

MICA*wave*

www.marcocivic.com

SPECIAL 2022
ELECTION EDITION

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association



*Jerry Swiacki, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jerry Swiacki, President, MICA Board of Directors

Welcome to this most informative issue of the MICAWave. In this issue you will find the results of the MICA Survey. In addition, you will be able to peruse information on the candidates for this year's City Council election. Finally, if you have not done so, please be reminded to renew your MICA Residents' Beach membership.

Let's start with membership. According to the Bylaws, "The purpose of MICA is to assist in the general welfare and civic improvement of Marco Island and to advance the best interests of its citizens---." We are prevented by our bylaws from taking any political position in regards to political candidates, office holders or campaigns. Therefore, we must remain "apolitical" but that does not mean we cannot be "informational" regarding issues that affect Marco citizens. In fact, it is our responsibility to do just that. It is also the responsibility of MICA to enforce the "deed restrictions" that were entrusted to it by the Deltona Corporation.

In the past two years our membership has grown substantially. Our members enjoy the use of the Sarazen Park and the fantastic Residents' Beach. We have partnered with a number of Marco Island businesses to give our members discounts on services, dining and retail goods. Our members are able to participate in our survey thus giving input to City government on what is important to our citizens. We sponsor candidate forums so that islanders can be well informed voters. We also publish the MICAWave magazine which gives valuable information regarding what is happening on the Island. All of this is available through the MICA App on your mobile device. So, renew your membership either online or in person at the MICA office and continue to enjoy these benefits.

Review the results of our 2022 Survey on the many "hot topic" issues and see how your views compare with others. This survey was not meant to be scientific. It was created by the Board of Directors to obtain the "pulse" of the Island and to let City government and all Islanders know what is important to our citizens.

Finally, and most importantly, review the biographies of this year's City Council candidates. Take time to investigate what the present incumbents have promised in the past and how they have fulfilled those promises over their term in office. What may be more important is to review what they may have done or what they have failed to do when

serious issues have been presented to them. In a similar way, analyze the new candidates and their platforms. Evaluate their credentials and experience. Understand what they propose to do if elected. Remember that you will be able to see and hear them in person during the Candidate Forum on October 13th sponsored by MICA, the Chamber of Commerce and the Marco Island Area Association of REALTORS®. The most important responsibility in a democracy is for its citizens to vote. We are blessed in the United States to have that privilege when so many people in the world do not.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our fabulous MICA staff members, those at the beach gate house and in the MICA office. They work efficiently and with a smile! To my fellow board members, I appreciate your many talents and guidance. MICA works as a team on behalf of our wonderful, supportive members.

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Cover Photo: by Charli Noyes (Marco Island Academy Class of 2023), taken at Residents' Beach, Marco Island.

INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROJECT BEGINS ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is leading a new, innovative project to remove invasive aquatic plants and evaluate nutrients removed to improve water quality in Lake Okeechobee in south Florida. This effort is part of the FWC's strategy to use a variety of tools and explore new techniques to best manage for quality fish and wildlife habitat in Florida.

In partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, the work began March 8 and will cover 35 acres on the lake.

Mechanical harvesters will be used to collect invasive floating plants, such as water hyacinths, and the plants will then be processed into a slurry or semi-liquid mixture. The slurry of plants will be pumped to nearby hayfields to enhance soil. The FWC will evaluate whether the project will benefit both the water quality of the lake as well as agricultural lands receiving the slurry mix.

"This project highlights the FWC's commitment to seeking innovative and effective solutions to manage invasive aquatic plants in Florida," said Melissa Tucker, Director of the FWC's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. "While it is too soon to tell if we will be able to use this technique on a larger scale, we are excited about the possibility of having a new tool in the toolbox."

Reducing invasive plants and their associated nutrients in Lake Okeechobee has long-term benefits to the lake and the fish and wildlife that live there. Managing invasive aquatic plants is also important for recreational opportunities for the public and to maintain accessible navigation. Unmanaged invasive plants have a variety of negative impacts that can include reducing biodiversity and ecosystem health, impeding navigation, reducing water quality, and causing flooding issues.

While this project includes unique transporting methods to dispose of invasive plants and aims to utilize resources efficiently it may not be effective in all locations and situations. The FWC uses a variety of techniques, including biological controls, mechanical removal and herbicide treatments to manage invasive aquatic plants in Florida. An integrative pest management approach using a combination of techniques often achieves the greatest results in managing invasive plants.

For general waterbody information, fishing forecasts, virtual tours, plant control operation schedules and annual workplans, boat ramp information, and more, visit the "What's Happening on My Lake" website at MyFWC.com/Lake.

To learn more about the FWC's Aquatic Plant Management Program, visit MyFWC.com/AquaticPlants.



Photo by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

EVERGLADES RESTORATION IS WORKING - SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT CONTINUES MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO RESTORE AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

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

To all of my fellow MICA members, we are in the midst of some really exciting times when it comes to Everglades restoration; and I want to provide you with the latest information.

Since January 2019, we have finished construction, broken ground, or hit a major milestone on 50+ Everglades restoration projects! Florida Governor Ron DeSantis prioritized environmental protection and Everglades restoration for the State of Florida on his second day in office and signed a special Executive Order in Bonita Springs on a chilly January day in 2019. Fast forward to the present day and the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection continue collaborating to advance Everglades projects and improve water quality.

Unprecedented state funding and unparalleled momentum are making a real difference in protecting Florida's natural resources and restoring America's Everglades. Some of our most recent successes and major accomplishments are occurring right here in southwest Florida. Let me share them with you.

In Collier County, the Picayune Strand Restoration Project is bringing historic wetlands back to life and improving water quality throughout the region. Crews continue to expedite this key Everglades restoration project, which will remove the footprints of a failed real estate development and restore over 55,000 acres of native wetland and upland habitat.



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



*Aerial view of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (plugged Faka Union Canal
and Brazillian Pepper eradication gray areas)*



Aerial of Faka Union Spreader Basin this summer

In the 1960s, more than 85 square miles of wetlands in western Collier County were drained to make way for the development called Southern Golden Gate Estates. Road construction and new canals dramatically altered the area, negatively impacting underground aquifers, disrupting natural flows of water to the coast near the Ten Thousand Islands, damaging native plant communities, and increasing wildfires.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actively removing the development's crumbling roads, plugging the canals, and constructing other conveyance features to restore the natural flow of water, and in turn, support wildlife habitat, water quality improvements, and overall ecosystem restoration.

We're seeing immediate environmental benefits across thousands of acres that had been previously canalized and drained. To date, 90% of the old roads and 98% of

the logging trams are degraded. In addition, over 60% of canals are backfilled. Three pump stations are also complete to rehydrate drained wetlands.



Picayune Progress

Last year, I had the distinct honor of activating the pumps at the Faka Union Pump Station at the Picayune Strand State Forest for the very first time. The activation marked a significant milestone for this vital project, and I'm delighted to share that we are already experiencing hydrological benefits from the additional sheet flow.

Progress on the project's other features also continues to advance rapidly. Construction is underway on the Southwest Protection Feature levee to maintain existing levels of flood protection. Work has also begun on the project's conveyance features. The Picayune Strand Restoration Project is an important component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and construction is expected to be complete in 2025.



Canal and road removal work progresses at Picayune with USACE Heavy Equipment Team

continued on page 14

Collier County Residential Curbside Collection Program Guidelines

There will be no collection on the following holidays: Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day. There are no makeup days. If your collection falls on one of these holidays, your trash, recycling, bulky items and yard waste will be collected on your next scheduled day.



Yard Waste Collection

- Collected on the same day as recycling
- Place yard waste in paper bags or personal trash cans no larger than 45 gallons and weighing more than 50 pounds when filled
- Tie yard waste in bundles no longer than 4 feet with branches no thicker than 4 inches in diameter
- Do not use plastic bags
- Limited to 10 bags, bundles or cans per week

General Garbage Collection

- You may use heavy-duty plastic bags for excess of household waste
- Carts and materials must be 3 feet from mailboxes or other obstacles
- Place carts curbside by 6 a.m. on the day of collection and remove by 6 a.m. the day after collection



Bulky Item Curbside Collection

- Collected on the same day as recycling
- Call (239) 252-2380 to schedule collection of appliances, electronics, standard vehicle tires or vehicle batteries
- All doors must be removed to avoid entrapment of children and all contents must be removed

Recycle This!



What goes in your cart must be **CLEAN, DRY and LOOSE.**



**Plastic
Bottles, Jars,
Jugs & Tubs**



**Glass Bottles
& Jars**



Metal Cans



**Paper,
Cardboard
& Cartons**

WHAT ITEMS DO NOT GO IN MY RECYCLING CART?

Plastic bags, plastic packaging, food waste, hoses, clothes, toys, batteries and electronics.

WHERE DOES MY RECYCLING GO?

All residential recycling that is collected at the curb is hauled to a Material Resource Facility (MRF) located outside of the county. At the MRF, the material is sorted, baled and shipped to third party wholesalers. Recycled material is then processed into new material, such as new bottles, containers, clothes, bicycles, furniture and paper.

FOR MORE DETAILS

Visit colliercountyfl.gov/collection
or call (239) 252-2380



SCAN
FOR MORE INFO



LETTERS TO MICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear MICA Board of Directors,

It has been my desire for many years to tell you about your Residents' Beach. We are Germans and have lived on the island as so called "snowbirds" for thirty years. We traveled and are still traveling to many countries in Europe but also in North Africa and the US.

To make a long story very short: we have never found a nicer beach!

We visited the Mediterranean Sea in Italy, Spain and France, together with some islands like Mallorca and Ibiza. We swam in the North or Baltic Sea in Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

But nowhere have we found such a brilliant beach area comparable with the snow-white sand, the green shady park and the large parking facilities.

What makes it so special next to the broad, white sand beach?

It is the sparkling appearance of all walkways, park areas, the restrooms, the showers and chickee huts. The grass is deep green and short cut, the palm trees, bushes and flowers are in great and well-kept condition.

We meet every morning the friendly staff on the gate and the hard-working supervisor/property manager, Dennis.

Congratulations to the Nicest World Class Beach!
Dr. Roland and Hildegard Leyboldt

Thank you for keeping Residents' Beach for residents only!

From: Julia Cizek

BEACH CLEAN-UP

SPONSORED BY
THE MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 8AM
AT RESIDENTS' BEACH**

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

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2022 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

1. Do you support a single-family home rental ordinance to protect the integrity of our neighborhoods and residents?

Yes - 72%

No - 19%

Undecided - 8%

2. If the city were to institute a single-family home rental ordinance, what is the minimum term rental that should be in the ordinance?

One Day

3%

One Weekend

3%

One Week

44%

One Month

49%

3. Are you aware of the term “fractional ownership” of single-family homes on Marco Island, wherein individuals purchase a percentage of stock in a home?

Yes - 45%

No - 51%

Undecided - 2%

4. Do you support more “No Wake” signs in canals island-wide?

Yes - 68%

No - 18%

Undecided - 13%

Collier County (County) is proposing major changes to the Caxambas Boat Park at 909 Collier Court. These changes will support the continued changing of Caxambas boat ramp from the original public access intent to a ramp supporting commercial tour operations that pay the County. The County is proposing 74 single car parking spaces and not increasing trailer parking. These car spaces would support the commercial touring companies’ business and provide the County with a \$10 dollar per car parking fee.

5. Do you support the County allowing major commercial operations at Caxambas Boat Park?

Yes - 18%

No - 68%

Undecided - 13%

6. Do you want the County to restrict the number of commercial tour licenses for Caxambas Boat Park and return the park to the original public use intent?

Yes - 74%

No - 10%

Undecided - 15%

7. Do you want the City of Marco Island to oppose rezoning Caxambas Boat Park to a commercial marina?

Yes - 70%

No - 17%

Undecided - 12%

8. Do you support the creation of more open green space for local public use at Caxambas Boat Park?

Yes - 69%

No - 13%

Undecided - 16%

9. Do you support Marco Island residents having a County pass to launch boats at Caxambas Boat Ramp at no charge?

Yes - 71%

No - 14%

Undecided - 13%

10. Do you have any suggestions to alleviate increased traffic and parking issues at Caxambas Boat Ramp?

Suggestions were plentiful. The number one suggestion was to reduce/stop vendor use and commercial permits at Caxambas Boat Ramp.

11. Do you support more multi-use pathways to accommodate the various modes of non-automobile vehicles, such as electric bikes and skateboards?

Yes - 59%

No - 30%

Undecided - 10%

12. Do you support an island-wide speed limit of 30 mph?

Yes - 60%

No - 32%

Undecided - 7%

13. Do you believe the city medians are appropriately maintained and represent the beauty of our main corridors?

Yes - 85%

No - 11%

Undecided - 4%

14. Do you support turf stone permeable pavers along the perimeter of Mackle Park to accommodate overflow parking?

Yes - 56%

No - 20%

Undecided - 22%

15. Do you support a Marco Island Senior Center by the City purchasing a vacant commercial property?

Yes - 54%

No - 25%

Undecided - 19%

16. Links between algal blooms and degenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and ALS are being researched by scientists world-wide. Algal blooms are now occurring on Marco regularly in the warmer summer months. An upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facility to eliminate the nutrients that feed the blooms (purple pipes) is currently budgeted at \$2,000,000 but this project has not been approved. Should the city implement an upgrade to the WWTP to help alleviate algal blooms on Marco Island?

Yes - 76%

No - 7%

Undecided - 15%

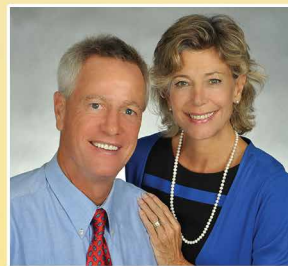
17. A Septic Tank Replacement Program (STRP) was implemented on Marco Island and a 50% reduction in the nitrogen pollution was achieved in the Marco waterways. STRP projects to convert Goodland and Isles of Capri to the Marco sewage treatment plant are being considered which would provide additional revenue to the City and help to pay down the debt owed by the City. The reduced nitrogen pollution would improve the estuary water quality. Should these projects be implemented?

