streets. If

you are inside a large building or one with multiple levels, you can help emergency services by letting them know which floor you are on, which apartment you are in, etc.

Stay calm. When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. Even though you may want to, try not to panic. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you are able to stay strong, pull yourself together, and answer all of the 9-1-1 operator's questions, the faster they can get the right services to your location.

Never hang up. You may have called 9-1-1 by accident, or your situation may have resolved itself, but it is important to let the 9-1-1 operator know this. If you end the call abruptly, the folks at the 9-1-1 center are going to assume that something has gone very wrong and will either call you back or send help anyway. This will take away from the 9-1-1 center's ability to take calls and dispatch services to on-going emergencies, so make sure the 9-1-1 call taker tells you it is ok to disconnect before you hang up. And keep in mind that the call taker can dispatch responders to your location without disconnecting from the call, so, until you are instructed to do otherwise, make sure to hold the line so that you can provide any necessary information or assistance to the 9-1-1 operator.

*Information provided by
www.apco911.org,
www.wirelessfoundation.org and
www.nena.org*

In the event of an emergency... Be Informed. Stay Informed.

Log on to the City of Marco website and submit your contact information in the "code red" form. You will be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts such as: evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, and missing child reports.



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www.cityofmarcoisland.com



Marco Island Center for the Arts Summer Youth Programs

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



“Every child is an artist.” – Pablo Picasso

With its focus on the arts, Marco Island Center for the Arts is the perfect place to let your child’s imagination run wild. Whether it’s through messy mixed media, digital photography, clay, painting, and more, creative pursuits boost kids’ self-esteem while instilling skills like problem solving and concentration.

Each themed art class is a new artVenture that explores imaginary worlds and creates meaningful art experiences. The Art Center’s instructors are professional artists/art educators who provide hands-on projects and activities that expose students to a variety of styles and art processes.

Here are the 2017 Summer classes for kids to unleash their inner artists:

Creative Creations – for ages 7-14, these two, five day courses, run June 19-23 and July 17-21 from 1-4 p.m. This class explores the FUN-damentals of both two dimensional and three dimensional arts.

Shells, Shells, Shells – for ages 7-14, this three day course runs June 21, 22, and 23 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. These classes are full of age appropriate projects made with Marco Island’s beautiful seashells. The expert instructors are from the Marco Island Shell Club.

Creating a Classic Selfie – for ages 11-14, this three day course runs June 26, 27, and 28 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This three day series teaches the fundamentals of portraiture using a digital camera. Your selfies will never look better!

Clay as Art – for ages 7-14, these two, five day courses, run June 26-30 and July 24-28 from 1-4 p.m. Explore and enjoy the nature of clay when used to create an art form. Create a clay wall hanging using a slab roller. This is not a day for making bowls or cups.



Photography is Fun – for ages 10-14, this five day course runs July 10-14 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This is a low key introduction to digital photography with students working in groups on select fun assignments.

Painting in Acrylic – for ages 9-14, this five day course runs July 24-28 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. In this class, students will learn the wonderful technique of acrylic including how easy it is to apply and make changes as you work. Use color to create your own masterpiece.

Marco Island Center for the Arts is dedicated to promoting education and appreciation of the arts. It is located at 1010 Winterberry Drive.

To sign up for classes or for more information contact the center at 239-394-4221 or visit our website www.marcoislandart.org.

MIFA...Continued from page 17

'Double Eagle' sculpture located at the entrance to the Sarazen Park on S. Collier Boulevard across from the South Beach access.

From its fund raising activities, MIFA provides scholarships to our local area art students to help defray their costs as they attend their extended and higher education endeavors. Each year, these students are honored at the MIFA Scholarship Luncheon held at the end of the school year.

Also honored at the MIFA Scholarship Luncheon is MIFA's Artist of the Year. This year's honoree is Mr. Austin Bell, Curator of Collections for the Marco Island Historical Society for his fine work in developing the historical displays for the Marco Island Historical Museum. Mr. Bell completed the final phase of the museum's exhibits this year with the new 'Pioneer Era' section. His contributions to the Marco Island community are lasting and impactful.

