

MICA*wave*

OCTOBER 2021

www.marcocivic.com



A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association



**Bob Brown, President,
MICA Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bob Brown, President, MICA Board of Directors

To say this past year has been unique, interesting, and fraught with controversy, would be an understatement. While Marco Island has tried very hard to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe we all tried very hard to be good citizens.

Further, even with the virus chasing all of us, we had a season filled with visitors. I would be remiss if I did not mention that we work hard with various groups to keep our pristine beach just that, pristine. Please do your part by not leaving anything on the beach that you brought and if you happen to see someone leave something, please help us all by picking it up. Over and over, we ask that no glass be brought onto the beach. If you have a youngster, I guarantee you would not enjoy rushing your child to Urgent Care with a gash that needs stitches. This happened to my nephew one time, and it was terrible for the child and also for the parents. Join us on October 16, 8am, for the MICA-sponsored beach cleanup that starts at Residents' Beach.

While we had an abbreviated July Fourth celebration, the fireworks were spectacular and once again, MICA was a proud donor to this extraordinary display. MICA did not have on site festivities or music, but members enjoyed a fantastic day at the beach!

Please note that your membership from 2020-2021 expired at the end of August, and you need to renew either online or at the office. We all know that Residents' Beach is the gem of Marco Island, and we want to welcome all owners and residents back again. While you are at the office, please thank our office staff for the great job they do to help MICA succeed. I certainly will not forget our gate attendants also. This sometimes-thankless job is handled very well by these wonderful folks. Many of you know them either by name or by face and a friendly smile is always appreciated. For those who enjoy the South Beach experience, your membership card is all you need to park at Sarazen Park. Simply place your Residents' Beach ID card face up on the front dashboard of your vehicle.

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Cover Photo:
Courtesy of Frank Steiger Photography LLC.
The SS Jolley Bridge during a recent lightning storm!

Betty Hernandez, MICA's Deed Restriction Specialist, reviews construction plans for Deltona Deed Restriction compliance. Every 30 years MICA must renew these deed restrictions, and you may have received or will be receiving a letter from MICA advising you of the deed restrictions preservation. The letter is merely a formality and there is no action required by you.

Of course, we would never write anything unless we mentioned Ruth and Dennis McCann who work tirelessly to help us all enjoy the MICA and Residents' Beach experience. Lastly, many thanks to our Board of Directors who meet every month to discuss how to improve your experience. We have lost two board members, Thomas Morr and Tom Valiante, who moved off island. They will be missed.

On a sad note, past MICA board members, Phyllis Marco and Brian Kudis, recently passed away. Phyllis was a joy to work with over many years, and Brian had served two terms on the board and was an avid beachgoer. We offer our sympathy and prayers to their family and friends.

The Board and I wish to thank the membership for your continued support.

LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME

by Ruth McCann, a Dog Mom

We all love our pet dogs. However, on Marco Island and elsewhere in Collier County, we cannot take our little precious pooches to the beach. That is a fact. It is listed under Section 54-36 of the City of Marco Island's Code of Ordinances: "Restrictions on animals on the beach. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having under their control any animal, to permit such animal upon the beach, except service dogs accompanying persons with special needs shall be allowed on the beach at all times."

Pets are never permitted on the beach or on any portion of the Marco Island Residents' Beach Park or MICA's Sarazen Park. You may not enter either property with a pet at any time.

Service dogs are permitted. For your convenience, we would urge you to register your service dog with your membership at the MICA office. A notation of your service dog will appear on your ID card for ease of access at the two MICA parks. Residents' Beach members who have and need service dogs have asked us to pass along a message: please respect the law!

A service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. The dog must be trained to take a specific action when needed to assist the person with a disability. In addition, the individual can be asked what the task(s) and action are.

The dog's handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal, which includes toileting, feeding, grooming and veterinary care.

You also *cannot* bring a service dog that is *not registered to you* to the beach, or anywhere for that matter. A few months ago, a couple had their grandson's service dog with them on the beach. Their grandson was back at the house! The couple and the service dog had to leave the property immediately.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA. These terms are used to describe animals that provide comfort just by being with a person, and they do *not* qualify as service animals, thus they are not permitted on any beach on Marco Island, nor at Residents' Beach Park, nor Sarazen Park.

If you see a dog on the beach on Marco Island, please call the Marco Island Police Department's non-emergency number at 239-389-5050. This number is staffed 24/7. Be ready to supply a description and address.

A few other beach rules that are part of the Code of Ordinances that make perfect sense: glass containers are prohibited; no bikes – only strollers permitted; overnight camping and open fires are prohibited, this includes grills of any type; no aircraft within 750 feet of the beach; dunes are protected and removal of sand from the beach is prohibited; and it should go without saying that absolutely no live shell may be removed or destroyed. At Residents' Beach, fishing is permitted outside of the buoyed swim area. And finally, take your trash with you. FYI, cigarette butts are trash!

Fines are associated with violations of the above laws. Have a great day on the beach and save yourself some grief by following the City of Marco Island's Code of Ordinances.

Presenting Magical Marco



Thinking of buying or selling
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With our deep local
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exposure you can trust
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MARCO ISLAND WATER QUALITY STATUS REPORT JULY 2021

by Eugene Wordehoff

Citizen of Marco Island, Member, Waterways Advisory Committee to City Council

Problem: Marco Island waterways are impaired for dissolved oxygen.

Hypoxia is oxygen depletion in waterways. Oxygen depletion is a phenomenon that occurs in aquatic environments as dissolved oxygen becomes reduced in concentration to a point where it becomes detrimental to aquatic organisms living in the system, such as fish, grasses and oysters.

A Hypoxia Investigation was presented at the Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting on August 19, 2021. This report shows that the Marco Island waterways are impaired for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and trending to hypoxia. If this continues, Marco Island will officially be declared impaired for DO in 2023. The Marco Island waterways are already impaired for Total Nitrogen (TN). Nitrogen is a pollutant food source for Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) which in turn consume oxygen.

All water quality sampling locations in Basins 1, 2 and 4 are impaired for DO as they are below the healthy DO limit of 5.0 mg/L. Basin 5 is the only healthy basin on the island; Basin 5 gets NO reuse water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Swallow Water Quality (WQ) sampling location has been hypoxic for two months now.

This location is near Cape Marco Point and is surrounded on three sides by condominiums that use reuse water for landscape irrigation. What home buyer tells their realtor that they want impaired water next to their dream home? This can't be good for real estate values. What will be the impact to tourism? In Florida, tourism is more than just big business, it is THE business.

The hypoxia investigation indicates that nutrients in the reuse water on Marco are the root-cause of oxygen depletion in these waterways. Let's be clear - reuse water is treated sewage. "Reuse" is the politically correct term.

Sounds like a good thing. What the state forgot when they promoted this program is the massive amounts of nutrients that come with this "water" that we joyfully use to fertilize the lush green grass in our public spaces.

Reuse water represents a significant revenue stream to the City. It is also a cheap source of water for landscape irrigation. City of Marco Island documents show that users of reuse water include the three golf courses: Island Country Club, Hideaway Beach and Naples Golf - Marriott Resort as well as the condos and hotels along Collier Boulevard.

Nutrients feed algal blooms that consume oxygen in the waterways leading to seagrass die-off. Hypoxia eventually leads to the death of all aquatic life in the waterways. We are now seeing algal blooms on a weekly basis in the Marco Island waterways.

