

May 2021

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

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**South Florida Water
Management District Update**

**Commissioner's Corner - Update from
Rick Locastro, Collier County Commissioner**

Marco Island 2020 Water Quality Status Report

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



*Bob Brown, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

President's Message

by Bob Brown, President, MICA Board of Directors

The Easter Season has come and gone, which means many of our snowbird residents will be leaving us. Obviously, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this past year has been challenging to us all. We hope our members, both full time and part time, remained healthy and were able to enjoy the use of Residents' Beach, Paradise Grill and Sarazen Park. It was a beautiful winter on our island!

As President, I would have to say I would never be successful without the dedication and help from our MICA Board members. We all work as volunteers and work very hard to keep improving your experience at our gem at Residents' Beach along with all of our facilities. Of course, we can work hard to do this, but we would never accomplish anything without our wonderful staff at

the MICA office and the beach. Our gate attendants sometimes have a thankless job and this year was no different. Please give them a friendly smile and say "hello" when entering.

Please remember to use and visit our website often at marcocivic.com. We have tried to make it as user-friendly as possible, and it is now very easy to renew your membership online, along with finding a lot of information including our MICAwave, current and past editions.

I would never miss mentioning how appreciative we all are for Ruth McCann, our Executive Director, and her leadership and knowledge along with Dennis McCann, our Facilities Manager, who keeps our properties in pristine condition.

For those leaving us for the summer, we look forward to seeing you upon your return.

Marco Island Civic Association

1770 San Marco Road, Suite 204,
Marco Island, FL 34145

Phone: 239-642-7778

Fax: 239-642-8663

www.marcocivic.com

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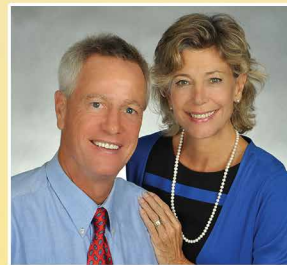
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Cover Photo: taken at Residents' Beach by The Marco Review.

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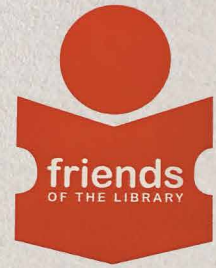
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

The Esplanade, 760 North Collier Blvd



Friends of the Marco Island Library

by: Nanette Finkle, Board Member



- New (Old) Library Book Return - We now have a curbside walk-up book return! Librarian Brenda Rasch was able to arrange to borrow a book return that was no longer in use in the Collier County system. We will be evaluating the need and usefulness. Let us know what you think.
- Improved Lighting - The Marco Friends purchased new LED lightbulbs to increase the amount of light produced in 40 light fixtures throughout our library. What a difference they have made! You may also notice the huge model of a Coast Guard Cutter proudly on display. Come by and see for yourself.
- Display in the Lobby - Local resident Laura Carney filled our display case with her exquisite collection of Ukrainian and other decorated eggs, which was perfect for the month of April! The case was filled with Russian dolls and antiques last month. We can't wait to see what May will bring.
- Newly Designed Website - Friends of the Library of Collier County, Inc. was formed in 1957 to establish a free public library system in Collier County. Our Marco Island Branch of the Friends has enhanced our library through numerous donations in need areas not otherwise able to be funded.



The Collier County Friends has updated their website to include a new Marco Friends button which allows you to join and earmark your contribution for our local needs. Please consider becoming a member to support our local library branch. collier-friends.org

*The Marco Island Library is located at
210 S Heathwood Dr, Marco Island, FL 34145*



Marco Island 2020 Water Quality Status Report

by Eugene Wordehoff, Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC), Marco Island

The results are in! 14 water quality samples taken monthly for 17 parameters across Marco Island were summarized into a “baseline” report for further water quality improvement efforts here on the island.

The “2020 Water Quality Status Report” has been completed and was presented to the Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) on March 18, 2021. This report is public information and is available at <https://marcoisland.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. See the Waterways Advisory Committee Agenda for 3.18.21.

Marco Island continues to be impaired for Total Nitrogen (TN) with an average of 0.57 mg/L for the year compared to the Rookery Bay standard of 0.3 mg/L. Basin 4, the area South of San Marco Road and along Collier Boulevard, exceeded the Rookery Bay standard for Total Phosphorus (TP) for the entire year.

Some negative trends are showing up, but they are not yet considered formal impairments:

- Total Phosphorus (TP) exceeded the Rookery Bay standard during (5) months of 2020;

- PH has been trending to the upper limit of 8.5; and Chlorophyll-a exceeded the Rookery Bay standard during (1) month of 2020. These parameters bear watching.

When looking at our entire estuary, which includes Rookery Bay and the 10,000 Islands, Marco Island has only one impairment for TN while Rookery Bay is considered impaired for both TN and Fecal Coliform. The 10,000 Islands are considered impaired for TN, Fecal Coliform (3), Fecal Coliform (SEAS), Dissolved Oxygen and Chlor-a.

Good news! The Marco Island water quality samples for the last 3 months of 2020 showed an average TN of 0.37 mg/L, which is slightly above the Rookery Bay standard of 0.3 mg/L but well below the Naples Bay standard of 0.57 mg/L. Perhaps the efforts of the City of Marco Island, the Waterways Advisory Committee and the island residents have been paying off? The Water Quality Status Report will be updated quarterly for the WAC and summarized annually.

Marco/Rookery Impairments 2019

Impairment	TN	Fecal Coliform	Fecal Coliform (3)	Fecal Coliform (SEAS)	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Chlor-a
Marco Island	YES					
Rookery Bay	YES	YES				
Ten Thousand Islands	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES

Collier County Pollution Control, Impaired Waters 2019



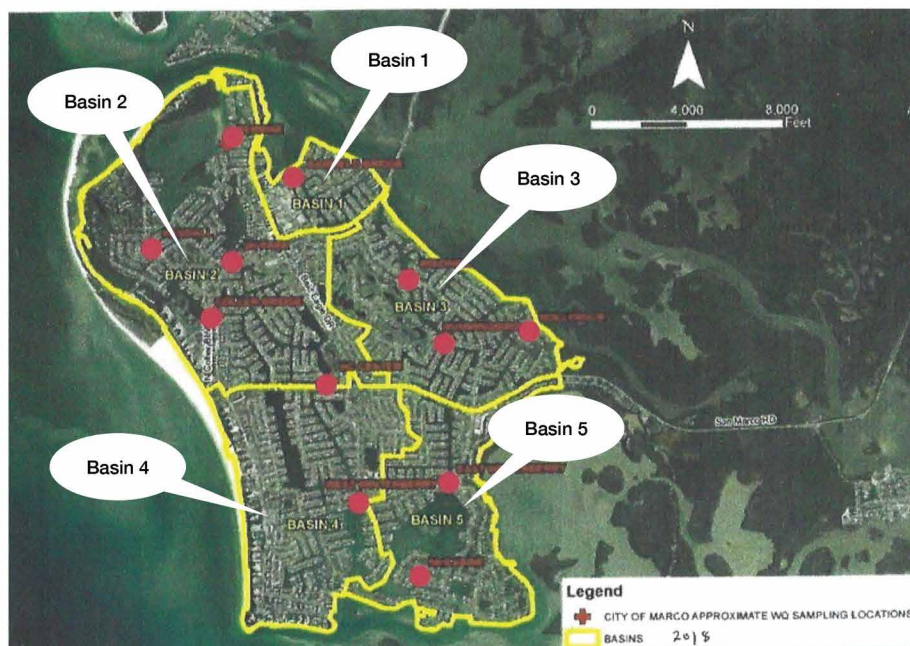
2020 Water Quality Status

Parameter	TN	TP	Chlorophyll a
FDEP NNC Standard (Rookery Bay)	< 0.3	< 0.046	< 4.9
Units	mg/L as AGM	mg/L as AGM	ug/L as AGM
Marco Island	0.57	0.033	4.3
Basin 1	0.55	0.022	3.4
Basin 2	0.52	0.029	3.5
Basin 3	0.57	0.026	4.6
Basin 4	0.63	0.049	4.6
Basin 5	0.61	0.025	3.3

AGM = ANNUAL GEOMETRIC MEAN

Marco Island Total Nitrogen (TN) exceeds Rookery Bay FDEP standard for 2020

Sampling locations - (5) basins



Source: Turrell, Hall & Associates, 2019, Figure 4: Water Quality Monitoring Stations



Florida Wildlife Corridor

by Kaitlin M. Sikes

Look at any map of the Earth and the state of Florida is easy to identify. With her unique peninsular geography, Florida sticks out. What makes Florida easy to see on a map, also makes it difficult for animals to migrate for food or to avoid danger. Hemmed in by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west, after hitting the coast, animals can only travel north or south, unless they have wings. Staying alive in an ever-changing landscape requires moving to wherever there is food.

During the course of a year, a bear may eat saw palmetto berries in South Florida, forage for wild grapes and berries and then eventually move north for acorns in the late fall. Resources are spread throughout the state and as the seasons change, animals are on the move, looking for food.

