

December 2020

MICAwave

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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

**Photos from MICA's
Members Only Concerts**

**South Florida Water
Management
District Update**

**Winter Shorebird
Stewardship on
Marco's Beaches**

This photo was sent to us by Residents' Beach member Julia Serravalle. It features her daughter with a huge lightning whelk which she found at Residents' Beach. Of course the shell was gently put back in the water immediately after the photo was taken.





*Bob Brown, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

President's Message

by Bob Brown, President, MICA Board of Directors

Holiday greetings to you! As I write, we are heading into a new season on Marco Island, which is proving to be a very busy one. Marco is experiencing a huge surge in construction and year-round residents. We are all looking forward to a resolve to the COVID19 virus. This is on many of our minds.

Our membership has seen a few changes for the upcoming year. We will no longer be offering short term renters an opportunity to join Residents' Beach. This had to be done and has been discussed for some time now. With our membership increasing very quickly, we feel it is important that our residents have the opportunity to use the facilities as opposed to visitors. There are two city public beach access points, one between Marriott Crystal Shores and the Hilton and the other at the end

of Maple Street, next to Madeira and two county public beach access points, one at South Beach and the other at Tigertail Beach.

We have recently seen Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala step aside after serving District 1 and all of Collier County for the past 20 years. Donna served our community with tireless effort, and we will continue to hear from her in the Coastal Breeze. Rick LoCastro was sworn in as our new District 1 Commissioner. His first column appears in this issue. We wish Rick the very best!

On October 7, MICA sponsored a Virtual City Council Candidates Forum along with the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce and the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors. The event, a first of its kind, was a great success. Those who tuned in live or later on YouTube were able to hear how candidates would handle situations facing the City of Marco Island. Listeners emailed questions, which were then asked of the candidates. Citizens of Marco later cast their ballots and elected Rich Blonna, Becky Irwin and Joe Rola. Re-elected was Jared Grifoni and elected for a two-year seat was Greg Foley. They join Erik Brechnitz.

Councilor Victor Rios resigned and his replacement has yet to be appointed. Best wishes to the members of Marco Island City Council as they work on behalf of the citizens of our island.

Speaking of "first of its kind," the MICA Board of Directors' meetings have taken on a new look as we meet with a few in person and others via Zoom.

We appreciate your continued support as we work to keep Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park in their pristine condition. The MICA office is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, with social distancing and a mask requirement. If you can conduct your business online, that would be preferable. We hope all members will enjoy our facilities, and we will see you there!

Marco Island Civic Association

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Cover Photo: taken at Residents' Beach by Julia Serravalle.



Improving Water Quality and Protecting Our Water Resources - Progress Made on Important Environmental Projects

by Charlette Roman, Chair of the Big Cypress Basin Board and Governing Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District

When I retired after 26 years in the U.S. Army, I chose Marco Island as my home in 2002 because I fell in love with the pristine natural beauty of the Tigertail area. Since then, I have continued to explore and study Southwest Florida's fascinating ecosystem and worked to protect our environment and the creatures that live here.

In February 2019, I was honored when Governor DeSantis appointed me to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The SFWMD is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern part of our state. It is the oldest and largest of Florida's five water management districts. Because I reside in the Big Cypress Basin, one of two major watershed basins within the SFWMD's 16-county region, I also serve as the Chair of the Big Cypress Basin Board.

Governor DeSantis has asked all of his "Water" appointees to expedite Everglades restoration work and to improve water quality. We all take our responsibility to protect local water resources seriously. I'm pleased to report that work we are doing every day is cleaning up waterways and providing critical flood protection to our community. Let me share some updates with you.



*Charlette Roman,
Chair of the Big Cypress Basin
Board and Governing Board
Member of the South Florida
Water Management District*

continued on page 4



Explosives used to help excavate canals that will bring more clean water to the Everglades



Water Quality, continued from page 3

We have expedited the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir Project for the benefit of all of South Florida. We started construction 12 months ahead of schedule and recently began blasting ground to prepare for the canals that will



*Restoration in Action!
Pumps at the Brighton Valley Dispersed
Water Management Project in Highlands
County were turned on to start removing
harmful nutrients before the water
enters Lake Okeechobee*

funnel water into the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) component of the project. STAs are man-made wetlands that help remove nutrient pollution from water. Construction of this STA is another major step towards reducing harmful discharges to our estuaries and getting more clean water south to revive the Everglades and to hydrate Florida Bay.

Along with the EAA Reservoir Project, the Caloosahatchee C-43 Reservoir project in Hendry County is well underway. It will store excess local water and capture harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee. The massive 11,000-acre project is expected to be completed by 2023. In addition, we'll



Work underway on the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir



be reviewing a study to improve the Caloosahatchee Reservoir's water quality before the end of the year.

I also recently attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to see restoration in action and to celebrate the completion of a water project north of Lake Okeechobee. The Brighton Valley Dispersed Water Management Project (DWMP) stores excess water in the Lake Okeechobee watershed. By flowing water over open lands, the project also provides a wonderful habitat for wildlife and removes nutrient pollution from the water. DWMPs are public-private partnerships where we work with private land-owners to temporarily store excess water on their lands. Massive construction endeavors like the EAA and Caloosahatchee Reservoirs take many years to build, and DWMPs like the Brighton Valley one are great temporary solutions to help us manage water.

Currently, the Big Cypress Basin is working with Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary to evaluate impacts to the famed swamp from local develop-

ment and land changes. The study will analyze landscape changes that have occurred in southwest Florida over the last 60 years and provide an assessment of the Sanctuary's future. Swamps and wetlands are important to hold back flood waters during rain events and to keep harmful pollution out of our waterways and bays.

Lastly, again with water quality in mind, the Big Cypress Basin launched a study to evaluate ways to improve the water quality for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Collier County. The study is focused on evaluating a variety of projects designed to improve the quality of water flowing into Collier Seminole State Park and downstream.

As you can see, a lot of progress has been made this year, but there is still more to do. I want you to know that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to carry out our mission and provide an important public service to all South Floridians. Stay safe!



The famous boardwalk at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary



Marco Island Center for the Arts

by Hyla Crane, Executive Director

Marco Island Center for the Arts will come to the end of its 50th anniversary year as 2020 draws to a close. The excitement will continue as the Art Center finishes 2020 and marches boldly into 2021.

While subject to change, happenings at the Art Center include the following:

Art Exhibitions

Gallery Receptions run from 5:30pm-7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. These receptions require reservations and attendance is limited at this time.

La Petit Galerie

December 2020

- **Charlie Blum Presents Showbiz Memorabilia**

- Dec 8 - Jan 5, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Dec 8, 2020

January 2021

- Artist **Carolyn Burger**
- Jan 11 - Feb 2, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Jan 12, 2021

February 2021

- Artist **Pat Perrotti**
- Feb 5 - Mar 2, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Feb 9, 2021

March 2021

- **Best of the Gift Gallery Artists**
- Mar 8 - Apr 6, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Mar 9, 2021

Musical Interludes

All concerts start at 5:30pm. Concerts may be held either in the Art Gallery or outside in our courtyard to provide greater social distancing and safety. Ticket prices are \$25 for Art Center members and \$30 for non-members.

