

# MICAwave

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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May 2018

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# President's Message

*by Kathy Sullivan, MICA President*

Despite the preseason damage caused by Irma, we had a wonderful season again this year. Our last concert of the season, which featured The Ben Allen Band, was well attended considering the threatening skies and stormy predictions. At that time, we presented the MICA Humanitarian of the Year Award posthumously to Bernardo Bezos. His lovely wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Leonore, accepted the award in his name. We miss his helpful presence and can-do attitude at MICA.

MICA is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of 12 members, elected by the membership. One third of the board is elected each year for a three-year term. We have term limits of two consecutive terms. We are pleased to have the following join the board:

**Dr. Al Bismonte, John Coff, Jim Johnson, Katie O'Hara, Dr. Jerry Swiacki**

At the first meeting following the election, the board elects the officers. I was reelected President. Ray McChesney was reelected Vice President, Megan Olsen was elected Secretary and Dick Adams was elected Treasurer. The committee chairs are appointed by the president and approved by the board. Chairing the committees are:

- Architecture Review- Jim Johnson
- Residents' Beach- Ray McChesney
- Communications- Co-chairs Andy Lazo & Katie O'Hara
- Community Advocacy- Patti LaMotte
- Finance- Dick Adams
- Government Affairs- Joe Swaja
- Marketing and Membership- Megan Olsen

The Community Advocacy Committee will work to keep MICA membership informed about community issues. In some cases, we will sponsor community forums ourselves. In other situations, MICA will team with other organizations. If you would like to volunteer for one of MICA's committees, please call the MICA office at 239-642-7778.

There are two issues of importance to Marco residents on the upcoming August election ballot. If you won't be in town, apply for Vote-by-Mail ballot. Be sure your correct address is registered as the ballot will not be forwarded. The first issue is the COCPN that concerns the future of emergency medical care on the island. The other is the Collier County School Board election. On July 11 at 5 pm at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, there will be a School Board Candidate Forum sponsored by Collier County NAACP, Coalition for Quality Public Education, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples and the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce. All candidates are expected to attend.

MICA has received an application for changes to the Deed Restrictions associated with the Naples Community Hospital (NCH) Urgent Care property. NCH has indicated they are seeking permission to divide the property, demolish the current Urgent Care, build a new Urgent Care and sell a portion to a developer for a continual care and memory care facility. We will keep you posted and seek your input when the plans are further along.

We welcome your comments and questions. On our website ([www.marcocivic.com](http://www.marcocivic.com)) you will find a feedback tab under the "CONTACT" button. If you want a reply, leave your name and phone number or email address.

Enjoy the summer.



*Kathy Sullivan, President,  
MICA Board of Directors*



# Who Will Control the Ambulance(s) on Marco Island?

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, a primary election will be held that has significant effect on the City of Marco Island's Fire and Rescue Service. A referendum has been placed on the ballot for Marco Island-registered voters that will decide the future of life saving service (EMS) for our island community. There will be a question that asks you to vote YES or NO for the approval of the proposal that determines whether our Marco Fire Rescue Service will assume the responsibility to provide pre-hospital and advanced emergency service (EMS), which includes advanced life support transportation ambulance service.

In 2017, MICA sent 6276 surveys to our members and 2636 completed surveys were returned. The question asked and response is shown below:

In 2016, over 60% of voters off the Island voted to support consolidated Fire and County EMS Services, which could have a direct impact on Marco Island. Would you support an additional ambulance year round, quicker paramedic and fire response provided by and controlled by our local Marco Island Fire Rescue Department even if it meant a tax increase?

Yes	- 64.9%	No	- 31.1%
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At time of printing, the cost of local EMS, which will appear on the ballot, has not been exactly determined. However, it is estimated at approximately \$30 per \$250,000 taxable value.

**A YES vote** will permit Marco Island Fire Rescue Service to independently manage and operate this service to all our residents on the island. Marco Island would then have two full-time ambulances with a third backup vehicle controlled by the City. In addition, City ambulances would have access to at least 14 important



medications which the County does not now allow city employees to use, e.g., anti-seizure medication. Marco residents and visitors would have access to more rapid transport to a hospital than now exists.

**A NO vote** will continue to allow Collier County EMS, which is in the process of consolidating its services in the county, to provide ambulance service on the island. Marco Island would continue to have 1.25 ambulances controlled by the County.

Polls will be open on Tuesday, August 28, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you will not be on Marco Island for the election, you may request a Vote-by-Mail ballot from the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office in one of three manners:

Online at [www.colliervotes.com](http://www.colliervotes.com)

By calling 239-252-8683

In person at the Supervisor of Elections Office at 3750 Enterprise Avenue, Naples, FL 34104

## Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover Photo: taken at Residents' Beach by Debbie Barker of The Marco Review, April 2018





# The MICA Humanitarian of the Year Award



*Bernardo Bezos with his daughter Leonore and his wife Eleanor*

The MICA 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.

For 20 years, MICA has been recognizing these selfless individuals. Recent recipients have included: Maria Elena Pujol, Cheryl and Mike Mueller, Al Bismonte, Dennis and Joan Pidherny, and the Super Team of Five from "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry."

This year's honoree grew up in Cuba and fled communism in the early 60's. He created a rewarding life for himself and his family in newfound freedom in the United States. He truly appreciated and loved this country until he passed away in January of this year.

MICA's 2018 Humanitarian of the Year award was presented posthumously to Bernardo Bezos.

On April 15, before a crowd of approximately 400 people, Ray McChesney presented Bernardo's wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Leonore, with the sparkling award.

Bernardo was active in our Marco Island community since he, his wife and daughter moved here in 1998. He loved Marco and volunteered wherever help was needed.

Bernardo was President and on the Board of Directors of the Marco Police Foundation. He participated in Neighborhood Watch.

Wherever he was needed around our island, he would go, helping to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Directing traffic for a bike race? - He'd be there.

Christmas street parade? - He'd be there.

Seafood Festival volunteer? - Bernardo would be there.

Helping to startup the Optimist Club on the island?

- You bet.

Christmas tree lighting? - Yep, he'd be there.





A fundraising event at the Fire Department? - of course!  
Police Foundation Cook-off, raising funds for families? - Yes indeed.

Bernardo was a Beach Steward and volunteered for every Beach Cleanup. You would be amazed at what he found and removed from the beach, helping to keep even the birds and fish safe in our community!!

He was a member of the City Beach Advisory Committee for several years, and used his financial background to keep the books healthy at Marco Island Foundation for the Arts and the Cuban-American Club of Marco.

He could be seen zipping around the island on his scooter, his preferred method of transportation. He was also an avid tennis player at the YMCA, enjoying friendships everywhere he went.

Bernardo volunteered on the MICA Board of Directors and served as President, Treasurer and Residents' Beach Committee Chair over the years. He spent over a decade volunteering with MICA and Residents' Beach.

Bernardo was a good pal to many people on our island and supported them with his strength and friendship. It is just a shame he could not be present to accept this well-deserved Humanitarian of the Year Award.



***Bernardo's wife Eleanor and daughter Leonore accepting the Humanitarian of the Year Award***



***On April 15, before a crowd of approximately 400 people, Bernardo's wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Leonore, accepted the sparkling award.***





# Marco Island Historical Museum Prepares For Major 2018 Exhibit



***The Key Marco Cat, one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America, will be showcased at the Marco Island Historical Museum from December 2018-April 2021.***

*Photo courtesy of Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution (A240915)*

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces that the MIHS has achieved its 25-year quest to bring “home” on loan the world-famous Key Marco Cat and other rare Pre-Columbian Native American artifacts discovered on Marco Island, Florida in 1896.