Yes - 82%

No - 5%

Undecided - 11%

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AUDUBON FLORIDA CELEBRATES 122 YEARS IN CONSERVATION

On March 2, 2022, Audubon celebrated 122 years in conservation in Florida. Concerned citizens came together to stop the mass slaughter of Florida wading birds for the plume trade, and hosted their first meeting of the Florida Audubon Society 122 years ago in Maitland, Florida. The groundswell of support for the birds of Florida and the Everglades went on to give rise to the National Audubon Society and a network of 48 independent Audubon chapters nationwide today.

“For more than a century, Audubon has mobilized the talents and dedication of Floridians to advance science-based solutions to the environmental challenges facing our state,” said Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director of Audubon Florida. “While we may be Florida’s oldest statewide conservation

organization, our signature formula for conservation never gets old: grassroots innovation, strong science, and policy savvy delivering durable results.”

Throughout the 20th Century, Audubon Florida made major strides in bird protection. Organizers launched far-reaching educational programs, funded wardens to protect bird rookeries, and helped stop plume hunting in the state by successfully pushing for the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Today, Audubon Florida is comprised of:

- a statewide team of policy experts led from Tallahassee working on issues related to water, wildlife, habitat, and climate;
- a comprehensive program supporting Everglades Restoration in South Florida, including our 13,000-acre Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in



Great Egret by Bruce Racicot/Audubon Photography Awards

Naples and the 83-year-old Everglades Science Center on Florida Bay;

- a robust network of biologists and volunteers protecting and recovering Florida's coastal waterbird populations, including remedying the harms done by the Deepwater Horizon disaster;
- the Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, a leader in the science of raptor rehabilitation and education; and
- 48 grassroots chapters driving community science and conservation advocacy in local communities.

"I like to think Audubon today would exceed the wildest dreams of our founders more than a century ago," said Wraithmell. "I'm proud of what our staff, volunteers and supporters continue to accomplish together—and know they would be too."

For more than a century, Audubon has encouraged people to take care of the places that make Florida special. Get involved and support this important work at www.fl.audubon.org.



MARCO ISLAND CAR SHOW

HOSTED BY
MARCO ISLAND
SAN MARCO KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9AM-1PM

SAN MARCO CHURCH
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MARCO ISLAND, FL

SHOW CAR ENTRY FEE: \$20
INCLUDES LUNCH,
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*Any questions, contact John DeRosa
at 239- 272-0816, jdrfinest@aol.com,
For information, call 239-389-5633 or visit our
website at www.sanmarcoknights.com*

*Register day of show. All proceeds from this event
will fund our annual giving programs to local
charities, such as Catholic education, college
scholarships for Parish children, St. Vincent
DePaul Society, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry,
as well as others.*



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 sponsors the **LEFT BANK ART FEST** held at the Esplanade - this season's dates: Sundays: Dec. 4th, Jan. 15th, Feb. 5th, Mar. 5th and Apr. 2nd from 10am-4pm

New this season- **LOVE THE ARTS FESTIVAL** outdoor art show and sale will be held at the Marco Island Historical Museum Saturday, February 18th, 2023 from 10am-3pm.



2022 GRANT AWARDS

Because of your support at MIFA's events, grants were awarded to 4 island organizations:

Sisbarro Acting Studio ~ Marco Island Academy

Marco Players Theater and

Marco Island Center for the Arts

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



MIFA also requests nominations from the public for **ARTIST OF THE YEAR.**

The 2022 award went to Marco Players Theater set designer/builder **Jim Swanker**

Nominate your choice for 2023 Artist of the Year by visiting the MIFA website and click on the ARTIST OF THE YEAR link.

Learn more about MIFA at www.marcoislandfoundation.org

OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY ANNOUNCES FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Liz Pecora, Vice President, Development & Communications, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP) is very pleased to announce that after a lengthy search, we have hired our first Executive Director – Amanda Nelson.

Having grown up in the San Francisco Bay Area, and getting her B.A. from U.C. Berkeley, Amanda has worked and lived on both coasts, a bit in the South, as well as Puerto Rico, London, and Luxembourg.

‘We feel fortunate to have found and hired Amanda,’ said Board President, Nancy Kot. ‘Her breadth of knowledge and experience in the Non Profit world and dedication to our mission will both deepen and widen our scope of work and the impact that it has.’

Amanda comes to us with over 30 years of Non Profit leadership experience, most recently serving as the Executive Director of a breast cancer organization in Sacramento, CA. From AIDS to the arts to the environment, the Episcopal Church and literacy, Amanda has made a career out of taking organizations to the next level, improving programs, mentoring staff, strengthening boards and growing donations and fundraising efforts.

“I am delighted to be working with ODBFP, an organization which has been accomplishing such great work under the guidance of their tremendously dedicated and effective volunteer crew. Food insecurity is only growing in our country and this region. I feel extremely privileged to work on this meaningful cause, and look forward to getting to know and live in this wonderful community.”



*Our Daily Bread Food Pantry
Executive Director,
Amanda Nelson*

Please feel free to contact Amanda with any thoughts or questions you may have at

Amanda@ourdailybreadfoodpantry.com

Phone: 239/259-5188 Office, 805/969-5808 Direct

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*Everglades Restoration,
continued from page 5*



*Charlette Roman activates the Faka Union
pumps for the first time*

In addition to the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, the Big Cypress Basin is using new technology to manage canals and protect Naples Bay. A new remote operations system has been implemented to monitor and control water levels with extreme precision throughout 24 miles of canals in southwestern Collier County.

The automated system works 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to control water levels down to the inch in a continuous system of canals flowing southwest to Naples Bay. Using the new state-of-the-art technology, water managers can remotely open and close a network of flood control gates within minutes, greatly increasing the speed in which they are able to respond to changing weather conditions.

Throughout the District's 16-county region, significant progress also continues to be made on other important Everglades restoration projects that improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution on water within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Visit SFWMD.gov/RestorationisWorking to read more about our significant progress to restore America's Everglades.

It is an honor to serve as a member of the Governing Board during these exciting times for Florida's future. I invite you to learn more and find out how you can get involved by visiting SFWMD.gov. Mark your calendars to attend the Governing Board for its meeting on November 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Eaton Conservation Hall, 1495 Preserve Way, Naples, FL.

Paradise Grill at Residents' Beach
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Fish & Shrimp, Wraps & Salads,
Daily Specials, Smoothies,
Ice Cream & More***

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*Big Cypress Basin Water
Control Structure GG-4*



Big Cypress Basin Cork water control structure

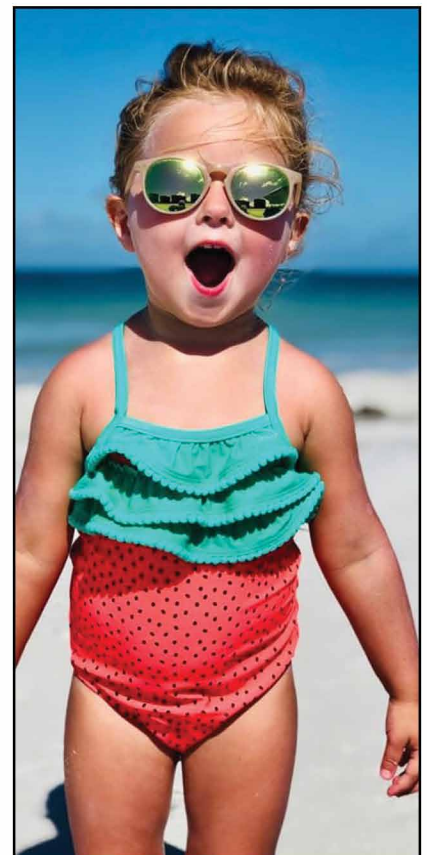
RESIDENTS' BEACH PHOTOS - *Member submitted photos*

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



*Top:
Easter sunset, submitted by MICA
member Linda McWilliams*

*Bottom left:
Residents' Beach during a beautiful sunset,
taken by Jennifer J. Mesko-Kimmich*



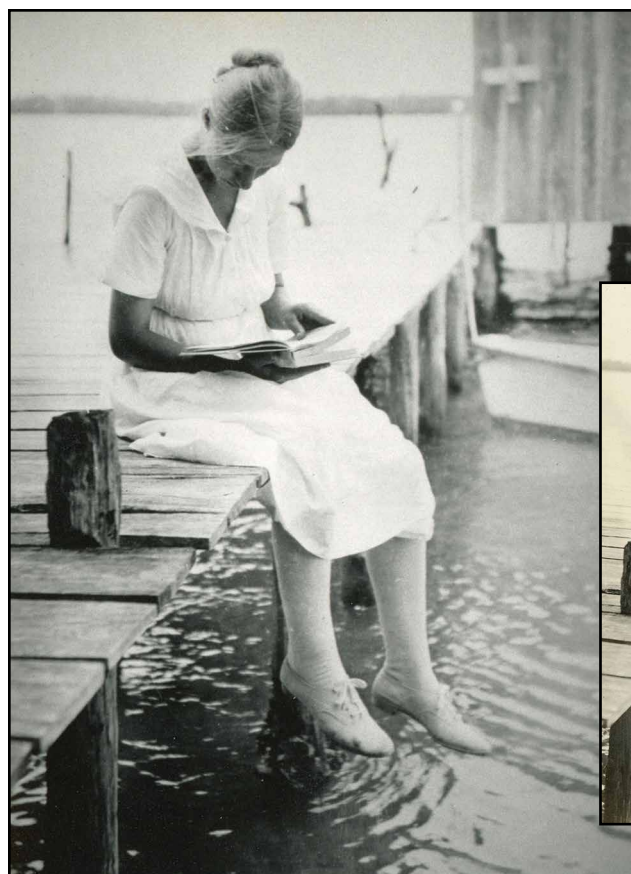
*Bottom middle and right:
Angela Wampler says "Our granddaughter
loves Residents' Beach!"*

“MARCO - THEN AND NOW” PROJECT

by Kathryn Barry, Marco Island Academy, Class of 2023

August 24th marks the 25th anniversary of Marco Island becoming a city. We honor this date by celebrating our roots and the people who have made this into our home. Long before we became a city, a secret energy existed that has persevered throughout the years. Our unique way of life and a buzzing sense of community draws us together. As we reflect on the past, we look to the future - holding our way of life precious.

Five photographs of our “Then & Now” exhibit are re-creations of images seen in past issues of the Marco Islander from the late 1960s. The Marco Islander was a promotional publication by the Mackle Brothers’ Deltona Corporation and was used to attract home-buyers to Marco’s tropical shores.



Original photograph of Saloma Olds reading on the dock. Courtesy MIHS

The other five photographs are re-creations and digital manipulations of pictures taken by Saloma Olds spanning the years of 1913-1915. She is known as “Camera Girl” and her work documents Marco life pre-urbanization. Our modern take on her is called “iPhone Girl”.

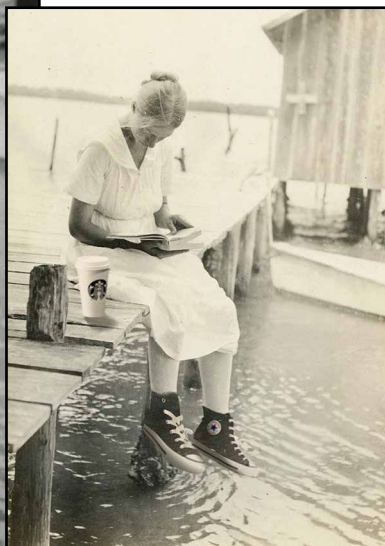
The Marco Island Academy Creative Photography classes set out on a quest to re-create the perfect shot (with some modern twists). See if you can notice the digital manipulations among the exhibit.

From all of us at MIA, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Caitlyn Sadofsky (Model), Anthony Grossi (Model), Aidan Stuart (Model), Ava Cartwright (Director), Zoie Swift (Digital Artist), Charli Noyes (Photographer), Piper Noyes (Model) and Mr. Eder’s Creative Photography classes for revitalizing these historical shots. Special thanks to the Marco Island Historical Museum for providing the historic photos. And finally, many thanks to Ms. Hilary Noyes and Mr. Rob Eder for overseeing and organizing the project.

May your memories of Marco be long lasting, and your imagination far reaching.

All of the photos at Residents’ Beach were taken by Charli Noyes (Class of 2023).

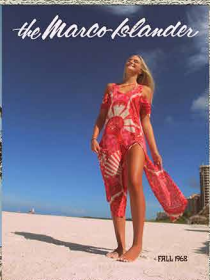
The digital manipulation of the early 20th Century Olds pictures was done by Zoie Swift (Class of 2023).



Digital manipulation of original photograph, by Zoie Swift

Marco Island

Then & Now



FRIENDS OF THE MARCO ISLAND LIBRARY

by Nanette Finkle on behalf of The Friends of the Marco Island Library Board

Library Programs

Family Story Time:

(Every Thursday, 10:30-11:00 am) Enjoy stories, songs and crafts for children of all ages and caregivers. No registration required.

Lego Club:

(October 6th and December 1st from 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 1st, November 5th and December 3rd from 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 three 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.

Other News:

The Friends of the Marco Island Library recently purchased tables and chairs for the Children's Room. They really brighten things up! Come by and take a look. The Library Staff has been enjoying the improvements made to their work area. The Friends purchased new counter tops and lockers which were in dire need of replacement. We appreciate our dedicated employees and volunteers!

*The Marco Island Library is located at
210 S. Heathwood Dr., 239-252-7064.
Monday thru Thursday: 10 am to 6 pm,
Friday and Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm*



2022 CHRISTMAS ISLAND STYLE

SANTA'S ARRIVAL: MARCO ISLAND ACADEMY SCHOOL LOBBY - NOV. 25TH, 6:00 PM

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION:
VETERANS' COMMUNITY PARK - DEC. 3RD, 6:00 PM

CANINE PET PARADE: CJ'S ON THE BAY - DEC. 6TH, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

ANNUAL STREET PARADE: DEC. 10TH, 6:30 PM

COOKIES AND MILK WITH SANTA: MACKLE PARK - DEC. 17TH, 10:00 AM - 12 PM
sponsored by Christmas Island Style and Marco Island Parks and Recreation

MARCO ISLAND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE: DEC. 17TH, 6:00 PM

Visit www.ChristmasIslandStyle.com for more information



MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM RECEIVES 2022 TRIPADVISOR AWARD

Recognized among top 10 percent of attractions worldwide

The Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) has been recognized with a 2022 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award and named among the top 10 percent of attractions worldwide for the second consecutive year. TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel guidance platform.

TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards celebrate organizations that consistently deliver outstanding experiences to visitors around the globe and that have earned positive reviews and ratings on TripAdvisor over the past 12 months. TripAdvisor Chief Commercial Officer Kanika Soni congratulated Traveler's Choice winners noting that the awards recognize the best in tourism and hospitality.

In 2020, TripAdvisor also recognized MIHM as being among the Best of the Best of History Museums, making this the third year in a row the Museum has received high rankings. According to Marco Island Historical Society CEO Pat Rutledge, "It is such an honor and truly gratifying to have Marco Island Historical Museum recognized in this way among the world's leading attractions."



*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) 252-1440*



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RECORD-BREAKING SPOONBILL PHOTOGRAPHED IN FLORIDA BAY: BIRD BANDING REVEALS OLDEST SPOONBILL

New Roseate Spoonbill discovery shows they can live to more than 18 years old in the wild

The oldest Roseate Spoonbill ever recorded was found in Florida Bay this spring. The spoonbill, banded by Audubon Florida Director of Research Jerry Lorenz, PhD, in 2003, is now more than 18 years old. The previous record for longevity in the wild for this species? 16 years. Conservation photographer Mac Stone, on assignment with Audubon, photographed the banded bird.

“This spoonbill has seen a lot in its almost two decades on Florida Bay – algae blooms, hypersalinity,

and sea grass die-offs. But, it has also seen positive outcomes from Everglades restoration, including increased freshwater to Florida Bay. This spoonbill tells us that despite the hardships, nature is resilient and when we give her a chance – she can bounce back,” says Kelly Cox, Director of Everglades Policy, Audubon Florida.

“Spoonbills are our pink canary in the coal mine. We rely on them as an indicator species to tell us when and how ecological conditions are changing



A spoonbill nest with two chicks on a key in Florida Bay. The adult sitting on the nest was banded on Frank Key in December 2003, with bands 7 over 8. This makes the bird the oldest known spoonbill in the wild. Photo: Mac Stone

throughout the Everglades. This bird is an incredible example of just that – moving around Florida Bay for the better part of two decades and helping us tell the story of where the Everglades is hurting and healing,” explains Jerry Lorenz, PhD, Director of Research, Audubon Florida.

Audubon Florida’s Everglades Science Center conducts weekly surveys of Roseate Spoonbill colonies in Florida Bay during nesting season to get nesting and general population data. Two of the colonies have been monitored for 30 years. In 2003, Audubon scientists began applying leg bands to chicks in nests in Florida Bay and Tampa Bay at the Richard T. Paul Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary. In 2013, staff also began banding birds hatching from nests at St. Augustine Alligator Farm. In total, Audubon has banded about 3,000 chicks. Banding spoonbills – an indicator species for Everglades ecosystem health - has led to a greater understanding of dispersal rates and behavioral structures after nesting season in the Florida Bay is over.

“I have photographed banded spoonbills in Florida Bay for over a decade trying to trace the origins of corroded letters and numbers for Audubon,” Mac

Stone says. “When I downloaded the card from my camera and noticed that a banded bird came to the nest to feed its chicks, I knew I had something special. I carefully combed over 1,500 images and found only two moments where light and shadow hit the band just right. It was a reminder of how powerful science and art can be when pursued together.”

The decline and resurgence of Roseate Spoonbills parallels the conservation movement in Florida. These bright pink birds with long legs and an unusually-shaped bill have long mesmerized those who encounter them, and their beautiful plumes were especially sought-after during a time when women’s fashion included hats adorned with feathers and even entire birds. One hundred and twenty-two years ago, Audubon led the charge to protect wading birds from hunting and 70 years ago helped spark the drive to protect the Everglades, including the establishment of Everglades National Park. Today, Audubon is on the front lines documenting the impacts of climate change on this special ecosystem and the species that depend on it, and prescribe the policies needed to ensure their survival.

Learn more at www.fl.audubon.org.



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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by Rick LoCastro, Collier County Commissioner, District 1

PROUD TO SERVE!

As elected officials managing taxpayer dollars, we must utilize business and common sense. As a full-time County Commissioner, I am 100% available and accessible to all... and welcome citizen thoughts and views. I have minimal patience for government with 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... to dive in deep with both feet, keep my sleeves rolled up, and make a difference as your "public servant" - not a politician or someone who feels entitled to this position.

Since being elected in Nov 2020, I've worked 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 plenty of areas where we must improve, and not make excuses or ignore areas that need attention. This position is much more than just being visible. Most importantly -- it's 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. For the first time your District 1 Commissioner is talking and meeting regularly with the Marco 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 citizens.

GET READY FOR NOVEMBER ELECTIONS!

Now that the primaries are behind us -- continue to educate yourself on the winners, additional candidates who are vying for other seats, and everything in between. Regardless, if it's Marco City Council, County Commissioner, School Board, Fire Commissioners, or others... all of these critical positions are important to the success of our County. Mere "seniority" in our community, raising the most money, or having the most yard signs doesn't always yield the best elected official. Check out their bios, resumes, campaign platforms, and make every effort to hear them speak in person or watch any videos which might be on social media.

Know who you are voting for in November and why.

From my time in this seat, I've learned it does take experience and qualifications to do the homework, meet with staff and citizens, and have the depth of background to make decisions that cost our taxpayers millions of dollars. Remember this when you go to the polls in November - "The resume must match the job responsibility".

The responsibilities of any elected official should not be taken lightly. No longer should these elections be popularity contests. Having time in our community and "loving people" are positive attributes... but things I would hope every candidate possesses. On the other hand, experience and qualifications take time to develop. I believe it's a mistake to elect people we merely like or know, but who have a gigantic learning curve making major decisions for the first time while they are on the job... and with a limited background to do so. You never know everything (I'm certainly learning something new every day!) but as a citizen myself, I hope those who get elected this year have a deep set of already proven skills, a foundation of experience and qualifications, and ran for the position not to "get a job" - but to truly give something back to our community... and most importantly... to actually have something to give back.

Some candidates are definitely better prepared than others to handle the responsibility. Ensure you are prepared and knowledgeable when you cast your votes in November!

NOTE: Send me an email to receive my weekly Commissioner's Report... 30,000+ citizens already do!

*You can reach Commissioner Rick LoCastro at: Rick.LoCastro@CollierCountyFL.gov,
www.RickLoCastro.com Office: (239) 252-8601, Mobile: (239) 777-2452*



*Rick LoCastro
Collier County Commissioner,
District 1*

CONTRACTOR FRAUD IS THREATENING MARKET STABILITY - WHAT IS CONTRACTOR SOLICITATION AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Here is the scenario:

You are approached at home (solicited) by a contractor who offers you payment or a gift card to conduct a free inspection of your roof. Upon completing the inspection, the contractor advises you of damage to your roof.

Contractor finds roof damage during inspection: You have never noticed the damage but you trust the contractor as a professional. The contractor states that your roof is badly damaged and that you need a new roof.

Contractor two thumbs up for insurance payment and communication promise: He states that your insurance company will cover the cost and there is no expense to you. He promises to communicate directly with your insurance company and handle the claim on your behalf.

Contractor asks you to electronically sign a document on a tablet: The contractor asks you to electronically sign a document on a tablet authorizing the work on your roof. The contractor scrolls to the signature area of the document and you sign.

Assignment of Benefits document: Unbeknownst to you, you do not need a roof replacement; however, you have signed an Assignment of Benefits, a legal contract that transfers your insurance rights to the contractor. This authority allows the contractor to file an insurance claim on your behalf, receive direct

payment of your insurance payouts, file a lawsuit against the insurance company and more. Because you signed the form electronically, you do not have a copy and do not know exactly what you've signed.

Invoice to your insurance company - very expensive: The contractor may charge the insurance company an unnecessary or inflated amount for the roof.

Blue Tarp covering incomplete roof with damage showing: The contractor may never complete the work but is still able to be paid by the insurance company due to the requirement included on the contract you signed.

No communication allowed: The contract may also limit you from communicating directly with your insurance company, which means, if you have questions about the insurance claim, you will not be able to ask the company.

Contractor pointing happily to other houses in the neighborhood: Oftentimes, these fraudulent, possibly unlicensed, contractors target neighborhoods and take advantage of multiple homeowners. The contractor may complete the roof of one home to use as an example or proof to other homeowners.

If you or someone you know have been a victim of contractor fraud, contact the Florida Department of Financial Services' Division of Investigative and Forensic Services to report the incident. Contractor fraud is illegal and can lead to an arrest and prosecution.

REMEMBER...
NO GLASS
AT THE BEACH!

DFS Fraud Hotline: 1-800-378-0445
DFS Online Fraud Reporting Portal:
<https://First.FLDFS.com>

Office of the Insurance Consumer Advocate
200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-5923
Email: YourFLVoice@MyFloridaCFO.com

IS MARCO READY TO SNUFF OUT SMOKING ON OUR BEACHES AND IN OUR PARKS?

by Maria Lamb

On June 24, 2022, Governor DeSantis signed HB 105 which renames the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act (FCIAA) the Florida Clean Air Act which expressly allows counties and municipalities to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any of the public beaches and public parks they own, except with regard to the smoking of unfiltered cigars. It went into effect July 1, 2022.

The new law is designed to protect people from secondhand smoke and crack down on the abundance of cigarette butts in beaches and recreational spaces. For years, Florida's beaches have been butt-friendly – that would soon change.

Cigarette butts are the No. 1 form of litter on beaches and according to the Ocean Conservancy (OC), 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered each year. OC has collected more than 60 million cigarette butts from beaches since 1986. Littered cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals into the environment and can contaminate water, poison marine life and wildlife that mistake them for food."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) says "32 percent of all debris gathered in beach clean-ups belong to cigarette butts. Fish and other animal may consider butts as food but are unable to digest them because of the presence of plastic and chemicals, and so they die."

The City of Naples has been supporting legislative efforts to ban cigarette smoking on beaches for years and once HB 105 was signed, it did not take them long to discuss the possibility. Just recently, the Board of Collier County Commissioners also took this up as an agenda item and voted for a public hearing for a possible smoking ban on public beaches and parks. They will take up this issue again either late October or early November.

Other Florida cities, such as Miami Beach, are trying to introduce an ordinance to ban smoking on



There is no shortage of cigarette butts during monthly beach clean-ups



Volunteers are the backbone of the monthly beach clean-ups supported by organizations such as Marco Chamber of Commerce who sponsored this clean-up. Typically, volunteers collect anywhere from 30-60 pounds of trash and cigarette butts top that list

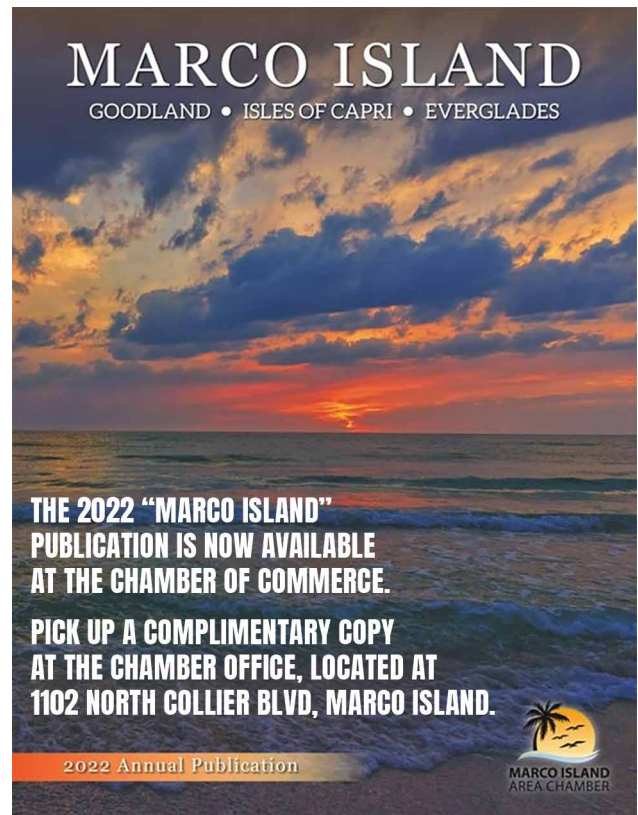
their public beaches and parks citing “environmental and public health concerns.”

On Marco’s beaches, there is no shortage of cigarette butts during beach clean-ups. Monthly beach clean-up volunteers pick up the usual trash such as broken glass bottles, plastic food wrappers, and toys but there is one item more common than any other – cigarette butts.

On Marco Island, volunteers for the Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee’s monthly beach clean-up have been collecting data on the ugly, yucky cigarette butts since 2018. Commonly picked up trash items, particularly cigarette butts were sorted and counted but this practice was halted in 2020 due to COVID.

Cigarette butts have been a constant problem for Marco’s beaches. They are small and easily concealed underneath the sand; easily mistaken by wildlife for food and their filters are slow to degrade. The filters are known to contain toxins such as tar, arsenic, ammonia and formaldehyde.

Is Marco ready to SNUFF out smoking and keep its pristine beach butt free?

A vertical poster for the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce. The top half features a sunset over the ocean with the text "MARCO ISLAND" in large white letters, followed by "GOODLAND • ISLES OF CAPRI • EVERGLADES" in smaller white letters. The bottom half has a dark background with white text announcing the 2022 "MARCO ISLAND" publication. A small logo of a palm tree and sun is in the bottom right corner.