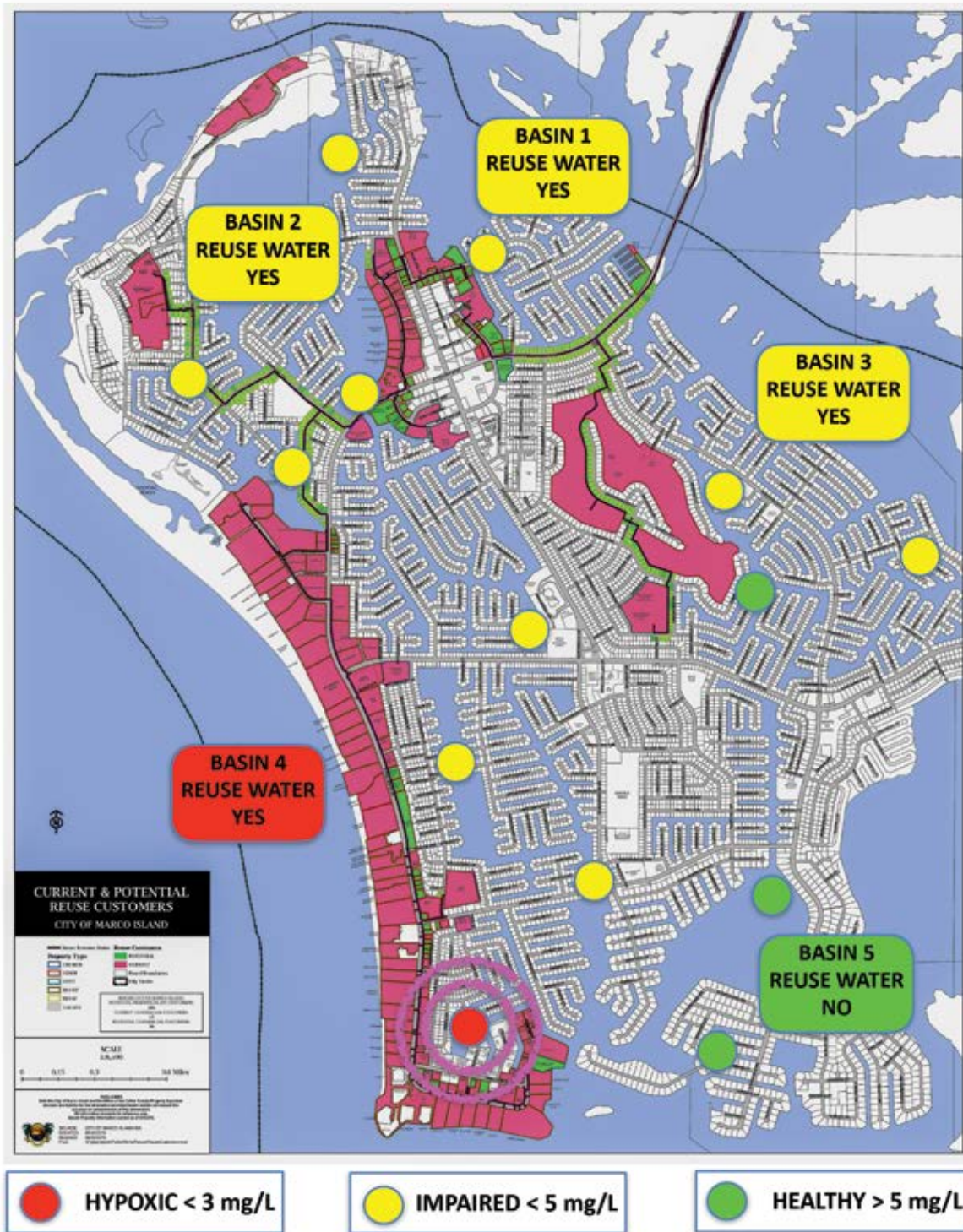
The hypoxia problem is on Marco Island only and does not exist elsewhere in the estuary. In fact, the DO in the Rookery Bay estuary and the 10,000 Islands is increasing. This impairment is caused by Marco and the impairment is focused only on Marco. Is there any sea grass left for manatee to feed on? The manatee no longer come here in the numbers that they used to. We assume that they go elsewhere in the Rookery Bay estuary to find their food. The manatee in the Indian River Lagoon, east of Orlando, are not so lucky. They have nowhere else to go. They die of starvation.

The reuse water on Marco contains nitrogen that is 18 times the level of this nutrient allowed by the FDEP in our waterways; Worse yet, the reuse water on Marco contains phosphorus that is 63 times the level of this nutrient allowed by the FDEP. Phosphorus is banned from use as a fertilizer on the island. Why do we allow phosphorus to be dumped on the island in the form of reuse water?

Solution: Clean up the reuse water.

Marco Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Status JUL-21

Source: City of Marco Island, Water Quality Sampling Reports



11 locations Impaired; Swallow location Hypoxic

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS!



Florence Fisk turned 101 on April 29th, 4 generations celebrated her special day - Flo's daughter Lynne Hall, granddaughter Kim Razavi, and great-granddaughter Ashley Shepp. What a blessing Flo is to her family. Many memories have been made on Marco and hopefully there will be many more to come.

*"When you do nothing,
you feel overwhelmed and
powerless. But when you get
involved, you feel the sense
of hope and accomplishment
that comes from knowing you
are working to make things
better."*

- Pauline R. Kezer

GET READY TO MAKE NOISE!



*The Knights of Columbus
Car Show
November 6, 2021,
8:30AM to 1:30PM
San Marco Church*

This is the 4th year for the show that "Sets the Stage" for cars shows in the Marco Naples area. Show car owners will be charged \$20 for entry and will be provided with a free lunch. Spectator fee will be \$5, children under 12 are free.

This year's show will again have some of the finest show cars in the area including corvettes, hot rods, sports cars and classics. Trophies will be awarded in 10 categories, including Best in Show. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Music will be provided by DJ "Sugarcube", including many oldies from the 60s and 70s.

Please come out and support the Knights of Columbus who do many charitable events for our community.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE KNIGHTS!

SFWMD IS WORKING TO ADVANCE EVERGLADES RESTORATION, 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

After I retired from the US Army, I chose Marco Island as my home and moved to Southwest Florida in 2002. I love our natural environment and the plants and animals that make it so unique. I have dedicated years to understanding and protecting these fragile systems and often think about what else we can do to improve water quality and reduce harmful discharges to the estuaries.

Now I serve as a Governing Board Member for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and as the Chair of Big Cypress Basin Board. I understand how important it is to expedite Everglades restoration projects, which are key to the future health of Florida's ecosystem. Between Governor DeSantis' commitment to the environment and record funding from the Florida Legislature for Everglades restoration, we have been able to reach major milestones and celebrate unprecedented momentum. Here are some of the significant accomplishments over the past few months.

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



L-R: SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Governing Board Members Ben Butler, Vice-Chair Scott Wagner, "Alligator Ron" Bergeron, Charlette Roman and Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

FRIENDS OF THE MARCO ISLAND LIBRARY

By Nanette Finkle, Board Member The Marco Island Library

NEWS

Welcome, Trish!

Trish Cleary just started her position at the Library in August. She comes from Colorado, where she was employed as a library staff member for three years. Previously, she enjoyed a long career with Hewlett-Packard as a Systems Analyst and helped set up the company's computer system for Mathematical Modeling.

New Book Drop

Librarian Brenda Rasch and Friends of the Library Board President Marie Johnson proudly show off the new Book Drop donated by the Friends of the Marco Island Library at a cost of \$4800. The Book Drop, manufactured by Kingsley, has the capacity to hold 540 books and comes with a "forever warranty". It is weather resistant, rustproof, highly theft deterrent and fire resistant. It's available for use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NEW HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 10 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

NEW PROGRAMS

Family Story Time:

Every Thursday, 10:30-11:15 am

Enjoy stories, songs and crafts for children of all ages and caregivers. No registration required.

Lego Club:

October 7th, 3:30-4:30 pm

Join the club and share ideas. Be creative, make new friends and have fun! Ages 5-11 years. Lego bricks provided. No registration required.

Beginning Crochet:

October 9th, 10-11:30 am

Registration begins at 9:00 am. Crochet has been found to reduce stress while you produce beautiful gifts for your family and friends. This first in a series of 3 classes teaches the basics of crochet and provides patterns for several simple book markers. By registering for this class, you will be automatically registered for the November and December classes. Starter yarn and a limited supply of loaner hooks will be provided. If you already know how to crochet or have attended other sessions, there is no need to register. Ages 18 and up.



Trish Cleary



*Librarian Brenda Rasch and
Friends of the Library Board
President Marie Johnson
proudly show off the new Book
Drop donated by the Friends
of the Marco Island Library*

continued on next page

WELCOME TO FLORIDA

by Kaitlin M Sikes

Storytelling is a difficult art form to master, and even good storytelling is diluted in the massive pool of podcasts available. There are an astounding 720,000 podcast series for listeners to choose from. Trying to find something with the right balance of entertainment and information is enough to make a listener throw out their headphones.