Several of the most significant Key Marco artifacts will be brought together on Marco Island for the first time since their discovery by anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing more than 100 years ago. The exhibit will be at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) from December 2018 to April 2021.

The Key Marco Cat has been described as one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America. At only six inches tall and carved from buttonwood, the Key Marco Cat is a charismatic anthropomorphic feline statuette that has captured the public’s imagination for more than a century. Other important pieces in the exhibition include a ceremonial mask, alligator figure-head, painted human figure and sea turtle figurehead.

The MIHS is mounting the exhibit in collaboration with Collier County Museums, the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The loaned artifacts will be featured within one of the Museum’s permanent exhibits - Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island.

“This exhibition is the culmination of a long-term vision to bring these incredibly important artifacts to Marco Island on loan in order to educate and inspire people of all ages about the fascinating history of our region,” says MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell. “It has taken years of planning and discussions with the lending institutions and the continuation of a public-private partnership that includes the Marco Island Historical Society, Collier County and the community.”

Cushing’s 1896 Key Marco excavation produced some of the greatest discoveries in the history of North American archaeology. Because the artifacts







***Because the Key Marco artifacts were buried in an oxygen-free layer of muck, these rare 500-1,500-year-old objects were astonishingly well preserved.***

*Photo Courtesy of Penn Museum image #298907*

were buried in an oxygen-free layer of muck, these rare wooden objects - between 500 and 1,500 years old - were astonishingly well preserved. Many of them began disintegrating upon exposure to the air. Those that survived, along with lifelike watercolors and field photographs of the pieces captured by expedition artist Wells M. Sawyer, provide extraordinary insight into the daily lives of the Calusa Indians and their ancestors. The Calusa dominated Florida's Southwest Coast and controlled South Florida by the time the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century.

Since their discovery by Cushing, the returning Key Marco artifacts have been in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Others are at the National Museum of the American Indian, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum.

"The Key Marco Cat from the Smithsonian collections is an extraordinary object that attests to the unique archaeological record of Key Marco and the people and cultures who lived there for millennia," notes Torben Rick, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

"Perishable artifacts, like the Key Marco Cat, are rare in the archaeological record. Its significance lies in the information it holds about the human past, cultural diversity, and the ways that these issues can inspire researchers and the general public."

"The objects coming from the Penn Museum clearly demonstrate the remarkable preservation of the organic materials from Key Marco," notes Meg Kassabaum, assistant curator for North America at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. "Usually these materials do not preserve on ancient sites, so the Key Marco materials show us what we're missing from most other archaeological contexts. These particular artifacts are prime examples of the complex iconography used by pre-Columbian Floridians and probably had deep ritual significance to the people who created them. In particular, the paint that remains on the wooden objects serves as an important reminder of the level of detail and skill attained by

***Marco Island Historical Museum***

*Continued on page 14*

***Presenting Magical Marco***



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## Residents' Beach Concert Series - The Sean Fleming Band







February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018





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# **CANDIDATE FORUM**



## **Candidates**

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**District 5:**

**Darlene Alvarez, Mary Ellen Cash, Roy Terry**

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# Marco Island Has Started Something Big!!!

*by David Wolff*

Residents of Marco Island have started a trend that the rest of Florida is starting to catch onto in a big way. Just four years ago, the first Mini Reefs began to enter the waters in beautiful Marco Island. A few local residents interested in increasing the enjoyment they receive out of the waterfront living Marco Island affords to so many, decided to become the first to have Mini Reefs installed under their docks. First a few baby fish came to use the Mini Reefs as their new homes. Then more fish came, which attracted larger fish looking for a meal and up the food chain it went. Before long, the Mini Reef owners began to spot fish they hadn't seen in decades in some cases. Here's what just a few Mini Reef owners have to say about their dock after the installation:

"We have only had our mini-reef for about 3 months, but the results are amazing! Even this early in its growth, we are seeing extraordinary amounts and species of fish under our dock." "Just activity in general around and under our dock has increased tremendously since installing the reef. We are having two more mini-reefs installed today!" -Andy V.

"We could not be more pleased with our Mini Reef. We live on a canal and have noticed how wonderfully clear the water has gotten. This has encouraged more wildlife, we have more dolphins and fish in our canal than before. We would encourage every home on water to install one of these Mini Reefs!" -Fiona W.

"We saw early on a marked increase not only in the number of the small "bait fish" but also in the diversity of the larger game fish; some of which we had not seen in almost 20 years here on the canal. It is truly a testament to the success of these artificial reefs that we continue to this day to enjoy further increases." -Peter F.



The stories of all the new life under Marco Islands docks has begun to spread around the state. Currently there are Mini Reefs in, or about to be installed in, over 20 coastal cities around Florida. Residents from Pensacola around the Gulf down to Tampa, Cape Coral and Naples are installing units. People and environmental groups in the Indian River Lagoon area along Florida's space coast are installing Mini Reefs to help fight water pollution and decreasing fish stocks. Even NOAA is now looking into promoting the installation of Mini Reefs throughout the Florida Keys as one way to help restore fish populations and water quality issues the Keys are facing.

It's hard to believe just four short years ago seven Mini Reefs slipped under the waters in Marco Island's canal system. Marco now contains over 400 Mini Reefs and soon the state of Florida will have over 1,000 units in its waters. Ocean Habitats' mission is to help "bring coastal waters to life". That goal is starting to become a reality and Marco Island has been a big part of making the mission a reality. If you are interested in having Mini Reefs installed at your house or would like to donate to help further this work, contact Ocean Habitats at [oceanhabitatsinc.com](http://oceanhabitatsinc.com) or call 786-520-6459. Ocean Habitats is a federally recognized 501c3 non profit corporation and a portion of your purchase price is tax deductible.





# News from Across the Bridge

*by Donna Fiala, Collier County Commissioner*

Pickleball seems to be on the lips of many people at this time as our county hosts the 3rd U. S. Open Pickleball Championships right here in East Naples. This is the biggest sport that has ever hit our county, and actually the biggest sport to hit our country in history, and we have it right here in Collier County! I'll tell you the little story about how it became our sports treasure, and I think you'll enjoy that story.

Four years ago in January 2014, a small group of sports enthusiasts came to my office at the Collier County Government Center to speak to me about something called Pickleball. I had no idea what they were even talking about, but I figured it must be some kind of sport because the name had ball in it. They were all excited about this game? – or was it a game? I was totally confused, but I listened to what they had to say. They were so excited that I couldn't help but be interested, yet I had no idea what we were talking about and I didn't want them to know I was so ill informed, so I just listened as I wondered what could this be that made them so excited. They invited me to the East Naples Community Park to watch and I took them up on their invitation. Wow, was I in for a surprise! It was actually a game, and played by really nice people who were all very cordial and supportive of each other. They actually played with a hard paddle – something like a ping pong paddle, but a different shape and material, and the ball was actually a whiffle ball (a very light ball with holes in it). It made a really great sound, except probably if it was played next to your house during sleeping hours. It was served underhand rather than overhand like tennis. The nets were set lower and shorter. The game was as fast as you wanted to play, and there were all levels to choose from. The courts were shorter than tennis courts. The players were devoted! The enthusiasm filled the air and in no time you were enthusiastic about the game for players of all ages.