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**THE 2022 “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 BLVD, MARCO ISLAND.**

2022 Annual Publication

MARCO ISLAND
AREA CHAMBER

A horizontal poster for beach clean-ups. The top half has a solid blue background with the text "ALL ARE WELCOME!" in white and "BEACH CLEAN UPS" in large orange letters. The bottom half has a white background with the dates and locations of the clean-ups. A small photo of a beach with people and umbrellas is at the bottom.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

BEACH CLEAN UPS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 8am - Residents’ Beach

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 8am - Quarterly Clean-up, Tigertail Beach Park

MANGROVE RESTORATION PHASE ONE COMPLETE, PHASE TWO ON THE WAY

by Scott Shook, Coastal Breeze News

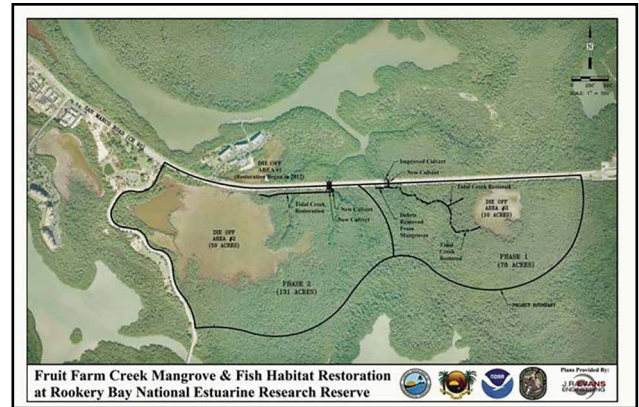
The \$2 million Fruit Farm Creek Mangrove Restoration Project, hailed as the largest mangrove restoration project in the history of Florida, is about to move into Phase Two. The restoration project is located on east San Marco Road, between Goodland Drive and the Stevens Landing condominiums. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.



A total of four culverts will be installed under San Marco Road to provide flow to the mangroves

“We’re restoring the creeks themselves,” said project manager Corey Anderson, restoration biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). “We’re about halfway done with that. We hired a contractor several months ago and they’ve completed Phase One, which was on the existing culvert side on the east. They cleared out debris, dead trees and things from about 2,000 feet of creek. They widened and deepened the creek channel that had filled in over the years. It just didn’t have flow. They used an aquatic excavator machine. It’s basically like your regular excavating machine, with the brontosaurus head that scoops dirt out. But they have one that is aquatic. The track wheels on it float. It’s a pretty nifty piece of equipment.”

The restoration project targets two branches of Fruit Farm Creek, an eastern branch and a western branch.



Map provided by FWC

Both creek branches are on the south side of San Marco Road.

“They both flow north past San Marco Road,” Anderson said, “then they would flow into Big Marco River.”

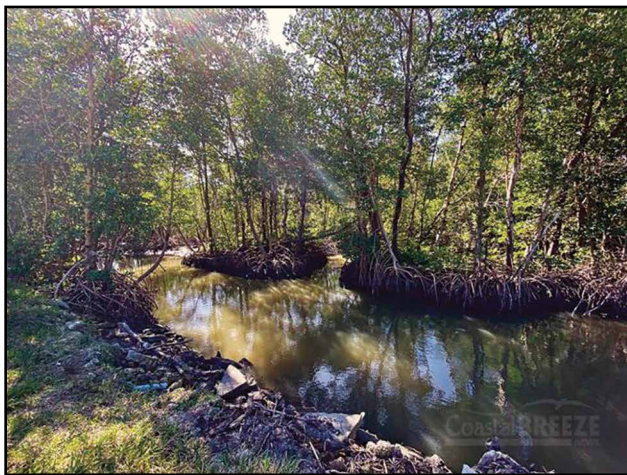
The restoration project requires a great deal of intergovernmental cooperation with the DEP, Office of Resiliency and Coastal Protection, FWC, the City of Marco Island and Coastal Resources Group all lending their expertise. The funding for the project comes from NOAA.

“The funding is related to fishery disaster recovery following Hurricane Irma,” Anderson said. “Specifically, to rebuild fish habitat. Fruit Farm Creek is an excellent one because we know mangroves are fish habitat. We know there was a long-standing problem. And we had the solution, it was just such a big problem that it needed a big injection of funding. This one fit the bill really nicely. With Irma making landfall pretty much on Marco Island, it was a no-brainer that this is someplace we should be working to recover fish habitat and therefore continue the healthy fisheries in the area.”

According to Anderson, the problem with the mangroves started when San Marco Road was put in. The mangroves have been struggling to survive ever since.

“The mangroves are incredibly resilient,” Anderson said. “They deal with shifting soils and they deal with hurricanes and they’re able to bounce back. But this was a longtime stressor. They couldn’t get drained properly of all of the freshwater rainfall in the summer. And they weren’t getting tide in the winter. So, it was alternately drowning and choking them. And it took decades, but I know the Conservancy of Southwest Florida has been studying this for 30 years. And they were beginning to see signs of that in the 1990s. Then slowly the patch of dead trees has grown and grown as the problems just continued.

“Hurricanes exacerbate the existing problem. We had the existing problem that was slowly killing them by 1,000 cuts. Then you get that big wind and rain event, and if the tree is weak, it’s a lot easier for it to fall down. Or for it to just give up the ghost. We did see some expansion of the dead area after Irma. You can see



The eastern branch of Fruit Farm Creek on the south side of San Marco Road. The City of Marco Island will be installing culverts under the road to provide water flow to the affected area

that on the before and after maps. Hurricane Irma did make it worse. That was in our favor in the sense that it was easy to prove there is a link to Hurricane Irma. Because that is where our funding came from.” The eastern branch of Fruit Farm Creek had one undersized culvert that was not functioning well. Crews contracted by the City of Marco Island will replace that culvert and add a second culvert. The new culverts are 60 inches and will double the water flow capacity. They will also install two culverts on the western branch.



These manatee gates will be installed over the ends of the culverts to prevent manatees from being trapped

“We’re getting ready to start on Phase 2 of the creek project,” Anderson said. “That’s on the western side, or western branch. That’s the larger area that’s more visible from the road. They’re going to do the same thing. Clear out dead trees and debris and excavate the creek where it used to be, for about 1,000 feet. That one will be more visible because it’s kind of parallel to San Marco Road. That big, round, dead area. That’s the area we’ll be working on. When they built San Marco Road, going on 80 years ago or more, they didn’t put any pipes under the road there. So, the west branch of Fruit Farm Creek hasn’t flowed for the longest time. And that’s why everything kind of filled in and you have that die off of mangroves. We’re clearing out the creek so we have better flow and we’re putting two big culvert pipes under the road where there were none before.”

The results won’t happen overnight, but with time Anderson is confident Marco Island will see their mangroves come back strong. They will not be planting mangroves to renourish the depleted mangrove forest.

“In fact, our plan is to let nature take its course,” Anderson said. “This is an idea that’s known as ecological mangrove restoration. And I think that term was coined by a man named Robin Lewis. He was the biggest proponent of the Fruit Farm Creek project. The idea is that if you have the right tidal conditions

continued on page 28

Mangrove Restoration
continued from page 27

and the right soil elevations, mangrove propagules will find the spot and go gangbusters if you make the conditions right. We're not planning to do any mangrove planting in the initial couple of years. We're planning to see how the natural recruitment from seed fall is. And go from there. It's basically you get the tidal flows right by opening up those culverts and you get the right land surface by excavating the creek in the surrounding area so water can flow at the right times and the right depth. It used to be productive for mangroves. There's no reason it shouldn't be productive for mangroves again. It will take several years for it to fully recolonize. Potentially decades." According to Anderson, you can expect to see growth within a couple of years.

"We anticipate that it should start to green up in a few years," Anderson said. "You'll get those little sprouts. Then you get the shrubby little ones in a few years. In five years, you'll likely start to see shrubby trees and things. To get a full-grown tree, it takes many years."

One doesn't have to look far to see proof that the program will work. A mangrove die off west of the Stevens Landing Condominiums is a success story.

"There was a pilot program for Fruit Farm Creek by Stevens Landing," Anderson said. "That is now eight years old. There are shrubby mangrove trees in there and they're starting to grow up. That's the same thing we're expecting to happen on the south side of the road. It will take four to five years for them to become shrubby. For them to become small trees it will take at least a decade—and 25 years at least to become full blown trees. Mangroves in that area tend to top out at about 40 feet or so because of hurricanes. Every decade or so if you get a little tropical storm or something, it snaps off the twigs at the top and they don't get much taller than that. They won't necessarily be 40 feet tall in 25 years, it may take longer than that. It depends on the growing conditions and other things. I'm not going to go out on a limb and say that in 25 years you'll have a whole new forest. There's a lot of factors that affect that, but within several decades the forest should return."

Anderson, while not directly involved with the Goodland Drive road construction project, says it provides a direct benefit to his project.



Project manager Corey Anderson sees a healthier mangrove forest in the future

"That has a positive effect," Anderson said, "because it should reduce the flooding over Goodland Drive, which is very bad for life, limb, and property. It should increase the flow underneath the road. That will be a positive benefit for the mangroves over there."

While one might assume it's just one big mangrove forest off of San Marco Road, it's actually not.

"The entire area between Goodland and, say Stevens Landing and those other developments to your south," Anderson said, "looks like one forest. But it flows in different directions. Closer to Goodland it flows toward Goodland. At Stevens Landing it flows north. Probably down south closer to Captain Horr's Island, it flows south, I'm sure. Four or five inches of elevation in Florida changes the way water flows. You get a little bit of a rise or a hump and stuff goes in a different direction. In the grand scheme of things, both of those efforts are helping out. So, it all kind of drains away to the easiest path it can find. The work that they did on Goodland Drive will be good for the immediate area. And it's right up next to the work we're doing for Fruit Farm Creek and it will all make for a healthier mangrove forest in the future."

*Reprinted from Coastal Breeze News,
March 16, 2022. Photos taken by Scott Shook*

MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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

As of July 1, 2022, Marco Island Center for the Arts began running the community theatre located in Marco Town Center. Now known as the Arts Center Theatre, the 2022-2023 season will consist of six produced plays along with several other live performances including, comedy, music and cabaret. Mainstage productions run three weeks Wednesday – Sunday – Wednesday – Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday matinee at 3:00pm and the plays are as follows:

- **October 26 - November 13, 2022** -
“Apartment 3A” by Jeff Daniels
- **November 30 - December 18, 2022** -
“The Fantasticks” Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
- **January 4 - 22, 2023** -
The Odd Couple (female version) by Neil Simon
- **February 8 - 26, 2023** -
“Plaza Suite” by Neil Simon
- **March 15 - April 2, 2023** -
“Hollywood Arms” by Carol Burnett and Carrie Hamilton
- **April 19 - May 7, 2023** -
“The Foreigner” by Larry Shue

For more information about tickets, auditions and volunteering, go to <https://www.marcoislandart.org/arts-center-theater/> or call 239-394-4221.

Why does Community Theatre matter? The art, process and effects of live performance are incredibly important in the current world of social media, digital technology and screens. Actually being present with a group of living, breathing people is important to the art of acting and for the human spirit.

Theatre helps you to see a different perspective from your own as you observe humanity, psychology, motivations, conflict and resolution presented on stage. You can view the experiences of people other than yourself. If you are an actor, you put yourself into emotional and intellectual situations that may never arise in your own life. Theatre can provide the power to tell the truth, to take risks and to advocate for new and diverse voices.



The Swingset cast members George Birr, Charlie Blum and Kristyn Estes

A brilliant theatre performance can motivate you to want to make changes in the world. Self-empowerment can be the result of community theatre, which might give you the boost needed to make a difference. What you learn from acting in a show or while watching a performance can give a new perspective on your environment and spark creativity. With these new insights, you can create innovative solutions to societal issues and try to make the world a better place. Theatre reminds us that we are not alone. The intimacy and engagement between live actors and live audience members is not only valuable, it provides necessary human connections.

As public schools reduce creative programs, community theatre has never been more important for our youth. Theatre promotes education and literacy. Studies have shown that students who participate in theatre do better in school. Young people need a place where they can explore the creative aspects of their minds and where they can express their emotions without fear of rejection.

Community theatre can bring together people for a common goal: To put on a great production. It can teach everyone about working with one another and bettering themselves as individuals and as a whole. Even the audience benefits, as they share in the collective effort.

Go see community theatre. Please support community theatre. Get involved with community theatre. Love community theatre and the community within it. Join us at the Arts Center Theatre.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FLORIDA?

Florida turned 177 years old on March 3, 2022, having joined the United States of America in 1845 as its 27th state. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state had a population of 21,538,187 on April 1, 2020 - a 14.6% increase compared to the 2010 Census.

Official state titles:

- Nickname: "The Sunshine State"
- State Animal: Florida panther
- State Bird: Mockingbird
- State Freshwater Fish: Florida largemouth bass
- State Marine Mammal: Manatee
- State Reptile: Alligator
- State Saltwater Fish: Atlantic sailfish
- State Saltwater Mammal: Porpoise
- State Saltwater Reptile: Loggerhead sea turtle
- State Flower: Orange blossom
- State Tree: Sabal palm
- State Beverage: Orange juice
- State Fruit: Orange
- State Pie: Key lime pie

The U.S. acquired Florida from Spain in 1819, though it wasn't formally transferred until 1821. On March 30, 1822, it became the "Florida Territory" with the same general boundaries that it has now. It became an official part of the U.S. Census in 1830.

Florida has a land area of 53,633.7 square miles and a water area of 12,106.1 square miles, making it 22% water. By area, it's the 22nd largest state.

Florida trivia based on the 2020 census:

- 30.7%: Percentage of Floridians with at least a bachelor's degree
- 9,865,350: Total number of housing units
- 56.2%: Percentage of the labor force employed

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO THE JURY SCAM

The Collier Clerk's Office is reminding residents to beware of the jury duty scam.

The jury scam typically involves a telephone call from someone claiming to be a law enforcement officer or court official. The caller states that a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you have failed to show for jury duty. The only way to avoid arrest and incarceration is to immediately pay a fine by credit card, prepaid debit cards/gift cards, or money transfer.

If you protest that you never received a jury summons, the scammer asks for your Social Security number and date of birth, claiming to need it to cancel the arrest warrant. The personal information that you divulge may be used to commit additional fraud.

To Guard Against Jury Duty Scams, Follow These Tips:

- Call the Clerk of Court's office to ask if there is a valid jury duty issue, (239) 252-2646;
- Never give personal or financial information over the phone to a stranger,
- Recognize that anyone asking for payments to be made through a gift card is most likely a scammer; and
- Be wary of Caller ID, as this can be spoofed, making a phone call look like it is coming from a real source.