Somewhere in the podcast jumble, I discovered “Welcome to Florida”, hosted by Craig Pittman and Chadd Scott. You may have read Craig Pittman’s books “Cat Tale” (2020) or “Oh, Florida” (2016). His new book “The State You’re In” (2021) just hit shelves and I’m looking forward to reading more of his signature snark and optimism. Craig also writes an environmental column for the Florida Phoenix. Chadd Scott worked in sports radio for 25 years (my husband remembers his voice from Jacksonville sports radio). In 2020 he embarked on a new chapter. Chadd is passionate about the environment, and wondered what he could do to help. After reading one of Craig’s books, he reached out and asked him if he would like to start a podcast about Florida. As luck would have it, Craig happened to have a pilot episode of “Welcome to Florida” in the can from years prior. With over 1,000 people moving to Florida daily, Craig thought newcomers needed to know about the place they were moving to.

Chadd is quick to point out that Florida has an unusual number of tie-ins to national stories, so there is no shortage of stories to cover. With 65 podcast episodes to date, Chadd and Craig have done a range of interviews. They’ve covered the 1980s riots in Miami and interviewed Carl Hiaasen. Their most listened-to episode now features an interview with Dr. Cynthia Heil, discussing red tide. The second most listened-to episode is about the Villages.

As Chadd describes it, “Welcome to Florida”, “explores Florida’s history, people, politics, environment, animals, current events, and weirdness.” Both Chadd and Craig are excellent storytellers in their own right, but with contrasting personalities, they balance each other and stand out from the podcast crowd.



*“Welcome to Florida” podcast
co-host, Craig Pittman*

Friends of the Marco Island Library continued from page 8

Tuesday Matinee:

October 12th, 1-3 pm

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, come to the library and enjoy a first run film. All films are rated PG or above. Some films may have violence and/or adult language. Call the Library @ (239) 252-7064 to find out what film will be shown this month. No registration is required.

“Book a Librarian”:

Monday - Saturday, 3-5 pm

This program replaces the LEAP program where high school students assisted Library patrons. Patrons can call the Library and request a half hour session with a staff member for help using their electronic devices in conjunction with digital resources available through the Library. Bring your fully-charged devices, email address, library card, passwords and any log-in information.

OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY NEWEST MEMBER OF BLUE ZONES PROJECT

by Maria Lamb

On Tuesday, September 7th, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP) was officially recognized as a Blue Zones Organization after working with Blue Zones Project for four years.

According to Chante Pemberton, Blue Zones Project Community Outreach Coordinator, ODBFP is the perfect and right tribe for the Blue Zones Project. The volunteers are fit; they exercise together every Saturday; they are doing so much in bringing people together; and they are distributing food to people in need in the community.

Asked why Blue Zones is the perfect partner for ODBFP, Jean O'Neill, a volunteer shared her story. She attended a presentation on the Blue Zones Project and in 15 minutes, she was hooked. Most of the things Blue

Zones was proposing – Jean and her husband, Paul were already doing. They were walking everywhere and thanks to Blue Zones, they are strengthening their ties with old friends and also focusing on reading food labels to see how nutritious their meals really are.

Jean also added “I was amazed at all the things we’ve already done.” Every Saturday morning, Jean leads stretching exercises at the Food Panty before they start their busy day. Under the Move Naturally principle, you are encouraged to find ways to move more and burn calories.

Jane Blong, also a volunteer had taken the lead on nutrition, sometimes trying Blue Zones recipe cards at home, then sharing her feedback with the other volunteers. Most of the recipes suggest adding more



Photos by Maria Lamb

It's Official! Our Daily Bread Food Pantry newest Blue Zone Project Organization

fruits and vegetables. In addition, ODBFP formed a Well Being Team (Jean O'Neill, Pat Carr, Jane Blong, Jo-Anne Lundquist, Liz Pecora and Nancy Kot).

According to Liz Pecora, ODBFP's involvement with the Blue Zones Project was a natural fit as it was wonderfully aligned with their mission: ODBFP is committed to offering nutritionally balanced food to those in need. This includes a large bag of fresh quality fruits and vegetables for every household - about 50 pounds per household, enough to get them through the week.

ODBFP is on pace to serve almost 200,000 individuals this year, gathering and distributing over 1 million pounds of food.

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, is a 501(C)(3) organization, started in 2016 with a bold mission - Working to Wipe Out Hunger. This all volunteer organization has an all women leadership team assisted by 5 managers and a force of over 200 dedicated volunteers. Our Daily Bread Food Pantry exists to share the love of God by reducing hunger and building relationships in our community. If you would like to help or learn more, please call 239-259-5188 or visit ourdailybreadfoodpantry.com.



Jo-Anne Lundquist, Jim Mahone (NCH) Liz Pecora, receiving the Blue Zones certificate



Volunteer Teresa Perkins sorting donated food



ODBFP volunteers loading a car with a week's supply of groceries

RISK RATING 2.0 THROUGH NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

by Kelli DeFedericis, CFM

Floodplain Coordinator, CRS Coordinator, City of Marco Island

Flood Insurance through the National Flood Insurance program (NFIP) has been amended to add new risk factors to determine the annual premium. The new risk factors are to expose the true risk of the insured structure.

FEMA has not disclosed what data they are using for the risk rating factors. However, residents on Marco will see a substantial increase in their flood insurance premiums.

Starting October 1, 2021, FEMA will roll out the new Risk Rating 2.0 (RR 2.0) and refer to the old policy as the Legacy policy.

Homeowners who have carried flood insurance for over a year will be put on a glidepath. The glidepath will increase flood insurance each year until the full risk rate is achieved. The increase will be a maximum of 18% each year.

If you are buying a home, where the current owner does not carry flood insurance the new owner will be rated at the full risk rate. There is no glidepath. As

specified above, you must have carried NFIP flood insurance for a year to be put on the glidepath.

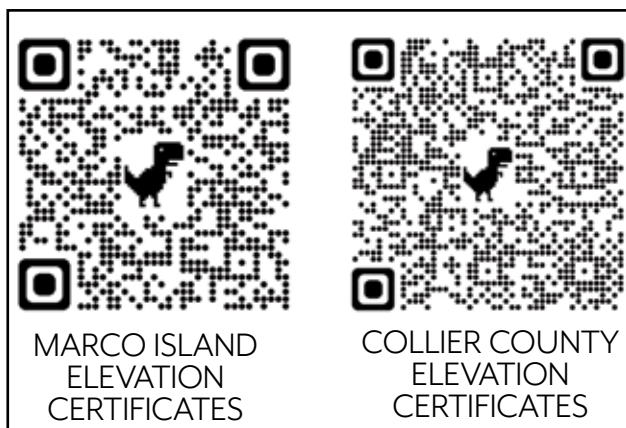
Your flood insurance agent is the only person who can provide information on what your full risk rate will be.

The table below is an example of what the glidepath will look like. Starting at \$1,500 policy gliding to full risk rate at \$5,000, over a 10-year period.

The new RR 2.0 does not require an elevation certificate to determine the premium. However, it is highly recommended to obtain an elevation certificate. An elevation certificate is the only document which can provide site specific information for the premium rating, the NFIP might not have in their data base.

Elevation Certificates do not expire; however, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are updated. If an elevation certificate is prepared using an outdated FIRM, the City can provide a flood information letter as a supporting document to the elevation certificate. The flood information letter will reference all the current FIRM information.

YEARS	LEGACY RATE	18% INCREASE	-25%	TOTAL
1	1500	270	68	1702
2	1702	306	77	1931
3	1931	347	87	2191
4	2191	394	99	2486
5	2486	447	112	2821
6	2821	508	127	3202
7	3202	576	144	3634
8	3634	654	163	4125
9	4125	743	185	4683
10	4683	317	1250	3750
<i>The CRS discount is only applied to the 18% increase. Once you get to full risk rate you will receive the 25% off the full premium</i>				



The City of Marco Island along with Collier County have elevation certificates on file. Scan the QR code to access the elevation certificates.

There are still many unknown variables about RR 2.0 and glitches being worked out; however, if you have a new RR 2.0 policy and have questions or would like to share a before (Legacy) and after (RR 2.0) policy please e-mail Fema-riskrating2-action@fema.dhs.gov with a copy to kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com. Providing policy information is not an action to reduce the policy premium, it is to provide documentation for analyzing the difference between the “legacy” policy and the “RR 2.0” policy.

FIRMs will no longer be used to rate the flood insurance policies, as they were designed to do. The FIRMs will be used to determine if flood insurance is required and for building compliance purposes.

As most are aware, FEMA through AECOM an engineering firm, issued Marco Island preliminary FIRMs, dated December 31, 2019. The City of Marco submitted an appeal to FEMA June 2021; in response to the increase of the base flood elevations. If you have questions regarding the appeal, please use the QR code to access the City’s website. FEMA has confirmed they received the appeal but have not provided any update to the status of their review of the appeal.