More information regarding MIFA and its activities can be found on the MIFA website at www.Marcoarts.com or by contacting MIFA's current president, Clark Lindberg, at info@RClarkLindbergPhotography.com.

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MC Steve Reynolds of 98.1FM / AM 1480 WVOI

 **The Ben Allen Band - 7pm**



Habitat

Continued from page 23

our own place and not pay so much for rent. We could do more things together without struggling.” She learned she was approved to purchase a Habitat home in March and quickly began working the required 500 “sweat equity” hours.

Julissa and Raul will join nearly 90 other Habitat homeowners who are employed by 30 Marco Island businesses. One of these workers, Vitaliano, has been employed by the Island Country Club for more than five years. He and his wife Modesta purchased their Habitat home three years ago. They needed an affordable home where they could provide their three children with stability and comfort. They were especially concerned for their eldest daughter who suffers from mental and speech disabilities that will prevent her from ever living independently. Owning an affordable home allows Modesta to be home to care for her daughter now and long into the future.

Homeownership also offered Vitaliano and Modesta’s middle daughter Laura an opportunity to excel. Laura is the first person to be awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award for her many hours of dedicated service to Habitat Collier. In May 2017, after completing one more class, Laura will graduate from Lorenzo Walker Technical High School with both her high school diploma AND a nursing degree. Laura is a perfect example of the

profound impact a safe home makes in the life of every family member, especially children, who finally have a place to study quietly and rest peacefully.

Your generous support, whether a financial contribution or an investment of your time, will allow this work to continue and make a life-changing difference for a family.

This year Habitat’s goal is to increase the number of families we serve by 20% given the growing need for affordable housing evident in our community. We need your help. For every home we are able to fund and build, 20 families inquire, leaving 19 families living with the stressful situation of insecure housing. We are on track to build 120 homes in Collier County this year.

Please offer a helping hand to the low-wage earners who make island life possible. Every gift truly makes a difference. Now is a wonderful time to give. To honor the legacy of Dr. Sam Durso, the Habitat Collier Board of Directors will match, dollar for dollar, every donation made in Sam’s memory through the end of 2017 or until \$1 million in donations have been matched. By donating in honor of Sam, your generous gift will go twice as far to help families working on Marco Island. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Andrea McKenna at 239-775-0036 or amckenna@HabitatCollier.org.

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. More than 1,950 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.

*For more information please call
239- 775-0036 or
visit www.habitatcollier.org*

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Fishing Line

Continued from page 24

can injure other anglers discarding their fishing line or the individuals who empty the bins for recycling.

You can learn how to make your own monofilament recycling bin by visiting our FWC Saltwater Fishing YouTube channel or by participating in the statewide Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program. For more information on the statewide Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program, visit MRRP.MyFWC.com.

Disposing of non-monofilament

In addition to properly securing and recycling monofilament and fluorocarbon line, it is important to ensure that non-monofilament line and other tackle are disposed of appropriately. To discard non-monofilament line, such as braid or wire, cut the line into 12-inch or smaller pieces and place into a covered trash receptacle. Line placed in trash receptacles without lids can blow out into the environment or entangle wildlife that are foraging in the open trash receptacle.

When disposing of other tackle, such as hooks and lures, it is important to clip off sharp points to avoid injuring humans and wildlife that may come in contact with the discarded tackle. As part

of the “Pitch It” campaign, soft plastic baits with the hook or jig head removed can be discarded in special program containers that are separate from monofilament recycling bins. Learn more about soft bait disposal and the “Pitch It” campaign by visiting Pledgetopitchit.org.

Remember, disposing of fishing line and tackle appropriately can reduce the risk of wildlife entanglement and help protect coastal habitats. To learn more about bird entanglement and how to unhook a bird, visit MyFWC.com/Unhook. To report entanglement of protected species, such as manatees and marine turtles, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922 (FWCC) or dial *FWC on a cellphone.