- **A Very ChimyTina Christmas** – Jazz Vocalist Martina DeSilva and Bassist Dan Chmielinsky – Dec 17, 2020
- **Peter and Will Anderson Jazz Trio** -Virtuosos on Clarinet and Saxophone -Jan 20, 2021
- **Ben Rosenblum Trio** - Award-Winning Jazz Pianist - Feb 11, 2021
- **Kindred Spirit- Blue Grass** -Mar 18, 2021

Special Events

- **Festival of Trees** - Dec 1-3, 9am-4pm - silent auction for trees on display
- **Cars as Art and Clay Guild Holiday Sale** - Dec 5, 10am-4pm
- **Outdoor Art Shows** - Jan 8-9, Feb 27-28, & Mar 27-28, 10am-4pm
- **Chalk Art** - Jan 23, 2pm-5pm
- **Fly Me to the Moon and Let Me Play Among the Arts Gala**
- Jan 30, 5:30pm \$150

Main Galleries

December 2020

- **The Clay Guild Holiday Show**

- Dec 7 - Jan 5, 9am-4pm. M-F
- Gallery Reception: Dec 8, 2020

January - February 2021

- **Juan Diaz - The Gathering**
- Jan 11 - Mar 2, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Jan 12 & Feb 9, 2021

March 2021

- **Members Only Show**
- Mar 8 - Apr 6, 9am-4pm, M-F
- Gallery Reception: Mar 9, 2021



*A Very ChimyTina Christmas –
Jazz Vocalist Martina DeSilva
and Bassist Dan Chmielinsky*



*Peter and Will Anderson Jazz
Trio -Virtuosos on Clarinet and
Saxophone*



Ballot Measures Bring Good News for Florida's Environment

Voters showed up in droves at the ballot box to vote for environmental initiatives that will protect Florida's land and water for decades to come. Florida's citizens realize that protecting special places takes effort and everyone has a part to play. Local dollars leverage state funds and strengthen partnerships between counties, regions and across Florida.

"The resounding passage of these measures is a recognition by Floridians that our economy and quality of life depend upon a healthy environment. Congratulations to the local advocates who made these successes possible," said Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida Executive Director.

Volusia County residents overwhelmingly re-upped two initiatives that will continue to fund conservation until 2040. The ECHO tax and Volusia Forever fundraising mechanisms were originally passed in 2000, and since have garnered nearly \$200 million for land purchases and other projects. Volusia Forever directly invests in land purchases to safeguard water quality, while ECHO provides matching grants for initiatives that fund environmental, cultural, historic, and outdoor recreation projects.

In Collier County, over 75% of voters approved an environmental land purchase program. As reported by WGCU News, the referendum "will place a small tax on property owners of 25 cents for every one thousand dollars of land value, or \$75 a year on a property worth \$300,000." Since 2003, Conservation Collier has protected 4,300 acres, and with renewed funding as part of the referendum passed on Tuesday, the program can protect thousands more into the future.

"It is encouraging that in the midst of political acrimony and the impacts of storms and the pandemic, voters in Collier County overwhelmingly agree that nature deserves our respect and protection. That is an outcome we all can live with!" says Brad Cornell, Audubon Florida's Southwest Florida Policy Associate.

In the face of rapid development, Manatee County citizens have voted to approve a tax of .15 mills on their property so the funds can be used to purchase and protect natural spaces and improve local water quality. The average homeowner will pay less than \$30 each year, but the benefits to both the quality of life and the local flora and fauna are exponential.

Looking towards the future, Key Biscayne voters have passed the Sea Level Rise Tax, which will raise \$100 million in bonds to improve resilience in the face of climate change. As the Miami Herald summarizes: "The island community is particularly vulnerable to the two feet of sea-level rise expected by 2060, as well as storm surge from hurricanes strengthened by climate change."

Audubon protects birds and the places they need, today and in the future.

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Some umbrella chickee huts at Residents' Beach were recently rethatched



Commissioner's Corner

by Rick Locastro, Collier County Commissioner, District 1

On November 3rd I was honored to be elected as the new Collier County Commissioner for District 1! What a journey this past 420+ days, campaigning in every corner of our district demonstrating that experience and qualifications are necessary to do the job right. We have a bright future here in Collier County. Yes, we have challenges too, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work! We had a fantastic team on the campaign trail... and I can't say enough to thank all the hard-working volunteers and supporters who made it such a great success!

I graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy, served two Presidents (Bush 41 and 43), was a senior NATO Commander, a military and civilian healthcare leader, combat veteran, and retired as a full Colonel. I arrived in Naples years ago when recruited to be the Chief Operating Officer of Physicians Regional Medical Center and was also a senior leader at Avow Hospice. My entire career has involved decisive common-sense leadership decision making, business, healthcare, city planning, budgeting, and much more. We also need to jumpstart our economy with the affects of COVID.

Collier County is fragile and vulnerable now more than ever. When you build anything and add excessive traffic and congestion, many other areas are also affected, e.g. water, our environment, safety, enough first responder support, beaches, and the overall appearance of our community. Poorly planned community developments and congested roads together can harm our environment and quality of life. What I bring to the position to ensure our water quality, environmental issues, housing, developments, overcrowding prevention, controlled traffic, city planning, education, healthcare, security and safety, and protection of our vital green space are all priorities - is proven and deep experience and qualifications in these critical areas... and more.

It's a massive responsibility to fully understand the critical decisions of managing our \$2 billion county budget and ensuring we Protect, Preserve, and Improve our community. Issues such as: Housing, Environmental Protection, Water Quality, Flood Prevention and Runoff, Managed Growth, Proper Land Use, Roads and Grounds, Healthcare, Education, Veteran Assistance, Safety and Security, Emergency Readiness/Response, Animal Welfare, Properly Managing Taxpayer Money...and many other critical issues a Commissioner needs to have grasp of.

I look forward to bringing my 24-year Air Force officer leadership, as well as my deep and diverse business, healthcare, and local community experience to the position. Serving as a County Commissioner is a huge responsibility making major decisions that affect us all for years to come... and we've got a lot to do in this county!

This was not an election - but instead a "job interview" by YOU the citizens of District 1 to pick a leader who has the depth to understand, address, and take proper action for the good of all of Collier County. I'm honored to have been chosen as YOUR public servant... and I won't let you down. Thank you to all who supported me, volunteered, and voted. The election is now behind us and the real work begins... I'm ready to work FOR YOU!



*Rick Locastro,
Collier County
Commissioner,
District 1*

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Tips to Help Reduce Water Pollution at Home

- DO NOT pour fat from cooking or any other type of fat, oil, or grease down the sink. Keep a “fat jar” under the sink to collect the fat and discard in the solid waste when full.
- DO NOT dispose of household chemicals or cleaning agents down the sink or toilet. Ever.
- DO NOT flush pills, liquid or powder medications or drugs down the toilet. Ever.
- Avoid using the toilet as a wastebasket. Most tissues, wrappers, dust cloths, and other paper goods should be properly discarded in a wastebasket. The fiber reinforced cleaning products that have become popular should never be discarded in the toilet.
- Avoid using a garbage disposal. Keep solid wastes solid. Make a compost pile from vegetable scraps.
- Install a water efficient toilet. In the meantime, put a brick or 1/2 gallon container in the standard toilet tank to reduce water use per flush.
- Run the dishwasher or clothes washer only when you have a full load. This conserves electricity and water.
- Use the minimum amount of detergent and/or bleach when you are washing clothes or dishes. Use only phosphate free soaps and detergents.
- Minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers. DO NOT dispose of these chemicals, motor oil, or other automotive fluids into the sanitary sewer or storm sewer systems.
- Report Chemical Pollution – 239-389-5060.