With the rapid rate of development in Florida (approximately 1,000 people move to Florida every day), the risk of wildlife fragmentation is higher

than ever. Land is rapidly disappearing, and being able to move from one food source to the next often means crossing busy roads (I'm looking at you, I-4). Here is where the Florida Wildlife Corridor initiative becomes important. There are many conservation groups purchasing land throughout the state and the Florida Wildlife Corridor initiative serves as a unifying force with a high-level vision for how to keep Florida wild. The corridor consists of natural waterways and pathways throughout the state that are on both public and private lands.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor initiative was started in 2010 by Dr. Tom Hctor, Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning at the University of Florida and Carlton Ward Jr, a conservation photographer and eighth-generation Floridian. To demonstrate that the corridor exists and help identify areas where there is a high risk of fragmentation, the Florida Wildlife Corridor initiative has mounted four expeditions. These

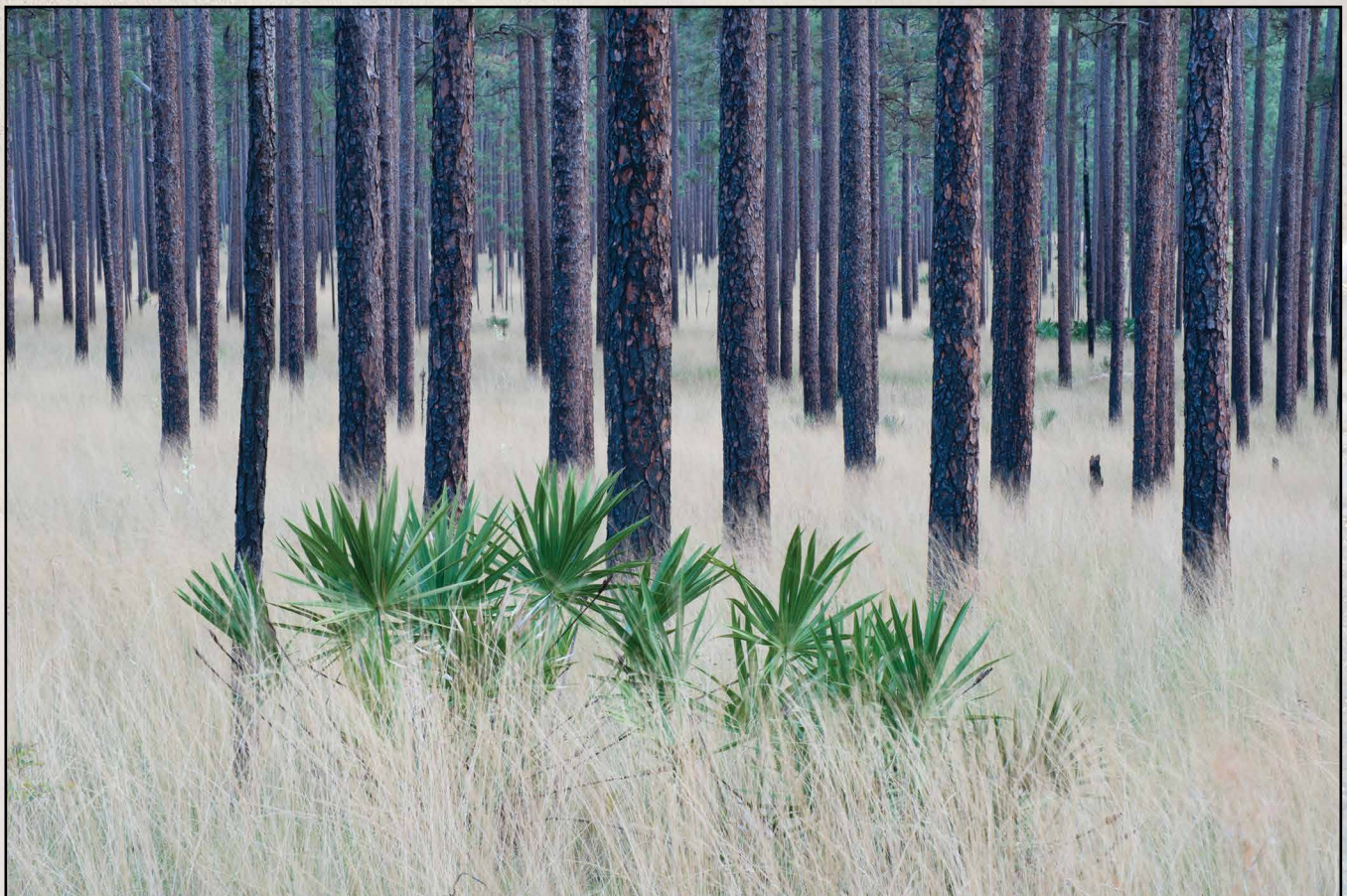


Conservationist Mallory Dimmitt, predator/prey biologist Joe Guthrie, and conservation photographer Carlton Ward Jr, ride through Little Charley Bowlegs Creek on the Chabo Ranch, during the 2019 Ranch to Ridge Expedition. Photo by Eric Bendick



trips have been documented in books and videos. Most recently, they explored the “spine” of the corridor, where land is being rapidly developed around Orlando.

Without this lifeline to the rest of the state, animals are less able to travel for food and survival, leaving them more susceptible to disease and genetic defects from inbreeding. The Florida panther (our state animal) once ranged into what is now Mississippi but has been pushed into the Everglades over the years. With help from biologists, the panther is on the rebound and some adventurous cats have been noted to swim north across the Caloosahatchee River. Male panthers and bears tend to wander more because they need to set out on their own once reaching maturity. Other animals use the corridor as well, if you haven’t watched a video of a spotted skunk doing a handstand, I highly recommend googling it. While you are there, more information on the corridor with stunning videos and storytelling can be found at www.floridawildlifecorridor.org. For now, the path is there, but it’s going to take a state-wide effort to preserve it.



Longleaf Pine Forest, taken by Carlton Ward Jr in the Ocala Forest on the 2012 Everglades to Okefenokee Expedition that mapped out the Corridor from south Florida up into the Okefenokee Swamp that bleeds over into Georgia



Romance, Tragedy and Hope for Ocean the Owl

by Maria Lamb

This is the story of Ocean, a burrowing owl that was banded as an adult in the summer of 2018 by Residents' Beach. Ocean's first "wife" was also banded and they were the first banded pair of owls on the beach for 2018-2019 season. They had a burrow on the far north side of Residents' Beach and produced 5 chicks. His first "wife" disappeared shortly thereafter and was never seen again.

Around the same timeline (2018-2019), on the south side of Residents' Beach, a pair of owls were also banded – which now gave a total of 4 banded owls on the beach. Shortly after banding the south side owls, the male disappeared and was never re-sighted.

We now have Ocean, a bachelor on the north side, and a single female named Sandy on the south side of the Residents' Beach boardwalk. Both had lost their mates. As "fate" would intervene, Ocean hooked up with Sandy and moved into her southside burrow. Sandy was Ocean's second "wife" and

was an "Adopt an Owl" recipient. No chicks were produced from this pairing.

Beachgoers might remember Ocean as he used to sit on the Residents' Beach boardwalk and tolerated visitors taking photos as he jousting with the mockingbirds.

Tragically, in early 2020, Sandy was found dead by the burrow's entrance. Ocean was also found ill and taken to Von Arx Wildlife Hospital. It was suspected that both ate wildlife with rodenticide. Ocean was very lucky and was later released back near the southside burrow.

From 2020 through early 2021 Ocean was hanging around the south side burrow. On March 19, 2021, Ocean was photographed with a new and third "wife" – an unbanded female!

"Talons crossed" for this season that Ocean and his new mate will produce healthy and strong chicks and pass their strong genes to the next generation of Marco Island burrowing owls.



Photos by Jean Hall

Ocean used to sit on the Residents' Beach boardwalk railing and jousting with the mockingbird, but allowed visitors to take his photo



We will defer naming Ocean's third "wife" until after the healthy chicks arrive. You can also adopt Ocean under the Owl Watch Adopt an Owl Program.

How did we track Ocean's trials and triumphs? We followed Ocean's life through the burrowing owl research and banding project with the Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE) and University of Florida allowing Marco's Owl Watch monitors to sight and keep track of owls year after year.

According to Lori Beall, Program Director of AWE, there are over 100 banded owls in Marco Island which were banded in 2018-2019 but no new banding was done for 2020.

If you see any banded owls, please take a photo or note its location and send your information to OwlWatchMarco@gmail.com., or to AudubonWE@live.com. If you are interested in the Adopt an Owl Program – also please indicate your interest at the above emails.



Sandy, Ocean's 2nd "wife" with band colors Yellow, Metal – Blue, Green. She also lost her first mate



Ocean's first "wife" also banded in 2018 with her band colors – Yellow, Metal – Red, Orange. Shown here with their chicks shortly before she disappeared



On March 19, 2021, Ocean was photographed with his third "wife" an unbanded female





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What are We Doing Locally to Save Critical Land?

What are we doing locally to save critical land for wildlife? The citizens of Collier County, through the Conservation Collier Program, own 4,345 acres in 21 different locations, with 12 of them open to the public. Program staff is working to make the majority of lands accessible to the public, with two preserves designated for resource protection due to lack of safe physical access. Conservation Collier is an integral component of the community planning and growth management strategies to preserve native habitat and species and to protect quality of life for citizens and visitors.

On Marco Island, the "Otter Mound Preserve," at 1831 Addison Court, is one of the 21 locations. The preserve is almost 2.5 acres and was primarily acquired due to the presence of tropical hardwood hammock, which is one of the most rare, unique and endangered habitats found in Collier County and is identified in the Conservation Collier ordinance as the highest priority habitat for preservation. A tropical hardwood hammock provides food and cover for many resident and migratory wildlife species that typically use such habitat. 57 species of birds and 127 plant species have been recorded at Otter Mound Preserve. Other wildlife observed includes the Florida gopher tortoise, Virginia opossum, armadillo, raccoon and even the occasional bobcat! This site also has archeological and historical significance as it is located on the site of an ancient

Calusa mound (c. 700 A.D. - 1,200 A.D.), though it is not thought to be a burial site. The property was also a home site for early settlers in the Caxambas Village who worked in the Marco Island clamming industry.

Conservation Collier was initially instituted by the voters of Collier County in 2002 and a ballot initiative in November 2020 reestablished the levy of a .25 Mil ad valorem tax for 10 years for the purpose of continuing to acquire, preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands, and provide compatible public access where ever applicable to such lands, for the protection of water quality, water resources, wildlife habitat, and public open space in perpetuity. For more information, please visit <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-a-e/conservation-collier>.



*Above...Cerulean Warbler
Below... Indigo Bunting*



*Just passing through...
transient migratory birds*



*Sometimes true beauty is seldom seen, it could
be four inches long and hidden beneath a leaf...
Malachite Butterfly... named after the same
color of the mineral*

Photos by Nancy Nalley



Marco Island Historical Museum Presents Two Exciting New Exhibits

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces two new exhibits at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM). Fish, Fruit, and Fine Dining: Marco Island's Food Culture is open now through July 10, 2021. The exhibit presents the unique history and variety of Marco Island's amazing food culture and its appealing manifestations in the Island's many dining establishments.

"This exhibit celebrates the colorful and delicious range of the island's natural resources from seafood to tropical fruits and the incredible cuisine that results," said Museum Manager Rebecca Mazeroski, "It is important to remember that residents and visitors to the island are enjoying many of the same natural ingredients that sustained the island's ancient peoples to the early pioneers. These early settlers not only survived but thrived because of the bounty of the lands, waters and wildlife of Marco Island." Marco Island's first pioneers in the 1870s learned



Marco Island's early settler Orida Olds presents a brace of ducks she shot. Photo by Saloma Olds

what the Calusa had known: the fishing is great! The island also was once a major supplier of pineapples, mangoes, and other citrus fruits throughout the U.S. Today, Marco Island celebrates the Island's amazing food culture heritage by presenting nearly every type of food style and dining establishment imaginable.