Have a burning question about marine fisheries regulations? Want to know more about catch-and-release? We are here for you. Send your questions, photos and fishing tales to Saltwater@MyFWC.com. Make sure your photo meets our photo requirements by visiting MyFWC.com/Fishing and clicking on “Saltwater Fishing” and “Submit a photograph” under “Get Involved.” Don’t forget to record all of your catches on the iAngler phone app or at Snookfoundation.org. And learn how to submit your catches and get rewarded through our Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs at CatchaFloridaMemory.com.

Beach Clean-up Schedule

- **Saturday, May 13th, 8 a.m. -**
City of Marco Island clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Publix*
- **Saturday, June 10th, 8 a.m. -**
City of Marco Island clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Chamber*
- **Saturday, July 8th, 8 a.m. -** Tigertail Beach clean-up *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Sunday, August 13th, 9 a.m. -**
City of Marco Island clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by CJ's on the Bay*
- **Tuesday, September 5th, 6 p.m. -**
Evening beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by The Marco Island Optimist Club*
- **Saturday, September 16th, 8 a.m. -** Tigertail Beach clean-up *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Saturday, October 14th, 8 a.m. -** Residents’ Beach clean-up *sponsored by MICA*
- **Friday, November 3rd, 5 p.m. -**
Evening beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by The Marco Island Optimist Club*

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





Residents' Beach Concert, February 20th, 2017



The Sean Fleming Band



Mini Artificial Reef at your Dock

by David Wolff, President/Executive Director, Ocean Habitats, Inc.

Ocean Habitats, Inc. has developed an artificial habitat system that is called a “Mini Reef” which establishes a micro ecosystem of aquatic life under existing boat docks. The mini reef mimics the environment that is normally found in the prop root system of mangrove trees. This natural environment was long ago removed from area waters when large scale coastal development took place in the 1950’s and 1960’s. Where once there were mangrove forests there are now man-made canal systems with seawalls and boat docks. This man-made world is designed to limit the amount of growth that takes place on in order to slow the rate of decay of all surfaces.

On May 18th, 2016, Ocean Habitats, Inc. with funding from the City of Marco Island, installed 25 mini reef habitat systems in a test canal on Marco Island. Since this installation, numerous residents have also purchased mini reefs so that now there are over 100 installed units in the canals of Marco Island. Each one of these mini reefs is developing its own ecosystem of life. First, small shrimp and baby fish use the structure as a safe place to avoid predators, but soon other residents move in. Over 150 different filter feeders like sea squirts and oysters grow on the mini reef and spend their days eating the green plankton out of the water passing by. A fully developed mini reef can on average clean all the plankton out of 30,000 gallons of seawater. Currently, all the mini reefs on the island are filtering over 3.1 million gallons of water every single day.

The waste products from these filter feeders is a food source for small marine animals, which in turn are food for those same baby shrimp, crabs and fish which started using the mini reef for protection. A mini food chain is set up which brings larger fish around a dock with a mini reef looking for a meal. Over the course of a year, residents with these mini reefs report seeing young goliath groupers, barracuda, snapper and many more fish species visiting and sometimes taking up residence under their dock. To date, over 50 types of fish have been seen in or around the mini reefs as well as blue and stone crabs.



Mini Reefs ready for installation off a residential dock on Marco Island.



This Mini Reef system is already developing its own eco-system of life - filtering seawater, producing food for some of the small marine life that call these reefs their new home.

The goal of Ocean Habitats is to bring to life the canals of Marco Island and other coastal cities like it. It wants to restore some of the wildlife that has been lost to development and help improve the water quality in the canals of the island. If you would like to bring your dock to life, contact Ocean Habitats through its website oceanhabitatsinc.com or call the executive director David Wolff directly at 218-841-5932 to schedule the installation of your mini reef. A portion of the \$250 cost is tax deductible as Ocean Habitats is a 501(c)(3) recognized non-profit.



LCEC Automated Meters Help Keep Rates Low and Service High

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

With more than 211,000 customers throughout five counties, reading meters can be a daunting task. A decade ago, LCEC implemented an automated meter program utilizing two-way communication over the power lines to streamline the meter reading process. Once implemented, there was no need to physically visit each meter and read accuracy improved to 99.99 percent.