For assistance with any suspicious encounter involving a request for money or personal information, call the Collier Sheriff's "Before You Pay" hotline, (239) 252-2255. The hotline is staffed Monday through Friday by a deputy in the Financial Crimes Bureau.

OSPREY AS A SENTINEL SPECIES IN THE DETECTION OF POLLUTED WATER

by Eugene Wordehoff, Marco Island Resident

The Ospreys that used to nest on the navigation marker in Smokehouse Bay have left. These majestic birds depended on fish in the bay as a food source. Eagles used to perch in a large Norfolk Pine on our property and observe the bay. The fish have left the bay and the osprey and eagle no longer have a food source. Why did the fish leave? No oxygen. Why did the seagrass die? No light. Why did the manatee leave? No seagrass as food. It is not that the ospreys have left all of Marco Island, but just the areas where they cannot find food, like Smokehouse Bay.

The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in the canals on Marco Island is experiencing a five-year long steady decline and “hypoxic hot spots” or the near total absence of oxygen in the water are appearing. The waterways are choked with algae that are fed by the nutrients in the reuse water (purple pipes) coming from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The algae block the sunlight from reaching the bottom of the bay and the seagrass has died.

The City of Marco Island is using our bays and canals as the final process step in sewage treatment. Very effective for the city. Low cost. The disadvantage to the residents is that the waterways are no longer full of aquatic life and are just part of a sewage treatment process. The canals are discolored and smelly.

Research is currently underway exploring the relationship between algal blooms and degenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and ALS. Algal blooms and benthic mat releases are now occurring on Marco regularly, typically in the warmer summer months. The “benthic mat” is an accumulation on the canal bottom that is caused by the nutrients from the partially treated sewage spread across Marco in the form of reuse water (purple pipes) from the sewage treatment plant.

We put a mini reef under our dock on Smokehouse Bay two years ago. There was abundant fish life then. We had also installed underwater lights along the dock. It was like our own very large private aquarium. Literally hundreds of minnows darting in and out of the cover of



An osprey with his prey, photo by Debbie Barker

the dock had attracted numerous larger species of fish. Small crabs skittled sideways through the water periodically. This aquatic activity attracted many birds that would perch on the seawall and observe the activities with great interest. All gone. I’m sure many residents that live on a canal or bay have a similar story to tell. Smelly colored water is all that is left.

As described by Stanley Manahan in “*Environmental Chemistry*,” “An organism that has been described as a worldwide sentinel species to assess and monitor environmental pollution in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries is the osprey, a large raptor bird with a wingspan that can exceed 1.5 meters. Found in all continents throughout the world except for Antarctica, the osprey feeds almost exclusively on fish.” When the fish are gone, the osprey leave the area.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels in the Delaware Estuary along the east coast of the US have increased significantly over the last 30 years because of improved wastewater treatment and osprey are becoming a more familiar sight there. This shows that it can be done. The loss of the osprey is just one more of the trade-offs that the Marco residents are forced to endure so that the condos and golf courses can benefit from “cheap fertilizer” in the polluted reuse water.

CELEBRATING HOMEOWNERSHIP

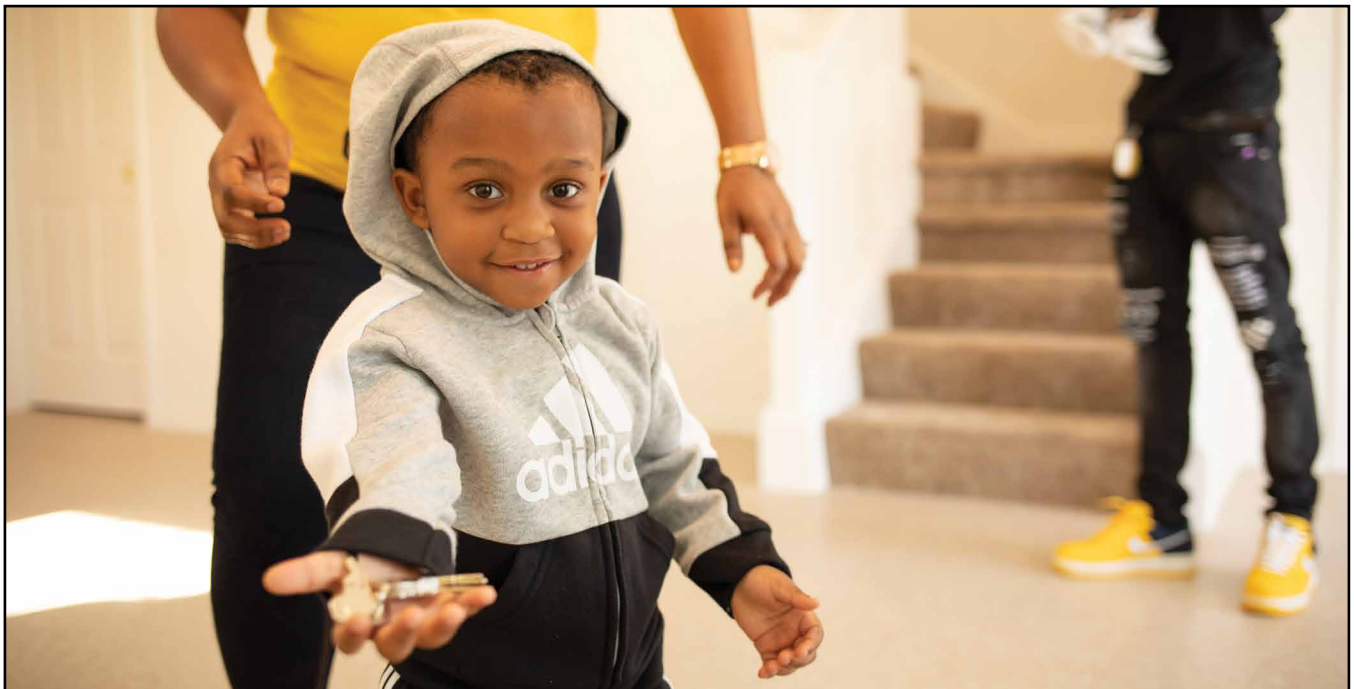
by Andrea McKenna, Donor Relations, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

Every day we read in the news how important and difficult it is for hard-working families to purchase an affordable home. We are happy to report that as of the close of our fiscal year last June, 35 grateful families now call the beautiful Habitat community, Whitaker Woods, home. The community is conveniently located just off Santa Barbara Blvd. with access to good jobs and schools. It's an ideal location for those working on Marco Island. In fact, five of the families who purchased homes there this year are employed on Marco Island.

Two families employed on the Island just purchased and moved into their forever homes. Kathiana is a Resident Care Assistant at The Beach House. She received her associate degree in nursing and plans to take the state nursing licensing exam soon. She and her three children, ages 4 through 9, were living in a very bad neighborhood known for illegal activity when she applied for her Habitat home. Rent was over \$1,000 per month for a cramped apartment where it was not safe for the children to play outside. After Kathiana closed on her home she said "Thank you will never

be enough! My children and I are so grateful for this opportunity." Now the children have plenty of space in their bedrooms to rest and study, and a safe playground where they will enjoy games with neighbors and likely make life-long friends.

Eline, who is employed at JW Marriott, closed on her home this August. She and her three children are settling into their new neighborhood. Eline had been paying \$1,500 per month in rent for an apartment that was in disrepair. Eline felt it was not a safe place to raise her children. Her dream was to invest her money in something that would be a safe and decent home that would provide her children with the stability and security they deserve. In her thank-you note Eline wrote, "May you be proud of the work you do and the difference you make. Thank you is the least I can say to you to show my appreciation for everything you have done for me and my family." Working at JW Marriott is becoming a family affair. Eldest son, Kendy, graduated from Lely High School. He wants to attend FSW to study nursing but is working at JW Marriott to earn some money and help his family with expenses before he begins.



Making the dream of homeownership a reality for Habitat families certainly presented challenges in this tough housing market with increased costs and limited availability of supplies, but we are back on track to complete Whitaker Woods and begin construction on a new neighborhood called Songbird. Songbird, located off Pine Ridge Road in North Naples, gives families access to a highly desirable area at a cost they can afford. When complete, Songbird will be home to 52 families. These homes and the 2,440 that we have built and sold to qualified families since our founding in 1978, create the solid foundation upon which families see their dreams come true. Once they move into their Habitat homes, parents see a bright future ahead for themselves and their children.

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 those who offer their hand-up in partnership to Habitat Collier and the families we serve. We are sincerely grateful to all who provide support, helping us get one step closer to the day when everyone has an affordable 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 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 one percent 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 17 four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog. In 2014, Habitat Collier was recognized as #1 in the nation for Housing and Community Development. Ninety-five cents 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 four years, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar.








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IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER YOUR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY STRIVES TO MAKE THAT DREAM A REALITY

by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer

The American Cancer Society is a national community-based organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health threat. We are driven by volunteers across the country who share and support that common goal. The beautiful city of Marco Island, fueled by its spirit of generosity and volunteerism, is a driving force in supporting that mission.

In February 2022, the Marco Island unit of the American Cancer Society demonstrated that spirit at the tenth celebration of the Imagination Ball, a gala fundraiser that has raised over \$2 million in funding for cancer research and patient support services. Presented by Marco Island philanthropists Bill and Karen Young and Jim and Christine Walker, the elegant event held at the JW Marriott honored 10-year Gala Chair, Debra Shanahan with the prestigious Grado award. The Grado Award is named in honor



Rick Popoff of the ACS Board presents the Grado Award to Debra Shanahan



ACS volunteers with Grado Award winner, Debra Shanahan



Scenes from the Imagination Ball, the gala fundraiser that has raised over \$2 million in support of cancer research and support

of Marco Island resident Corrie Grado and her late husband, John, for their years of commitment to the American Cancer Society. The award is presented to individuals who have continued that dedication and support. Ten years ago, when Debra Shanahan and her late husband, Dick Shanahan became the gala chairs, they embraced the theme and vision to “Imagine a World Without Cancer.” Sadly, Dick Shanahan has since passed away from complications of hepatobiliary cancer, but Debra has continued the mission and the dream, never missing a beat. Plans are currently underway for the 11th annual ACS Imagination Ball. Mark your calendars now for February 25, 2023, at Marco Island’s beautiful JW Marriott!

In the meantime, the American Cancer Society invites you to join us Saturday, October 8 at 10 am for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) of Southwest Florida. Make your strides along the beautiful walking trails of North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples as we envision a world without breast cancer. In 2021, the Southwest Florida event raised \$151,931 in the quest for a cure. Chaired by Robin Rosario and Merry Coffman, this year’s event has set a goal to go even further.

MSABC is the largest network of breast cancer events in the USA. We make strides, but it is not just about the walk. It is a movement! MSABC raises



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

money to fund breast cancer research and provide patient support services such as free rides to cancer treatments, free lodging close to treatment centers, and a 24/7 cancer helpline to patients in need.

When you support the MSABC movement, you help to fund innovative breast cancer research and programs for our loved ones today and for the next generation. You bring into focus our vision of a world where one day our children will no longer live with the threat of breast cancer.

Events like these are helping to fund lifesaving research. Sadly, today almost 1,700 people in the US will die of cancer. Statistically, that means that more than 600,000 Americans could die of cancer this year alone. That is why we maintain our commitment to finish the fight against this deadly disease once and for all.

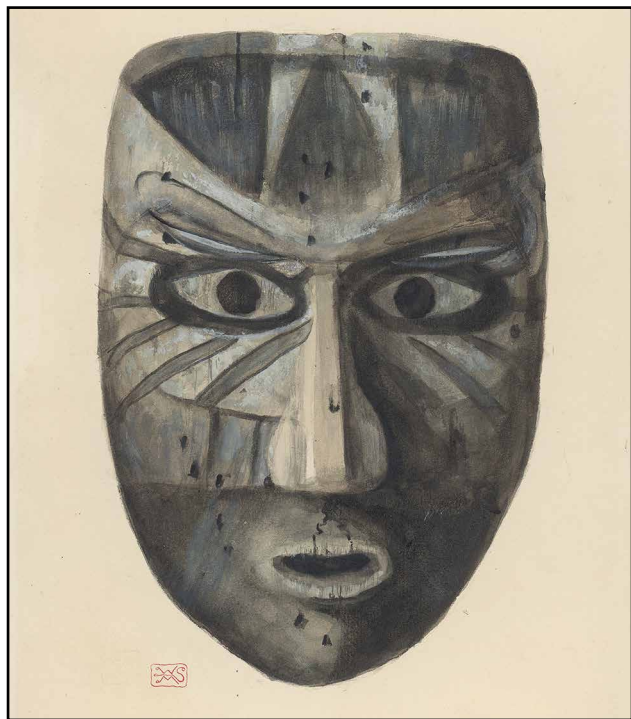
But we cannot do it alone. We need YOU! Please volunteer your time, support our fundraisers, and help us create a world without cancer!

For more information, please visit www.cancer.org, Making Strides of Southwest Florida | (acsevents.org), or contact your American Cancer Society at 239-610-3032, or Sue.Olszak@cancer.org

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW AT MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM: ART OF THE DIG: WELLS SAWYER'S WATERCOLORS

There is always something new at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM)! The Marco Island Historical Museum presents Art of the Dig: Wells Sawyer's Watercolors, October 13, 2022 through January 19, 2023. Carvelli Restaurant Group is the presenting sponsor. An opening reception will be held Thursday, October 13, from 5-6:30 p.m. For those who would like to test their artistic skills, free watercolor kits will be available to MIHM visitors while supplies last.

Wells Moses Sawyer, an important American painter, was the expedition artist for the famed 1896 Pepper-Hearst expedition to Marco Island



*Painted wooden Calusa mask found at Key Marco.
Watercolor by Wells Sawyer.
Photo credit: Courtesy National Anthropological Archives*



Pepper-Hearst Expedition leader Frank Hamilton Cushing aboard the expedition's Silver Spray schooner. Watercolor by Wells Sawyer. Photo credit: Courtesy Florida Museum of Natural History

that discovered the world-famous Key Marco Cat that is on loan to MIHM through 2026 from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Additional rare 500-to-1,500-year-old pre-Columbian Native American artifacts discovered with the Key Marco Cat include 16 artifacts on loan from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology through 2024.