Museum visitors also can see a new "living exhibit" as Master Boat Builder Roger Johnson conserves a unique, hand-crafted wooden skiff made in the mid-1940s. The skiff's maker was Eugene Paul Teachout, a recluse who lived on a mud flat in the backwater islands around Marco Island. Teachout, a printer and veteran of World War I, used the 11-foot skiff for transportation and fishing for over 30 years. He built it using almost primitive tools and laboriously whittled wooden pegs for the boat's fastenings.

Johnson is joined in the conservation work by Ron Rutledge who also is project liaison to MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell and Collections Manager Heather Otis. Johnson and Rutledge are donating their time to the project. The skiff resided at the Museum of Florida History (MFH) in Tallahassee until Bell traveled to Tallahassee to bring it to its new home. "This little skiff is a part of Marco Island history and belongs here," said Bell. "We are grateful to the staff at MFH who made it

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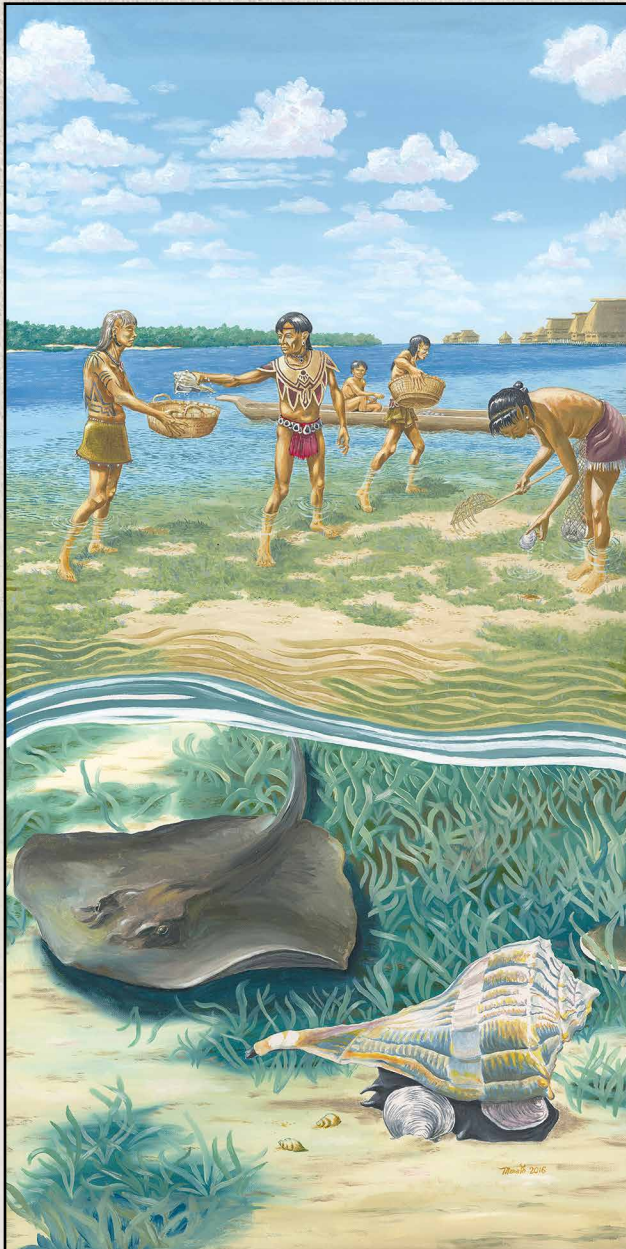
*The 2021
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Pick up a complimentary
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located at 1102 North Collier
Boulevard, Marco Island.*

2021 Annual Publication

MARCO ISLAND
AREA CHAMBER



happen.” Bud Kirk of Goodland donated the skiff to the MFH to preserve its unique design and story. Now, MIHS is assuring that the story of the skiff and its maker continues to be told for generations to come.



The exhibit “Fish, Fruit, and Fine Dining: Marco Island’s Food Culture” presents the Island’s unique food culture.

Prey for Us: Ebb and Flow of Archaic Marco Island by Merald Clark depicts early fisher people



Master boat builder Roger Johnson (left) and Ron Rutledge work on the conservation of a 1940s skiff at Marco Island Historical Museum’

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) 389-6447



Your American Cancer Society 2021 – Let's Focus on Screening!

by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer

We are *your* American Cancer Society. Our mission continues to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. We strive to accomplish this goal by promoting cancer prevention and early detection for you and all those you love.

Early detection of cancer through screening has been reducing mortality from the disease for decades now. Deaths from cancers of the colon and rectum, breast, uterine cervix, and lung have been greatly reduced from progress in cancer screening technology, awareness, research and improved uptake and access to screening services among the general population.

However, the past year has brought a substantial decline in cancer screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We really can't predict

the long-range effects of this situation. Sadly, the pandemic-related disruptions in screening may potentially affect the lives of many and will certainly pose even more of a threat for those who had already been experiencing obstacles to screening and care.

So, let's face this challenge with a renewed focus on screening! The American Cancer Society has developed new reports to provide guidance to public health agencies, health care providers, and screening advocates across the nation. It is our goal to promote and deliver cancer screening safely, appropriately, and equitably during the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's work together to save lives!

Our dedication to research continues as well. We are incredibly grateful to the people of Marco Island for their generosity and support in this cause.



Scenes from the Imagination Ball, presented by Walker Marine

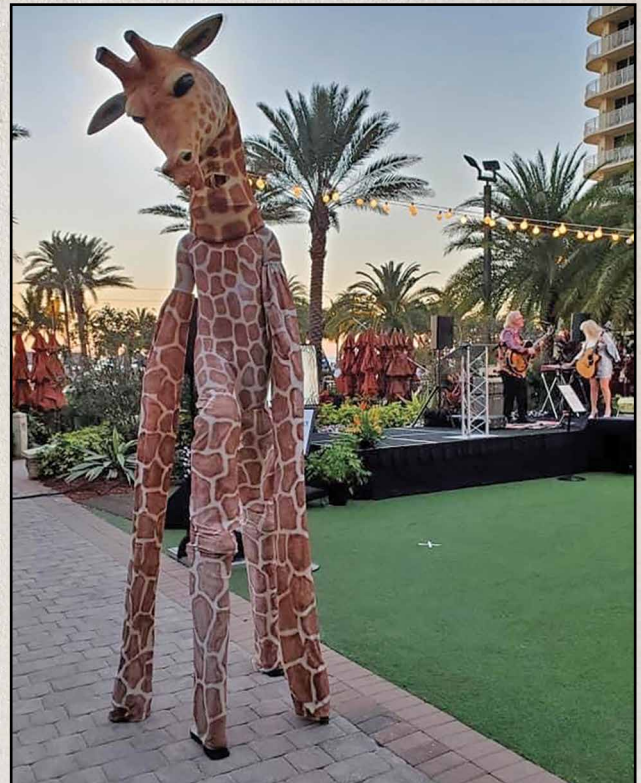




The Imagination Ball, Wild For a Cure, presented by Walker Marine and chaired by Debra Shanahan, was held February 5 in the great outdoors of the JW Marriott. Entertainment was provided by a dance group from Miami featuring wild costumes which even included a zebra, tiger, leopard, and giraffe! With a more relaxed dress code of cocktail attire and limited seating, the event was a bit different from our previous galas, but our goal was the same – to raise funds and finish the fight against cancer once and for all!

Please join us for National Relay For Life Weekend, May 14-15. Think of it as Relay@home where you can participate virtually or with your family. You can post a selfie on our national or local pages and decorate your own luminaria bag in honor of survivors or loved ones lost. The possibilities are virtually endless! Relay For Life is all about joining together as a community. WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

*For more information, please visit
www.cancer.org or contact us at
Sue.Olszak@cancer.org or 239-642-6217.*



*Scenes from the Imagination Ball,
held outdoors at the JW Marriott*



Update from Friends of Tigertail

by Allie Delventhal

Similar to many groups, the activities of Friends of Tigertail have continued to be curtailed by the pandemic. Fortunately, we have been able to hold our quarterly well attended Tigertail beach clean-ups. After the April 10 Bay Days clean-up event, upcoming dates are scheduled for July 10, September 18, and December 4.