The new technology also allowed customers to have more information at their finger-tips. Meters can be read remotely and many can be connected and disconnected from LCEC headquarters. Meter data also provides customers with more information about how to manage their energy usage, helping to keep bills lower. Quicker outage restoration

and quicker response is a result of the complex automated meter technology as well. LCEC system operators can pinpoint issues, dispatch crews, and coordinate restoration much more efficiently.

Automated meters have proven very effective in detecting a tampered or malfunctioning meter which helps to keep costs low. Reports identify potential cases and field crews can quickly investigate. Meter replacements can be made or restitution can be collected from those trying to bypass the billing system. LCEC continues to adopt technology to help make life easier for our customers.

LCEC can be reached at (800) 599-2356 or visit their website at www.lcec.net

Friends of the Marco Island Library

The Board of the Friends of the the Marco Island Library recently voted to purchase new carpeting and decorative area rugs for the Children's Room of the Marco Island Branch of the Collier County Library. The carpeting is out for bid currently and should be installed soon!



Board members and new officers in attendance at the Annual Meeting held on April 11, 2017: Mary Lee Cale, Pam Fuller, Nanette Finkle, Vice President Mary Bryan, President Gwyn Goodman, Dolores Burton, Arlene Goldstein, Cathy Auten and Treasurer Dolores Siegel. Absent: Secretary Marie Johnson, Gail Thawley, Penny Besculides, Stacy Oronato and Maxine Shapiro



Marco Island Civic Association "Members Only" Discount Program

DINING

Present discount card before ordering

Aria Restaurant @ JW Marriott MI

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

CJ's on the Bay, Esplanade

www.cjsonthebay.com
Excludes Gazebo Bar, 389-4511

Cold Stone Ice Cream,

Esplanade, 393-0046
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

Dolce Mare

Marco Walk #302, 389-9000
www.dolcemaresweets.com

Gino's Trattoria Italian Restaurant

Entrée items only. www.ginosoldemarco.com
969 N Collier Blvd, 389-4368

Marco Island Princess

www.themarcoislandprincess.com
Rose Marina, 642-5415

Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American

2 Happy Hours: 3-6 & 10-midnight
Entertainment, reduced drink prices.
www.thenachomamas.com
Marco Walk, 389-2222

Napoli on the Bay - Marco

Free delivery on Marco. Pizza, subs,
salads, wings. Marco's only wheat pizza.
Open for lunch & dinner.
www.marcoislandpizzapasta.com
910 N Collier Blvd, 642-5662

Ne Ne's Kitchen

Breakfast & Lunch (dine-in)
www.neneskitchen.com
297 N Collier Blvd, 394-3854

Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt

Town Center Mall #214
www.orangeleafyogurt.com

Pinchers Marco Island

591 S Collier Blvd, 239-970-5391
PinchersUSA.com
10% off. Must show MICA Discount Card

Sami's Pizza & Grill

227 N Collier Blvd, 389-0404
10% off for food purchase of \$20 or more,
pick up only
www.samispizzagrande.com

The Sand Bar

826 E Elkcarn Circle, 642-3625
5% off food, regular menu items only
www.sandbarmarco.com

Snook Inn

1215 Bald Eagle Dr,
394-3313
www.snookinn.com

SALONS & SPAS

spa jump hair & nails

www.jumphair.com We at jump give you the time
you deserve! 10% off any hair & nail service, 10% off all
products. 118 S Barfield Drive, Unit B
(across from The Shops of Marco)
239-394-5867 (jump)

Mary Rando Hair Styling and Make-up Artistry

15% off all hair and make-up services
10% off products
2 Marco Lake Dr., Suite #4
239-248-7944/617-775-6007

The Spa at JW Marriott MI Beach Resort

400 S Collier Blvd, 389-6029
10% off spa services

HEALTH CARE/WELLNESS

Always There Home Health Care

Loyalty Program, 389-0170
www.alwaystherehomehealthcare.com

Curves, Shops of Marco

Free trial week, Additional 10% discount on mem-
bership fee, 389-0016

Feather-Light Living, Wellness Coach

15% discount offered;
free 30 minute consultation 573-356-1727
featherlightliving@gmail.com