Just because it disappears, doesn't mean it goes away!



Swearing In Ceremony for the five newly elected Marco Island City Councilors. November 2020



The Marco Island Charter Middle School Names New Principal

The Marco Island Charter Middle School ("MICMS") Board has named the successor to its long-time well-loved principal and CEO, George Abounader, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

George retired on June 30, 2020 after a lifetime of teaching and administration. George has been the principal and CEO of Marco Island Charter Middle School for 21 years and has worked hard to ensure that MICMS has been an "A" rated school for the past 19 years, as well as earning the prestigious designations from the Florida Department of Education as a "High Performing School" and a "School of Excellence."

Michele Wheeler, the former Assistant Principal, assumed the helm as Principal on July 1, 2020. Michele came to MICMS from Everglades City School (Head Start - 12th) where she held the position of Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for four years. Michele has worked in the Collier County Public School System since 1998 working in schools as a

classroom teacher, as a Reading Coach and an Athletic Director. Michele is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program where she is completing the dissertation phase. Michele is a stalwart community volunteer and excellent communicator.

The MICMS Board will coordinate a celebration for the entire community to honor all that George has done for MICMS and our community once the concern with Covid-19 has dissipated.

"On behalf of the Executive Board of MICMS, Mr. Tarik Ayasun, President of the Executive Board wishes to express his thanks and gratitude to Mr. Abounader for his service not only as Principal, but as an advocate of great education, good behavior and limitless community participation. Thank you, George and God speed..."

The Marco Island Charter Middle School is located at 1401 Trinidad Ave, Marco Island, FL 34145, and they can be reached at (239) 377-3200 and www.micms.org.





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Sea Turtle Season on Marco Island 2020

by Andrew Tyler, BACR member

Sea turtle season on Marco Island usually occurs when many seasonal residents are absent. Officially, season begins on May 1 and runs through October 31. The pandemic beginning in March resulted in many extended stays and delayed departures, and so the appearance of turtle flipper marks on the sand, nests posted by county monitors and heightened awareness of “turtle lighting” ordinance requirements added to the “Marco experience” that many miss in a normal year.

Of the seven sea turtle species globally, just one of them nests on Marco’s beaches. The Loggerhead turtle (Latin name: *Caretta Caretta*) lays nests on ten monitored beaches in Collier County. Monitors record the number of nests, the dates on which nests were laid and subsequent hatch dates.

Like all turtle species, Loggerheads are considered endangered. Largely through exploitation and a lack of remaining nesting habitat, survival is precarious for an animal whose existence is already challenging without these additional pressures. Not every nest endures to actually hatch nestlings. Over the

sixty day incubation period, nests can be subject to inundation by heavy rains and storms. Predators, such as raccoons and even ants can destroy the eggs in a nest. Nests that do produce hatchlings face another wave of challenges. Hatchlings instinctually head for the waters, but waiting predators, such as seagulls, enjoy a seasonal feast. A human-related challenge is “disorientation”, whereby hatchlings can become confused by lights shining on the beach at hatching time, and instead of heading for the water, hatchlings instead head elsewhere, sometimes in entirely the wrong direction. Sadly, the death of disoriented hatchlings is not uncommon. Research estimates that for every 1,000 hatchlings reaching the water, just one survives to adulthood.

Figure 1 shows the numbers of nests counted on the ten different county beaches recorded by beach monitors. Keewaydin Island, immediately to the north of Marco, is the single most popular beach for Loggerheads in the county. Numbers naturally vary from year-to-year.

Exactly how a turtle selects a beach is something of

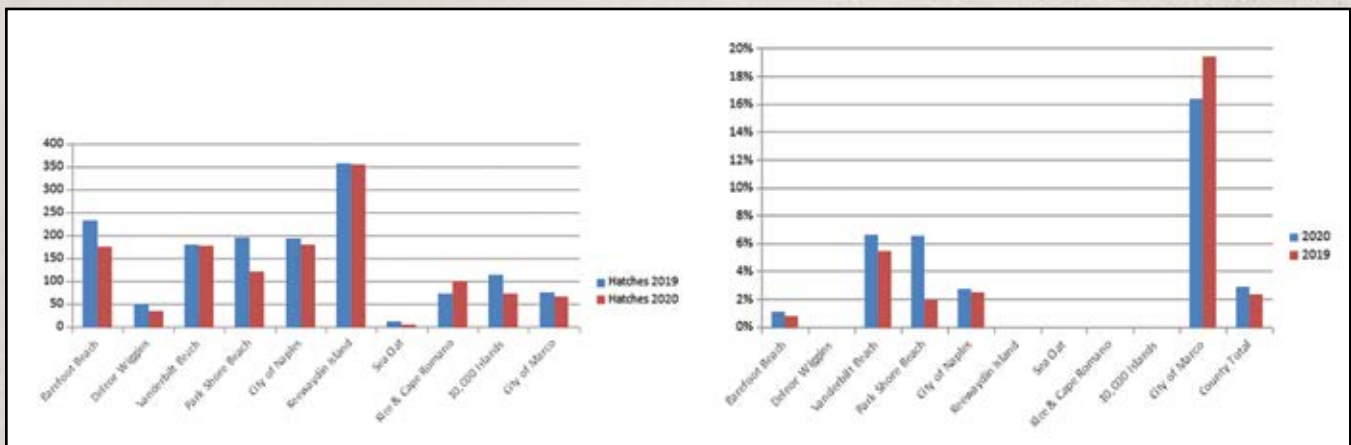


Figure 1

Number of nests on different Collier County beaches for the 2019 and 2020 seasons

Figure 2

Showing numbers of disoriented nest hatchlings as a fraction of nests on each beach for 2019 and 2020



a mystery; however, it is commonly held that mother turtles return to the beach of their birth, using magnetic fields for navigation. Given a journey of 8,000 miles and an absence of 20 years, this feat is quite remarkable.

Turtle lighting ordinances are intended to reduce lighting at night on beaches where nests are located. Figure 2 shows the fraction of nests that experienced disorientation across the county for the last two seasons. Sadly, Marco Island has had the worst incidence of disorientation for two seasons in a row, and attempting to reduce that fraction is a major challenge for next year.

*Right:
Sea turtle
monitors checking for
overnight activity*



Loggerhead turtle hatchling heading for the water



Your Help is Needed Counting Gopher Tortoises

by Maria Lamb

At the November meeting of the Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee (BACR) Brittany Piersma of the Marco Gopher Tortoise Research Program spoke of her role in the on-going survey of gopher tortoises in Marco Island. Brittany is a Program Biologist working for the Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE).

Marco's BACR partnered with AWE to initiate a field study and survey for the gopher tortoise population in Marco Island. This is a conservation partnership similar to Owl Watch Program of Marco.

Nancy Ritchie, former Environmental Specialist for Marco Island and now with the Island Environmental and Marine Services, will be working with Brittany as a consultant to the gopher tortoise survey.