We will continue to keep the public updated as things progress.

Remember: “Floods Know No Lines and Where It Rains It Can Flood.”

Should you have any questions feel free to reach out to Kelli DeFedericis, CFM at 239-389-3926 or kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com

Scan this QR code to access The City of Marco Island website.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

BEACH CLEAN UP

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

at Residents’ Beach

The City of Marco Island Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee
Partnered with MICA and OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

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We celebrated the early completion of the Old Tamiami Trail Roadbed Removal Project in Miami-Dade County. The removal of nearly six miles of roadbed was completed six months ahead of schedule. Removing the old roadbed allows more water to flow south into Everglades National Park and reduces harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries. This project will increase the flow of freshwater into Everglades National Park by more than 220 billion gallons per year.

In Central Florida, I recently joined members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to celebrate the completion of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. Over the past 22 years, the SFWMD worked with the USACE to restore more than 40 square miles of the river floodplain ecosystem, 20,000 acres of wetlands, and 44 miles of the historic river channel.

The Kissimmee River is a significant part of America's Everglades. This once meandering river and its floodplain were channelized in the 1960s after recurring and prolonged flooding impacted local residents. While the channelization delivered flood protection, it also greatly harmed the river - floodplain ecosystem. The decline of this ecosystem spurred federal, state, and local partnerships to embark on one of the world's largest riverine restoration efforts – a project that will provide ecological benefits for generations. Additional projects and

restoration efforts in the region will support continued restoration of Florida's iconic Kissimmee River.

In Collier County, a key pump station at the Picayune Strand State Forest – known as the Faka Union Pump Station – was turned on for the first time. Starting these pumps meant that we had reached a major milestone for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. I was honored to activate the pumps for this important station, which will help rehydrate drained wetlands and restore the area's natural sheet flow.

In the 1960s, developers dug canals to drain the land, which resulted in the destruction of the natural



*Governing Board Member Charlette Roman
activates the Faka Union Pumps*



SFWMD Governing Board Members joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of the Interior, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, elected officials, and many stakeholders to celebrate the Kissimmee River Restoration Project

habitat. The SFWMD partnered with USACE to plug some of those canals with dirt in order to facilitate sheet flow outside the canals. We're now seeing immediate environmental benefits across thousands of acres that had been previously canalized. Re-hydration of these important wetlands supports wildlife habitat, improves water quality and benefits the overall environmental restoration efforts in the region.

The Faka Union Pump Station is an important component of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. Construction on the overall project continues to proceed rapidly. Once complete, the project will restore 55,000 acres of natural habitat and improve flows of water into Collier Seminole State Park, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The SFWMD worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and many local governments to complete a feasibility study on ensuring clean water from the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir. Recently, we held a Caloosahatchee

Reservoir Water Quality Component Meeting where we presented our path forward to the public.

Public engagement is a very important part of our work, and we value input from members of the public. Please check out the District's upcoming public meetings calendar on <https://www.sfwmd.gov/event> so you can see what's happening in your area. As one of your representatives, I continue to prioritize relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders water users, environmental organizations, elected leaders, and various government agencies.

For me, preserving and protecting our environment is of paramount concern. I'm proud of the District's accomplishments, but there is still a lot of important work to do. We're working every day to advance Everglades restoration, improve water quality, ensure a strong water supply, and protect the region from flooding. We are also committed to ensuring the resiliency of the region's water resources and ecosystems. This is an exciting and critical time for Florida's future.



Caloosahatchee River

SHARING THE BEACH WITH OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

by Maria Lamb

Our migratory feathered friends have arrived – these are species that generally migrate south each fall from their breeding habitats to their wintering grounds. All migratory birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916.

Red Knots are robin size shorebirds weighing under 0.4 lb. with small eyes, thin black legs and a short black bill. Red Knots have an incredible story to tell as they undertake a winter journey across the North Pole, to the tidal flats in Tierra Del Fuego, South America (about 9,000 miles one way). En-route, they stop in places like Marco Island beaches to rest, feed and gain weight to complete that journey and some may stay.

Right off Residents' Beach, Jean Hall, a shorebird volunteer, and Brittany Piersma, biologist for Audubon of the Western Everglades, had a Red Knot bonanza the weekend after Hurricane Ida.

Some were bathing and foraging and Piersma was busy counting the Red Knots and recording their bands. Red Knot HKM and AX3 visited Marco 6 years ago and here they were again looking healthy.

Further to the north, towards Sand Dollar Island, I have seen a “bowl” of roseate spoonbills by the mudflats right after the second mangrove clearing. They grunt as they feed by the shallows of the Tigertail Lagoon looking all pink and gorgeous even from a distance.

According to Brittany Piersma, Roseate Spoonbills are year-round residents and when done nesting in the other parts of the state, they will winter in larger flocks in our area.

A regular visitor is the Reddish Egret seen playing by the shallow waters stalking its prey with a unique dance. Spreading its wings, it prances, flutters, sprints back and forth like a crazy maniac bird while stabbing the water with its pink dagger bill.

The American Avocets has an eye-catching long thin bill that curves upward. You can't miss its distinctive black and white striped pattern on its back and sides.

Most of our migrant friends congregate by the wrack line, where they feed on clumps of dried plant materials, offering an array of delicious snacks.



Photos by Jean Hall

Red Knots are long distance flyers often seen off Residents' Beach foraging and bathing



Bubble Gum Pink Roseate Spoonbills by the mudflats of Tigertail Lagoon



Beautiful Reddish Egret - often seen by the shallow waters stalking its prey



American Avocet - can't miss its distinctive black and white striped pattern on its back and sides



This Red Knot was last sighted in Marco 6 years ago

Etiquette Around Migratory Birds:

Beaches and tidal areas are important to all our wildlife but during winter migration, we have birds resting and feeding in these sandy places.

- No dogs on the beach
- Keep your beach clean and plastic free
- Don't feed the birds
- Keep an eye on children and please do not flush the birds
- Discard fishing lines appropriately – Birds can get entangled
- Walk or run around flocks of resting birds.

RESIDENTS' BEACH PHOTOS - *Member submitted photos.*

To be featured in the next edition of MICAwave, send your favorite photo by email to info@marcocivic.com



Eric Rosenberg - scenes from sunset at Residents' Beach



Marie Johnson - has many favorite Residents' Beach photos from over the last few years



Aimee Haber - family day at Residents' Beach



*Melodee James -
having fun at the playground*



*Peter Jahn -
sunset at Residents' Beach*



*Virginia Montemurro -
taken the Monday of Holy Week 2021*



Kris Kugler - Kris' grandchildren, Maddie and Major



I'M PROUD TO SERVE!

by Rick LoCastro, Collier County Commissioner, District 1

It's been a busy summer working as your full-time County Commissioner all over District 1 and beyond. There certainly is a lot happening on Marco Island and in our surrounding area... here's a few highlights of major items on my list and the progress we've made!

Goodland Drive - On Budget and Ahead Of Schedule:

The project to finally raise Goodland Drive and also install several culverts to deal with serious flooding problems we've had for many years continues to progress... and is "on budget and now ahead of schedule" - our new District 1 expectation for ALL construction projects!

In most areas the road has already been raised 2 feet or more. Work continues... we aren't done yet! It looks like a tight military operation reminiscent of my days during Desert Storm where we mobilize "everything" to get the job done!

Contractor has been working around the clock at no additional cost. Traffic is flowing smoothly... periodically we have to shut down to one lane and direct traffic either way (not unlike any other road construction project) but delays are minimal. Residents have been patient, extremely thankful, and crews tell me often citizens drive by and hand them bottles of cold water and offer a handshake... just what you would expect from the incredible friendly fishing village Goodland is!

Fakahatchee Boardwalk Project:

East of Collier Blvd on US 41 in the edges of District 1 is an amazing park and boardwalk called Fakahatchee Strand Preserve. For 60 years we've had a 2,500 ft boardwalk that goes deep into the Everglades and it's an amazing excursion open and free to the public (donations accepted). We currently have a major construction project which is adding a second 1,100 ft boardwalk addition around the other side of Green Heron Lake and most importantly is also constructing a parking lot so visitors to the area no longer have to park dangerously along the road. In the end we will



Rick LoCastro
Collier County Commissioner,
District 1

2021 CHRISTMAS ISLAND STYLE

ANNUAL STREET PARADE

Saturday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

San Marco Road between Balfour and South Barfield.