Healthy Body Fitness Training

Initial personal training sessions & group
classes, 860 Bald Eagle Drive, Suites 4 & 5,
394-3705 www.marcofitnessclub.com

Nikken, Retail wellness products

651 S Collier Blvd, 394-1580

Personal Training & Pilates Studio

Above Subway on Collier Blvd
www.101ft.com
650 Bald Eagle Dr, 333-5771

Summer Day Organic Café

Marco Town Center Mall
Vitamins only. 394-8361
www.summerdaymarket.com

Xcel Fitness Spa

Shops of Marco, 394-EXCEL (9235)
10% off coffee & smoothie bar
www.xfspa.com

RETAIL STORES

APPAREL/JEWELRY

Alvin's Island – www.alvinsisland.com
Card should always be presented at point
of sale, 581 S Collier Blvd, 389-0600

Beach Unlimited

1001 N Collier Blvd,
642-4888

Butterfly Beach, Esplanade

www.butterflybeachmarco.com
760 N Collier Blvd #103,
394-0837

Georgie's & the Shoe Resort

www.georgiesshoeresort.com
Town Center Mall, 394-2621

JetSet Surf Shop, 394-5544

Excludes hardgoods,
674 Bald Eagle Dr

Jewelry by Laura 394-2511

JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort,

Kathein Jewelers of Marco, 239-259-8937

(Formerly known as Golden Gate Jewelers)
Shops of Marco www.ggjmarco.com

OMG That's Chic, 239-970-2102

10% off, excluding sale items
www.OMGthatschic.com, Town Center
Moving to 287 N. Collier Blvd August 1st

Patchington Ladies Boutique –

Marco Island & Venetian Village
Marco Walk #104, 642-5006
Fun for organizations, such as fashion shows,
charity events, trunk shows, in store & out
of store events. www.patchington.com

Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200

1106-1/2 N Collier Blvd, Chamber Plaza
www.sunshinestitchers.com

Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters / Crosswinds

JW Marriott Resort, 389-6051

NON-APPAREL

Bella Florals by Theresa

9 Front Street, 239-316-2373
10% off any arrangement/walk-in only
www.bellafloralstc.com

China Rose Florist

Fresh flowers only, excludes out-of-town orders,
678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-6663
www.chinaroseflorist.com

Critter Café, Excludes dog and cat food

www.crittercafemarcoisland.com
810 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-8488

First Pawn Jewelry & Loan

889 Airport Rd S, Naples, 434-7296
5%-20% off jewelry. Firearms, instruments
& tools discounts vary.

Keep In Touch, Shops of Marco

Excludes Post Office, copy and internet
services and sale items, 393-6300

Optical Boutique of Marco

Marco Walk, 642-4776

Linda Roberts Gallery/Marco Art

"As Seen in the MICA Office" Marco Island
art prints and notecards. 30% discount to
MICA members. Also 30% off non-Marco
Island prints. www.lindarobertsgallery.com
410-944-4440 & 410-302-2387

Something Olde Something New

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

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



Sunshine Booksellers

10% discount on all hardcover books;
20% discount on, fax and copy services
(In store only). Excluded from discount:
paperback books, toys, gifts, greeting
cards, shipping & USPS Services.
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5343
677 S Collier Blvd, 393-0353
www.sunshinebooksellers.com

Your Island Home

Town Center, 642-7366
www.yourislandhome.com

DRY CLEANERS**Cache Dry Cleaners**

666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

Professional Dry Cleaners of Marco

571 East Elkcarn Circle, 394-4579

**HOME SERVICES /
IMPROVEMENT****A. Pinto Self Storage, 394-1822**

5% off new rentals & document shredding
994 N Barfield Dr

A.S.A.P. Lock of Marco Island.