Fast forward just a couple months, as we were trying to move forward with the parks people to build a pickleball park for tournament players, and the idea was born to move it to a newer, bigger level: A U.S. OPEN PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME!! It would be the first U. S. Open Pickleball Championship game ever held in the world! It was moving forward quickly, but who would invest in something that had never been tried before, in a park that wasn't prepared for something like this, and without a sponsor or the courts or the money to begin? But there was no stopping these folks now. They knew they had a winning idea, and so did others. Their true guts, their enthusiasm, the team of Terry, Chris, Jim & Carol, plus a gal named Donna, worked together, never even looking back and wondering if it could be done, but forward to where they wanted to be in a certain time frame. They arranged for CBS Sports to cover the game nationwide, and for the Pickleball Channel to cover it electronically. They presented a sponsorship idea to Minto, and they agreed to participate. They convinced the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to build championship courts with Deco Turf for the ease of the players feet, ankles and knees. The County Parks & Rec came on line full force to get the job done, and as the time neared, they spread the word to a nation of pickleball players that the U. S. Open was about to be presented, and gave them the opportunity to register on a certain date. That



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





date arrived, and within hours they had 800 players from 36 states and 8 countries signed up to play the first ever U. S. Open Pickleball Championship games, and right here in East Naples, Fl.

Now was the nail-biting time. Would we be ready on time? Would it be successful? Would the players come from far and wide and would they enjoy this little park? What else did we need to do to make it a great first experience? There was lots of nail-biting time, and even more stomachs churning as the excitement climbed. And when the time came the courts were done, the park was as ready as it could be, and we would learn it was a smashing success! Everyone loved it, and they came from as far away as Australia, Japan, Singapore, England, France, Germany, and more. It was a hit!

Afterward, the team took a long and careful look at what went right, what could be improved, what we needed to do to make it even better the next year. Within the first week after the game, the team had already started the plan for the following year and knew they needed a very expensive shade structure to shelter the camera, the players and the audience watching. They also figured out a layout for the following year for all the courts, the tents for the players' shelters, additional bleachers, bathrooms, showers, etc. The whole year was focused on improving the park and new exciting additions for the coming year. The TDC signed a five year contract and agreed to buy the \$700,000 shade structure for the coming year. Minto also signed a five year contract as their major sponsor. Work proceeded to upgrade the park for the new games with more people for the coming year. The world buzzed about this major park with the outstanding multitude of deco-turf courts that no one else had ever seen in any one area! This year when the call went out to register, there was no hesitation and they signed 1,300 players very quickly. It was indeed a most spectacular tournament and it ended in a magnificent parade around the championship courts on the last evening with all the players carrying flags from their home-state or from their home country – this year 42 states and 12 countries! It was a goose-pimply night! I'm so glad I didn't miss it!

And now we come to this year, and we are right in the middle of the games as I write. This year, the County has added 10 more deco-turf courts, and some upgrades to the park. Within three hours of the registration opening, over 2200 players signed up and they had to be cut off from receiving any more players. Another 300 are still sitting on the wait-list. We are now known as the Pickleball Capital of the World! People are raving about the great games on these 54 pickleball courts.

At this time, we are hoping to buy, rent, lease or trade part or all of the land that is adjacent to these courts that was gifted to the school board many years ago and who still holds title to the land. Until now they have been negative about working with the county, but we are hoping they will see how important this is to the entire pickleball community, the sports community and to the world of pickleball! All we can do now is try our best. There is no room left to expand, and no room for parking, and next year the crowds will grow even larger. We need other things such as more bathrooms, more tent space, more courts, and even a pickleball stadium, but can do nothing unless we can have access to the 37 acres of land that the school board now owns directly adjacent to the county land. Wish us luck. If anyone out there knows anyone who is influential within the educational community and can plead our case, please do it!

We need help talking with them.



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## ***Marco Island Historical Museum***

*Continued from page 7*

pre-contact Native artists and gives just a hint of how beautiful these pieces would have been when they were made. The fact that they have survived so long is truly incredible and provides a nearly unique window into the past.”

According to Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala, “Bringing the Key Marco artifacts exhibition to Collier County and Southwest Florida is a major achievement. There is no doubt it will generate increased tourism and business for local hotels, restaurants and other area businesses, as well as provide an extraordinary educational experience for residents and visitors alike. The nearly two-and-a-half-year duration of the exhibition will create a heightened awareness of Southwest Florida’s early beginnings and will extend the positive impact on the area’s economy.”

Collier County and MIHS are providing a portion of the funds to cover costs for required security system upgrades, onsite security during the exhibition, and other costs to prepare for the exhibition. However, additional funds still must be raised from private donors and other funding sources.

Preparations also will include permanent enhancements to the museum’s award-winning Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island exhibit that will include interactive activity stations, state-of-the-art projections, dramatic

animations, stunning new original artwork and exciting additions to the museum’s immersive life-size Calusa Village.

Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc. is serving as the design and fabrication team for the exhibit enhancements. Creative Arts was the design and fabrication team for the museum’s Paradise Found, Modern Marco Island and Pioneer Marco: A Tale of Two Villages permanent exhibits.

MIHS Executive Director Patricia Rutledge notes, “This is a transformative event for the Marco Island Historical Museum as well as for Marco Island and all of Southwest Florida. The next and final steps in bringing the exhibition to fruition are to raise the balance of the funds needed to prepare for the exhibition and to complete museum enhancements required by the lending institutions. The investment in security and climate control upgrades also will make it possible for the museum to present future important traveling exhibitions for the benefit of the public and community.”

For updates on the exhibit and information on how you can support MIHS in preparing for the return of the Key Marco artifacts, call 239.389.6447 or visit [www.theMIHS.org](http://www.theMIHS.org).

*The Marco Island Historical Museum is located at 180 S. Heathwood Drive, Marco Island, Florida. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and the site is handicapped accessible.*



*Remember...  
No Glass  
at the Beach*





# The Last Straw!

*by Ruth McCann,*

*Chair, City of Marco Island Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee*



Residents of the United States toss 500 million plastic drinking straws EVERY DAY, enough to circle the earth two times in one year! A single-use plastic straw that you might use for 10 minutes will be on this planet forever. It takes 200 years to break down... into tiny toxic particles. Plastic straws are not recycled, and too many end up in our waterways and inside birds, turtles, dolphins, etc.

I am pleased to report that Marco Island beachfront businesses will no longer be contributing to this problem!

On March 5, Marco Island City Council unanimously passed an amendment to the waterways and beaches ordinance which states “No business, restaurant . . . shall use, serve, or distribute plastic drinking straws.”

Banning single-use plastic straws and requiring beach vendors to pick up after their customers is all about protecting our precious wildlife. Banning plastic straws is not a new concept. Most National Parks do not offer straws. The beach cafes at Tigertail Beach and Residents’ Beach do not offer any straws.

The JW Marriott and Sunset Grill have voluntarily been serving plant-based straws at their beachfront locations. The cost difference between a petroleum based straw and a plant based straw is one-one hundredth of a cent.

Most of us moved here because of the wildlife that surrounds us. The wildlife and environment of

our little island deserve the best care we can offer. The plastic straw ban is a good first step in protecting turtles, fish and birds. It is past time to protect that wildlife. Let’s make Marco Island a shining example of what a community can do together in protection of its wildlife. Let’s not be like everyone else. Let’s fix this now.

The City Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee challenges residents and visitors to Marco Island to skip the straw island wide. Don’t play a part in the 500 million straws that are heading to the landfill on a daily basis. Ask yourself, “do I really need a straw to sip this drink?”

If you own or manage an inland restaurant or business and would like to join the “Skip the Straw” movement or offer biodegradable straws, please call me at the MICA office at 239-642-7778, for more information. Please also be on alert for a future “Green Award,” which will be presented to an island business that makes the most strides in protecting our environment.

You may already know that the Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, along with the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, Marco Island Civic Association (MICA), and a local group or business hosts monthly beach cleanups. I invite everyone to come out to help clear our beach of man-made materials. Please see upcoming beach cleanup dates in this issue.







## Residents' Beach Concert Series - The Galaxy Band







March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018





# A Summer of Fun at The Marco Island Center for the Arts

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

Marco Island Center for the Arts is looking forward to offering a summer full of fun. Building on the success of Children's Summer Art Workshops, which took place over the last four years, the Art Center will provide art workshops taught by professional working artists to children ages 6-14 this summer.