According to Ritchie, in protecting the gopher tortoise habitat we are also protecting an entire ecosystem that depends on the gopher tortoise burrows.

Ritchie added that it is important to protect the gopher tortoise – not because they are fun to watch and wonderful to have in our neighborhood, but because they have been part of Marco Island culture and an important part of our environment. The Marco Island Historical Museum has a section displaying Calusa Indian artifacts and gopher tortoise bones.

According to both Ritchie and Piersma, it is important to determine the population of gopher

tortoises in Marco Island as part of a comprehensive land study. The City has provided Piersma with a list of about 1000 properties and she has sent out letters to most of the owners.

The problem is the lack of responses. Piersma needs permission or approval from property owners with gopher tortoises to access their properties. Most of them are on vacant lots.

Piersma wants to make it clear to property owners that the main part of the survey is just counting burrows – to get a general population count. This will go a long way to conserve the species.

Both are appealing to all Marco property owners with a possible gopher tortoise on their property. The survey also benefits the property owner as a prospective seller and according to Ritchie if you want to build on your vacant lot, there is a process and owners can have this information handy.

As Piersma goes through the survey process, she has met so many enthusiastic and receptive residents. She is a great ambassador of the species - as she talks to residents and property owners one on one - and even to people passing by - she is constantly educating them on the importance of protecting the gopher tortoises on Marco Island.

Do you have Gopher Tortoises or burrows on your property? If so please Allow Audubon of the Western Everglades and their volunteers to check your burrow sites. Please email audubonawe@live.com and a letter will be sent to you for your approval



Winners Selected for Marco Island Creative Wraps

Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Marco Island Center for the Arts are proud to announce the winning artists whose artwork was selected to bring the Creative Wraps public art project to the people of Marco Island. The Creative Wraps were installed on the 11 traffic control utility boxes at various locations on Marco Island. The partners worked together to solicit submissions from artists. The “Creative Wraps” program received submissions by 53 artists totaling 190 pieces of artwork and the winners were chosen by a selection committee comprised of local governmental officials, art center representatives, committee advisors and community members.

As a result of the selection committee’s hard work to select the pieces most reflective of Marco Island’s culture the following artists’ pieces were chosen (their names are followed by the intersection location of the boxes where the artwork is installed):

Amanda Grodman - N. Collier Blvd./E. Elkcarn Circle
Danielle Connelly - N. Collier Blvd./W. Elkcarn Circle
Debra Reed - San Marco Rd./Cushing Lane
Jim Freeman - Bald Eagle Dr./San Marco Road
Jo-Ann Sanborn - N. Barfield Dr./San Marco Road
Joe Parisi - N. Collier Blvd./Kendall Drive
Joey Waves - N. Collier Blvd./San Marco Road
Kelly Reark - N. Collier Blvd./Bald Eagle Drive
Larae Jones - N. Collier Blvd./N. Barfield Drive
Tara O’Neill - Bald Eagle Dr./W. Elkcarn Circle
Wanda Coady - Winterberry Dr./S. Collier Blvd.

The artists selected received an honoraria that was provided by generous local donations from Dan Palombo, Doug and Margaret DeCamp, Ed and Braxton Young, Jean Preston, John and Sue Heckler, Larry and Patty Riden, Marco Island Yoga, Mary Holland, Michelle and Joe Betten, Pat and Nancy McNally, Patty and Jimmy Fusaro, Rich Wright, Roger and Sally Tedrick, Sharon and Bobby Watts, Shelli Connelly, Stacy and Kurt Witthoff, Steven and Donna Greenawalt, Stu and Betsy Reese, Ted and Maja Anton, The Tateo Families, Tom Christian Construction Inc., Tudy and Don Beuerlein, and nine anonymous donors.





The Sean Fleming Band - February 9th, 2020







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Wednesday's Winter Movie Fest



SHOWING AT A NEW LOCATION: MARCO PLAYERS THEATER

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January 6th, January 20th, February 3rd and February 17th

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Outdoor Art Shows



Left Bank Art Fest

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December 6th, January 10th, February 14th, March 7th & April 18th

Brushes & Paint & Beyond

At the M.I. Historical Museum - Saturdays 10am-3pm

February 13th & March 20th





*Photos from the
beach clean-up on
October 10th, 2020,
sponsored by the
Marco Island Civic
Association*



American Cancer Society Looks to 2021 – Let's Go Wild For a Cure!!!

by Maureen Chodaba, American Cancer Society Publicity Volunteer

What a year this has been! Our 2020 vision could not have foreseen what was to come. Despite the obstacles of this incredibly unpredictable year, your American Cancer Society is grateful for the continued dedication, support and generosity of the people of Marco Island. Quite miraculously, we were able to hold our two major fundraisers before the lockdown and quarantines of the covid pandemic.

The Relay For Life of Marco Island, presented by Robert J. Flugger was held on the beach February 22, 2020. Food and fun on the sands of Marco were a great combination as our “superhero” fundraising teams joined forces in the fight against cancer. Set against the backdrop of a Marco Island sunset, the Luminaria Ceremony touched our souls as we celebrated survivors and remembered loved ones lost. Beacons of light illuminated our sky with hope fueled by the solemn vow to continue the fight until we find a cure.

The Imagination Ball was held the evening of March 6, 2020 at the JW Marriott Marco Island. With music, fine food, and both live and silent



*Chef Laura, Chef Annie and Lynn Nunn
at the Imagination Ball*

auctions, this night of elegance was a Celebration For a Cure! The Grado Award was presented to Marco Island's very own Curt and Jacque Koon of CJ's on the Bay in recognition of their dedication and support in the fight against cancer.

The fight against cancer continues amidst the pandemic. The Marco Island office of the American Cancer Society invites you to take a walk on the wild





Annelie Kathein, Sue Olszak of ACS and Gala Chair Debra Shanahan

side the evening of Friday, February 5, 2021 as we go Wild For a Cure at the 2021 American Cancer Society Imagination Ball. Chaired by Debra Shanahan for the ninth consecutive year, this event will offer something a bit different from our previous galas. With a more relaxed dress code of cocktail attire, Wild For a Cure will be held in the great outdoors of the JW Marriott Marco Island.

With extreme gratitude and pride, we welcome our new presenting sponsor, Walker Marine Group. A stalwart presence on the waters of Marco Island, they generously support and join us on our new safari to hunt down and slay this savage beast called cancer.



Bill Young, Corrie Grado and Karen Young

Save the date now as seating will be limited for this new outdoor venue. The American Cancer Society is dedicated to safeguarding good health for everyone. All CDC guidelines will be strictly followed and enforced at this event.

*Please contact your
American Cancer Society at
239-642-6217 or
Sue.Olszak@cancer.org
for more information.*

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Experience a trip through time at Marco Island Historical Museum

Visitors to the Marco Island Historical Museum take a colorful trip through time that showcases the daily lives, customs and communities of the Island's ancient peoples, early settlers and those who shaped today's Marco Island.

A unique open-air gallery, Windows & Doors to History, features faux windows and doors framing vivid scenes from Marco Island's Pleistocene period to modern Marco. An outdoor 115-square-foot mural by artist Jarrett Stinchcomb captures the essence of the Island's unique and beautiful natural history and provides a vibrant backdrop for visitors to take a "selfie" to record their visit.

Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island illustrates the story of Marco Island's ancient civilizations. It currently showcases the world-famous Key Marco Cat and other rare Pre-Columbian artifacts discovered on Marco Island in 1896. The artifacts are on loan from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Key Marco Cat has been described as one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America.

Pioneer Marco: A Tale of Two Villages chronicles the evolution of Marco Island's pioneer villages during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Learn about the people, industries and lifestyles through rare photographs and objects brought to life in dynamic and engaging displays and animations. Modern Marco Island spans the transformative period beginning in 1962 when the Mackle Brothers, developers and founders of the Deltona Corporation, visited Marco Island and envisioned its potential for large-scale community development. Marco Island quickly became known not only as a place to vacation but also a place to live for year-round fun in the sun, boating and golf.



Above:
A Calusa warrior stands ready for action in the life-size Calusa village

Below:
Marco Island Historical Museum's unique open-air gallery features scenes ranging 10,000 years from Marco Island's pre-history to modern day



AND...there is always something new at the Marco Island Historical Museum. Marco Island, with its unique plant life, has been considered a botanist's paradise for more than a century. Plant pressings and herbariums - collections of plant specimens and associated data used for scientific study — are important to understanding the natural world and those forces that affect it. An exciting new exhibit, A Pressing Matter: Preserving Marco Island's Flora, will include prints of historic and rare plant pressings, historic photos and actual plant pressings on loan from Naples Botanical Garden. The exhibit also demonstrates how plant presses work. This exhibit opens December 8, 2020 and runs through April 3, 2021.

*The Marco Island Historical Museum is located at
180 S. Heathwood Drive.*

*The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday,
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and
the site is handicapped accessible.*

*Face coverings are required for entry,
and social distancing and sanitizing
practices are being followed.*

*For general information visit
www.themihs.org or call (239) 642-1440*



*Modern Marco presents the colorful transformative period of
Marco Island that led to what it is today*



The Importance of a Home

by Andrea McKenna,

Donor Relations, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

The impact of the pandemic made the need for an affordable, safe home more important than it has ever been for the health and well-being of every individual. Thanks to all who support the work of Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, more than 2,300 families and 5,500 children were able to social distance and quarantine in a home of their own when the virus struck. Many Habitat homeowners were deemed critical employees working in health care or in retail at places such as Publix, Walmart, and CVS. Even though they feared for their health or the safety of family members, they continued to work every day to provide necessary goods and services to their neighbors in our community. Having a Habitat home also meant that children who were forced to attend classes remotely, had a quiet place to study and do their schoolwork.

Habitat Collier has completed 11 communities in Collier County. Dockside, the most recent Naples

community, is easily accessible to Marco Island workers. Habitat Collier's first multi-unit design with Key West inspired architecture, Dockside is now home to 44 families, six of whom work on Marco Island. Construction is underway in our next Naples community, Vincent's Acres, also conveniently located for workers on Marco Island. When complete in 2021, this community will be home to 79 grateful families. Already, two families working on Marco Island have purchased their forever homes here.

Habitat homeowners are filled with gratitude for the hand-up they receive to help them purchase their home. Angela, who works at The Island Country Club, recently purchased her forever home in Vincent's Acres. She and her three children lived in an apartment where rent was over \$1,100 per month. Angela came to Habitat Collier in hopes of finding a home that would provide stability and



Angela and her family in their recently purchased Habitat home



a safe environment. Purchasing a Habitat home was an investment in her children's future. At their closing Angela said "Words cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for all you have done for my family. This home is a dream come true for my three children. May your immense generosity and labor of love be rewarded greatly. Your family has made a family's dream come true. A million thank you's!"

So many families are forced to remain in rundown, deplorable conditions that are not safe and healthy. Daisy, who works for the City of Marco as an Administrative Technician, was recently approved to purchase a Habitat home. Her landlord decided to sell the condo where she was living with her three daughters. She moved into her mother's mobile home as a temporary solution but they have been forced to live there much longer than expected. Daisy is working hard to give her girls a safe place that they can call home.

Habitat Collier remains focused on our singular goal of making homeownership a reality for hard-working, low-wage earners like Daisy and Angela. You know these workers and likely see them every day at places such as Publix, CVS, and other retailers. Affordable homeownership is virtually non-existent for these workers unless they qualify to purchase a Habitat home. Rents and home sale prices, always out of reach for these low-wage earners, are skyrocketing as Collier County becomes even more desirable as a result of the pandemic.

Thanks to the generous support of our many partners throughout Collier County, especially our friends on Marco Island, Habitat Collier continues to offer a helping hand to those who qualify and complete

our rigorous application process, hoping only that they will finally have an affordable, stable home where their children may grow and thrive. Each of the families now living in a Habitat home is eternally grateful for every gift of time, talent and treasure that made it possible for them to realize the American Dream of owning a home of their own. They have left behind unaffordable, unhealthy and unsafe living conditions. Your hand-up has given families the chance to have a solid foundation through homeownership.

Please visit our website www.habitatcollier.org to learn more about our work in Collier County and how you may help. Updates on our safety protocol and volunteering opportunities are available. If you have any questions please contact Andrea at amckenna@habitatcollier.org

Twice Habitat for Humanity of Collier County was honored to be among the 1% of charities to have earned a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator, the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in the U.S. Additionally, Habitat Collier has received sixteen four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog. In 2014, Habitat Collier was recognized as #1 in the nation for Housing and Community Development. 95¢ of every donated dollar is used to build homes and serve families. Habitat Collier earned the Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Seal of Transparency for the past 3 years, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar.



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A Shell of a Year!

by Cindy Wesolowski, Marco Island Shell Club President

The year of 2020 will certainly go down in history as one of the most unusual and challenging years for all of us, including the Marco Island Shell Club. With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic shutdowns last March the club was forced to cancel its annual Shell Show and sale. Shell Club members had met weekly from October of 2019 to March of 2020 crafting and creating some beautiful unique shell works of art, resulting in a large selection of items available for sale.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on events like our holiday sale to help fund our scholarship



and educational programs. Our endowments with Florida Gulf Coast University fund scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students in the study of marine biology and environmental sciences. In addition, we support students in our local community by contributing to programs such as the outdoor classroom at the Rookery Bay Reserve and the “Mollusks on the Move” program offered by the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. This program brings an interactive experience to our local elementary and middle school students, teaching them the importance of observing the natural world, mollusk feeding habitats and reproduction, and marine conservation and protection.

We are hopeful that by January we will be able to resume our weekly workshops which this year will be held on Fridays at St. Mark’s. If conditions allow, we are planning to have our spring show and sale on March 11-13 at the New Life Community Church.

During this crazy year, many people took to nature and the outdoors to help them through this difficult time. Here on Marco we are privileged to have a natural beauty in the form of our long white sandy beach which is often where you can find a large variety of unique and beautiful seashells. So the next time you are walking the beach, look down and take note of the many different shapes, sizes, colors and patterns that make up our local seashells. Low tide is the best time to find shells and be sure the shell is empty before removing it from the beach. If the animal is inside the shell please gently return the shell to the Gulf. Nature is indeed truly wonderful!