394-0318
www.asaplockofmarcoisland.com

Adam Peters Construction

Fine finish carpentry; 207-7650
\$100 off any job over \$1,000

Beach Bum Equipment Rentals

10% off rentals of \$100 or more
www.beachbumequipmentrentals.com
239-280-0321

Bella Faux Finishes

15% off for first time clients, 272-3090

Collier Tropical Landscaping

10% off all landscaping, tree trimming or lawn
service contracts not less than \$125.
Sergio 821-3213. www.colliertropical.com

Complete Stone Management, 642-3173

Free quote, 10% discount on service
www.completestonemanagement.com

Dry & Clean Carpet Cleaning, 642-0092

Carpet, Tile, & Upholstery cleaning
www.dryandcleaninc.com

Easy Street Moving, 248-4136

www.easystreetsmoving.com

EcoMarcoFun, Vacation House Rental

\$50 off-season, \$100 in-season discount
Short term (less than 1 week) available
www.vrbo.com/114322, 573-356-1727

Fussy Fraulein, Inc.

First cleaning only, 394-0562

GB Pools, 249-1107

Sign a six month contract for weekly pool service, pay for the first 3 months and receive the next 3 months free. Limited time offer, new customers only. Not valid with any other offer.
www.BGPoolsMarcoisland.com

Global Cleaning Services

gcs-clean.net, 389-9140
Free estimates, free rental unit setup
consultation, as well as 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

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

Sunflower Services of Marco, Inc.

Lawn Maintenance, 465-8086
First month free lawn maintenance

Tiny Tikes Treasures (Rentals)

247 N Collier Blvd., 389-1868
www.tinytiketreasures.com

ADVENTURES/TOURS**Dolphin Explorer by Sea Excursions**

Rose Marina, 642-6899
www.dolphin-study.com

Marco Island Princess

Rose Marina,
642-5415
www.themarcoislandprincess.com

Marco Island Watersports

JW Marriott & Hilton Resorts 394-4344

Scuba Marco

10% off goods, www.scubamarco.com
141 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-7889

Vantastic Tours

394-7699. www.vantastic-tours.com

MARINE/AUTO**Ion1 Professional Limousine, Inc.**

Lowest rates, dependable
professional service,
www.Ion1limousine.com
239-389-0004

Airport Express Shuttle

\$5 off every airport trip
961-7100, 866-258-4222

Autocraft

754 Elkcarn Circle, 642-5309
5% off non-insurance repairs
www.autocraft1.com

Blue Marlin Marine Construction

Seawall inspections only
642-4284

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Daily & weekly rate, 642-4488

Pelican Pier Marina,

389-2628
10 ¢/gal discount on fuel; 10% off apparel.
1085 Bald Eagle Dr (behind Riverside
Club Condo) GPS:25°58.291 81°43.608
www.pelicanpiermarina.com

Rose Marina

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

Sailmaker, Bronwen McKiever

20% off do-it-yourself Sunbrella cloths,
vinyls & cleaning products
800 E Elkcarn Cir, 248-3169

Sea Tow Marco Island

Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

Walker's Hideaway Marina

10% off excluding gas, food & rental boats,
705 E Elkcarn Cir, 394-9333
www.walkershideawaymarina.com

Walker's Marine 642-6764

Parts & service for customers in WM
computer, 785 Bald Eagle Dr

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**Avon by Lucinda,**

Cosmetics, 642-0297, 821-7976

Jeffery M. Bogan Insurance Agency

15% off annual prem. for long term care,
261-6533

Global Computer Services, Inc.

601 E Elkcarn Circle B12, 389-9140
No trip charge for on-site visits, free
analyze/diagnose of all equipment, free
pre-sales consultation + 10% off service fee

Hera Lynn Music, 314-825-4414

10% off music performances for house parties,
corporate events & weddings
www.heralynn.com

H.I. Studios,

821-9458
Personality Portrait Painting by Heidi

James Karl & Associates

Free initial consultation
678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-9988

Marco Island Living

10% off advertising-web site hosting & services.
802-221-1498
www.marcoislandliving.com

Marco Island Photography

Portrait sitting & finished portraits by
Peter Berec,
642-3500
www.marcoislandphotography.com

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.