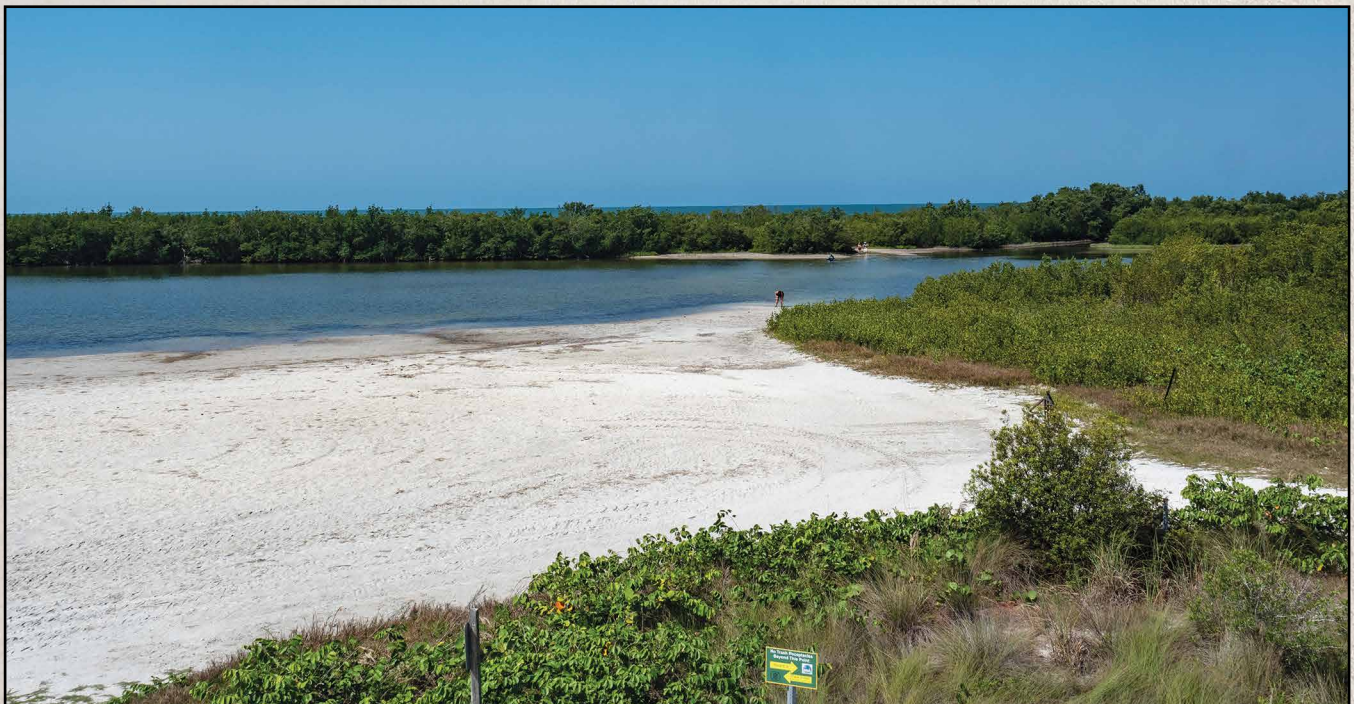
Our group has been closely involved in the effort to mitigate the effects of nature which are causing significant narrowing and shallowing of Big Marco Pass toward Tigertail Lagoon. Since Hurricane Irma, Sand Dollar's mid-section has flattened, narrowed, and moved toward land, preventing tidal flow and navigation through the pass. If steps are not taken soon, the lagoon will be completely cut off from water flow, rendering it unusable for visitors' recreational activities as well as many species of animals and birds who live and migrate there.

In association with the Hideaway Tax District, Friends of Tigertail representatives have attended

several meetings, spoken to political officials, and sponsored an information session in Marco Island to update the public about the issue. Most recently our president, Linda Colombo, spoke at a meeting with Rick LoCastro, the new District 1 County Commissioner, and various stakeholders.

The normal scheduled dredging of the waterway between the tip of Sand Dollar Spit and Hideaway Beach will aid in increasing the flow of water to the south. Part of a proposed additional strategy consists of taking the dredge material from the spit and placing it at the mid-section of Sand Dollar to build up the beach with a gentle slope while keeping it bird nesting friendly. This will render the area more resilient to the effects of storm over wash.

We will continue to support efforts to protect the lagoon's natural beauty and coastal environment. This will improve visitor experience at Tigertail as well as supporting area wildlife.



I'm Proud to Serve

by Rick Locastro, Collier County Commissioner, District 1

Since being elected in November, I've worked hard to ensure my actions show I am the County Commissioner for all of District 1. Yes, there's a lot going on in East Naples and it's a big part of the District 1 footprint, but every citizen and every issue matters in all corners of our large and diverse community. I found on the campaign trail that citizens on Marco Island, Goodland, Isles of Capri, Port of the Islands, and even in the far reaches of East and South Naples want more than to just know their County Commissioner. They want strong representation and to see ACTION on things in our community that need it or to ensure their Commissioner is preventing things we don't need.

In August 2019, a group of citizens called to encourage me to run for County Commissioner. Commissioner Fiala's 20 years of dedicated service is certainly an amazing milestone, and as she has told me many times, much has changed from when she first took office to when she decided to retire. Collier County now has a \$2 Billion budget and a multitude of challenges--but also opportunity. The five County Commissioners need to be dedicated public servants who have the experience and qualifications to manage our taxpayer dollars for the good of our community, and also be accessible and open to our constituents.

I'm learning something new every day, but I feel blessed to bring a deep foundation of experience to this seat. As an Air Force Academy graduate, having served 24 years in our military, as well as a host of unique and demanding military and civilian senior leadership positions... I certainly have quite a "tool bag" to draw from. As a Senior Commander and Base Commander at multiple military installations - the buck stopped with me. As the Base Commander of Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, you are literally running a large city much like you do as a Commissioner. Eglin Air Force Base is 725 square miles with a budget well over \$20 Billion. Having tens of thousands

of military personnel and their families on the base, billions of dollars of military aircraft on the flightline, thousands of base houses, roads and grounds, safety, schools, a large medical center, and even dealing with red tide on Eglin Air Force Base, I feel extremely fortunate to bring that experience and expertise to this position.



*Rick Locastro,
Collier County
Commissioner,
District 1*

Having the privilege to also work for two U.S. Presidents as one of the senior military Commanders over logistics, security, and certain operations for Air Force One while stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, I've certainly been trained to be engaged in the mission, do my homework, have a sense of urgency, pride in work, and deliver results.

As my parents taught me, and as I learned from my 24 years in our Air Force (retiring as a full Colonel in 2012), I am a public servant and citizens are the bosses. That doesn't mean every citizen will agree with every vote, but I'd hope all will grade my time in this seat by my integrity, experience, qualifications, and dedication.

As an elected official managing our taxpayer dollars, we must utilize business and common sense. Before any vote or decision, I want to know citizen thoughts and views. As a full-time County Commissioner, I am 100% available and accessible to all. Contact me via email, text, phone, or make an appointment to come see me or for me to come see you. I have minimal patience for government that has too much red tape, too much bureaucracy, lazy leadership, excuses for mistakes, and wasting taxpayer dollars. Don't you? That's why I ran for this position.

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News From The Nest

*Submitted by Linda Turner, Director of Community Relations
Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary*

The Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary's (MINP) nature trail is completed thanks to the time and hard work of the Nature Preserve's volunteers who spread 80 tons of oyster shells that were dumped in piles along a cut out pathway. The 8 feet wide by 1800 feet long nature trail loops through natural land that is dotted with butterflies, wildflowers, native plants, and trees.

The nature trail, located at 665 Tigertail Court, is free and open to the public from sunrise to sunset. To protect the wildlife habitat, smoking, pets, and bikes are prohibited.

A wildflower, native plant, and tree identification program was recently completed with the assistance of the Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island, the Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant

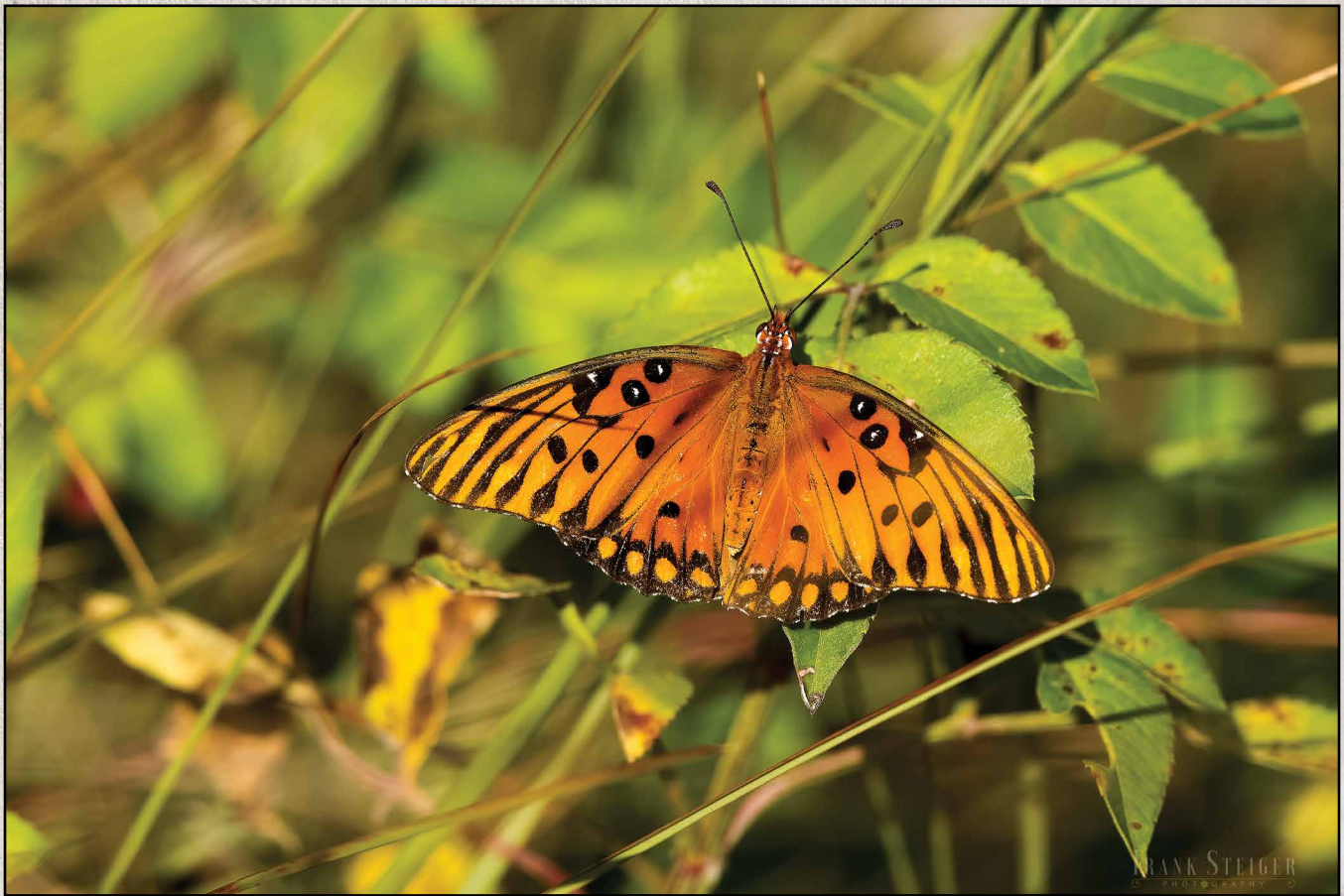


*Lantana Camara wild flower at the
Marco Island Nature Preserve and
Bird Sanctuary*



The newly opened nature trail at the Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary





*Butterflies and wild flowers abound at the
Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary*

Society, and FGCU's Department of Science and Environmental Studies. Wildflower brochures will be available to the public at the Nature Preserve in the near future. Plans are underway for the Nature Preserve's future butterfly, native plant, and pioneer gardens.