For more information about the Marco Island Shell Club, please visit www.marcoshellclub.com

Update from Friends of Tigertail

Similar to many organizations, the activities of Friends of Tigertail have been curtailed due to COVID. After our early March membership outing on the Conservancy’s Good Fortune II, we had to cancel our annual meeting, two beach clean-ups, and the summer camperships that we award each year to Tommie Barfield fourth graders. We also cancelled our fall and winter “Breakfast and Birds” presentations and will not be holding our main annual event, “Discover Tigertail” in February 2021.

On a positive note, we were able to resume our quarterly Tigertail beach clean-ups. We have also been working on a project regarding mitigation of silt and sand build-up in Marco pass just north of Tigertail lagoon. Over time this vicinity has become so shallow that tidal flow into and out of the lagoon has been severely compromised affecting water quality, area wildlife, and recreation. We will continue our efforts in this regard, working toward restoring the ecosystem and improving the surrounding environment, and hope that in 2021 we will be able to recommence our other activities.



Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Open with Timed Ticketing

*Phased plan entails new schedule and admission procedures,
virtual shopping and learning*

After an unprecedented six-month closure due to COVID-19, Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is welcoming visitors to the Blair Visitor Center and boardwalk Tuesdays through Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the final admission at 1 p.m. The Sanctuary is closed on Mondays.

"We thank our visitors, neighbors, and stakeholders for their understanding while we worked to devise plans to ensure everyone's safety as they return to enjoy our world-class boardwalk," said Sanctuary Director Lisa Korte.

Staff, volunteers, and visitors are required to follow CDC guidance and social distancing practices. To ensure safe operations during this phase of re-opening, some new procedures have been implemented.

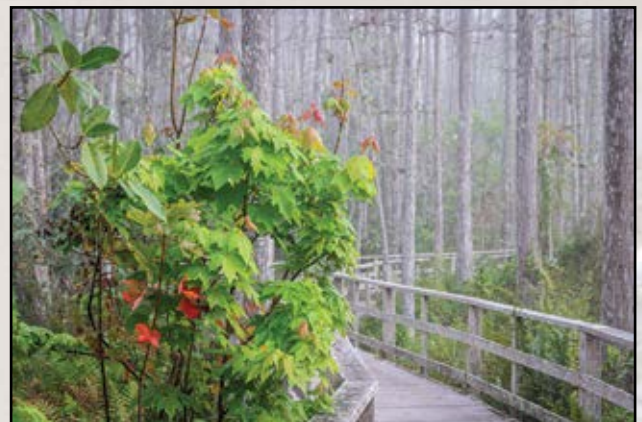
Registration is required for all visitors. No walk-ins will be accepted. Visitors may choose from three time slots: 8-10 a.m., 10:30-12:30 p.m., 1-3 p.m. Each time slot is two hours. Find all ticketing information at www.corkscrew.audubon.org/visit.

Updated safety protocols include:

- Masks required in the Blair Visitor Center.
- Follow one-way boardwalk trail signs.
- On-site public programs are not available but virtual programming is offered.
- Outdoor picnic tables are available in the parking area.

The Nature Store is now online at www.corkscrew.audubon.org/nature-store. No onsite purchases are available at this time: visitors are urged to bring their own refillable water bottle, sunblock, and bug spray. A water refilling station is available in the Living Machine.

Visitors are encouraged to experience the new Native Plant and Pollinator Garden which was completed during the closure. Also new are Community Outreach educational programs provided via Zoom Webinar. Community associations, clubs, and other groups can find topics and request an outreach program by visiting www.corkscrew.audubon.org/outreach.



Corkscrew Boardwalk

Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance that was recognized in 2019 as a Wetland of Distinction by the Society of Wetland Scientists, has been an Audubon-protected site for more than 100 years. It protects 13,000 acres, including the world's largest remaining, old-growth bald cypress forest. An estimated 100,000 visitors annually explore the Sanctuary's 2.25 miles of boardwalk through ancient forest and marsh habitat.

*Learn more at
Corkscrew.Audubon.org*

375 Sanctuary Road West, Naples.



Easy Steps to Stunning Succulent Dish Garden

Submitted by the Calusa Garden Club

Cacti and sedum are two plants which are ideal for creating attractive low maintenance succulent dish gardens. Both have water storing leaves and roots; both are hardy, hardly suffer from pest issues, and thrive with minimal care.

Succulents are available in a wide range of colors, textures, shapes and sizes. For example, the Zebra plant is a catching succulent and easy to grow. The Ox Tongue has long leaves with rough texture with interesting pattern while the Echeveria Lipstick has bright green leaves with vivid reddish pink edges.

Linda Colombo of the Calusa Garden Club held a members' workshop in September for the club's November Plant Sale. Mary McIntosh, a member, donated succulents from her garden and members had fun creating dish gardens for the Plant Sale.

Colombo prepared a mix of four parts regular potting soil, perlite and one-part builder's sand.

You can also use basic cactus and succulent soil mix available at most garden centers.

CGC members used containers that are at least four inches deep. The local Bargain Basket was a good place to browse for shallow pots or trays. Select containers that will look good with your succulent selection. Clay and ceramic containers are popular due to their porous nature and can help in airflow.

Optimally, the container should have drainage holes. If you do not have a drainage hole, place a layer of gravel at the bottom of the container along with a large coffee filter and activated charcoal. Charcoal keeps the moist soil from souring and killing the plant roots.

Have fun selecting different colors, textures and heights of plants with playful colorful personalities. Select cascading succulents for the side. Lay



Succulent Dish Collection, photo by Maria Lamb



the plants out first on top of the soil until you are ready to plant.

Once the plants are in the container, it's time for the finishing touches. You might consider covering the soil with small pebbles, colored sand or seashells.

Succulents need plenty of sunlight but too much can dry them out. About a tablespoon of water is enough for most succulents, while larger plants may need up to ¼ cup of water.

Succulents prefer bright indirect light or a spot near a sunny window indoors for at least 3-4 hours a day. Turn the container every so often so plants will not lean. And it is perfectly ok to talk to your plants.

Succulents grow slowly, so the dish garden will probably look the same for quite a while. If a plant gets too big, remove and re-pot by itself or swap with a smaller plant.

The Calusa Garden Club is a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and membership is open to those interested in horticulture, floral design and the environment. For more information, visit: calusa.org.



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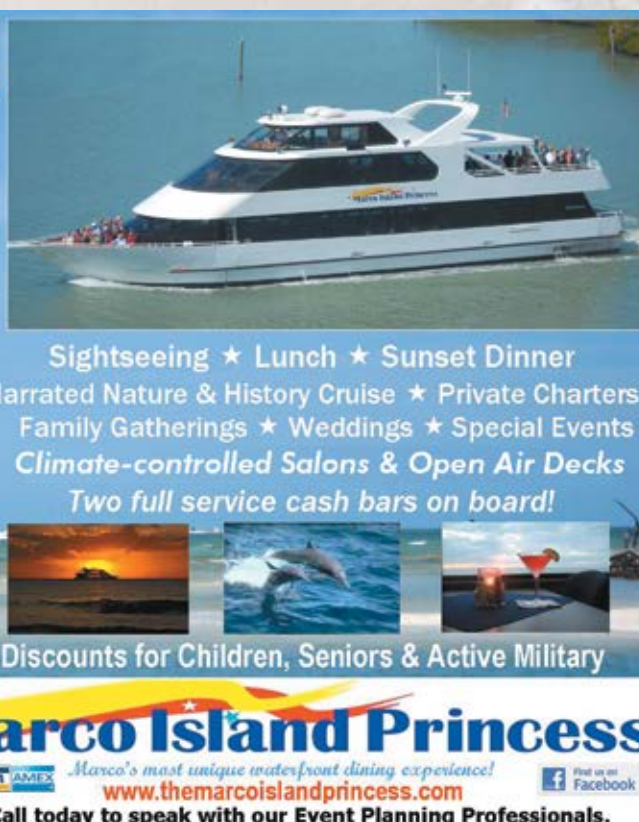
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If you live on Marco Island, you live in a floodplain

by Kelli DeFedericis, CFM, Floodplain Coordinator, City of Marco Island

Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps -

As many residents are aware, the City of Marco Island was issued new coastal preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) dated December 31, 2019 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“What’s next?”