**Workshops** that will be offered are as follows:

**Mixed Media Art** will be taught by Jennifer Norqual, a Naples artist running successful workshops at her studio in Tin City. Workshops will be offered on **June 18-22** and **June 25-29** from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm for children ages 6-13. Each child will explore mixed media by using old lobster traps to create mini “dock scenes.” Children will also do some driftwood and nautical art, canvas painting with acrylic, watercolor, charcoal and so much more. This is the creative opportunity of a lifetime for young artists.





The **Marco Island Shell Club** will offer Shell Art on **June 21, 22, 23** from 1-4 pm for ages 6-13. Projects will include Legend of the Sand Dollar/ Sand Dollar ornaments, critters, decorating objects, making picture frames and beginning shell flowers.

Clay artist Becca Ferguson will be teaching **What Can You Do With Clay?** on **June 25-29** and **July 16-20** from 1-4 pm for ages 7-14. Students will have the chance to make their own gargoyle, throw clay on the wheel and even make a fun marionette.

Michael Grandi, the art instructor from Seacrest Country Day School in Naples, will be teaching three different workshops from 9:30 am-12:30 pm over three weeks. The workshops are for students 6-13 and include **Create and Design with Anything!** on **July 9-13**, **Crazy Face!** on **July 16-20** and **Doodling 10** on **July 23-27**.

Adult art classes are also offered in a variety of mediums. Whether it is working in the clay studio or taking a painting class, the Art Center is the place to make your Art home.

**Musical Interludes**, the Art Center's intimate concert series continues through the summer.

**May 17th** brings the **Alex Weitz Jazz Ensemble**, direct from Miami, to the Art Center. Audiences can enjoy a musical cabaret evening with **Abby Yetter** on **June 14th**. Jazz returns on **July 18th** with the Brennen Yetter Jazz Trio bringing a fresh take to an old art form.


**Art Exhibitions** Each month brings new art exhibitions to the Art Center's galleries.

Summer exhibitions include **Sea Life** (June), **Big Bold and Beautiful** (July), **Power It Up** (August) and **Color, Texture and Form** (September). An art reception takes place for each exhibition on the Second Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:00 pm and the public is always welcome.

*For more information about programs and registration call 239-394-4221 or go to [www.marcoislandart.org](http://www.marcoislandart.org).*

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# American Cancer Society Relays a Message of Hope

*by Maureen Chodaba*

The word “relay” can be defined as the act of passing something along from one person to another, as in passing on information or a message. An alternate definition describes a “relay” as a device to permit the flow of electrical current through one circuit to another with the ability to activate or shut down. The American Cancer Society has their own definition of Relay that seems to be a combination of the two. Veterans Community Park was the place to be for the 2018 Relay For Life of Marco Island, presented by Robert J. Flugger and chaired by Cathy Nelson. There was indeed a flow of electricity, charged with a message of hope that passed from person to person as our community joined together to activate the fight to shut down cancer.

Since 1985, the Relay For Life has been a community-based global movement, raising billions of dollars that have funded research and provided support to those fighting cancer. The American Cancer Society has made a vow that they will never give up the fight until cancer is eliminated from our world. In 2017, the Relay For Life of Marco Island placed first in fundraising in the state of Florida, bringing in an impressive \$345,000.

This year’s Relay kicked off on April 3 as cancer survivors, their caregivers and families were honored with a Survivor Dinner at the New Life Community Church. A delicious buffet was donated by Café de Marco, Ciao Bella, Capri Fish House, Chop 239, Cocomo’s, CJ’s on the Bay, Da Vinci’s, Joey’s Pizza, Doreen’s Cup of Joe, Kretch’s, Little Bar, La Tavola, Pincher’s, Verdi’s and Winn Dixie. Door prizes were donated by the Marco Island Hilton, Crystal Shores Marriott, JW Marriott Marco Island, Subway, Beebe’s Ice Cream, Seminole Casino and The Salty Dog. Floral arrangements donated by Marco Island Florist enhanced the evening with grace and hospitality.

On April 7, the six hours of the Relay For Life of Marco Island began with the traditional

opening lap of survivors and caregivers led by the San Marco Knights of Columbus. The National Anthem was sung by cancer survivor Marva Sutt. Tents of fundraising teams surrounded the track with a message of hope in the quest to find a cure.



***Cancer survivor Megan Olsen and her family enjoy the Survivor Dinner***

Each year, the Sandy Holdgate Spirit of Relay Award is presented to a cancer survivor who has displayed courage and commitment to the American Cancer Society. The award is named in honor of Sandy Holdgate, a Marco Islander who lost her battle to the disease several years ago. This year’s recipient was Anthony DeLucia, aka DJ Steve Reynolds, the voice of 98.1 FM. He has been a survivor since 2012. DeLucia, who was the emcee for the event, became involved with the American Cancer Society when his dear friend, the late “Disco Dave” Bierbrauer was battling the disease. It was at that time that DeLucia’s wife, June urged him to be tested. The rest is history, as Anthony DeLucia is living proof of the importance of early detection. DeLucia is not only an active ACS volunteer who has served as Chair of the ACS Volunteer Board, but he also contributes his time to numerous other organizations in our community. He is indeed a living example of the celebration of life!







***Colleen Walthour, Marva and Jim Sutt are surrounded by friends at the Survivor Dinner.***

Relay concluded with the very emotional Luminaria Ceremony. Beacons of light, named in honor of survivors and in remembrance of loved ones lost, illuminated the Marco Island sky. Grammy-nominated saxophone artist Eirinn Abu accompanied the ceremony with his very moving renditions of Amazing Grace, Unchained Melody and The Prayer. At the beginning of the ceremony, the luminaries were arranged in the center of the track to spell “HOPE”. At its conclusion, the candles glowed with even greater fervor as they were magically transformed to spell “CURE”.

And so, it will be in life. Our hope will soon become a cure as we continue to relay our message to celebrate, remember and fight back.

The American Cancer Society wishes to thank Robert J. Flugger, Presenting Sponsor of the Relay For Life of Marco Island; and other local sponsors, including JW Marriott Marco Island, VITAS Healthcare, New Life Community Church, Truly Nolen and the Coastal Breeze News. We could never do it without the help and support of the hundreds of Relay participants and ACS volunteers.

If you were unable to attend the event, there is still time to participate as the Relay For Life fundraising season extends through August. Donations may still be made by contacting your American Cancer Society at 239-642-6217, Sue.Olszak@cancer.org, or by visiting [http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=86474](http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=86474).

## ***Scenes from Relay for Life 2018***





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## PREVENTION IS KEY

It is so much easier to prevent water pollution than it is to clean it up. Use these Best Management Practices (BMP's) to become part of the solution to water pollution.

### PRE-CUT LUMBER

If possible, cut lumber in a shop, then vacuum the sawdust and dispose of it in a closed-lid container. This is the best way to prevent wind and water from carrying sawdust into our waterways

### ON-LAND BMP'S

If cutting lumber on-site, setup up cutting station on a tarp or concrete well away from water. After cutting, vacuum sawdust and dispose of it in a closed-lid container.

### OVER-WATER BMP'S

Hang a tarp below construction area or devise a floating tarp system to catch sawdust and trimmings. Empty regularly to prevent wind from blowing sawdust into waterways.

### USE ALTERNATIVES

Choose wood that is either naturally pest-resistant or treated with EPA approved preservatives.





# Love Your Lawn

*by Samantha Gibson, Collier County Pollution Control*

Your lawn should be easy to love, not a labor of love! Check out these tips and tricks to love your lawn and protect your local waterways.