ANNUAL BOAT PARADE

Saturday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Visit www.ChristmasIslandStyle.com for more information



have TWO boardwalks to enjoy, a safe parking area, and an amazing closer look at undisturbed wilderness that is unique to District 1 and Southwest Florida.

Near the second boardwalk will also be a screened-in pavilion for educational tours and visitors to learn more about the Everglades. We are also discussing newer and better signage so residents and visitors can find this beautiful stop-off point. This is a \$3 million project which we are working hard to ensure follows our “new” mantra in District 1 of ALL projects being ON TIME AND ON BUDGET! After 12 months of construction - we should be cutting a ribbon in May 2022!

It's critical we do all we can to not only protect our Everglades... but to ensure we work aggressive environmental discussion into every project, development, and issue in this fragile ecosystem called Southwest Florida. It doesn't mean we can always do everything perfectly and please all... as we balance controlled growth with environmental concerns... but we must ensure impacting and preserving our environment is NOT an afterthought.

New Marco Airport Terminal Lawsuit Settled:

You may recall when I took office last November, I highlighted our new Marco Island Executive Airport Terminal project as something we should NOT be proud of. It was delivered two years late, over budget, and with issues that needed attention. We finally held the contractor accountable to complete the job, and then took legal action for a refund and discounts for a project that was long overdue and unacceptable. Happy to report we settled and saved the taxpayers approximately \$2 Million off the \$9 Million project.

Beach mat on the way and park upgrades are happening:

The mat for South Beach on Marco, allowing people with walking issues in deep sand, parents pushing strollers, wheelchairs, etc..., is now in our possession. Thank you once again to the “Marco Patriots” for bringing this need to my attention. We still have some permitting to do, and we can't install it until Nov 1st (after turtle season)... but we are much closer to MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT! Also,

visit any of our District 1 parks (Sugden, Eagle Creek, Tigertail and others)... and you will find renovated bathrooms, cracked sidewalks all replaced, broken equipment fixed or replaced, renewed landscape, additional benches and garbage cans... and much more to come. We are now putting significant needed attention on our District 1 County parks!

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. I recently also met with MICA leadership and will work closely with them and others to ensure Marco Island and all of District 1 has an engaged, hard-working, full-time County Commissioner getting things done!

*You can reach
Commissioner Rick LoCastro at:
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Office: (239) 252-8601
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MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

by Hyla Crane,

Executive Director Marco Island Center for the Arts



Artwork by
Dani Papanikolaou



The Festival of Trees



Patchouli and
Terra Guitarra

Marco Island Center for the Arts is excited to kick off its 2021-2022 season. As always there will be an exciting array of art exhibitions, classes and workshops for adult students, music, programs and more.

Art Exhibitions that will run from October 2021 - January 2022 are as follows:

From October 11 - November 22, *Abstraction and Expressionism* with the works of Gary Armstrong, Cheryl Costley, Nancy Norman and Dani Papanikolaou will be in the main galleries. Dani will be presenting an evening of performance art accompanied with music by Chris Bepko on October 28 from 6:30-8:30pm.

From December 6 - January 4, the *Art Center's Clay Guild* will show their work in an exhibition entitled **Earth, Wind and Fire**.

The new year will see the works of Emily James, Rachel Pierce, Phyllis Pransky, JoAnn Sanborn in **Florida: Paradise Found**.

Artists exhibiting their work on a monthly basis from October through January will be photographer *Peter McDermott* (October), *Marco Island Charter Middle School art students* (November), *Mary and Martha Limont* (December) and *Claire Keery* (January).

Every second Tuesday, the Art Center is the place to be on Marco Island. Enjoy the gallery reception, meet the artists and sample wine provided by wine sponsor Total Wine and More of Naples.

Halloween will be celebrated with two special programs with folklorist and author Christopher Balzano. *Haunted Tales of Southwest Florida* will be an evening for adults on October 14 at 6pm and *Top 10 Ghostly Tales* will be a children's program on October 16 from 9:30-11 am. Children will have a chance to decorate their own trick or treat bags.

The 8th *Festival of Trees* will take place from November 30 - December 2. This annual exhibition with trees donated by individuals, businesses, schools, and artists, makes the Art Center an essential part of celebrating the holidays on Marco Island.

The Musical Interludes series moves back inside to our gallery with *Gulfshore Opera's Dueling Divas* on October 21 and the world music of *Patchouli and Terra Guitarra* on November 4. Both performances start at 5:30pm.

Embark on your own artistic journey by taking an adult class or workshop at the Art Center. With programs offered in painting, drawing, clay, sculpting and much more, there is sure to be a class that inspires you. Many marvelous artists will be returning to teach as well as a cadre of new instructors offering new experiences. Why take an art class? Hands on art activities increase cognitive ability, provide relaxation, promote self-esteem and are a great way to make new friends.

Once you cross the Art Center's threshold you become a part of the Art Center Family. The Art Center strives every day in every way to be an Art Home for all. Located at 1010 Winterberry Dr, Marco Island.

MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS ADDS ART-O-MAT[®] AHEAD OF 2021-2022 SEASON

Marco Island Center for the Arts has added a new way to buy art for any visitors to the 1010 Winterberry Drive facility. The Art-o-mat[®] machine is an art installation made from a repurposed cigarette machine and offers each visitor to the building an easy and affordable way to own a small piece of handmade art.

The inspiration for Art-o-mat[®] came to artist Clark Whittington while observing a friend who had a Pavlovian response to the crinkle of cellophane. When the friend heard someone opening a snack, he had the uncontrollable urge to have one too. Whittington used a recently banned cigarette machine to create the first Art-o-mat[®] as part of a solo exhibition in Winston Salem, NC in 1997. This machine sold Whittington's black and white photographs mounted on blocks and wrapped in cellophane for one dollar each. When the show was scheduled to leave the gallery the owner, Cynthia Giles, loved the machine so much that she asked that it stay permanently. Giles introduced Whittington to a handful other local artists to provide additional pieces for the Art-o-mat[®] and the group Artists in Cellophane (AIC) was formed.

The Art Center joins the over 100 venues nationwide that house one of these unique machines. Located in the atrium, this new addition offers special surprises as we open the 2021-2022 season. The genuine small pieces of art dispensed are perfect gifts or mementos of the visit for art collectors and new visitors alike.

About Art-o-mat[®] and Artists in Cellophane (AIC)

AIC is the sponsoring organization of Art-o-mat[®]. The mission of AIC is to encourage art consumption by combining the worlds of art and commerce in an innovative form. AIC believes that art should be progressive, yet personal and approachable. Guidelines for artists submissions can be found at <https://www.artomat.org/guidelines/>



The Art-o-mat[®] machine art installation

*About Marco Island Center for the Arts:
Founded in 1969 by a dedicated group of artists and patrons, the non-profit Art Center has developed into a place to gather, to learn and to become inspired. The program offerings include classes and workshops for adults and children. The Art Center brings a wide variety of arts to the community including visual, music, literature, and special presentations. It is a showcase for local, national and international artists in many disciplines.*

MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM NAMED AMONG TOP 10% OF ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE

Marco Island Historical Society celebrates with more exciting new Museum happenings

The Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) has been recognized as a 2021 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award winner and named among the top 10 percent of attractions worldwide. This recognition celebrates attractions that consistently deliver fantastic experiences to visitors around the globe and that have earned positive reviews and ratings on Tripadvisor over the past 12 months.

"We are honored to be recognized by Tripadvisor for the second year in a row," said Marco Island Historical Society Chief Executive Officer Pat Rutledge. "Last year, the Marco Island Historical Museum was recognized by Tripadvisor as being among the Best of the Best of History Museums. To now have the Museum recognized in the top 10 percent of attractions globally is an amazing achievement and a statement on the quality of our Museum and the visitor experience we provide."

The great visitor experiences are sure to continue with even more exciting happenings at MIHM. MIHS

Curator of Collections Austin J. Bell has just released his newest book, *The Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat*, in which he takes a deep dive into all that is known about the world-famous Key Marco Cat - now on exhibit at MIHM, with additional Key Marco artifacts, through 2026. In his book, Bell tracks the enigmatic feline from its mist-shrouded origins to its temporary living quarters at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

William Marquardt, curator emeritus of the Florida Museum of Natural History has this to say about the Key Marco Cat and Bell's book, "Mysterious, iconic, and compelling, the Key Marco Cat defies facile characterization. In this well researched book, Bell reveals stories of its nine lives that are sure to surprise and entertain. Does any cat really give up its secrets? Austin lets us in on some of them, and the result is a delight." The *Nine Lives of Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat* is available at the Marco Island Historical Museum Gift Store. The hardcover edition is \$26.95.