Because the artifacts were buried in an oxygen-free muck that preserved them for hundreds of years, they were remarkably intact down to their original paint colors. While many disintegrated upon exposure to the air, Sawyer captured them in his paintings and black and white photographs before they were lost forever.

Six of Sawyer's original watercolors depicting the Key Marco artifacts as they were discovered are on loan from the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. In addition, 25 reproductions of his works

are on loan for the exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

According to Austin Bell, Curator of Collections for the Marco Island Historical Society, "Sawyer's works not only document some of the best-known evidence of Florida's early Native peoples, but also demonstrate his immense skill and talent as an artist. The now-iconic watercolors, which first melded the arts and sciences more than a century ago, continue to provoke inquiry while serving as timeless visual connections to Florida's past."

Visitors experience all-new MIHM Lobby

The MIHM lobby space has been transformed into a dynamic new exhibit that is evoking a lot of "wows" from Museum members and visitors. The new look, by award-winning exhibit designers Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc. includes vibrantly colorful wall panels that provide a walk through time snapshot of Marco Island from its pre-history to modern day. Striking three-dimensional suspended sculptures serve as a visual timeline of Marco Island's history while providing a sneak peek into what visitors will see and experience once they enter the galleries.

MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell was project director for the lobby transformation. "We're very excited to put the finishing touches on the whole museum," he notes. "Starting in 2014, we did three permanent exhibits. Now, we're able to tie it all together with the lobby which serves as kind of a table of contents of what you can expect to see inside."

"Our long-time vision for the completion of the Marco Island Historical Museum lobby as a fifth exhibit space has been realized. Now our visitors immediately become engaged in the storytelling that brings to life the unique and fascinating history of Marco Island," says MIHS Chief Executive Officer Pat Rutledge.

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.



Marco Island Historical Museum lobby has been transformed into a dynamic new exhibit

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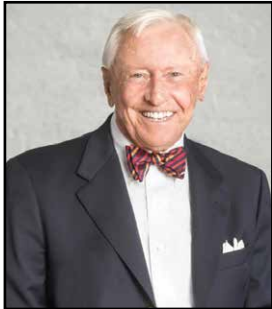

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MARCO ISLAND CITY COUNCIL

2022 CANDIDATES



ERIK BRECHNITZ is a Senior Vice President at Raymond James. He has been Chairman of the Marco Island City Council for three of the last four years. Erik was the Mayor of City of Decatur, IL, a city with a \$100 mil. budget; lowered property taxes three of four years, reduced overall employees by 5%, built \$40 million water treatment plant with the 1st adjustable rate bond issue in the State of Illinois. He was Chairman of Public Building Commission - took over bankrupt commission, restructured debt & completed \$20 mil. Court renovation with no increase in taxes. He was also a Trustee of Millikin University, Chairman of Budget & Finance Committee - \$40 million annual budget, cut \$2 million from budget by increasing operating efficiencies, increased enrollment by 10%. Received the only honorary doctorate the school has ever issued to a non graduate. Chairman of Hickory Point Bank - started this community-based bank in 1978, which was subsequently sold to Archer Daniels Midland.



CHRISTINE DOWELL is a wife, mother, stepmother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She and her husband bought their Marco home and married in 2019. They moved from Illinois where she raised three children as a single mom. She received her bachelor's degree from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. After staying for two years as a head nurse in the area, she took a position as a Pediatric Oncology Research and Data Manager at the University of Illinois-Chicago. There she co-founded Families and Amputees in Motion support group. Additionally, she studied at the Cleveland Clinic as a nationally certified Wound/Ostomy Consultant returning to Illinois as a consultant for two rural hospitals. In 2005, Christine volunteered her expertise in Mississippi assisting the running of a medical clinic following Hurricane Katrina. While there, she coordinated care for the clinic's daily patients and mobile unit serving the surrounding community. In 2008, she was co-founder of a Tea Party in Illinois. The group had a voice locally, in the state and nationally. They hosted forums for congressional candidates, a presidential candidate, a gubernatorial candidate, and the founder of Tea Party Patriots. On Marco, Christine met a group of individuals concerned about their quality of life regarding the short-term rental issue. They collectively formed the "Citizens For A Better Marco" PAC to bring residents together to make the maximum positive effort for the community. Christine participates in various community activities and organizations: Newcomers Club, Beach clean ups, Marco Island Center for the Arts.



GREG FOLLEY is a full-time resident of Marco Island and was appointed to City Council in June 2020, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councilor Sam Young. He was elected for the balance of Young's term in November 2020. Greg is married to Margo, father to nine children and two stepchildren, and grandfather of eight. He is a parishioner at San Marco Catholic Church, a veteran, attorney and retired Vice President of Caterpillar Inc. His professional career spanned nearly 40 years and he served in all three branches of federal government, including service on the White House staff under President Reagan. He practiced labor and employment law at major law firms and as labor counsel for American Airlines, before joining Caterpillar. At Caterpillar Greg served in a variety of roles, including lead labor negotiator and the company's first Chief Analytics and Innovation Officer. He also led several of its largest and most profitable divisions, which had over 10,000 employees in 60 facilities in 18 states and 18 countries. While at Caterpillar, Greg served as Chairman of the Board of Central Illinois chapter of American Red Cross and helped deliver vital emergency services to residents displaced by flooding and tornadoes. He also served on the boards of Catholic Charities and Eureka College. Greg attended the Stanford Executive Program at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Notre Dame. He has extensive board experience with different companies, and was admitted to the Bar Associations of Indiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Illinois and Texas.

DARRIN PALUMBO is a 24-year resident of Marco Island. He has been married to his wife Suzanne for 24 years. Their two children, Jenna and Ryan, were born and raised on Marco Island and have each grown up playing sports and attending local schools. Both have recently graduated from Marco Island Academy and are now attending college. Darrin's professional background is in finance, mortgages, real estate, securities, insurance, new construction, and land development. He currently enjoys being a local small business owner of "Sweet Annie's Ice Cream Parlour." He employs and mentors over 30 local high school and college students at his business and enjoys interacting with everyone in the community who comes into his popular shop. Darrin's professional background is in the real estate industry where he has worked as a realtor for 32 years. He has held licenses as SEC security broker, mortgage broker, insurance broker (life, health, and property and casualty). He has previously served on the Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee, coached local high school sports, regularly participates in beach clean-ups, fundraisers, and local charitable events. He believes there is no greater joy than giving back to a community that has given so much to himself and his family.



NANETTE RIVERA and her husband, Gene Wordehoff, share a passion to study and understand what has led to the decline of the waterbody health in Marco Island. They focus on science, statistics, and fact-based analysis to identify the root sources of excess nutrients. Nanette is an engineer from Georgia Tech and an MBA in Finance & Accounting from the University of Chicago. She uses her academic training to focus on facts; thus, her mantra: More Facts – Less Politics! Over 40-years in the Pharmaceutical Industry, her career progressed from entry Engineer to Corporate VP of Supply Chain Strategy, specializing in restructuring global corporations. In 1999, Nanette and Gene bought their home on Smokehouse Bay, where they plan to remain as they 'age-in-place.' Since retirement, Nanette has focused her efforts in serving on community boards, such as the Big Cypress Basin (appointment by Governor DeSantis) and Vice-Chair of Marco Island's Planning Board. She is a Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger, is active with the San Marco Church Columbiettes and the Marco Island Power Squadron. She earned a Certified Crew designation with US Coast Guard Auxiliary and is an active volunteer with AL's Pals Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, and monthly beach cleanups. Nanette is bilingual in English and Spanish. She graduated from high school in Atlanta, GA, which she called home. Her strength is in helping organizations to focus on how to deliver high quality services and value to those they serve; she is committed to bringing that experience as a member of our City Council.



Marco Island City Council CANDIDATES FORUM

Thursday, October 13th, 6:00 - 8:30pm

Marco Island City Council Chambers

Open to the Public

Live Streamed from the City Council Chambers and Live from Marco's Own 98.1 FM

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES TO 2022 MARCO ISLAND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

1. *In Dr. Harper's 2021 Water Quality Report to the City of Marco Island, he points out that the reuse water from the Marco wastewater treatment plant is directly linked to poor canal water quality. Will you support a project to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to clean the nutrients out of the reuse water?*

Brechnitz: Nothing more important than our water. There are conflicting scientific judgments about the contribution of reuse water to canal water quality. Dr. Harper believes that reuse water is a contributing factor to poor canal water quality. Eric Jorgensen of Jacobs engineering believes that reuse water is not a contributing factor. Upgrading our plants is always a possibility, but it is not a simple solution (deep well injection, which raises other environmental concerns and is very expensive). I believe the City Council should seek other expert advice to resolve this conflict. Measure twice cut once. I am willing to spend the money when the science becomes less murky. In the meantime, let's enforce our current ordinances starting with the fertilizer ordinance. We have a good set of rules on the books but we haven't been enforcing them. I believe in good code enforcement and we need to implement this immediately.

Dowell: It is my understanding that there was a vote by the City Council recently to permit a RFI on this project. It is important to the citizens of Marco to understand the process involved and the cost to them. I will support a project to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to reduce the nutrient output. Naples and Everglades City have this in place.

Folley: This question asks whether I am prepared to spend taxpayer funds to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to remove nutrients out of reuse water. The question cites one study by Dr. Harper but ignores another study commissioned by the City from Jacobs Engineering that finds that reuse water in Marco Island is consistent with applicable environmental regulations and has a negligible impact on the nutrient levels in our canals. Further, our sampling data shows that nitrogen and phosphorus content in canal waters closest to places where reuse water is applied (golf course and condos) is not higher than concentrations found elsewhere in our canals. Thus, the case has not been made that spending money to remove nutrients from reuse water will have any impact on the quality of water in our canals. I do support more expanded sampling as recommended by Messrs. Reed and Issler in our recent Council meeting where this was discussed, to better determine the source of the nutrients in the canals. I am also willing to see what the cost would be to remove nutrients from reuse water, but I will oppose major expenditures of taxpayer monies absent a clear showing that such spending will reduce the amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus in our canals. Government routinely wastes taxpayer money but one of the worst ways this is done is by "taking action" when there is absolutely no indication that the results of the action taken will be effective. I don't support that.

Palumbo: I would absolutely support a project to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. However, as I have pledged not to raise the millage rate, the costs for these upgrades will have to be carefully considered and accounted for within our budget. This may require us to look for other technologies or ways to be more efficient within our budget and it may also require us to look for government grants or incentives that may be available to us. As I have stated many times, I believe the canals and the

waterways are the lifeblood of our community. They supply the food we eat and the air we breathe. They create relaxation and a chance to decompress from everyday life. They support tourism, and most importantly, they are the home for many majestic creatures that need our help to survive. In addition to supporting upgrades to our water treatment plant, I believe we should be looking over the bridge to band with other coastal communities for the benefit of fighting to protect our waterways on a local, county, and state level.

Rivera: Yes, this needs to be done now. Marco's reuse water is currently used to irrigate the landscaping of condos, hotels, City medians, and golf courses across the Island. This reuse water is equivalent to spraying liquid fertilizer on the landscaping and it has been making its way into our waterbody daily for years. Marco is polluting the waterways with excess nutrients. This must stop. Marco needs to reduce the high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen in the reuse water by upgrading the wastewater treatment plant with technology designed to strip the high levels of nutrients out of this waste stream. Cost-effective, proven, state of the art technology is currently being used by FDEP and SFWMD to remove nutrients and Marco should leverage that technology.

2. *It seems the City Land Development Code (LDC), the Comprehensive Plan and the Florida Building Code are under constant revision. How do you view these documents, as flexible suggestions that can be amended frequently or firm codes that guide future development island wide?*

Brechnitz: No, the city's LDC and CP are not "under constant revision." The City by Florida statute must update its CP every decade, and we had fallen behind, so that was accomplished just this past year. As the CP is updated, the LDC must be examined to bring it into consistency. The LDC cannot be changed more than four times a year unless it meets certain special circumstances as outlined in the Land Development Code itself. Florida building code changes are of course completely out of our hands. My view is that changes (such as hurricane protections) have been made in the interest of citizen safety, and I welcome them.

Dowell: Presently, our LDC does not correspond to the Comprehensive Plan. I do not see them as "flexible suggestions" as stated above. All are to be seen as rules to be followed until such time that the governmental agencies overseeing them change them by vote. The Land Development Code for Marco has not changed since the City's inception. As such, it should be enforced. It is the Director of Growth Management who interprets the LDC. The Comprehensive Plan is mandated by the State of Florida to be reviewed every 20 years. Marco's Land Development Code needs to be revised to meet the Comprehensive Plan adopted in October 2021. The Florida Building code is set by the State. Marco must follow building codes until such time they are revised by the State. There can always be recommendations sent to the State if there are important issues that need to be addressed for safety issues.

Folley: I generally believe that the codes should be relatively stable so that residents and businesses have clarity when making their choices in real estate and business investments. So, I am cautious in making amendments. However, no council or legislature can prevent a future council or legislature from changing these codes - it is the prerogative of elected bodies. But I tend to err on the side of stability, predictability, and protection of property rights.

Palumbo: I definitely do not view them as flexible suggestions, but rather believe that they should be viewed as firm codes with a bit of flexibility. Our island is growing organically due to the build-out of our vacant lots and snowbirds now staying year-round. Balancing this growth while trying to maintain our quaint small-town atmosphere will be difficult. We must first come together as a community to

Continued on page 42

accomplish this task. This is not something we can accomplish if we are fighting amongst ourselves or divided. In my opinion, we should work rigorously to maintain the integrity of our Land Development Codes. We should take meticulous action between the City, the people and all involved before we make any decisions about changing them. When change is necessary, we should only consider changes that are in the best interest of the community. To that end, we should be transparent and work together to make sure we get it right. As the island grows, the decisions we make for the next 25 years are going to be twice as important as the decisions we had made in the past 25 years.