## ***Revise How You Fertilize -***

Your grass and plants need nutrients to grow, but just like the human body, it needs the right amount at the right time. Reduce the number of times you fertilize per year by choosing a fertilizer that has a low phosphorus content and a high percentage of slow release nitrogen. This will provide all the nutrients your plants need while continuing to feed them for months. Save time and money by calculating how much fertilizer your yard needs to avoid wasting a day applying fertilizer that your plants can't use. Most fertilizer bags will say how many cubic feet they will cover or check out the calculator at [www.dontoverfeed.com](http://www.dontoverfeed.com). Do not fertilize during summer and rainy season.

## ***Irrigate Smart -***

Over irrigation of grass and planting beds reduces root growth while increasing the likelihood of disease, infestation and weeds, all of which can lead to time-consuming maintenance or replacement. Don't know when to water? Just watch the grass! Water the lawn when 50 percent of the lawn shows signs of wilt, i.e. leaf blades folded in half length-wise, color change, or footprints/tire tracks remain visible long after being made. And remember, never water between 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. as the irrigation will be lost to wind or evaporation. If you have an in-ground irrigation system, use a rain sensor and schedule a free inspection with the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) by calling 239-455-4100. If you use a sprinkler attachment on your hose, set timers so you don't forget to move it.

## ***Know How to Mow -***

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) has found



***For great examples of Florida-friendly yards and to gain some ideas and inspiration for your own landscape, visit [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org)***

that grass is happiest when only one third of the grass leaf blade is removed at a time. This allows photosynthesis to occur, keeping the grass green and healthy while preventing scalping, yellowing and the potential for bare spots. Check out these other tips: [hort.ifas.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn).

## ***Choose Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ -***

Don't think low-maintenance and beautiful can describe the same yard? Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) provides guidelines on how to make a beautiful, functional, and sustainable yard using plants that are well-suited to Southwest Florida. More information on FFL is available at <http://www.floridayards.org/>

## ***Finally, Love Your Lawn -***

Most of our lawns are getting too much fertilizer and water, meaning more time spent laboring over our lawns instead of simply loving them. Do yourself a couple of favors: revise how you fertilize, irrigate smart, know how to mow, choose FFL, and love your lawn!





# Protecting Gopher Tortoises – Marco's Oldest Residents

*by Maria Lamb*

Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) are the oldest residents of Marco Island. They have been around for millions of years. They are listed as a State Threatened Species and are also on the waiting list under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Here in Marco Island, they are facing drastic habitat loss, increasing mortality from vehicular strikes, poaching and from the use of pesticides.

April 10<sup>th</sup> was declared Gopher Tortoise Day in Marco Island. The City of Marco Island memorialized the City's commitment to the protection of the Gopher Tortoise. The gopher tortoise is also known as a keystone species. Its burrow is home

to some 350 animals that depend on its burrow for protection such as the Florida mouse, gopher frog and even the burrowing owl. In Marco, you will find gopher tortoises from midday to late afternoon, leaving their burrows in search of spring greenery, to warm up and in many cases, to seek out a mate.

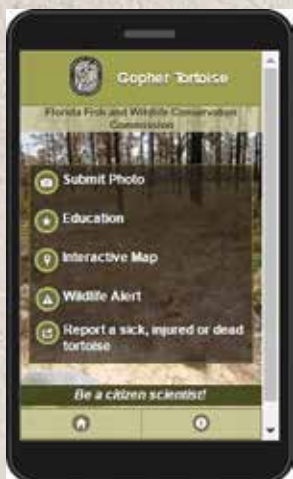
Often times you are going to encounter a gopher tortoise crossing the street. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) suggests you could help by picking it up and placing it on the roadside in the direction it was heading. Caution: gopher tortoises are land animals, so do not place them in the water.



*"It is a violation to intentionally take, harass, wound or kill any species that is designated as endangered, threatened or of 'least concern.' S.379.411 Florida Statute - violators may be guilty of a third degree felony."*  
*Gopher Tortoise have an internal GPS unit that allows them to always find their way back to their burrow.*







### *How can you help?*

There is a free App for the gopher tortoise! The FWC website has a free App, which was released to the public in 2014. It was a way to get citizens involved in gopher tortoise conservation. Apps are available for both the android and Apple phones at: [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

If you discover an injured gopher tortoise on the roadside, please call the Conservancy of SW Florida Wildlife Clinic at 239-262- CARE (2273). If you've downloaded the Gopher Tortoise App, please take a photo and send it in. FWC is collecting mortality data for the gopher tortoises.

It is against the law to kill, harass or destroy gopher tortoises, their burrows or eggs. If you suspect that a lot is being cleared that is a known gopher tortoise habitat or has posted gopher tortoise signs; or if you suspect illegal activity, you can report it anonymously by calling 888-404- FWCC (888-404-3922). Cellular phone users can also call \*FWC or #FWC, or send a text to [Tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tip@MyFWC.com).



***Slow down while driving in areas with a large concentration of gopher tortoises.***

Note to builders: Once a building plan is created and ready to submit, if the property has gopher tortoise habitat, the City of Marco Island requires an environmental survey. Let's all do our part to protect Marco's wildlife for future generations.

***Photos by Maria Lamb***

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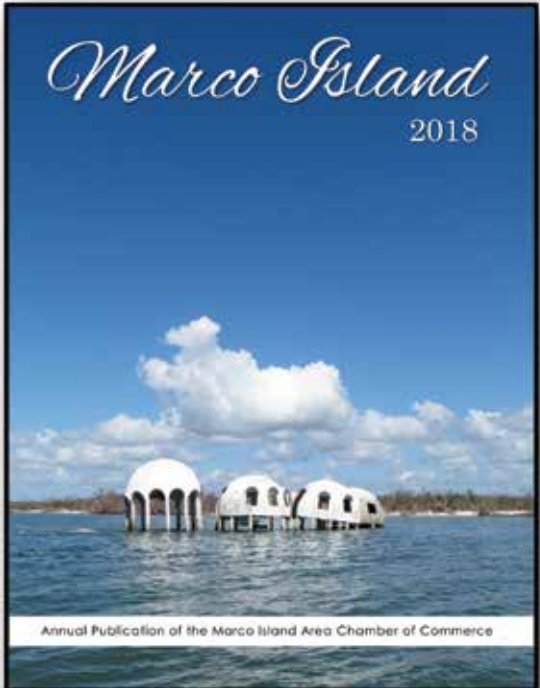
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# Residents' Beach – Inspires Local Artist Judy Chinski

*by Maria Lamb*



*When Judy Chinski painted this palm tree, visions of the Statue of Liberty kept coming up, so she named this painting “Liberty”.*

Judy Chinski enjoys painting outdoors and Residents' Beach has provided inspiration for many of her paintings. She recalled painting one palm tree in water color. While looking up at the palm tree, she kept seeing images of the Statue of Liberty. So she called that first palm painting “Liberty.” She painted the second palm tree a couple of weeks later and it was on Palm Sunday, so she called it Palm Sunday.



*Residents' Beach tiki hut and palm trees gave Judy the inspiration for this painting.*



*Tropical setting of Residents' Beach boardwalk, palm trees and the tiki huts.*

Judy Chinski and her husband, Jim Robellard, moved to Marco Island in 2011. Jim was reluctant to move to Florida until Judy found a house with a basement. She did and she has her art studio and Jim's photography office in the basement!

Judy's dad had always encouraged her and her siblings to draw free-hand. She did not paint much till high school and in college where she took two oil painting classes. Judy graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Graphic Design.

Judy paints in acrylic and water color and recently has been experimenting in alcohol inks. She describes her style as realist scenes with exaggerated colors. Judy says that with water color you plan pretty extensively before you paint it – there is no white paint and no black paint – any white you see is the paper.