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W.D. Collier waterfront store at the north end of Marco Island was established by Captain W.D. "Bill" Collier in 1907



Hotel Marco. Postcards were an obvious choice for many businesses hoping to cash in on the influx of new residents and visitors

MIHS also announces the opening of a new exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM), *Picture Perfect: Marco Island in Postcards*. The exhibit is open to the public October 12, 2021 through January 22, 2022. An opening reception will be held on October 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. See more than 60 original postcards from the Marco Island Historical Society's collection that span more than 100 years. The postcards chronicle life on the island from its early pineapple farms, quaint fishing villages,

supply stores and Hotel Marco to modern Marco and its soaring beachfront condos. Visitors to the exhibit will be able to select their own Picture Perfect postcard while supplies last.

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

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<p>Families Welcome!</p> <p>239-642-5415</p> <p>Planning a special gathering or celebration? Leave it to us! Call today to speak with our Event Planning Professionals.</p>		<p>Stop by our Chickasaw Hut 7am-7pm Daily</p> <p>Sunshine Tours ★ Marco Island Princess Rose Marina 951 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL</p>			



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THE EVOLUTION OF CJ'S ON THE BAY

Being located on Smokehouse Bay at The Esplanade, CJ's on the Bay is a major draw for residents and visitors alike. Like the rest of us, CJ's has experienced a bit of an evolution over the last year and a half having to cope with supply chain issues, staffing, and COVID. What has resulted is a new look and feel that one will absolutely want to take in.

One of the biggest changes is their exciting new menu. While the old menu encompassed an eight-page book, the new menu is one large sheet that is sanitized between customers. Some menu items had to go away due to pricing and lack of availability. Other items have been added using some very interesting ingredients to create tastebud sensations! The resulting menu is a real treat.

Their number one selling product? Calamari, a superior domestic product direct from Rhode Island! When in season, stone crab claws are purchased almost exclusively from Kirk's in Goodland. All other seafood is purchased from responsible local purveyors who only supply products from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

The interior of CJ's on the Bay has transitioned as well with all new tables and chairs, hand-painted artwork by a former employee, wainscoting and one-of-a-kind lampshades created by a Russian artist. All of this contributes to the calm, comfortable, relaxed "undersea" surroundings.



The newly designed interior of CJ's on the Bay



The pretty outside bar and dining area overlooking the bay

Owners, Curt and Jacquie Koon, are incredible attributes to the Marco Island community they joined in 2008. They sponsor the Chili Cookoff each year and a beach cleanup every August, in which all of their employees participate. Jacquie is a past president of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce and Curt is a past president of the Marco Island Police Foundation. Among many events during a typical year, CJ's is a stop along the charity Tour de Tavern bicycle ride that happens each December. The restaurant also participates in the MICA Members Discount Program!

CJ's on the Bay is a preferred employer as it offers health insurance, 401K, paid vacations and holidays and flexible schedules. Employees with them for 10+ years total 16 and 7+ years equals 15 employees. A comfortable staffing number for CJ's is 90, but as with most restaurants today, they are operating with a reduced staff of approximately 80 people. So reduced staff also has brought about some creative shifting of personnel duties. Management is aware that if employees are happy, then employees are happy with the guests.

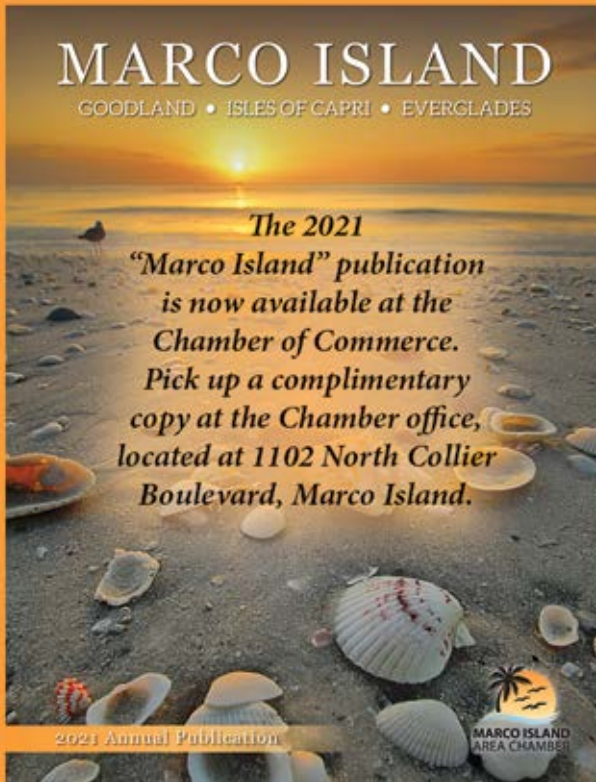
If you haven't been to CJ's on the Bay in a while, it is time to venture to The Esplanade and take a seat, either inside or at the outside bar and dining area overlooking the bay. Your tastebuds will thank you!

*CJ's on the Bay is located in The Esplanade.
Check out their website at www.cjsonthebay.com.*

MARCO ISLAND
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The 2021
"Marco Island" publication
is now available at the
Chamber of Commerce.
Pick up a complimentary
copy at the Chamber office,
located at 1102 North Collier
Boulevard, Marco Island.

2021 Annual Publication



MARCO ISLAND AREA CHAMBER



"My wife and I often participate in the MICA beach cleanups and we went out this morning to see what Elsa brought us. In only an hour and a half we picked up 80 bottle caps, a FWC nesting sign, lots of assorted plastic and other trash, an American flag, a bucket, a ball and 14 plastic shovels!"
- Best regards, Kevin Callahan

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MARCO ISLAND MAILBOXES



During the COVID downtime, former MICA employee, K.C., discovered some very interesting and artistic mailboxes on our island! Take a look

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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

Sundays: Jan 16th, Feb 6th Mar 6th and Ap 3rd 2022 from 10am-4pm

Also **BRUSHES & PAINT & BEYOND** outdoor art show and sale to be held at the Marco Island Historical Museum Saturdays Nov 20th and Mar 26th from 10am-3pm.



2022 **WINTER MOVIE FEST** series.

Wednesdays at 10am

Jan 5th & 19th and Feb 9th & 23rd

at Marco Movies - Tickets on our website

Or call: Lindy at 239-389-1333

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 FUND.



Brianna Monroe

Logan Fischer

Grace Fields

Luz Perez



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. This year's 2021 award went to the Marco Island Center for the Arts Executive Director Hyla Crane.

Learn more about MIFA at www.marcoislandfoundation.org

TREASURES AFTER THE STORM

by Cindy Wesolowski, Marco Island Shell Club President

Another summer has come and gone. I think most of us will be looking forward to some cooler weather. Fall is one of my favorite times to go to Marco's beautiful beaches. The water is still warm, it tends to rain less and there are usually less crowds. All this makes it an ideal time to look for seashells along the beautiful white sand beaches. We are lucky in that our beach is often covered in many unique and lovely sea shells. As you walk along the water's edge or even a little farther up at the high tide line, be sure to look down. Our local shells come in many different colors and sizes. Some are more common and easier to find, like the Atlantic Cockle and Lightning Welk. But others are rarer and often hard to find.

One of the rarest seashells you can find on the beaches of Marco is the Scaphella Junonia or Junonia as it is commonly referred. The Junonia is a species of large sea snail, a marine gastropod mollusk. And although the Junonia lives in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida, this species lives in water from 100 feet to 400 feet deep. Because of its deep-water habitat, Junonia shells usually only wash up onto beaches after strong storms. As our summer storm season comes to an end, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for a Junonia shell rolling in the surf or lying on the beach. If you are lucky enough to find one of these beauties you will have something you can treasure. In fact, they are so rare that many people consider it winning the shell lottery when you find one. If you would like to see examples of the rare Junonia shell, be sure to check out the events of the Marco Island Shell Club.

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, history and science of seashells and to encourage shell-related interests such as shell collection, crafting and shell art. We have two holiday sales scheduled for this fall on Friday, November 26th and Friday, December 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm at the New Life Community Church, 489 W Elcam Cir, Marco Island, FL 34145.