This year, the resident bald eagles are not nesting, but they are frequently in the Preserve. The eagles use the nest to consume their fish and promptly leave the nest when they finish their meal. It is not unusual to see osprey immediately swoop into the nest looking for leftovers. Over twenty species of birds have been documented in the Nature Preserve.

To celebrate Earth Day, the MINP presented environmental outreach programs to Marco Island pre-K classes, and to the Tommie Barfield Elementary and Manatee Elementary Kindergarten

classes. The children learned basic conservational practices and the importance of wildlife protection.

The next project for the Nature Preserve is to raise funds for a pavilion that will serve as an out door classroom, and a meeting site for guest lectures, garden club members, artists as well as for public use. The 25' by 25' pavilion will have electrical and Wifi capabilities.

The Marco Island Nature Preserve is a 501 (c) (3), 100% volunteer organization.

*To donate or for further information,
call 239 269-1754 or visit
www.MarcoIslandNaturePreserve.org*

Photos by Frank Steiger



MICA's Newly Elected Board Members

Congratulations to newly elected MICA board members Margie Hapke, Jim Johnson, Ray McChesney and Jerry Swiacki.

In February, ballots were mailed to members of MICA, asking them to choose four individuals out of six to serve on the MICA Board of Directors. All of the candidates were highly qualified and excited to volunteer on behalf of their fellow members.

The previously mentioned four received the most votes and will now serve three-year terms. They join the balance of the board consisting of Bob Brown, Dick Adams, Bill Holmes, Patti LaMotte, Ronald McClay, Thomas Morr, Laura

Owen, and Tom Valiante.

Our great thanks goes to Katherine O'Hara, Kathryn Sullivan, and Al Bismonte who recently fulfilled their terms on the MICA Board of Directors. They will be missed, and we wish them the best in their next endeavors!

If you are interested in serving on a MICA committee, such as Architectural Review, Community & Government Affairs, or Membership & Marketing, please email Rmccann@marcocivic.com for more information.

Calling All Citizens, Residents and Property Owners . . .

It is time and it is simple for you to get involved with the City of Marco Island
(without even leaving your house)!

There are many important matters discussed at each meeting,
such as Veterans' Park, the Comprehensive Plan, Water Quality, Sidewalks.

You can watch City Council meetings live on the city website at
www.cityofmarcoisland.com or locally on TV as listed on the website.

Marco Island City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30 pm.
The Planning Board meets on the first Friday and third Friday (if needed) of each month at 9 a.m.

Please do not sit idly by while the City of Marco Island moves forward with business.
Your elected representatives need and want to hear from every citizen. You can review agenda items prior to the meeting and email your comments directly to all City Council members at City_Council@cityofmarcoisland.com. Also, during each meeting, you are given the opportunity to email your comments directly into the meeting.

Take Action!



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DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER THE STORM?

DEBRIS REMOVAL GUIDELINES

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rules.

DEBRIS SEPARATION

Debris should be placed curbside, separated into the categories as shown on right.

DO NOT STACK OR LEAN

Do not place debris near or on trees, poles, cars or other structures. This includes fire hydrants, mail boxes and meters. Do not block culverts, swales, storm drains or roadways.

UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?

If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.

After the storm

Check for updates at
[colliercountyfl.gov/
hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness)
or Call 311

For more information please
contact customer service at

(239) 252-2380

NORMAL HOUSEHOLD TRASH

Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will **NOT** be picked up with disaster debris. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.

STORM RELATED VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

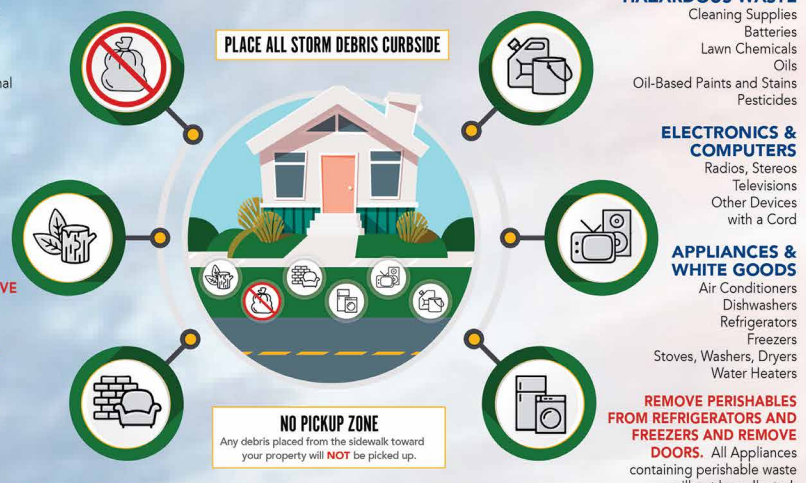
Leaves
Logs/Limbs
Plants/Shrubbery
Fully extracted stumps
Palm Fronds
Tree Branches
No Land Clearing Debris.
**DO NOT PLACE VEGETATIVE
DEBRIS IN PLASTIC BAGS**

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

Building materials
Carpet
Drywall
Furniture
Lumber
Mattresses
Plumbing

SEPARATING STORM DEBRIS

Separate storm debris into the **SIX CATEGORIES** shown here.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Cleaning Supplies
Batteries
Lawn Chemicals
Oils
Oil-Based Paints and Stains
Pesticides

ELECTRONICS & COMPUTERS

Radios, Stereos
Televisions
Other Devices
with a Cord

APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS

Air Conditioners
Dishwashers
Refrigerators
Freezers
Stoves, Washers, Dryers
Water Heaters

**REMOVE PERISHABLES
FROM REFRIGERATORS AND
FREEZERS AND REMOVE
DOORS.** All Appliances
containing perishable waste
will not be collected.

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*****ECRWSSDDM***

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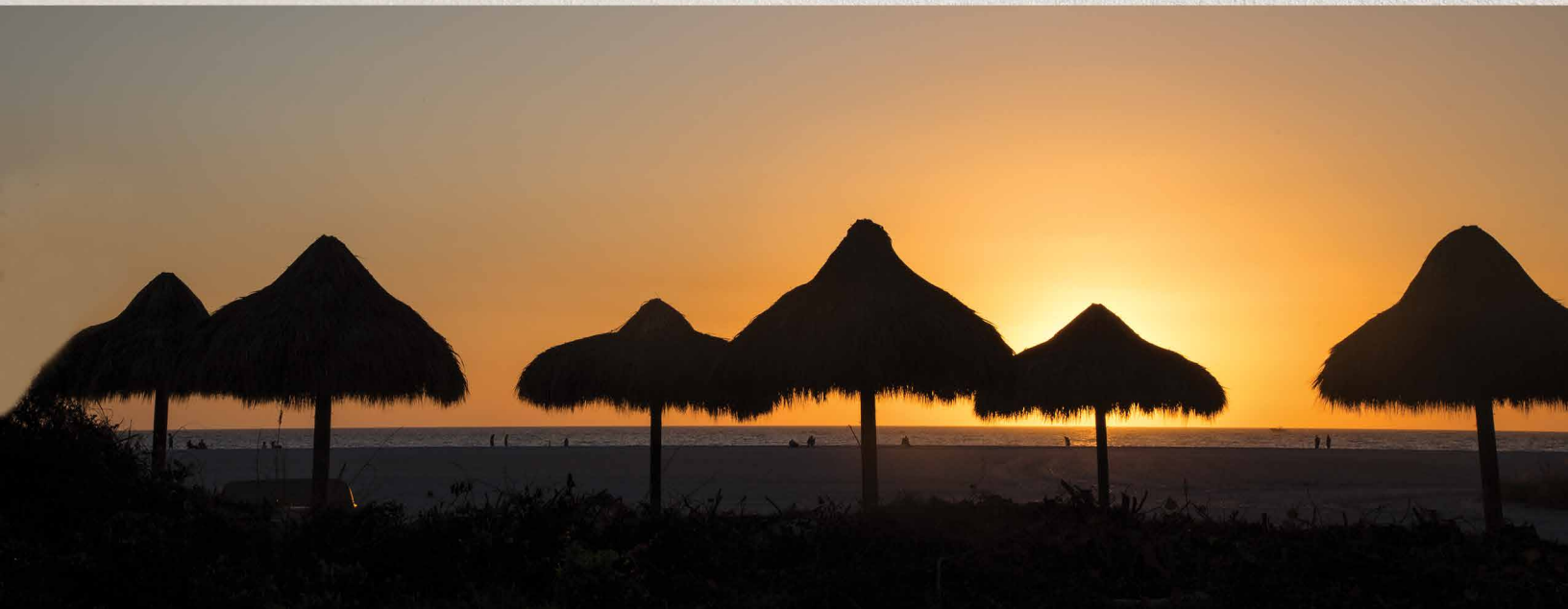


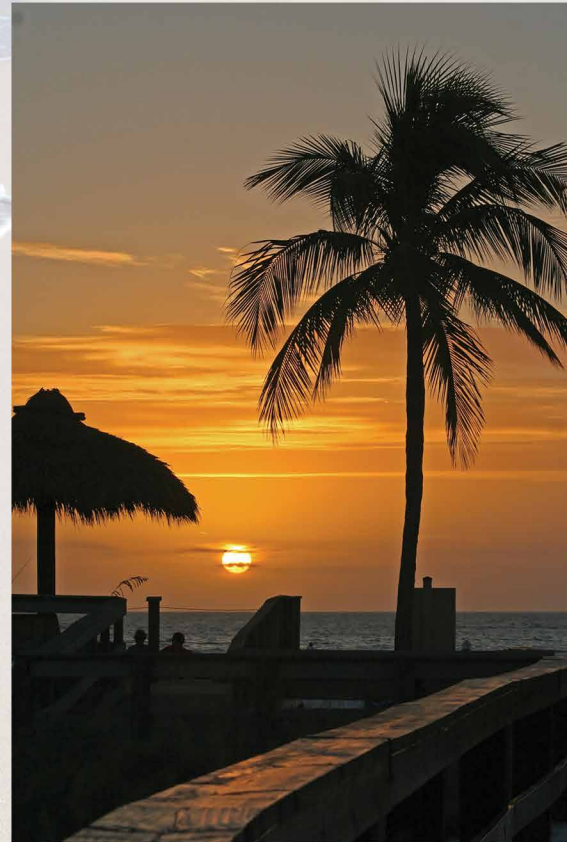
Public Utilities Department
Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Division