She uses a lot of hot pinks and purple with the color purple used as a gray – light purple muted makes good shadow colors. Judy is inspired by light, shadow and color. Bright happy colors are her signature. Judy is also working on alcohol ink paintings. The alcohol ink colors are vibrant and have that “always fresh look.” You have a little less





control with it and it looks more free. It is a new technique for Judy, but it has been around for 20 years. She is intrigued by it and has done big pieces and smaller 5x7 pieces.

I asked Judy, "how do you know when a painting is done?" She replied that "it is done when you look at it and ask is anything I am going to do now going to make it better? If the answer is no, it is done. Sometimes it is also very good to step away from it for a day, a week, a month and come back. You may see something that will make it better."

*For more information on Judy Chinski's art collection, visit: [www.jchinski.com](http://www.jchinski.com); or visit The Local Color Art Gallery in Marco Island or the Brush & Lens Gallery in Naples.*



*Judy Chinski with her painting of Residents' Beach.*

*Submitted Photos by Jim Robellard*

## Beach Clean-up Schedule

- **Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce*
- **Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Quarterly beach clean-up at Tigertail Beach *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by CJ's on the Bay*
- **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee*
- **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Annual coastal beach clean-up at Tigertail *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*
- **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at Residents' Beach *sponsored by MICA*
- **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach *sponsored by Marco Island Woman's Club*
- **Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 p.m.**  
Beach clean-up at South Beach
- **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m.**  
Quarterly Beach Cleanup at Tigertail Beach *sponsored by Friends of Tigertail*

MICA supplies gloves, water, trashbags and the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster. Bring your own reusable bottle for water to fill up from our new Igloo water dispenser. Leadership Marco supplies buckets and grabbers.





# Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

*by Andrea McKenna*

Francis, a single dad who has worked at JW Marriott on Marco Island for seven years, was beaming with joy as he signed the closing documents to purchase his new Habitat home this month. When Francis first came to Habitat, he and his daughters were living in a small, two-bedroom apartment where rent was more than \$1,200 a month. Francis worked two jobs to make ends meet but there was barely enough to cover other expenses once rent was paid.

Francis and his daughters, Kenisha and Ferlande, moved into their new Habitat home at the end of April after completing 500 hours of “sweat equity,” building alongside volunteers and other future homeowners on the jobsite and taking homeownership classes in our office. These teenage

girls have big dreams. Ferlande plans to become a lawyer and Kenisha a doctor. Because of this house - a safe affordable Habitat home - Francis is free from so many financial worries. His daughters will have his love and guidance as they pursue their goals.

Just after the closing, Francis visited the Habitat ReStore where Suzanne, one of our dedicated volunteers, was delighted to help him buy new furniture to transform this house into a home. He was eager to add his own touch to the home that he worked so hard to purchase, and now he and the girls are happily settling in to their new home and neighborhood.

The stability and security that Francis is now able to provide his children will be life-changing for all of them. Kenisha and Ferlande now have their own





bedrooms where they can study and prepare their school projects. They are in a safe neighborhood where they will make lifelong friends who also have the chance to excel in school and reach for the stars.

Two more families who are employed on Marco Island applied to purchase Habitat homes this past March. Last fall, one of these families welcomed a baby daughter, Ornisse, so mom and dad knew they needed to change their living arrangement. The family of three shares one bedroom in a small three bedroom home where five other adult family members live. Dad, Wesner, works at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and mom, Jeseline, works at the Publix on Marco Island. The house where they are living is being remodeled and it is not safe for Ornisse to be crawling so she must stay confined. Wesner and Jeseline came to Habitat with the hope of giving Ornisse space to crawl and play. They need a safe place of their own to call home.

The other family approved in March, Daniel and Marilyn and their eight year old son, Dany, came from Cuba sponsored by a family member with whom they now share a cramped apartment. They were desperate to escape their difficult life but are finding it very challenging to afford housing here in Florida. Daniel works at Islander Pool & Patio and Marilyn works at Maid Pro. Dany is in the 3rd grade and his favorite subject is Math. When they applied for a Habitat home, Daniel said "A Habitat home would give us stable housing where our son can grow, be happy and blossom." He wants for his son what so many parents want when they come to Habitat. He and his wife are willing to work very hard, but they need a hand-up from generous members of our community to purchase a home and solve their housing dilemma.

For 40 years, volunteers, donors and partner families have worked together to make it possible for more than 2,000 families to purchase a home of their own and finally know the strength and stability which come with the security of homeownership. Without the tireless dedication of our partners, Habitat Collier would not have reached this milestone of serving so many hard-working local families.

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Every volunteer, every congregation and every donor has given generously of their time, talent and treasures. Thank you! Whether you spend the upcoming months here on Marco Island or head elsewhere for the summer, please know how grateful the Habitat family is for all you have done this year and in the past to help us take another step toward Habitat's vision of a world where everyone has a simple, decent place to live.

Keep up to date on what is happening by visiting our website [www.habitatcollier.org](http://www.habitatcollier.org) or contact Andrea at 239-775-0036 or [amckenna@habitatcollier.org](mailto:amckenna@habitatcollier.org).

### ***About Habitat for Humanity of Collier County***

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is a 13-time four-star rated Charity Navigator organization. In 2014, we were recognized by Charity Navigator as #1 in the nation for housing and community development. Habitat Collier was also among the 1% of charities to have earned a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator.







## Residents' Beach Concert Series - Tripleshot







March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018





# Cane Toads Are Toxic to Pets

*by Maria Lamb*

Summertime is here and Cane Toads love the hot, humid, rainy Florida weather. Cane Toads are native to Central and South America and were first introduced in Florida's sugar cane fields in the 1930s to control the cane beetles (hence the "cane" name). They have no known predators to control their spread. They breed year-round in standing water, ponds, lakes, canals and ditches.

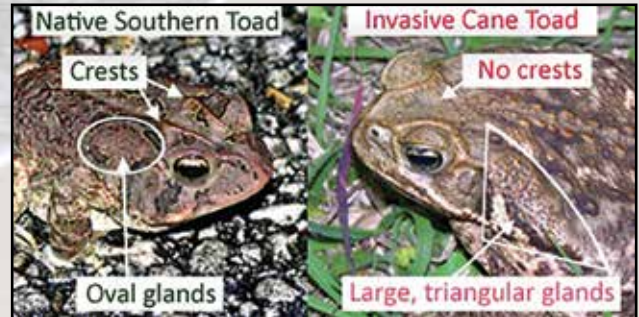
Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*), aka Bufo Toad, Marine Toad or Giant Toad is the largest of the frogs and toads found in Florida. When a cane toad is disturbed, it secretes a highly toxic milky gooey substance at the back of their heads. This chemical



***Toxic to Pets - Cane toads have large, somewhat triangular poison glands that taper back into a point.***

goo is highly toxic to dogs and cats and can also cause skin irritation in humans.

The cane toad's toxin is a confirmed dog killer and certain breeds are more vulnerable, such as terriers due to their curious nature. In order for a dog to be poisoned by a toad, he has to actually pick it up in his mouth, bite it or lick it. The toxin is absorbed through the mucus membrane inside the dog's mouth.



***Side by side comparison of the NON-toxic Southern Toad (*anaxyrus terrestris*) and the Toxic Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*). Southern Toads are rarely larger than three inches, have two ridges on the head and their poison glands are NOT toxic to pets.***

According to Marco Veterinary Hospital, they have not treated any dogs for cane toad poisoning in the last year. The Island Animal Hospital had one confirmed cane toad poisoning last year. The dog was taken to the Animal Specialty Hospital (ASH) in Naples where it was treated and recovered. ASH in Naples confirmed an intake of 1-3 cases per week of cane toad poisoning, with 3-5 fatalities in the last year.