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



Example of Junonia Shell



Full-Service Jeweler | GIA Graduate Gemologist
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Fine Watch Service & Repair | Licensed Appraisals
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WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM HABITAT COLLIER HOMEOWNERS

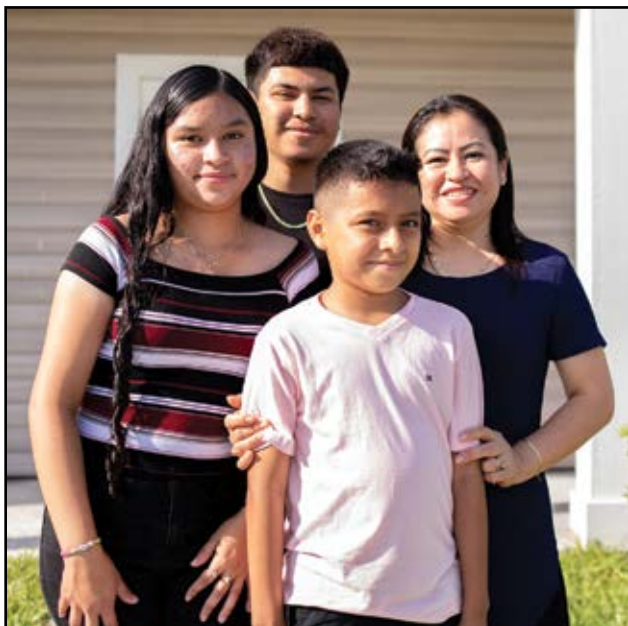
by Andrea McKenna,

Donor Relations, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

Habitat Collier has continued to serve families and build homes despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Construction is complete in our newest community, Vincent's Acres, with just three homes left to close. This beautiful community will be home to 79 grateful families.

Prior to Vincent's Acres, we completed the community of Dockside where 44 families are now settled in their forever homes. Eleven of the families in these two communities are employed on Marco Island. They were delighted to find affordable, safe housing that was convenient to their jobs and offered a good school system for their children.

Construction is underway in Whitaker Woods, located between County Barn Rd and Santa Barbara Blvd. This too will be easily accessible to the Marco Island workforce.



*The Ortiz family closed on their new home in
Vincent's Acres in June, 2021*

Our work continues thanks to the generosity and kindness of those willing to offer a helping hand to hard-working families who need a stable, secure home. We are especially grateful to our friends on Marco Island who offer their time, talent, and treasures to make homeownership a reality for those who have few alternatives.

Habitat families are always anxious to share their gratitude with those who made their dreams come true, especially when they complete their closing and move into their safe communities. In their own words, families tell us the life-changing impact of owning a home of one's own.

The Ortiz family has been blessed through their partnership with Habitat Collier and our supporters. Elda has worked at JW Marriott for three years. Last June she and her three children moved into their beautiful new home in Vincent's Acres. At their home closing, Elda shared these words of gratitude. "I would like to give thanks from the bottom of my heart to all the Habitat donors and contributors. Thank you for making my dreams a reality and for making me a part of the Habitat family. Thank you for also giving me the opportunity to provide my children with a humble and decent home. My children and I are very happy and thankful with you all. From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you and may God bless you."

Hector and Imelda have five children ages 3 through 17. Imelda has been employed at Hideaway Beach Club for nearly three years. When they moved into their forever home, they penned this heartfelt thank you to those who offered a hand-up.

"Dedicated to all the people that made our dream come true. Thank you to all the donors! Thank you for this moment. The day has come where we are able to see our new home, a home my family will enjoy from here on out. A home where I will be able to see my family



*Vincent's Acres is a beautiful community for
79 grateful Habitat Collier families*

grow. You all made my dream come true; the dream of having my very own home and making it into a warm place. A place that will be filled with love. May God continue helping you, so that you in turn can continue to help other families like ours."

The Fernandez family was also living in an unaffordable rental prior to purchasing their Habitat home. Elizabeth has been determined to succeed for a very long time. Her journey began in Cuba, continued to Mexico, on to Miami and finally she is settled in her forever home in Naples and happily working as a chef at JW Marriott. As a young student living in Cuba, while on a trip to Mexico to compete in an international event, Elizabeth defected to Mexico to find a better life for herself. That's where she learned to cook. Eventually she moved to Miami to attend culinary school. Now the urgency for a better life is even greater as she wants to provide all the best for her daughter today and in the years ahead. Her daughter dreams of pursuing Criminal Justice and becoming a detective. Elizabeth's drive for a better life brought her to Habitat Collier so she could give her daughter the stability and security of a decent home. She shared these words of thanks at her closing.

"It is my pleasure to reach out to you and say thank you. I am eternally grateful for the help you all have provided. Thanks to you, a dream that seemed so distant came true. Many, many thanks for all your hard work, patience, and love. Thank you to each person who helped me along the way and to those who were a part of making this dream a reality. A special thanks to all the donors who gave of their resources so that families like mine can experience the American dream. Thanks to you, I learned that the American dream does exist. With much love and gratitude, my daughter and I are eternally grateful."

Habitat Collier remains focused on our singular goal of making homeownership a reality for hard-working, low-wage earners in our community. Homeownership for these families and others in need would not be possible without your faithful partnership. 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.

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION "MEMBERS ONLY" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

DINING

Present discount card before ordering

Aria Restaurant @ JW Marriott MI
10% off bill with purchase of 1 entrée per person Sun thru Thurs. Complimentary valet parking. Other offers do not apply, no discount weekends & holidays.
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Cold Stone Ice Cream,
Esplanade, 393-0046
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

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

The Deck at 560 - Hilton Hotel
560 S. Collier Blvd, 394-5000
15% off bill with purchase of one entrée per person Sunday thru Thursday. Complimentary valet parking.
(no discount on weekends & holidays.)

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

Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American
Daily Happy Hours: from 3pm
Entertainment, reduced drink prices.
www.thenachomamas.com
Marco Walk, 389-2222

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

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

Sami's
227 N Collier Blvd, 389-0404
10% off orders of \$55 or more, (not including tax) Valid on food only (not alcohol) and for pick-up & dine-in ONLY
www.samispizza.com

The Sand Bar
826 E Elkcarn Circle, 642-3625
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www.sandbarmarco.com

Snook Inn
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394-3313
www.snookinn.com

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Miranda's Hairworld
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when booking with Didi or Brenda
5 Front Street, 239-259-8848

The Spa - Hilton Hotel
560 S. Collier Blvd, 394-5000
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The Spa at JW Marriott MI Beach Resort
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389-6029 10% off spa services

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BetterBalancedLiving@gmail.com

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

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

Personal Training & Pilates Studio
Above Subway on Collier Blvd
www.101fit.com
650 Bald Eagle Dr, 333-5771

Summer Day Organic Café
Marco Town Center Mall
Vitamins only. 394-8361
www.summerdaymarket.com

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

RETAIL STORES

APPAREL/JEWELRY

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

Beach Unlimited
1001 N Collier Blvd,
642-4888

The Beached Mermaid, LLC
Shop via website: thebeachedmermaid.com
20% Off with code: MICA20

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

JetSet Surf Shop,
394-5544, Excludes hardgoods,
674 Bald Eagle Dr

Jewelry by Laura 394-2511
JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort

Kathein Jewelers of Marco, 239-259-8937
(Formerly known as Golden Gate Jewelers)
Shops of Marco www.ggjmarco.com

Ocean Soul, 970-2916
10% off, excluding sale items
www.oceansoul.net,
740 N Collier Blvd Suite 108, The Esplanade

OMG That's Chic, 239-970-2102
10% off, excluding sale items
www.OMGthatschic.com,
287 N. Collier Blvd

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

Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200
1106-1/2 N Collier Blvd, Chamber Plaza
www.sunshinestitchers.com

Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters / Crosswinds
JW Marriott Resort, 389-6051

NON-APPAREL

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

Critter Café, Excludes dog and cat food
www.crittercafemarcoisland.com
810 Bald Eagle Dr, 389-8488

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

Keep In Touch, Shops of Marco
Excludes Post Office, copy and internet
services and sale items, 393-6300

Linda Roberts Gallery/Marco Art
"As Seen in the MICA Office"
Marco Island art prints and notecards.
30% discount to MICA members.
Also 30% off non-Marco
Island prints. www.lindarobertsgallery.com
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10% discount on all hardcover books;
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paperback books, toys, gifts, greeting
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1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5343
677 S Collier Blvd, 393-0353
www.sunshinebooksellers.com

Esplanade: Collier Blvd & Elkcarn 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.