Rivera: These are firm codes. Engineering, materials, and knowledge of our environment are dynamic disciplines. Latest best thinking drives code revision decisions. The policies underpinning our regulations should remain unchanged, and typically these three key documents are amended to drive improvements in safety and quality. Not maintaining codes current and aligned can encourage lax code enforcement and over time it drives residents to feel there is uneven enforcement. Any amendment to a code should be deliberate, written with enforceability in mind, and should follow a consistent approval process (our codes are not suggestions). Marco's codes should also avoid redundancy and linkage to policy should be clear.

3. *Are you in favor of rezoning Caxambas Boat Park from “park” to “marina”? Do you have any suggestions to alleviate the traffic and inability of residents to utilize Caxambas Boat Park?*

Brechnitz: No, it is a park. The problems would be alleviated if the county lived up to its commitments and obeyed the ordinances. We are working with county commissioner LoCastro to get the County into compliance. Marco Island is blessed with two very successful and thriving marinas – both privately owned and operated. We do not need to authorize the county to operate a marina, just so it can avoid living up to its responsibilities.

Dowell: I am not in favor of rezoning Caxambas Park to a marina. It is under the Land Development Code zoning of Marco Island. I might be amenable to continuing the bait shoppe and the gas service already present at the park. The MICA deed restriction for the Caxambas Park also states that the County must follow all Marco zoning for the Park.

Folley: No. I believe the County is not charging enough for commercial businesses using the Park as its base of operations. Pricing is too low, not market based, and serves as a “magnet” for businesses who are seeking to keep their costs as low as possible. If prices are adjusted appropriately, then residents should have much better access to the Park. Further, the City should enforce its zoning requirements, which would require commercial entities to obtain a conditional use permit to operate a business there. MICA can also enforce deed restrictions governing commercial uses in Caxambas, and should do so.

Palumbo: At this time, I would not be in favor of rezoning Caxambas Park. I believe that once you increase taxes or government, it is almost impossible to go back. I feel the same way about rezoning Caxambas Park. Once we do this, we can never go back. Even if we were to consider this change on a County and local level, it should only be done after an extremely detailed vetting process where everybody involved would have ample opportunity to provide input. On a positive note, now that Covid has subsided, it seems that some of the congestion issues at Caxambas Park have eased up a bit. With that said, I believe the county is doing a good job by having rangers present to direct traffic, move people along and issue tickets when necessary. I would also like to explore other avenues to alleviate congestion, such as a small floating dock that does not harm the environment or change the visual effect of the park. This addition may allow jet skis, kayakers, and boaters to have a staging area as they are waiting for the trailers to be dropped into the water. In my opinion, this might allow for quicker ingress and egress. In addition, county and local workshops should be provided so that residents,

businesses, and local officials can have an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and come up with the most logical solutions for our challenges.

Rivera: Caxambas Boat Park should NOT be rezoned as a County marina. Marco is a residential community. This park was never intended to be developed as a county-wide marina. The Marco city charter does not identify recreation or entertainment as a mission at the scale needed to accommodate Collier County residents at large.

4. *3,208 individuals responded to a city-wide survey. Results showed that trust in City government is at a low point with 52% of residents stating that the City is headed in the “wrong direction.” What is your plan to restore trust in City government?*

Brechnitz: I am not sure that it is the low point. It is definitely one point, and that is the date the survey was taken. In 2017, the year before I was elected, MICA’s citizen survey in November 2017 showed 7% “very satisfied” with City Counselors lowest by far of all groups asked about. When I ran for Council for the first time in 2018 it was for the expressed purpose of improving the standing of City Council. MICA’s survey in 2019 was very clear, our community wants a mayor, with 61% voting in favor. I believe with an elected mayor serving as one of the equals on the Council, just as Naples does, chances are we would see improvements in City services and import as a result in the standing of City Council members. We are one of the only three cities in Florida that does not have a mayor.

Dowell: I plan on having regular town hall meetings (listening sessions) to discuss the issues that are important to the citizens and to hear from them what they see as the future of Marco Island. I frequently hear that the CITIZENS of Marco are not heard. I would also recommend an executive summary each week to be given to the City Councilors.

Folley: I worked with the City Manager to make this survey happen, and I am pleased we have these results. Context is helpful here. Nationwide, over 80% of voters believe the country is on the wrong track, so 52% here is concerning but not surprising. What I have done to enhance trust is to write a monthly newsletter to every registered voter on the Island who has shared an email address with the County Supervisor of Elections. In this newsletter I have summarized the key actions taken by Council at each meeting and explained why I took the position I did. I also solicit feedback from citizens. I find this to be one of the best ways I personally can build trust with voters and be as transparent as possible about why I do what I do. I have a strong, fiscally conservative set of principles and am in favor of limited government as envisioned by our founders so that freedom may be maximized within the context of “ordered liberty.” However, I also have a clear duty to represent the views of those who have elected me, and it is my job to listen carefully to them about their concerns and act on them consistent with my principles and beliefs. Knowing this, citizens should have a fairly good understanding of how I approach most issues.

Palumbo: Our City government must be committed to honesty, integrity, and complete transparency. We cannot have people running for Council with one campaign agenda. Whether we like it or not, as City Councilors, we will have to represent an entire community, and sometimes that will mean putting personal agendas aside for the good of the residents. I would like to see many more well-advertised City Council workshops and public events which will allow us to come together as a community. The other challenge is that there is only a small group of people on our island that are politically active. We need to encourage our entire community of nearly 16,000 residents (and far more in season) to voice their opinions, thoughts, compliments, and concerns. If we do this, I believe we can greatly increase our City government approval.

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Rivera: More facts - Less politics. For each issue or opportunity discussed at the City Council, I will seek to understand these issues based on facts. Councilors must show leadership in developing an understanding of what residents need and want. Councilors must also show leadership by being transparent on how facts lead to decisions. When there is no common set of facts available for a decision, emotions and politics are all that is left. Misinformation, conjecture, speculation, and opinion then feed decision making. All of this leads to an inefficient and ineffective City Council. This same City-wide survey showed that 70% of respondents feel the City is headed in the "wrong direction" after 15 years on the island.

5. *What process will you follow to appoint citizens to the Planning Board and city advisory committees?*

Brechnitz: Our boards and committees do much of the heavy lifting in municipal government, and we must attract the highest caliber of citizens to serve in these unpaid and generally thankless positions. Our current process is that each counselor appoints one board or committee member. I have made the suggestion in at least two public meetings that we change the process. Interested citizens should apply, resumes should be evaluated and the entire Council should vote on each committee and board member. That in my judgment, would take politics out of the process.

Dowell: I would first seek out those interested in participating on one of the committees and have them submit a letter of interest and resume. I would also seek out counsel from former City Council members.

Folley: I have appointed members to boards and committees by soliciting applications through City communication channels. I also ask individuals I know in the community who might be good candidates to consider applying as well. I then review the resumes and narrow them down to the top few candidates and interview them. I select the candidate who I believe is best suited to add value to the work of the City and the board or committee for which they have applied. I have been pleased with the work of my appointees to date, and plan to continue the process in the future if reelected.

Palumbo: The first and most obvious step would be to carefully vet applicants to make sure they are of good moral fiber. My next requirement would be passion. They must have a passion and a love for our community and the desire to serve without any thought of personal gain. From there, I would look at qualifications, expertise, and knowledge that they could bring to their respective committees. Having served on the Waterways Advisory Committee in the past, I can assure you, I will take my time and do the research to make sure any of my appointees do not have a single agenda mindset, but rather have the best interests of the entire community at heart.

Rivera: A simple process which will consistently identify the best choice among a slate of candidates. First, I will examine the committee goals and objectives, and based on the needs of the committee I will develop a simple 'job description.' I will then review the candidate's skill sets. Those with skill sets that support the goals, objectives, and job description will be interviewed. The best candidates available will be selected to serve the residents of Marco Island.

6. *MICA has enforced Deed Restrictions on Marco Island since the Deltona Corporation turned that authority over to MICA in 1986. Single-Family Residential Deed Restrictions cannot be amended and are more restrictive than City of Marco Island zoning setbacks. MICA has met with City officials for 25 years in an attempt to have City setbacks match deed restriction setbacks. This has not been accomplished. What would you recommend as the next step?*

Brechnitz: When I was chairman of the planning board in 2017, we identified differences between MICA's rules and the City's LDC. Many of the discrepancies were resolved, but there were still some remaining

inconsistencies which did not seem reconcilable, such as MICA's provision for a 5 foot boat dock, when there are no 5 foot boat docks on Marco Island. That said, I am willing to recommend to the planning board that we try again on those items that are remaining such as rear setbacks from the swimming pool to the canals.

Dowell: It is my recommendation that the two should match. The Marco setbacks need to be aligned with the MICA Deed Restrictions. The MICA Deed Restrictions cannot be changed and supersede all other ordinances and laws.

Folley: It is fairly common for restrictive covenants to not align with municipal codes, as public officials determine what they choose to enforce without regard to such covenants, which are not for the government to enforce in any case. Several other examples exist on Marco - such as pool setbacks, garages, and dock restrictions. That said, MICA retains the power to sue to enforce covenants which are more restrictive than what the City chooses to enforce where it deems such action necessary and advisable. To my knowledge, it has not done so to date.

Palumbo: First let me say I have the utmost respect for the work that MICA does. The Mackle Brothers and the Deltona Corporation, in my opinion, were the founding fathers of modern-day Marco and I believe they intended for this community to be the home (or at least second homes) for themselves and their family members for many generations to come. Their desire was the creation of MICA. With that said, it would be nice to see a unification of our codes. However, in all honesty, I am not sure that will come to fruition in the near future. There are many other challenges outlined for our City that are taking precedence. Whether our community likes it or not, a unification of the codes will most likely have to come from a referendum and the will of the people. As I have said many times, we are all in this together - and that includes MICA and our local government. In my opinion, the interaction between these two entities should greatly increase. The only way we are going to meet our future growth challenges is if we do it together and with unification.

Rivera: Seek harmonization of MICA deed restrictions and City regulations. This is known as the "glitch list." It is time we get these differences resolved. These differences are a prime example of inefficiency in government. One approach is for MICA and the City to form a working team co-led by one councilor and one MICA board member. This team would meet regularly, take one "glitch" at a time, and get those differences resolved. This could evolve into a standing committee that harmonizes the permitting regulations of the City of Marco Island with the MICA deed restrictions for the benefit of the residents.

7. *Will the results of the MICA Membership Survey, which is issued every two years, be of value to you in developing your position on community issues.*

Brechnitz: Absolutely. The most urgent example I can think of is the citizens' clearly stated and heavily weighted view that taxes need to be kept low. This is a constant refrain across the years of MICA surveys, and it is a constant struggle on City Council because it is so tempting for many politicians to spend other people's money.

Dowell: It is important to hear from your membership because they are home and condo owners of Marco and Goodland. They all may not be voting citizens of Marco but it is important to hear the pulse of the island for those issues that drive the island's future.

Folley: Yes. However, the most recent survey contained a number of leading questions which indicated a preferred answer. Surveys so designed tell me more about the person who constructed them and their opinions than it does about opinions of the voting public. I prefer, and will rely on the input of, objective

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surveys more than those which are structured to yield a desired result. Commissioner LoCastro raised this concern in a recent letter to MICA and I broadly agree with his objections.

Palumbo: Absolutely. MICA's yearly survey is a wealth of information and a tremendous gauge as to the will of the community. MICA members make up approximately 25% of our voting populace, so their opinions, thoughts and concerns are extremely valuable in crafting future plans for our community.

Rivera: Yes. MICA's survey represents the voice of 8,000 residents. This survey is yet another vehicle residents can use to express their needs and wants. I advocate that the frequency of the MICA survey be annual, with a focus on resident needs and wants for enhancing their quality-of-life. I advocate that the City-wide survey be repeated every year but focused on the performance of delivery of City services. These two annual surveys will provide the residents with a "yardstick" for measuring improvement in their quality-of-life on Marco Island.

8. *Should the City of Marco Island assume responsibility for construction and maintenance of public sidewalks on the island? Why or why not?*

Brechnitz: Citizens of Marco Island want a lot of things (as do I), but citizens have also made it crystal clear that they do not want increased taxes to pay for them - an example is the MICA survey of Nov. 2019, in which only 6.8% said yeah, raise my taxes to pay for what I want. Marco citizens understand frugality and the value of time. City Council has correctly put the sidewalk matter into the queue of things we will consider from time to time as funds become available. It is important to remember, that this will be approximately a \$5 million project with annual maintenance of about \$300,000 a year. In addition, the liability for things like "trip and fall" become the City's and that will have a profound effect on our insurance premiums.

Dowell: Yes, the City of Marco should assume the responsibility of construction and maintenance of public sidewalks. It is part of the overall infrastructure that encompasses the island and to me is part of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan: "GOAL 1: SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THE CITY OF MARCO ISLAND WILL COORDINATE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANS TO SUPPORT A SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EFFICIENT MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT ENHANCES LIVABILITY AND SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER."

Folley: Municipalities are all over the map on this issue, with some cities taking full responsibility for sidewalks, others sharing responsibility with adjacent homeowners, and yet others placing full maintenance responsibility on property owners. Earlier this year, at the behest of Vice Chair Grifoni, Council debated whether the City should take over sidewalk maintenance after the adjacent property owner has brought the sidewalk up to standards set by the City. Council discussed various issues, including possible tax increases needed for the City to take on this added responsibility, increased liabilities to the City for trip and fall lawsuits, and the costs and challenges to individual homeowners of maintaining sidewalks on their own without the City's purchasing power. Following the debate, Vice Chair Grifoni agreed to prepare a proposed referendum for Council to consider submitting to voters. I think getting direct input from the voters on a complex issue such as this, which might well lead to increased taxes and City liabilities, is a good idea. I would not want to move forward on such an expansion of City responsibilities and liabilities without such a vote.