Residents' Beach Concert, April 23rd, 2017



Foreman's 5 Band





Hurricane Preparedness... *Continued from page 9*

I don't know when the next storm will strike here on Marco Island, but I do know we're a day closer to when it does. Please take some time to review your family's preparedness and if you haven't picked up the two guides we've talked about here, they're available at Marco City Hall, Marco Fire Station 50 and the Marco Library, or on-line at: colliergov.net/home/showdocument?id=71413 (Collier AHG), and cityofmarcoisland.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=15726 (MICA guide).

The following list of names will be used for named storms that form in the North Atlantic in 2017. Retired names, if any, will be announced by the World Meteorological Organization in the spring of 2018. The names not retired from this list will be used again in the 2023 season.[20] This is the same list used in the 2011 season, with the exception of the name Irma, which replaced Irene.

- Arlene
- Bret
- Cindy
- Don
- Emily
- Franklin
- Gert
- Harvey
- Irma
- Jose
- Katia
- Lee
- Maria
- Nate
- Ophelia
- Philippe
- Rina
- Sean
- Tammy
- Vince
- Whitney



Donna Fiala... *Continued from page 6*

able to witness it for yourselves. Of course, there was music and food and vendors to add to the excitement.

The newest restaurant in Restaurant Row opened on April 18th to a smashing crowd lined up waiting to enter. It is PeiWei – the “junior” version of the well-known P.F. Chang's. They will realize very quickly that they should have built a much bigger restaurant. And speaking of restaurants, the fairly new Skillet's Breakfast & Lunch restaurant, which opened on Collier Boulevard at the east entrance of Lely Resort across from VeronaWalk, has broken all of its records for crowds over all the other Skillet's in Collier County. Guess we showed them! Outback Steakhouse and Carrabba's both have had to open for lunch and are now offering delivery service. Have you ever heard of a Carrabba's or Outback offering delivery service? Hopefully, we will see a really lovely fine dining restaurant realizing the potential and locating at this same intersection.

By now many of you have stopped by the new Hobby Lobby. I never realized they had so many household items, along with hobbies. They even offer specialized picture framing at a very reasonable price! They also offer fabric, lamps, crafts, etc.

What a surprise I had recently! My assistant called me to see something in the Commission Chamber, but when I got there, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart was there to present me with the Congressional Record plaque for achievements, which he explained he had read before congress the week before. Believe it or not, I was speechless! Yup, a few tears were shed as well. What a surprise!

Things are beginning to slow down now, the streets are less crowded, the stores and restaurants are easier to get into, but that also means that the merchants must tighten their belts for the coming summer months while staff members take vacations, and some major cleaning takes place that couldn't be done while places were crowded.

So let me wish a happy summer to all of you while visiting with family and friends, taking relaxing vacations and just leaning back and enjoying life!



Are **YOU** in the know?

THE MARCO REVIEW covers everything you should know about Marco Island

Download the Marco Island **APP**



Complete Restaurant Listings Every Marco Island restaurant categorized by location, type of fare, average cost and other specialties like happy hours. Regularly updated, complete with descriptions, direct links to contact info, website, TripAdvisor reviews, and interactive maps. Find exactly the restaurant you are looking for, and arrive there quickly and easily.

JUST ADDED - SUMMER SPECIALS AT MARCO ISLAND RESTAURANTS

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

Local Coupons and Exclusive App Specials All coupons found in The Marco Review, PLUS exclusive money-saving specials only available on the app. Check the **Message Center** for current specials, new offers and our exclusive **app competition** where you can win great local prizes!

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

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



Follow The Marco Review on **FACEBOOK**

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

Community Discussion for local happenings and general Marco Island discussions.

Competitions for amazing prizes from Marco businesses.



The Marco Review will keep **YOU** in the know!

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO.2397
TAMPA, FL

Uncle Sam's Sand Jam

Fun for Everyone!



*Fireworks
Show at 9 pm*



with Face Painting, DJ Music & Games
Sandcastle Contest

Tuesday, July 4th at 12 noon

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