Symptoms: Excessive drooling, pawing their mouth; head-shaking, crying from pain, loss of coordination and fiery red gums, an indicator used by veterinarians to distinguish toad poisoning from a bout of epilepsy. Knowing the signs of toad poisoning and what to do can save your dog. When in doubt, call your local veterinary clinic.

First Aid: It is recommended to gently rub the gums and inside of his mouth with a drippy wash cloth to remove the slimy goo. Make sure to angle the head so water will drain out of his mouth NOT down his throat.





According to Dr. Steve A. Johnson, Associate Professor Dept. of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida “there is no approved spray/treatment for use on cane toads; that Naples has a big problem that seems to be growing and urges Marco residents to be educated; the State does not have a specific program for monitoring cane toads.”

### ***Prevention:***

- Keep your dog on a leash during his evening “potty” break.
- Teach your pet a “Leave It” command to stop him from scavenging behavior.
- Familiarize pet sitters with symptoms of cane toad poisoning.

*Photos provided by: Dr. Steve Johnson,  
Department of Wildlife Ecology and  
Conservation, University of Florida*



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# Rookery Bay and Partners Prepare for Nesting Season

*~ Partnership provides protection for threatened birds ~*



Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, in cooperation with Audubon Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), is working to protect nesting habitat for least terns, black skimmers and Wilson's plovers at the Second-Chance Sandbar. Beginning March 1, the sandbar, which is designated as a Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) by the FWC, closed to allow for more successful nesting of these rare species.

"Protecting this habitat during the nesting season increases the likelihood of successful breeding," said Rookery Bay Reserve Director Keith Laakkonen. "In 2017, least terns in Collier County had the best productivity in the state, and we're hoping for even better results this year."

"Audubon Florida and hundreds of rare coastal birds are looking forward to Second Chance Critical Wildlife Area being open exclusively for nesting birds," said Dr. Marianne Korosy, director of bird conservation for Audubon Florida. "While Floridians and visitors flock to our beautiful beaches,

shorebirds flock to protected places like Second Chance for the peace and privacy they need to raise their vulnerable fuzzy chicks to adulthood. We're excited to partner with Rookery Bay Reserve's Team Ocean volunteers to keep Second Chance safe for nesting birds."

"For nesting birds, CWAs are lifesaving. When birds are disturbed during the critical nesting period, they often temporarily abandon their nests, leaving their eggs or hatchlings vulnerable to the sun and predators," said Dr. Brad Gruver, leader of FWC's Species and Conservation Planning section.

The area is located one mile southeast of Cape Romano and has been closed annually since 2001. Rookery Bay and Audubon Florida have installed perimeter signs on the island to clearly mark the sandbar as closed.

Nesting areas will be monitored throughout the nesting season. When the signs are removed on August 31, after the birds have left, boating visitors may return.





*As part of a cooperative effort with Audubon and FWC, the Second-Chance Sandbar is closed annually to protect shorebird nesting areas.*

When visiting any beach with nesting activity, visitors should consider the following guidelines to share the shore with wildlife:

- Watch where you walk - be careful not to step on eggs or chicks;
- Respect posted areas and keep your distance from resting or nesting birds;
- Observe regulations pertaining to dogs – they're prohibited from visiting city and county beaches, and leash laws apply elsewhere, including Rookery Bay;
- Be sure to dispose of your trash properly – place it in trash cans or take it home with you if none are available; and
- If birds appear agitated, take flight or swoop at you, you're too close to their nest, so turn around or alter your route to avoid nesting areas.

Rookery Bay Research Reserve offers numerous recreational options throughout its 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters. To learn more about Rookery Bay, please visit [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).

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## Breakfast with the Birds Lecture Series Shines Spotlight on Avian Research and Stewardship

Learn all about birds during this popular summer lecture series hosted by Adam DiNuovo at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. Adam has been working with shorebirds and seabirds across the United States and beyond for more than 15 years. He is the Shorebird Stewardship Program Manager for Audubon Florida with his office at Rookery Bay Research Reserve.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>May 15</b>  | <b>“Connecting the Globe through Bird Migration.”</b>                                      |
| <b>June 19</b> | <b>“The Amazing Lives of Beach Nesting Birds”</b>  |
| <b>July 17</b> | <b>“The Unseen Army: How Volunteers and Citizen Scientists are Helping Save our Birds”</b> |
| <b>Aug. 14</b> | <b>“Back from the Brink: Using Social Attraction to Save Seabirds”</b>                     |

Doors open at 9 a.m. and lectures begin at 9:30, followed by a question and answer session.

Lecture attendees may enjoy admittance to the Environmental Learning Center for the day.

Preregister at <http://rookerybay.org/calendar>.

Cost is \$15 (Friends of Rookery Bay members enjoy 10 percent discount) and includes pastries, juice and coffee.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is located at 300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113





# Marco Island Shell Club

## 38<sup>th</sup> Season and Shell Show Wrap-up

*by Jae Kellogg, 2018 Shell Show Chair*

Once again, the MISC enjoyed a fabulous season of Seminars, Excursions, and Workshops with our 152 members! The season ended with our biggest shell show ever - huge kids day at the show - exhibits extraordinaire - and three days of FUN for all!

We start our 2018-19 season October 30, 2018 with a shell art workshop! Please think about joining us next season for all of our activities - whether it is a week, a month, or the entire season - WE WELCOME YOU! Check out our website at

[marcoshellclub.com](http://marcoshellclub.com) for membership information - and of course, everything you need to know about the MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB!

Thank you to all of our Shell Show Sponsors, our volunteers and all of the Marco/Collier Co. Community for all of your support and enthusiasm this season - one of the longest running organizations in Marco Island!

**Save the dates for the 39th, March 14-16, 2019!**





# Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Marco Island Library

by Nanette Finkle



*Garage Sale Stalker series author Suzi Weinert at the Friends of the Marco Island Library "Books and Brews" event with Board members Arlene Goldstein and Mary Bryan.*

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Marco Island Library met in Rose Hall on April 10, 2018. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of directors for a three year term, serving from 2018-2021. The nominees were: Cathy Auten, Mary Bryan, Nanette Finkle, Pam Fuller and Susan Gardner. They were unanimously approved.

Additionally, the Nominating Committee presented the 2018-19 slate of officers for ratification:

President - Gwyn Goodman,  
Vice President - Mary Bryan,  
Secretary- Marie Johnson,  
Treasurer - Dolores Siegel.

Upon a motion being made and seconded, the slate of officers was approved. The next scheduled meeting is on November 13, 2018.



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# Look Out For Manatees When Boating

Chances of close encounters between Florida manatees and boaters increase in the spring.

For manatees, it is the season when they leave their winter refuges and travel along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and through inland waters. For boaters, it is a critical time to be on the lookout for manatees to avoid colliding with these large aquatic mammals.

“Spring is a great time to go boating in Florida, but manatees are out there too. Please watch out for them,” said Ron Mezich, who heads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manatee management program.

From April 1 through November 15, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being struck by motorboats or personal watercrafts. FWC law enforcement officers are on patrol in state waters to remind boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take enforcement actions when appropriate.

Since manatees are difficult to detect when underwater, operators of boats and personal watercrafts can help by:

- Wearing polarized sunglasses to help spot manatees.
- Looking for large circles on the water, also known as manatee footprints, indicating the presence of a manatee below.
- Looking for a snout sticking up out of the water.
- Following posted manatee zones while boating.

Reporting an injured, distressed, sick or dead manatee to the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or dialing #FWC or \*FWC on a cellphone.

FWC biologists, managers and law enforcement staff work closely with partners to evaluate current data and identify necessary actions to protect this iconic animal. Florida has invested over \$2 million



*FWC photo by Karen Parker*





annually for manatee conservation, and the FWC works toward continued success for manatees in our state.