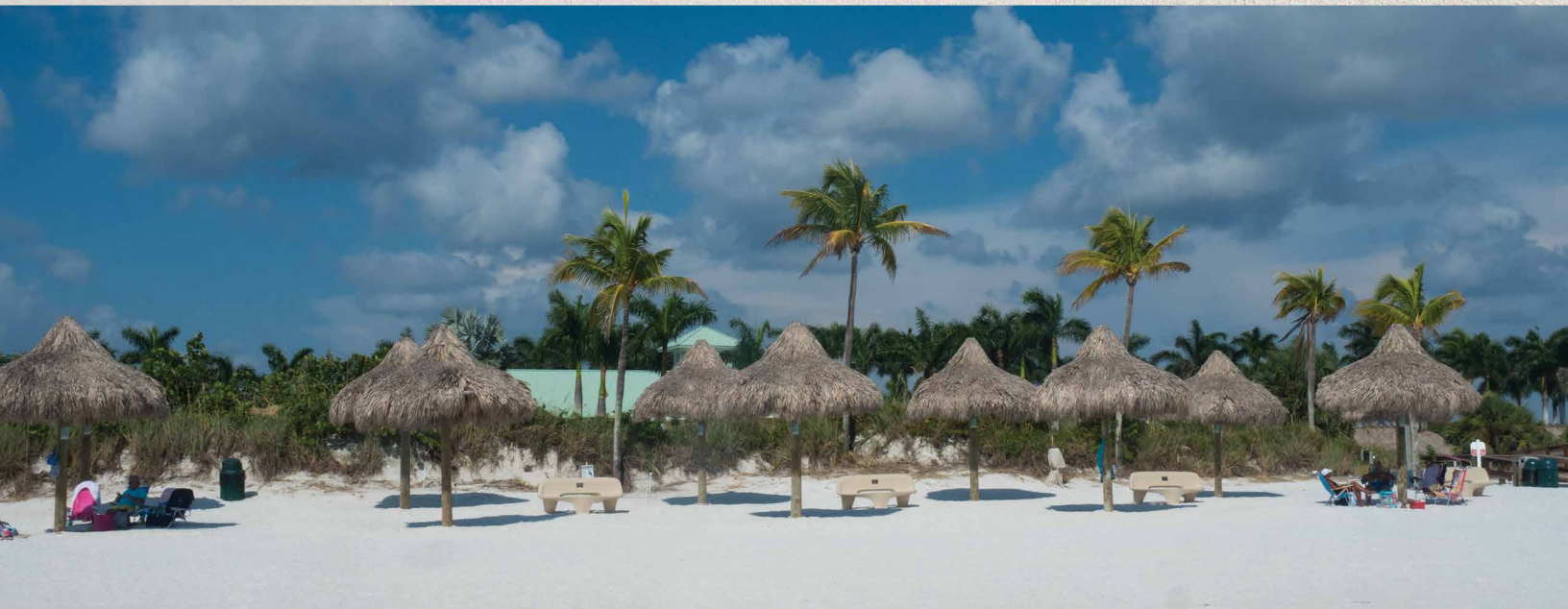


Our Beautiful Residents' Beach





Send your favorite photos of Residents' Beach to info@marcocivic.com and we will highlight some of them in our next issue.



Too much of a Good Thing? Overwatering and Your Lawn

by Sammie Gibson, Collier County Pollution Control

We all know sleep is good for us, just the right amount and we feel revived. But have you ever slept for too long and felt groggy the rest of the day? You can have too much of a good thing.

Just like humans and sleep, the turf grass in your yard needs the right amount of water. Shorter roots, less drought tolerance, as well as more weeds and pests are all symptoms of an overwatered lawn.

An overwatered lawn also harms local water health. Overwatered lawns are likely to be patchy, leaving bare spots of soil, and less able to use nutrients, such as fertilizer. When too much irrigation water is applied, the water flows across the ground, captures the soil and nutrients, then transports the resulting pollution into nearby waterways.

Looking for ways to tastefully reduce the amount of water, money and effort that go into your lawn? Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ for beautiful, sustainable, and functional design features that also protect the health of local waterways. For more resources, visit www.FloridaYards.org.

For the grass you do have, keep both it and local waterways healthy with these tips!

- Only water when your grass needs it. How can you tell?
Step on it. If your footprint remains and the grass doesn't spring back then water it.
Look at it. If it's lighter in color or the blades are bent in half, it's time to water it.
- Lawns only need three-quarters-to-one inch of water per week. Track irrigation and rain with a rain gauge, then turn the system off for the week once the limit is reached.
- Consider turning the automatic sprinkler system off during the rainy season.
- A functioning rain sensor is required if you have an automatic sprinkler system.
- After watering, look for squishy spots or water running onto concrete as an indicator of a broken sprinkler head.
- Re-adjust or swap sprinkler heads and ensure all heads in one zone match.
- Look for Dollarweed (Hydrocotyle spp., pictured), it indicates a spot getting too much water.
- Water only between 12:01 – 8:00 a.m to reduce the effects of evaporation and wind (required).
- Water one-to-two times per week and only on your specified day(s) per the ordinance.



Dollarweed (Hydrocotyle)

For specifics related to the City of Marco Island's irrigation ordinance, visit <https://www.cityofmarcoisland.com/utilities/page/water-irrigation-restrictions>

IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1, 3, 5, 7, 9							
0, 2, 4, 6, 8							



Progress on Important Everglades Restoration Projects -

SFWMD is Working to Send More Water South and Reduce Harmful Discharges

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

It's been two years since Governor Ron DeSantis appointed me to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board and the Big Cypress Basin Board. During that period, much has happened in restoring Florida's Everglades; and I'm delighted with this opportunity to provide MICA members with a progress report.

In January 2019, Governor DeSantis tasked the South Florida Water Management District with expediting key Everglades restoration projects and cleaning up Florida's waterways. He signed an Executive Order directing record funding for restoring the Everglades, improving water quality, and reducing harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

Now, take a look at where we are two years later. We've broken ground and cut ribbons on dozens of projects critical to protecting Florida's Everglades. Let me share some updates with you.

We recently celebrated progress on the removal of the Old Tamiami Trail in Miami-Dade County. Removing that roadbed improves the volume of water flowing south through the Everglades and reduces harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the



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

continued on page 26



*Governor Ron DeSantis and the entire SFWMD Governing Board
at the celebration of progress on the removal of Old Tamiami Trail in Miami-Dade County*



Progress, continued from page 25

Northern Estuaries. This crucial project is a component of the larger Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which also includes the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project. The Old Tamiami Trail roadbed removal will be completed by January 2022 and will increase the flow of clean, fresh water into the Northeast Shark River Slough by more than 220 billion gallons per year.

The District also celebrated the completion of the S-333N Project. This project, located about 35 miles west of Miami, doubles the amount of water that can be moved south through that area and the Central Everglades (Water Conservation Area 3A) and into Everglades National Park. The S-333N structure works with other critical Everglades restoration projects, including the EAA Reservoir Project, to decrease harmful estuary discharges and deliver more flows of water south. The structure can also be used during water emergency situations to prevent high water conditions and wildlife drownings in the Central Everglades.



*The S-333N Project
in Miami-Dade County*

Saving the Everglades is all about sending water south. Projects like S-333N and the entire CEPP South suite of projects will help restore the historic flow of water and are thus crucial to the overall success of all Everglades restoration.

On our southwest coast, the construction of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Collier County is proceeding rapidly. This project is expected to result in improved flows of water into Collier Seminole State Park, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. I recently took a tour to see the project first-hand. Crews are actively



SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett, Big Cypress Basin Board Chair Charlette Roman, and a representative with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Collier County

removing crumbling roads, plugging canals, and building pump stations to restore the natural sheet flow of water, which will, in turn, attract wildlife and native vegetation. The project is expected to be completed in 2024.

In addition, the Big Cypress Basin staff recently completed a study to identify opportunities to improve water quality in the Picayune Watershed in Collier County. The study recommended innovative treatment technologies to improve the quality of water received from sources north of US 41. Additional water quality data is needed to determine the best approach for deploying water quality improvement projects in the watershed. I'm pleased to report we're advancing the science to help us invest in improved water quality for our local watershed.



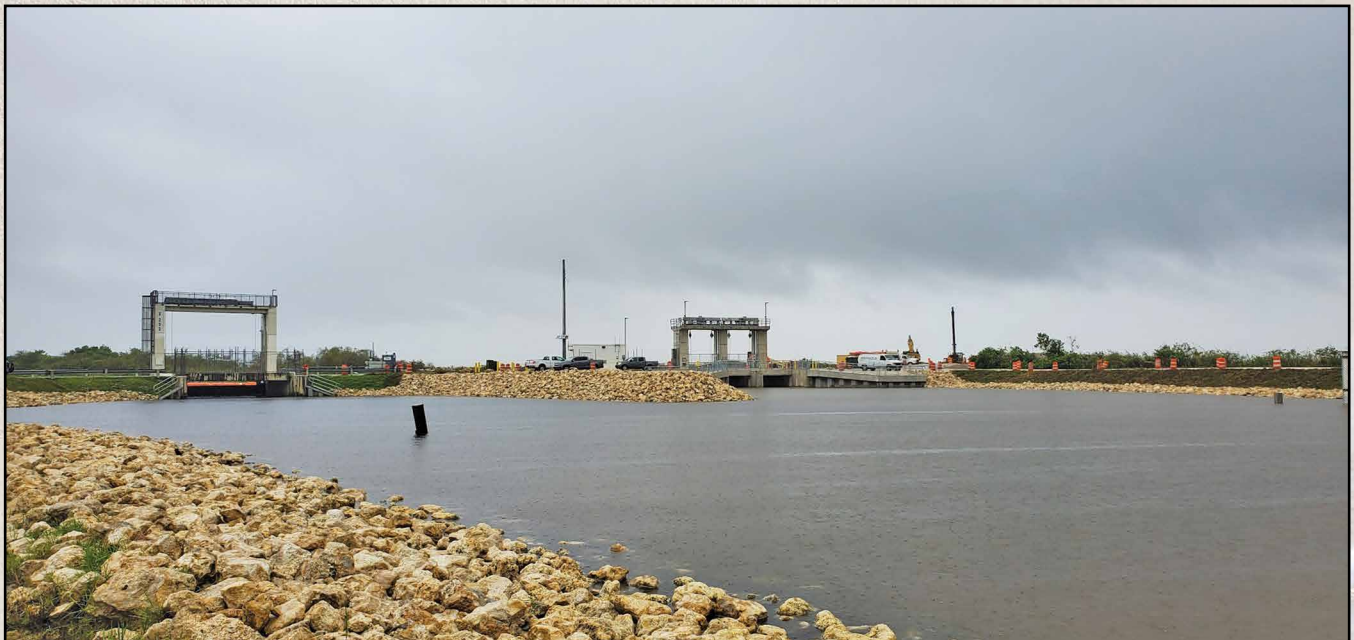
Caloosahatchee River



The District also worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and many local governments, including Lee County, Hendry County, Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District, City of Cape Coral, and the City of Sanibel, to complete a feasibility study on ensuring clean water from the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir. SFWMD invited the public to learn more about the Caloosahatchee Reservoir Water

Quality Feasibility Study and provide input and ideas about additional water quality improvements for the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. The scheduled end date for the study is August 2021.