The City of Marco waits patiently for FEMA to publicize the issuance of the maps on the federal registry. Only FEMA knows when this will be.

Once FEMA does the public notice of the preliminary maps, the City of Marco has 90-days to accept or appeal the maps.

The City is not sure when FEMA will make notice, but has hired an engineering firm to analyze FEMA’s data. Results are in the developing stage, however, the City will continue to keep the public updated as things progress.

Residents and property owners in coastal areas of Collier County and all of Marco Island can view new draft preliminary FIRMs at: <https://www.cityofmarcoisland.com> – Floodplain management – preliminary FIRMs. This website also provides updated information as the City receives it.

The new preliminary FIRMs were developed through a partnership between AECOM and FEMA. They are based on updated modeling data and show coastal flood hazards more accurately than previous maps.

The Island’s current FIRM is dated May 16, 2012. FIRMs show the potential extent and risks of flooding. These FIRMs are used to help determine flood insurance premiums and construction requirements. FIRMs are also used by contractors, insurance agents, realtors, surveyors, engineers, and community planners to obtain the most current flood risk information on a property-by-property basis.

How does this effect your flood insurance?

If a property is mapped into a higher risk zone,

or if the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) changes, the flood insurance premium could increase. Property owners need to understand their options following changes to their community’s FIRM. One of their options might be “grandfathering,” which is a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) rule that was created in order to recognize property owners who carried a policy before the maps became effective or built to the correct standards relative to the flood map in effect at the time of construction. This rule, along with other NFIP rules, can result in significant cost savings to policyholders compared to a potentially higher premium rate that results from a flood map revision.

The above is vital information as to why you should never allow your flood insurance to lapse. You can lose the grandfathering option causing you to pay a higher premium.

Use the Best Rate -

Sometimes using the data based on the new FIRM will provide a better rate than grandfathering. Both options should always be explored, but always use the new map if it will provide a more favorable premium (lower rate). Your flood insurance premium is based on the elevation difference between the finished floor elevation and the base flood elevation.

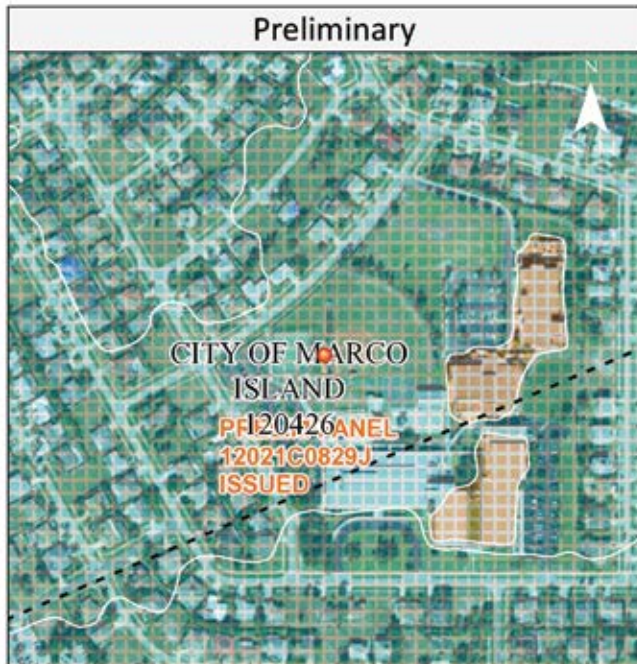
Who should have flood insurance?

Everyone! Floods can happen anywhere. Whether you are in a designated flood zone or not - Floods Know No Lines and if it rains it floods. If you live on Marco Island you live in a floodplain. Just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage. Most homeowner’s insurance does not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings, the contents in a building, or both, so it is important to protect your most important financial assets — your home, your business, your possessions.



Comparison of Flood Hazard

Effective & Preliminary Flood Hazards



Effective	
POI Longitude/Latitude	-81.7122, 25.9404
Effective FIRM Panel	12021C0829H
Effective Date	5/16/2012
Flood Zone	AE
Static BFE*	8.0 Feet
Flood Depth	Not Available
Vertical Datum	NAVD88

Preliminary	
POI Longitude/Latitude	-81.7122, 25.9404
Preliminary FIRM Panel	12021C0829J
Preliminary Issue Date	Not Available
Flood Zone	AE
Estimated Static BFE*	9.0 Feet
Estimated Flood Depth	Not Available
Vertical Datum	NAVD88

* A Base Flood Elevation is the expected elevation of flood water during the 1% annual chance storm event. Structures below the estimated water surface elevation may experience flooding during a base flood event.

Hazard Level	Flood Hazard Zone
High Flood Hazard	AE, A, AH, AO, VE and V Zones. Properties in these flood zones have a 1% chance of flooding each year. This represents a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.
Moderate Flood Hazard	<p>Shaded Zone X. Properties in the moderate flood risk areas also have a chance of flooding from storm events that have a less than 1% chance of occurring each year. Moderate flood risk indicates an area that may be provided flood risk reduction due to a flood control system or an area that is prone to flooding during a 0.2% annual chance storm event. These areas may have been indicated as areas of shallow flooding by your community.</p> <p>Unshaded Zone X. Properties on higher ground and away from local flooding sources have a reduced flood risk when compared to the Moderate and High Flood Risk categories. Structures in these areas may be affected by larger storm events, in excess of the 0.2% annual chance storm event.</p>
Low Flood Hazard	<p>Insurance Note: High Risk Areas are called 'Special Flood Hazard Areas' and flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgage holders. Properties in Moderate and Low Flood Risk areas may purchase flood insurance at a lower-cost rate, known as Preferred Risk Policies. See your local insurance agent or visit https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program for more information.</p>

Disclaimer: This report is for informational purposes only and is not authorized for official use. The positional accuracy may be compromised in some areas. Please contact your local floodplain administrator for more information or go to www.fema.gov to view an official copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

11/23/2020 5:01:36 PM

Please visit the City's floodplain webpage for more information and links, or contact Kelli DeFedericis, CFM, the City's Floodplain Coordinator at kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com





Jimmy Stowe & The Stowaways - March 15th, 2020





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Marco Island art prints and notecards.
30% discount to MICA members.
Also 30% off non-Marco
Island prints. www.lindarobertsgallery.com
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10% discount on all hardcover books;
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www.sunshinebooksellers.com

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Cache Dry Cleaners
666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

Esplanade: Collier Blvd & Elcam Circle. **Marco Walk:** South Collier Blvd & Winterberry Drive.
Shops of Marco: North Barfield Drive & San Marco Road. **Town Center:** N. Collier Blvd, & Bald Eagle Dr.