DRY CLEANERS

Cache Dry Cleaners
666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

HOME SERVICES/ IMPROVEMENT

A. Pinto Self Storage, 394-1822
5% off new rentals & document shredding
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A.S.A.P. Lock of Marco Island, 394-0318
www.asaplockofmarcoisland.com

Adam Peters Construction
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Beach Bum Equipment Rentals
10% off rentals of \$100 or more
www.beachbumequipmentrentals.com
239-280-0321

Bella Faux Finishes
15% off for first time clients, 272-3090

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

Complete Stone Management, 642-3173
Free quote, 10% discount on service
www.completestonemanagement.com

Dry & Clean Carpet Cleaning, 642-0092
Carpet, Tile, & Upholstery cleaning
www.dryandcleaninc.com

Easy Street Moving, 248-4136
www.easystreetmoving.com

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

Fussy Fraulein, Inc.
First cleaning only, 394-0562

GB Pools, 249-1107
Sign a six month contract for weekly pool service, pay for the first 3 months and receive the next 3 months free. Limited time offer, new customers only. Not valid with any other offer.
www.GBPoolsMarcoisland.com

Global Cleaning Services
gcs-clean.net, 389-9140
Free estimates, free rental unit setup
consultation, as well as 10% off service charges

Gulfcoast Painting & Pressure Cleaning
642-1005

Gulfside Electric, 784-8086

JCR Screen Repair & Service
394-9410

Marco Home
10% in-store purchase
Discount available for design/staging services
207 N Collier Blvd., 239-389-9700
www.marcohomeshop.com

Marco Island Floor Covering
Discounts vary. 1711 San Marco Rd, 394-1711

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

Sunflower Services of Marco, Inc.
Lawn Maintenance, 465-8086
First month free lawn maintenance

Tiny Tikes Treasures (Rentals)
247 N Collier Blvd., 389-1868
www.tinytikestreasures.com

ADVENTURES/TOURS

Aviation North
Marco Island Executive Airport,
747-226-KEYS 10% off air shuttle to the Keys
www.AviationNorth.com

Dolphin Cove Marina
1135 Bald Eagle Drive (next to Sunrise
Condo) 239-289-8654
www.DolphinCoveMarina.com
10% off boat or jet ski rental. Cannot be
combined with other offers.

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

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

Marco Island Watersports
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Marco Pedal Boat
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Paradise Cycle Boat Cruises
At Rose Marina, 951 Bald Eagle Drive,
A Dock, Slip 9, 239-300-8176.
www.ParadiseCycleBoat.com Free UV color
changing Sun Fun bracelet with each adult or
child cruise purchased with MICA card.

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

Vantastic Tours
394-7699. www.vantastictours.com

MARINE/AUTO

Ion1 Professional Limousine, Inc.
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www.Ion1limousine.com

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Autocraft
754 Elkcarn Circle, 642-5309
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Pelican Pier Marina,
10 ¢/gal discount on fuel; 10% off apparel.
1085 Bald Eagle Dr (behind Riverside
Club Condo) GPS:25°58.291 81°43.608
www.pelicanpiermarina.com 389-2628

Sea Tow Marco Island
Sea Tow Membership, 394-1188

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

Walker's Marine
642-6764 Parts & service for customers in
WM computer, 785 Bald Eagle Dr

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Avon by Lucinda,
Cosmetics, 642-0297, 821-7976

Jeffery M. Bogan Insurance Agency
15% off annual prem. for long term care,
261-6533

Global Computer Services, Inc.
601 E Elkcarn Circle B12, 389-9140
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pre-sales consultation + 10% off service fee

Hera Lynn Music, 314-825-4414
10% off music performances for house parties,
corporate events & weddings
www.heralynn.com

H.I. Studios, 821-9458
Personality Portrait Painting by Heidi

James Karl & Associates
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678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-9988

Marco Island Computers
606 Bald Eagle Drive, Suite 605
239-269-1978 Marcoislandcomputers.com

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www.marcophotography.com

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

YOUR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY - IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER

By Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer

Breast cancer is a horrible disease that has affected far too many people in so many terrible ways. Like a thief in the night, it has stolen the lives of many we love among our family and friends, both men and women.

At the time of writing this article, your American Cancer Society is making plans to steal back from this thief the evening of October 2, 2021, 5 pm at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC). This signature fundraiser of the American Cancer Society has been uniting communities in the fight against breast cancer for more than 2 decades. Chaired by Merry Coffman and Robin Rosario, the 2021 MSABC of Southwest Florida is expected to be an event like no other! Our new venue will provide ample space for social distancing with staggered starts for runners and walkers in this non-competitive

5K event. We are planning to have food trucks offering great refreshments while participants can shop a trunk sale by Kendra Scott, Naples' custom jewelry designer dedicated to "Family, Fashion and Philanthropy".

The celebration will continue during Breast Cancer Awareness month as Kendra Scott will host a 2 day give back sale at their Naples store, 5485 Tamiami Trail ND-5, October 22-23 from 1-4 pm. 20% of sales generated during that time frame will be donated to MSABC.

Funds raised through the Making Strides movement have allowed ACS to support breast cancer patients and their loved ones in times when they have needed it the most – even during the global pandemic. Currently, more than \$76 million has been invested in breast cancer research grants. More than 134 million visitors have used our website,



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www.cancer.org for the latest information and facts about cancer, while ACS has responded to more than 1.4 million information requests through our helpline and chat services. Reach to Recovery, a support system of ACS, connects those facing a breast cancer diagnosis with trained breast cancer survivors to provide invaluable support throughout their journey, all by way of a secure mobile app.

Once we have made those amazing strides for a world without breast cancer, our fight against cancer will continue with the American Cancer Society Imagination Ball, Friday, February 11, 2022, at the JW Marriott Marco Island. Presented by Bill and Karen Young, and Jim and Christine Walker, our 2022 event will mark the 10-year celebration of this spectacular gala. Please join us for an enchanted evening in the fight against cancer as we honor our 10-year Event Chair, Debra Shanahan with the prestigious and well deserved Grado Award.

To learn more about these events and other ways that you can join us in the fight against cancer, please contact your American Cancer Society at Sue.Olszak@cancer.org or 239-610-3032.



*Debra Shanahan,
Gala Chair/2022 Grado
Award Recipient
(photo by Mila Bridger)*

Imagine a world without cancer! It is more than just a dream. With your help, it will be our reality!



*Imagination Ball Presenting Sponsors,
Jim and Christine Walker*



*Imagination Ball Presenting Sponsors,
Bill and Karen Young*

FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL

by Allie Delventhal, Friends of Tigertail

Despite having to cancel some activities in 2021 due to COVID, Friends of Tigertail has continued to host quarterly Tigertail Beach clean-ups. Our April and July events were well attended and productive, helping to keep the beach and park clean for visitors and wildlife. The September 18 event was part of the annual International Coastal Clean-up when volunteers world-wide collect and tabulate beach debris.

On August 16 a ceremony was held at Tigertail Park for the presentation of two new benches donated by Friends of Tigertail. One was placed at the recently renovated playground so that parents can use the seating to relax while easily observing their children,



Friends of Tigertail board members Allie Delventhal, president Linda Colombo, and Russ Colombo stand behind the new bench at the recently renovated playground at Tigertail Park with Melissa Hennig, the regional manager of beaches and water for Collier County Parks and Recreation

and the other was placed in the observation tower on the beach. Perhaps you can visit and enjoy the beautiful view! Melissa Hennig, the regional manager of beaches and water for Collier County Parks and Recreation, was on hand for the presentation along with members of the Friends of Tigertail board.

Over the years there has been significant buildup of sand in Big Marco Pass slowing tidal flow to Tigertail Lagoon, affecting water quality and recreation. Because of extensive sand deposits caused by gulf water washing over the narrow low beach in some areas, sea grasses have perished. Supporting the Tigertail Lagoon and Beach Restoration Proposal has been a long-term project for Friends of Tigertail, and with other stakeholders we have worked to promote the initiative. Maria Lamb reported in the September 9-15 edition of the Coastal Breeze that the City of Marco Island has applied for a DEP grant to help pay for the recommended dredging and beach restoration. The project to improve the water and habitat between Big Marco Pass and the lagoon is in the permitting phase, and we are hopeful that the plans will move forward.



New playground equipment at Tigertail Park



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