We continue to work every day on the most ambitious ecosystem restoration plan ever attempted. All of our Everglades restoration projects have the goal of achieving ecological benefits while restoring the abundance of wildlife in the region.



Completion of the S-333N structure in Miami-Dade County



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Marco Island Center for the Arts

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

As summer approaches, Marco Island Center for the Arts prepares to heat up with art exhibitions and programs.

Art Exhibitions

- **May 10 - July 6, 2021 – Art Quilters unlimited present “Out of the Ordinary”.** Art Quilters Unlimited is a group of artists interested in sharing fiber arts knowledge, supporting creativity through workshops, and expanding the appreciation of our work with community and regional exhibits.
- **July 12 - August 3, 2021 – The Artwork of Brandon Bowe, George Morisette and Joel Shapses.**
- **August 9 - October 5, 2021 – A Call to Artist with the theme “Palettes: Warm, Cool & Complimentary Colors.”** This is open to all interested artists and information about entering the show can be found at www.marcoislandart.org.
- Receptions for each exhibition take place the second Tuesday of every month. Enjoy fabulous wines provided by the Art Center’s Wine Sponsor Total Wine & More of Naples.

Children’s Summer Art Workshops

Young artists bring excitement and pure joy to the Art Center each summer. Summer art programs for children mean more now than ever. Art heals, Art stimulates, Art enriches. The workshop offerings for young people run for one week sessions in either the morning or afternoon except for The Playmaker’s Lab which runs for two weeks from 9:30am -3:30pm. The programs are as follows:

Mixed Media Art (ages 6-13) with instructor Jennifer Norqual, owner of Docks by Jen, enables each child to explore mixed media by using old lobster traps to create mini “dock scenes.” Children will also do driftwood and nautical art, canvas painting with acrylic, watercolor, charcoal and more.

50 Years of Art in One Week (ages 9-13) and **Make A Mini Museum/Art Gallery** (ages 5-8) will be taught by Marjorie Pesek of Marjorie Pesek Fine Art. During 50 Years of Art in One Week children will learn about an artist from each decade from 1970 to the present and create a project each day



*Mixed Media Art during a
Children’s Summer Art Workshop*



inspired by the artist's unique style and technique. During Make A Mini Museum/ Art Gallery, children will make miniature works of art and curate their own art exhibition in a miniature gallery of their own creation. Famous museum and art galleries will be reviewed to inspire the young gallerists. These tiny exhibitions may include original art or replicas or well-known work.

The Storymakers' Lab (ages 5-8) and **The Playmakers' Lab** (ages 9-13) will be directed by Chris Dayett, Marco Island Academy Performing Arts Director, Playwright and Artist. The Storymakers' Lab will have children creating stories and acting them out. Storytelling aids in a child's neurological development, sparks creative thinking, improves vocabulary, encourages imagination, improves listening skills, and develops literacy. Children will take the simplest ideas and turn them into unique tales. Through artwork, games and improvisation, children will grow ideas into stories and perform them. The Playmakers' Lab is modeled after the

hugely successful 52nd Street Project in New York City, this Playmakers' workshop will introduce participants to the magic of the dramatic impulse through improvisation and writing exercises. During these workshops, participants learn how to respond to their creative impulse, develop those impulses into characters and follow the characters into dramatic situations to create their own play. The workshop is designed to give young people a chance to realize their own potential and have an experience of success. Not only will participants have the opportunity to write their own plays, they will also design and create sets and props utilizing their artistic abilities. Next they will work with a high school student or adult actor to rehearse their short play and ready it for performance. The final short plays will be presented both live and in special video performance.

Times, dates and pricing can be found on the Art Center's website or by calling 239-394-4221



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Another Season in the Books

by Cindy Wesolowski, Marco Island Shell Club President

As I write this article, it is hard to believe another season has come to an end. Although it was a very different year, the Marco Island Shell Club made the most of it. Unfortunately we were once again this year, in the interest of everyone's health and safety, forced to cancel our Annual Shell Show. But that didn't stop us from hosting and participating in other events.

We hosted two outdoor sales, a two-day holiday sale after Thanksgiving, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and a two-day spring sale in March at the New Life Community Church. We were blessed with beautiful weather and excellent community turnout for both events.

In a normal year, our members meet as a group once a week during season to make beautifully crafted works of art with seashells that we sell at our sales. Although COVID prevented us from meeting as one large group this year, it didn't stop our members from working in small groups and at home to keep producing everything from flowers, jewelry, wreaths, holiday ornaments, home décor items and so much more, keeping the pipeline full for our sales.

The Marco Island Shell Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and funds raised at our sales and events go toward our scholarship and education programs where our mission is to promote the study, conservation,



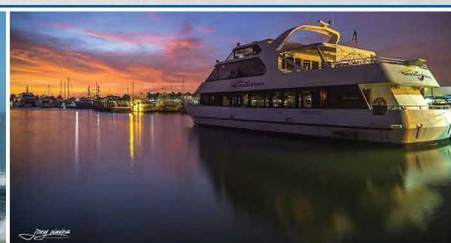
Display of handmade shell art



history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as shell collecting, crafting and shell art. To date the club has donated over \$100,000.

We are all looking forward to next season when hopefully we can resume our normal activities and hold our long awaited 40th Shell Show. Until then keep on shelling. We are so fortunate here on Marco to have such a wonderful natural resource in our long white sandy beach. Don't forget to look down as you walk and take notice of all the beautiful and unique local shells that roll ashore on our beach every day. But remember, before removing a shell from the beach to add to your collection, make sure it is empty and nobody is home. If you do find a living creature in the shell, be sure to gently return it to the water. Happy shelling!

*For more information on the
Marco Island Shell Club
please visit our website at
www.marcoshellclub.com*



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Promoting the visual, literary and performing arts on Marco Island

Proceeds support MIFA's Student Scholarship Fund

www.marcoislandfoundation.org

The Marco Island Foundation for the Arts (MIFA) has been a non-profit all volunteer organization on Marco Island since 2003.

Since that time, the foundation has sponsored many events on the island.



MIFA currently sponsors the **LEFT BANK ART FEST** held at the Esplanade, also the **BRUSHES & PAINT & BEYOND** outdoor art show and sale held at the Marco Island Historical Museum.



And, a **WINTER MOVIE FEST** series. Themes for the films are usually art, music, theater and dance inspired.



The arts can only continue to grow and survive with the help and encouragement for our future artists. So, proceeds from our events go toward **MIFA's SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND GRANT FUNDS**.

Each spring – eligible local students who are enrolled in a higher education form of the arts can apply for assistance from MIFA. These awards go toward helping defray the cost of their higher education.



MIFA also requests nominations from the public for **ARTIST OF THE YEAR**. This special honor recognizes the art or activity of a person or organization who has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of our Marco Island community.



Learn more about MIFA at www.marcoislandfoundation.org



The Marco Island Deed Restrictions

Updated by: Betty Hernandez, Deed Restriction Specialist

In October 1986, The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) was assigned the duty of enforcement of the declaration of restrictions. The declarations were placed and recorded for properties developed by the Deltona Corporation on Marco Island up to that date. Deltona created the deed restrictions to protect the integrity of the island and to assure conformity of all new construction in the geographic areas protected by the restrictions. As a general note: deed restrictions are an excellent tool for maintaining property values.

A condition of the agreement between Deltona and MICA was to create an Architectural Review Committee (ARC) which would act as an authority in the construction review process. Among others, the restrictions state that no new construction shall take place without a review and written approval of the design drawings by the ARC. The ARC is composed of individual volunteers who have a background in construction. Since 1986, the ARC continues to meet monthly. Of particular interest to the committee are setback requirements.

The deed restrictions cover single family residences, multi-family residential and commercial properties on the island and apply to most of the island. Areas not included are properties

located north of Old Marco Lane in Old Marco; the Highlands area; The Esplanade, Hideaway, Key Marco and a portion of beachfront properties. In deed restricted areas, construction drawings must be submitted to the ARC for review.

The deed restrictions differ somewhat from the City of Marco Island's Code of Ordinances. In cases where the restrictions don't match, the more conservative of the two must be met. Corner and shoulder lots have unique requirements and a meeting with the MICA Deed Restriction Specialist is encouraged prior to final design.

MICA works closely with the City of Marco Island Building Department. Although our requirements vary, if MICA observes a violation of City codes, we will notify the City. In return, on the City's application for a building permit, there is a notification to check with MICA for applicable deed restrictions.

If you are planning on building a new home or commercial building or adding a new screen enclosure, pool or addition, please call the MICA office to verify if deed restrictions run with your property at 239-642-7778. The application for ARC review may be downloaded at marcocivic.com.



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A Family's Future is Bright with a Safe, Affordable Home

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

As Habitat for Humanity of Collier County begins its 43rd year partnering with families to help them purchase a safe, affordable home, we are grateful for all who have offered their time, talents and treasures. Since our founding in 1978, more than 2,300 families and 5,500 children have been fortunate to receive a helping hand to purchase their home through the generous support of so many individuals and congregations in Collier County, especially on Marco Island.

Each month Habitat Collier reviews applications from families hoping they will qualify to purchase a Habitat home. When the pandemic began, applications for Habitat homes dropped as families feared for their job security and ability to pay their mortgages. The pandemic made it crystal clear that current living conditions for so many are untenable and not conducive for providing a family the safe shelter necessary when a crisis hits. Many families were unable to follow safety protocols recommended to keep themselves and their families healthy.