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www.beachbumentrentals.com
239-280-0321

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10% off all landscaping, tree trimming or lawn
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Sergio 821-3213. www.colliertropical.com

Complete Stone Management, 642-3173

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www.completestonemanagement.com

Dry & Clean Carpet Cleaning, 642-0092

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

Easy Street Moving, 248-4136

www.easystreetmoving.com

EcoMarcoFun, Vacation House Rental

\$50 off-season, \$100 in-season discount
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www.vrbo.com/114322, 573-356-1727

Fussy Fraulein, Inc.

First cleaning only, 394-0562

GB Pools, 249-1107

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www.GBPoolsMarcoisland.com

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gsclean.net, 389-9140
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consultation, as well as 10% off service charges

Gulfcoast Painting & Pressure Cleaning

642-1005

Gulfside Electric, 784-8086

JCR Screen Repair & Service

394-9410

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10% in-store purchase
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207 N Collier Blvd., 239-389-9700
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www.AviationNorth.com

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www.DolphinCoveMarina.com
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www.dolphin-study.com

Marco Island Princess

Rose Marina, 642-5415
www.themarcoislandprincess.com

Marco Island Watersports

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Marco Pedal Boat

Book online: www.MarcoPedalBoat.com
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Scuba Marco

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394-7699. www.vantastictours.com

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Club Condo) GPS:25°58.291 81°43.608
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Rose Marina

951 Bald Eagle Dr,
394-2502. 10% off Clothing & footwear only.
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Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

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239-269-1978 Marcoislandcomputers.com

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The above businesses participate in MICA's Members Only Discount Program and extend a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members unless otherwise noted. Please present your card at time of purchase. Discounts are not valid with any other offers. Discounts are for MICA & Residents' Beach members' purchases only.



Winter Shorebird Stewardship on Marco's Beaches

by Maria Lamb

It is that time of the year – we hear them squawking, chirping and see them flying, soaring and diving along the shorelines of our beaches. Winter is an exciting time of the year for birds and when you visit the beach, you never know what you are going to see flying low over the water or scampering along the shore.

From October through March, Brittany Piersma of the Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE) is seen from Residents' Beach to South Beach with her scope looking through flocks of birds. At first glance, they all look like laughing gulls. But to Brittany's trained eye, she sees Terns mixed in with the Gulls and a few Black Skimmers with bands on their legs. Brittany writes down her findings. Her survey results will contribute to a long term data set for birds in Collier County.

Brittany is documenting the bird species and their numbers on Marco Island. This is part of the AWE's winter seabird stewardship program. Part of that program is funded through Marco's Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee (BACR).

It is part of BACR's education outreach to educate residents and visiting guests regarding bird observations and to share with the beach-going public, "bird



Please do not walk or run through a flock of resting birds. Black Skimmers are state threatened and flushing them is considered an illegal act. (Photo by Maria Lamb)

protocol," such as the negative impacts of beach trash, feeding birds and the flushing of resting birds.

A very disturbing trend on Marco's beach is the flushing of resting flocks. Black skimmers mostly



Photos by Jean Hall

Winter Shorebirds in Flight



feed at night and during the day they are out on a beach sleeping and resting. They use a lot of energy when flushed. Black Skimmers are State threatened and flushing them is considered an illegal act.

There are 235 shorebird species recorded using Marco Island as a habitat. Of the 235 species, 213 of them have been recorded on Tigertail Beach. Most of these birds are migratory as there are very few resident birds that stay in Marco year-round.

Keeping our beaches safe for wildlife is a goal of the winter stewardship program. Litter can be deadly

to birds and other wildlife – especially plastic items with holes where their tiny feet can get tangled. Fishermen should properly dispose of used fishing lines.

According to Adam DiNuovo shorebird biologist for Audubon Florida, “It is not a normal sign if you see a tern or black skimmer sitting off alone.” Birds like to be in a large flock for protection.

*If you find an injured or sick bird,
please call Von Arx Wildlife Clinic at:
239-262-2273 (CARE)*



A flock of sitting and resting winter shorebirds - please observe from a distance



AWE Winter Shorebird Steward, Brittany, with a scope surveying a flock of birds



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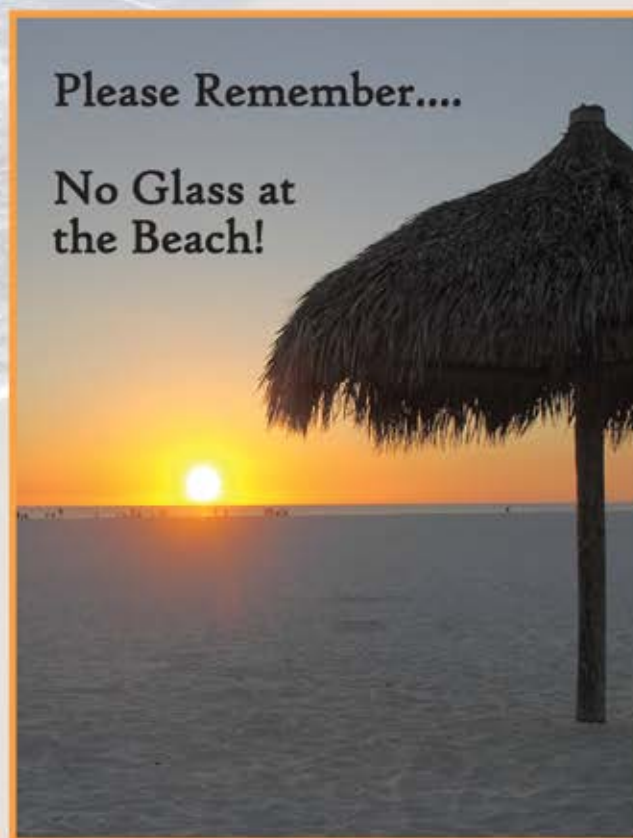




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THE SURROUNDING AREAS AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO RESIDENTS

COMPETITIONS FOR AMAZING PRIZES FROM MARCO BUSINESSES

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City of Marco Island
BEACH & COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Beach Clean-Up Schedule
2021

DATE	GROUP	PARTNER	LOCATION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	MARCO ISLAND ACADEMY KEY CLUB	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	ACE PAINTING STARBUCKS	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, MARCH 13 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, APRIL 10 8 AM	FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL BEACH	ANNUAL KEEP COLLIER BEAUTIFUL / BAY DAYS	TIGERTAIL BEACH PARK
SATURDAY, MAY 8 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	MI AREA ASSOC OF REALTORS	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, JUNE 5 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	MARCO ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, JULY 10 8 AM	FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL BEACH	QUARTERLY BEACH CLEANUP	TIGERTAIL BEACH PARK
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 9 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	CJ'S ON THE BAY	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 8 AM	FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL BEACH	ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP	TIGERTAIL BEACH PARK
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION (MICA)	RESIDENTS' BEACH
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 8 AM	BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	MARCO ISLAND WOMANS CLUB	SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 8 AM	FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL BEACH	QUARTERLY CLEAN UP	TIGERTAIL BEACH PARK

For more information, please contact City Staff Liaison Tonia Selmeski at 239-389-3949.