Manatee zones and maps are available at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee), where you can select "Protection Zones" for links to county maps. Boaters can get tips from "A boater's guide to living with Florida Manatees." And if you want to see manatees in the wild or captivity, go to "Where are Florida's Manatees?"

*To support the FWC's manatee research, rescue and management efforts, purchase a "Save the Manatee" Florida license plate at [BuyaPlate.com](http://BuyaPlate.com), or donate \$5 to receive an FWC manatee decal by going to [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee) and clicking on "Decals."*

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Closed September after Labor Day.*

**239-394-1475**  
**Credit Cards Accepted \* Free Internet Access**

## New Librarian Comes to Marco Island

The Marco Island Branch of the Collier County Library welcomed a new librarian in late December. Brenda Rasch, originally from Wisconsin, has worked as a librarian the past 30 years in various locations including Atlanta, Memphis and St. Louis. Her husband, Walter, spent many years living in St Petersburg, Florida and had always hoped to move back to Florida.

They made several visits to Southwest Florida over the years and always enjoyed the weather and activities available. When the librarian position opened up on Marco Island, Brenda and Walter thought it was the perfect opportunity to move to a smaller, family-oriented community.

"We moved here the week before Christmas and spent Christmas Day on the beach!" Please stop in the library and welcome Brenda.

### ***Kids Summer Reading Program:***

Now that Season has ended, the library system is gearing up for the Summer Reading Program.

This year's theme is "Libraries Rock" and runs from June 4th through July 27th. The Marco Island Library's Kick-Off Party will be Saturday, June 9th from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Nature on Wheels will be bringing reptiles and amphibians for everyone to see and touch.

*For more information  
on other summer programs  
available, go to:  
[www.collierlibrary.org](http://www.collierlibrary.org)*







## Residents' Beach Concert Series - Ben Allen Band







April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018





# Give Nesting Waterbirds Space To Help Keep Them Safe



*A well-camouflaged snowy plover mother and her chick. FWC photo by Penny Jarrett.*

It's nesting season for Florida's waterbirds, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida are reminding beachgoers and boaters to give these birds and their young space to help keep them safe.

"This is a critical time of year for nesting birds and their young," said Craig Faulhaber, avian conservation coordinator for the FWC. "By taking a few simple steps, people can enjoy a day at the beach or on the water without disturbing nesting birds and their chicks, which increases the birds' chances of survival."

Shorebirds and seabirds build shallow nests out of sand and shells on beaches in spring and summer, and eggs and 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 bird species facing conservation challenges. Wading birds and pelicans typically nest in mangroves and on tree islands. Reddish egrets, tricolored herons and roseate spoonbills have also experienced declines.

"Florida's coasts took a beating from Hurricane Irma in 2017," said Julie Wraithmell, interim executive director for Audubon Florida. "We can't control

***Nesting Waterbirds***  
*Continued on page 46*





# Burrowing Owls of Marco Island

*by Ruth McCann*

When Nancy Richie, former Environmental Specialist for the City of Marco Island, began monitoring burrowing owls in 2001, only a handful were present on the island. From 2001 to 2015, posting and oversight by Owl Prowl, a group of volunteers, helped the city's burrowing owl population grow to over 400. In 2015, Audubon of the Western Everglades took over monitoring duties, and Owl Watch was born.

For the first time in recent history, owls have dug a burrow ON THE BEACH! To be specific, they dug a burrow at Residents' Beach, up against the dune. You can see our "Cover Owls" featured on the front cover of this magazine. We are excited that they have chosen to call Residents' Beach their "burrow."

Florida's burrowing owls usually dig their burrows in vacant lots and open spaces and are year-round residents. The local population breeds between February and July but some do rear their young outside of these months. Burrowing owls can be of special benefit in urban settings since they consume insects including roaches and mole crickets. They also eat amphibians and rodents.

Burrowing owls can be found all over Marco Island. Their burrows are marked with PVC pipe and rope. Please respect landowners and owls by staying on the sidewalk. Give owls plenty of space! If an owl hisses, raises its wings, or chatters, you are too close! Only stay for a short time. Owls need plenty of rest during the day, so they have enough energy to hunt at night. Never feed wildlife – human food can attract predators, like crows, raccoons and dogs.

Burrowing owls are listed as Threatened in Florida and are protected by state and federal laws. Special permits are required for removal or relocation of burrows. You can help by limiting the use of rodenticides. Burrowing owls eat mice and can be poisoned. Keep pets away from burrows.

Contact Audubon of the Western Everglades to install a starter burrow in your yard or to Adopt-an-Owl. Visit [www.audubonwe.org](http://www.audubonwe.org) or call 239-643-7822 or email [OwlWatchMarco@gmail.com](mailto:OwlWatchMarco@gmail.com).



If you find an injured owl, call von Arx Wildlife Hospital at 239-262-2273.

## ***Some more interesting burrowing owl facts:***

- Only species of owl to live underground
- Burrows are up to 3 feet deep and 5-12 feet long
- Return to the same burrow each year
- Once partners are chosen, they mate for life
- Oldest known owl was 9 years, 11 months
- About 9 inches tall, the size of a water bottle
- Diurnal and nocturnal, hunting day and night





# 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

**Marco Island Princess**  
www.themarcoislandprincess.com  
Rose Marina, 642-5415

**Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American**  
2 Happy Hours: 3-6 & 10-midnight  
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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 & Pasta**  
227 N Collier Blvd, 389-0404  
10% off for food purchase of \$20 or more, pick up only  
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www.sandbarmarco.com

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

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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**  
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www.alwaystherehomehealthcare.com

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

**Feather-Light Living, Wellness Coach**  
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featherlightliving@gmail.com

**Healthy Body Fitness Training**  
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**Nikken, Retail wellness products**  
651 S Collier Blvd, 394-1580

**Personal Training & Pilates Studio**  
Above Subway on Collier Blvd  
www.101fit.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**  
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10% off coffee & smoothie bar  
www.xfspa.com

## RETAIL STORES

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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**  
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760 N Collier Blvd #103,  
394-0837

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

**JetSet Surf Shop, 394-5544**  
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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

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## NON-APPAREL

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www.sunshinebooksellers.com

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**Marco Island Princess**  
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www.themarcoislandprincess.com

**Marco Island Watersports**  
JW Marriott & Hilton Resorts 394-4344

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## ***Nesting Waterbirds***

*Continued from page 42*

impacts to nesting sites from weather, but we can protect them from human disturbance. This year it is more important than ever.”

The FWC has established Critical Wildlife Areas to protect congregations of one or more species of wildlife from human disturbance during critical life activities such as nesting, feeding or migration.

People can help keep nesting birds safe by keeping their distance from CWAs and other areas where birds are nesting or raising young. In addition to observing the marked-off areas around CWAs, people can also help by following 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 seabirds, and kindly ask fellow beachgoers to do the same. Shorebirds and seabirds outside of posted areas may be feeding or resting and need to do so without disturbance.

- It is best to not take pets to the beach, but if you do, keep them leashed and avoid shorebird and seabird nesting areas. (State parks, national parks and CWAs do not allow pets.)
- 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.



*Members proudly displaying their Residents' Beach IDs.*





# Are YOU in the know?

The **Marco Review magazine** covers everything you need to know about Marco Island, but there's more to us than just a magazine...



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[www.marcoreview.com](http://www.marcoreview.com)

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in depth articles, more advertiser information, past editions, and our page-turning e-magazine

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MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
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*Fun for Everyone!*



*Fireworks  
Show at 9 pm*



with Face Painting, DJ Music & Games  
Sandcastle Contest

**Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

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