One year later we are delighted to see that families in need of safe and affordable shelter are feeling more confident that their employment is stable. In April 2021, 15 families who completed the rigorous application process were presented for approval to purchase a Habitat home. Three of them are employed on Marco Island. Ten more families are in the process of completing their applications and will be presented for approval next month.

Two of April's families are employed by JW Marriott. Elda has been a cook there for three years. She pays \$1,400 per month in rent for an apartment that is too small for her and her three children ages 11 to 16. In her application Elda said "I have the dream of every mother to give a decent roof to my children and that my children take pride and comfort in a worthy home with tranquility." This describes just what this family will have when they purchase their Habitat home and settle into their community with their neighbors.



Habitat Collier's newest community, Vincent's Acres, will be completed this spring

Elizabeth had an amazing journey that led her to be a cook at JW Marriott. She was a Track and Field athlete for her native Cuba. While on a trip to Mexico to compete in an international event, she defected to Mexico to find a better life. That's where she learned to cook. Eventually she moved to Miami to attend Culinary School and is now happily employed doing what she loves at JW Marriott. Even though she pays over \$1,300 per month in rent, she does not feel she is providing the home and security she wants for her 14-year-old daughter. One day her daughter dreams of pursuing Criminal Justice and becoming a detective. Elizabeth believes her



daughter will have a chance to reach her goals with the safety and stability of living in a secure Habitat home.

Our third applicant working on Marco Island is employed by Marco Electric. William, who served in the US Army for 4 years, is now an electrician. He is so grateful that his company is paying for him to go to school to earn his Journeyman's license. Today William and his two children, ages 10 and 11, are living in a small carriage house on property that has just been sold, forcing him to find a new place to live. He came to Habitat saying he would like to provide his children a home for independence.

Construction of Habitat homes continued throughout the pandemic though volunteer opportunities building homes on our job sites were limited. Thanks to staff and subcontractors, Habitat Collier's newest community, Vincent's Acres, will be completed this spring. 79 grateful families will purchase their forever home and move into this beautiful community.

Work has begun on Habitat Collier's next community, Whitaker Woods, where the walls for the first home were just raised. When complete, this community will be home to 125 families. Both Vincent's Acres and Whitaker Woods, as well as Dockside, our townhouse style community completed in 2019, are convenient for employees such as Elda, Elizabeth and William who work on Marco Island but cannot afford to live there.

Habitat Collier remains focused on our singular goal of making homeownership a reality for hard-working, low-wage earners in our community. We are sincerely grateful to all who provide support, helping us get one step closer to the day when everyone has a simple, decent home.

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.

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

DATE	GROUP	PARTNER	LOCATION
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.



*I'm Proud to Serve,
continued from page 17*

To dive in with both feet, keep my sleeves rolled up, and make a difference as a “public servant,” not as the typical government politician or someone who feels entitled to this position.

Thank you, citizens! In the short time I've been in the seat, I've had the pleasure to work with so many great people to attack areas in need, complete projects, gather groups together to discuss long-standing issues, and get things done! We have some capable people on our County staff, but we are also about to make some significant changes and needed improvements with a new County Manager. We will continue to recruit high quality people and also make some permanent changes that are long overdue. We have plenty of areas where we must improve in our County, and we need to stop making excuses or ignoring areas that need

attention. This position is much more than just being visible--it's also about being **EFFECTIVE**.

As a Marco resident myself, I know what the Marco City Council's responsibilities are, but as your County Commissioner I have a big role as well. As a candidate I attended Marco City Council meetings regularly, I'm doing the same now as an elected official, and for the first time the District 1 Commissioner is conversing and meeting regularly with the City Council and City Manager to ensure we are working together as a team and have the right set of priorities focused on our community and its citizens. Many said if you live on Marco Island now, you can never be elected County Commissioner, however, our District 1 citizens proved that to be an incorrect statement. I'm proud to now work **FOR ALL** and won't let you down!

NOTE: Send me an email to receive my weekly Commissioner Report - 15,000 citizens already do!
Email: Rick.LoCastro@CollierCountyFL.gov

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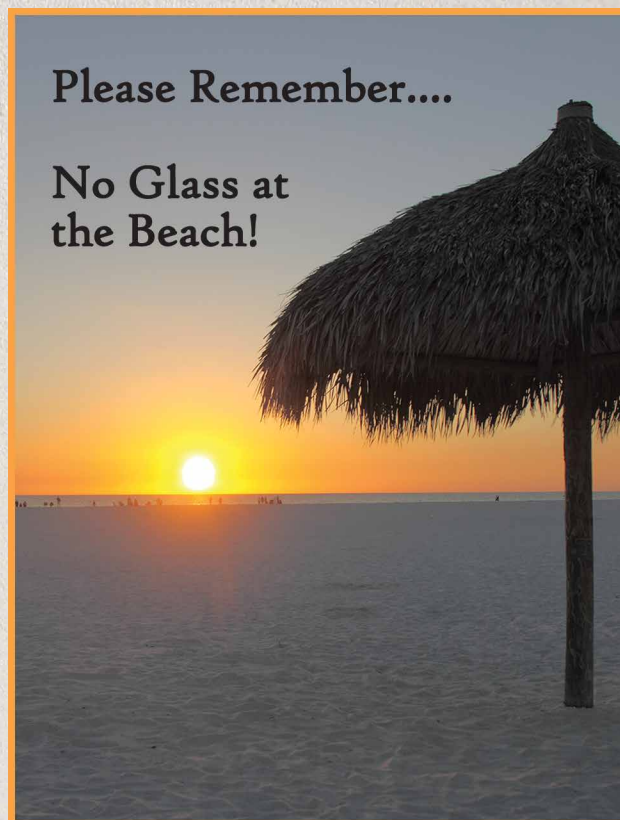
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Calusa Garden Club Recognized as a Blue Zones Project Organization

by Maria Lamb

On March 2, 2021 Calusa Garden Club (CGC) officially became a recognized Southwest Florida Blue Zones Project organization. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Butterfly Garden on Winterberry Park. Blue Zones Project Community Outreach Coordinator, Chante Pemberton, was present when Sharon Lewis, CGC Blue Zones Project Chair cut the ribbon with a dozen members of the garden club present.

Sharon Lewis welcomed Pemberton saying that the Calusa Garden club is delighted to join the Blue Zones Project and is eager to contribute to Marco Island becoming a “Blue Zones City.” Lewis added that the Club members want to foster the principles of well-being and that the members are already socially connected working together for common goals and are looking forward to participating in additional Blue Zones Project activities.

Pemberton remarked that the Calusa Garden Club of Marco was a perfect fit as a Blue Zones

organization because it is a “moai” which means a “group meeting for a common purpose.” The Calusa Garden Club is a group of like-minded people who share a common interest in horticulture, floral design, respect for wildlife and the environment; promoting the planting of Florida native vegetation and they also maintain a flourishing butterfly garden – as evidenced by the success of the Butterfly Garden in Calusa Park.

The Calusa Garden Club has a history of making “Marco a Better Place to Live.”

In 2001, under the leadership of Syd Mellinger, CGC raised over \$12,000 through the sale of a Garden Guide called “Palms, Pineapples and Periwinkles.” From the proceeds of the garden guide, the Butterfly Garden was made possible by a 2003 endowment from CGC to the City of Marco Island in the sum of \$10,000.

The Butterfly Garden is located in Calusa Park, a half mile winding shared pathway on Winterberry



On March 2, 2021, Calusa Garden Club officially became a recognized Southwest Florida Blue Zones Project Organization



Drive – now very popular with both walkers and recreational cyclists. The walkers usually stop by the garden to look at what is blooming that is attracting butterflies and pollinators.

An updated version of the Garden Guide is available for purchase through the Calusa Garden Club website (calusa.org) for \$10.00. These handy guides are perfect for homeowners.

CGC members also sponsor two \$1,000 scholarships to high school students living in Marco Island and graduating in 2021 and pursuing higher education in botany, conservation, ecology, marine biology, science or related fields.

Joining the Blue Zones Project is a testament of the common goals the garden club members share and they hope this will encourage others to follow their example and help make Marco Island a better place to live.

Photos by Maria Lamb



Tommie Barfield Junior Gardeners is a Calusa Garden Club sponsored after school program shown here with Donna Kay. CGC members share their love of gardening with Tommie Barfield students



Sharing a common goal, Calusa Garden Club members with the monthly maintenance of the Butterfly Garden



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www.sunshinestitchers.com

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Fine Dining in a Casual Atmosphere at Sami's



If you haven't visited Sami's on North Collier in the last year or so you will not recognize the exterior, interior or menu.... they even changed the name and chef... in fact the only thing you will recognize is owner Sami's big welcoming smile!

What many of us remember as a convenience store has, over the last few years, been gradually transformed into a fine dining restaurant, with a laid back casual atmosphere.

There is a new covered outdoor dining area with plenty of seating and an indoor/outdoor full bar, which now offers a great selection of premium liquors and signature cocktails. It's the perfect place to relax and enjoy some live entertainment or their popular happy hour, from 2:30-5:30 daily, with great value happy hour appetizers like Ahi tuna, fried calamari and chicken satay.

If you're a regular at Sami's you'll be pleased to hear that they still offer their very popular award winning pizzas, gyros and burgers but, when Chef Rohan Moxan joined the team last year, he also introduced many new dishes from around the world.

Appetizers include fresh sautéed mussels and baby lamb chops and there's a good selection of fresh salads. Entrées include a wide choice of pasta dishes like linguini vongole, lasagna and lobster ravioli. Fresh fish options include shrimp or snapper Francese and shrimp scampi. For meat eaters there's New York strip steak and petite filet as well as lamb or pork chops and chicken or veal parmigiana, picatta or marsala. Middle Eastern kebabs, gyros and pitas, English fish and chips and mild Indian curries complete the selection of international dishes.

All this is complemented by a newly expanded wine list and a wide selection of draft, craft and imported beers. Oh and don't forget to save room for dessert - they are all homemade.

If you feel like a night at home but don't want to cook, you can order on line for pick up or home delivery, which starts at 11am. So, if you haven't tried Sami's for a while.... now may be the time!

*Sami's is located at 227 North Collier Blvd.,
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at Residents' Beach

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