Palumbo: There is only so much of the City budget to go around. However, we must realize that not all of Marco Island is wealthy. There are also hard-working families who live day-to-day. If we are going to profess ourselves as a community, then the community must represent ALL of its residents. Once a

complaint is made and a sidewalk has been deemed to be out of compliance, the burden is then put on the homeowner to replace the sidewalk at their own expense (and this expense could cost thousands of dollars). This can be a great hardship to our working families and retirees who are on fixed incomes. Because of this, we must find a solution for those that cannot financially bear this burden. We could certainly consider putting this item to referendum or we could consider implementing an approach similar to the Septic Tank Replacement Program (STRP) where the burden of financial responsibility for the homeowner was either spread out over time or paid at the sale of the home. The city has constructed many miles of double-wide sidewalks and should finish what has already been started. We need to make sure the bidding process is competitive, and we need to take the time to ensure the taxpayers are getting the best job at the lowest cost. Although the widened sidewalks are costly, the end result is increased value to our community and they afford everyone the ability to walk, run and bike around our community more safely.

Rivera: Yes, this improves island safety. Safe sidewalks are very important in promoting an active lifestyle and contributing to the quality-of-life and a sense of community for all residents of Marco Island. They are also an important part of the concept of “Aging in Place” safely for residents as they choose to move around, exercise, or socialize with neighbors. Undeveloped lots would be part of this program. Marco should have a seamless and uniform set of sidewalks across the entire island.

9. *In recent months, there were more than 22 gopher tortoise vehicular deaths on Marco Island. Marco Island also had the highest rate of sea turtle disorientation this year in Collier County. What would you suggest be done to protect our endangered gopher tortoises, burrowing owls and sea turtles?*

Brechnitz: During season we have approximately 50,000 to 60,000 people on Marco Island. With only 24 mi.² of land mass human conflict with nature is inevitable. We have approximately 9000 cars and trucks crossing the bridge into Marco Island between 6 AM and 9 AM every morning. I believe a better job of education, using street signs and social media can help the gopher tortoises. I can't explain the number of false crawls. We have an effective enforcement program for lights on the beach. Perhaps we need data over a longer period of time.

Dowell: The City website does not have any information regarding our unique wildlife under Vacation Rentals. I would need to review the data analysis regarding the sea turtle disorientation this year with the appropriate organizations to see the reasons that they suspect for the false crawls and disorientations. When participating in beach clean ups, I notice multiple dug holes and left-over sand structures by beachgoers. Trash on the beach is a concern for wildlife including our shore birds. As of August 8, Marco had 5 more nests than last year, 51 more false crawls, 2 more hatched nests and 4 disorientations. “Under the new ordinance, existing units or structures along the beach have five years to implement turtle-friendly bulbs on all external sources of artificial light visible from the beach.” A review of enforcement of the sea turtle ordinance needs to be done to identify repeat violators and to review coastal buildings notices to their owners are in place. Some of our gopher tortoises have been relocated away from their habitat to another location by individuals. I found one in my front yard one morning. There are no gopher burrows near my home. I also have been informed that visitors to Marco have been observed trying to offer food to them. Detailed information regarding our unique wildlife has to be given to visitors staying in rentals on the island, whether it is a condo or home.

Folley: Accidents are unavoidable on our small island, where our animal population struggles to coexist with tens of thousands of human residents and visitors. But there are things we can do to protect these animals. I want to commend my colleague Councilor Blonna and Audubon of the West Everglades

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for doing something concrete to protect tortoises, constructing silk fencing around four properties on Barfield (near Publix), with the permission of the property owners, to keep tortoises from wandering onto that busy road. The City is also supportive of working with Conservation Collier to acquire property on Marco to protect the habitat of tortoises and burrowing owls on the Island, and I believe this cooperative work could bear much fruit. Further, on my motion, Council earlier this year unanimously adopted a new sea turtle protection ordinance to significantly reduce light emanating from coastal properties to better protect sea turtle hatchlings. An intense educational effort was mandated to advise property owners of their responsibilities under this new law. I am hopeful that property owners will act consistent with their obligations to protect the turtles from proscribed lighting, and that this in turn will increase our turtle population by reducing the number of false crawls.

Palumbo: Burrowing owls are blending right into our community. I love them. They are tenacious and do not back down. On my daily run, I pass many burrowing owl nests and they seem to be thriving despite the fact that their habitat is rapidly disappearing due to increased construction on vacant lots. This is a perfect example of how man and nature should try to coexist. Regarding the sea turtles, I think beachfront condominiums attempt to enforce rules and regulations. However, data clearly supports that more must be done. It may be a good idea to assemble beachfront condominium boards/management in order to educate our coastal community on environmentally sensitive needs of sea turtles. I would like to believe our beachfront residents are good stewards of the environment that will work with the City to protect sea turtles. I believe this is a better alternative than enforcement and fines; however, this mechanism must remain in place to ultimately deter non-compliance and ensure protection of sea turtles. Reaching out to other coastal communities for information sharing and collaboration may provide an excellent resource for information needed to solve our problems and afford sea turtles the best chance of survival. Gopher tortoises also present a unique challenge. By nature, they are slow moving and burrow close to roads. Additional signage and public awareness will help; however, I do not believe this is enough. A possible solution may be working towards grant money through Conservation Collier to purchase vacant lots that are highly populated with gopher tortoises and designating them as protected habitats. Some of the gopher tortoises may need to be relocated to other areas off the island. While this may be a decision of last resort and not as popular, it may be the only solution to protect our gopher tortoises as their habitat diminishes due to increased construction.

Rivera: Status quo is not an option. Marco must take its stewardship responsibilities seriously. A comprehensive Stewardship Management Plan for all protected species on the island is needed, such as the iconic burrowing owl and gopher tortoises. This stewardship plan would coordinate public education, regulation interpretation, compliance management, violation, and incident tracking, identify funding needs and sources, and define the partnership relationships required between local, regional, state governments, and NGOs.

- 10. *The beachfront is Marco Island's treasure. Most beach cleanup is performed by volunteers, while grooming is done by Collier County. What role should the City of Marco Island play in keeping our beach pristine and in prime condition for wildlife?***

Brechnitz: The state of Florida owns all of the beaches from the erosion control line to the sea. The state has ceded maintenance of the beaches to the various counties. So Collier County should be responsible for beach maintenance and repair. Encouraging them to live up to those responsibilities is sometimes problematic. I am therefore deeply appreciative of the efforts of the citizen groups who have taken it upon themselves to clean the beach.

Dowell: Review the code enforcement schedule and if the amount of personnel necessary to monitor our visitor population and the sea turtle season light monitoring is adequate. Update the City website under Vacation Rentals to include the uniqueness of our wildlife ecosystem and how they can participate in preserving it.

Folley: Two things, which the City is doing and getting better at doing. First, our police department regularly patrols our beaches to insure public safety and to enforce the ordinance prohibiting glass bottles and against littering. Indeed, the police have recently gone undercover in an effort to code violators on the beach. Second, with regard to trash pickup, especially on high traffic weekends, various departments of City government have worked with the County and with our trash pickup vendor to manage pickups much more effectively than was managed in the recent past. Much improvement is still required, but the City has a key role in keeping our beaches pristine and safe.

Palumbo: In my opinion, the City should be as proactive as possible regarding our beaches. We need to band together with the County, with our citizens (including the beachfront condominiums), and with our beach and coastal resources advisory committee! The steps our City can take are better public awareness of our rules and regulations both for beach enjoyment and for local wildlife. I support increased signage at all our beaches to promote education of our ordinances and the protection of our shorebirds and wildlife. I would like to see continued and improved enforcement of our rules and regulations, and, most importantly, a desire to view the beaches and our waterways as our most valuable assets. We need to realize as a community that the beaches, wildlife and waterways need to be defended at all costs!

Rivera: Form new cooperation agreements with Collier County. Marco's pristine beach is our #1 economic driver. Utilization of our beach has dramatically increased over the last two years. It is no longer enough that we rely on a volunteer brigade once a month to sustain a clean beach. For the past 10 years an all-volunteer team of residents has removed an average of 30-60 pounds of trash during a 2-hour period covering a 3-mile span (50%) of the beach once a month. Realistically, our beach is no longer an asset being used by just 18,000 to 45,000 Marco residents. The maintenance, cleanup, need for public restrooms, traffic, and wildlife protection has increased exponentially. New agreements and partnerships need to be developed with Collier County both for active manpower and for financial support.

11. What are the top three infrastructure needs you believe should be addressed by the City of Marco Island?

Brechnitz:

- 1) Water quality projects, such as the tide leveling and flushing projects at two locations on San Marco Road, which will allow table flow from the north end of the island to the south end and vice versa;
- 2) Implementation of a traffic control system on Marco Island that efficiently moves vehicular traffic around, on and off the island. Traffic congestion is a major problem particularly during season and a modern carefully planned system would significantly alleviate the problem;
- 3) Stormwater control projects to alleviate flooding.

Dowell:

- 1) Reuse water nutrient reduction and usage enforcement;
- 2) Sinking roadways;
- 3) Sidewalks.

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Folley:

- 1) Road maintenance (including adopting state of the art traffic flow technology for modulating our traffic lights and managing key intersections such as Collier and Barfield);
- 2) Stormwater management;
- 3) Canal Water Quality.

Palumbo:

- 1) Water treatment plant and water infrastructure, including any freshwater wells off the island will always be the top infrastructure need. Without clean water, there is no life—it is that simple. We purchased our water plant at an extreme cost, only to find out later that it needed extreme upgrades. However, it is ours and we are all in. We need to explore every technological upgrade as an option to make sure it provides the services the community needs, but also does it in a way that has the least environmental impact;
- 2) The electrical grid is a very close second. In today's world there has never been more strain put on electrical grids. We need to work closely with LCEC and Florida Power and Light (regardless of whether we are their direct customer) to ensure that our electrical grid can handle the strain we face today and also to make sure it can handle the future demands that are going to be put on it;
- 3) Lastly are our roadways. To protect our canals and the quality of our water, it is great that we got off septic and onto sewers approximately 12 years ago. However, the repaving of our roadways left something to be desired. Our citizens deserve better, and they should not be driving down streets that seem like a roller coaster. We need to continue to make repaving the roadways that are in the worst condition a priority in our yearly budgets.

Rivera:

- 1) Upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to eliminate nutrients in the reuse water;
- 2) Fix the lumpy streets;
- 3) City to take over construction and maintenance of sidewalks.

12. *What is your opinion of the manner in which citizens are addressed during public comment at City Council meetings?*

Are they all treated in the same manner? Would you suggest any changes?

Brechnitz: No other nearby government allows the degree of meeting participation enjoyed by the citizens of Marco Island. Marco Island government respects its citizens and gives them every opportunity to comment. Citizens of Marco Island are more able to address, disagree with and argue issues than in just about any other government in Florida, if not the whole U.S. Marco citizens get four minutes under citizen comments on items not on the agenda at 6PM and again at the end of the meeting. In addition, each agenda item with the exception of proclamations and recognitions, citizens receive four minutes to comment. Even those citizens who did not sign up before the agenda item are called get a chance. Both Collier County and the City of Naples are much more restrictive. Citizens there get three minutes and must sign up before the agenda item is called (no last-minute comments). In Collier County if you want to submit material it must be done five days prior to the meeting.

Dowell: There are City Council Rules of Procedures in place. There does not seem to be recourse written when someone on the Council dias is not respectful to a citizen. The City attorney is to be the parliamentarian. The chairman is responsible for the meeting and the decorum of the meeting, including the chair. The change I would recommend for the City Council Rules of Procedures is that those speakers during Citizens Comment sections of a meeting must state their address along with their

name. (https://www.cityofmarcoisland.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/2921/city_council_rules_of_procedure_nov_2019.pdf) (c) The public shall: (1) Be encouraged to address City Council on any matter scheduled on the agenda, according to the procedures outlined in Section 6 above. (2) Be encouraged to address City Council on any subject matter not scheduled on the agenda during the Citizens' Comments section of the agenda, using the same procedures as outlined in Section 6 above. (3) Act with decorum toward Councilors, staff, and all other citizens. Be entitled to a respectful and prompt response to matters of concern, even on an individual basis if appropriate. The Chair may ask for a response from the City Manager or staff. (d) City Council, staff and the public are entitled to a respectful response to their questions.

Folley: In my time on Council I believe citizen input has been received respectfully and has been highly valued by myself and my colleagues. Indeed, many of the most constructive ideas for improving our City come from citizen comments during our meetings. I fully support citizen comments on every issue on the agenda, and open comments at the 6pm slot and at the end of the meeting for citizens to address issues not on the agenda. While I have served on Council over the past two years, I believe Chairs Grifoni and Brechnitz have been very courteous and receptive to citizens wishing to address Council.

Palumbo: I have witnessed the City Council treating everyone with the same dignity and respect during public comments. In addition, I believe they make an effort to treat everyone equally, even when some of the citizens become agitated or during the hot topic discussions within the community. However, I would like to see a bit more interaction between the citizens and Council. I would support changes to the rules and procedures so that Council could have more direct conversation with the citizens.

Rivera: As I have experienced at Big Cypress Basin board meetings, as each speaker is introduced the following speaker is also announced. This makes for a more orderly succession of speakers.

POWER TO SHARE... BY ROUNDING UP!

by Shannon Williamson, Media Specialist, LCEC.net

This past year has had a devastating financial impact on so many people across the world. Natural gas prices have increased more than 300 percent over the past twelve months resulting in higher-than-usual electric bills for many customers. LCEC customers can help those in need by donating to the LCEC Power to Share Program. The LCEC Power to Share program was created in 2009 to assist financially strained customers having difficulty making electric bill payments. This program is a partnership between LCEC and the United Way offering short-term emergency assistance to customers who meet the one-time requirements. The program is funded through donations by LCEC employees, business partners, and customers.

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*Ed Kirkley and Family celebrating Ed's wife, Bonnie,
under one of the iconic
chickee huts at Residents' Beach*

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**TIDES & SUNSETS,
REALTY & RENTAL
REVIEWS**

CONSTANTLY UPDATED:
SEASONAL RESTAURANT SPECIALS AND OPENING HOURS

**RECEIVE 'PUSH' NOTIFICATIONS DIRECTLY TO YOUR PHONE/TABLET WITH
SPECIAL OFFERS EXCLUSIVELY FOR OUR APP USERS**

And don't forget to follow us on **FACEBOOK**



UPDATED DAILY WITH BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS OF MARCO ISLAND AND
THE SURROUNDING AREAS AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO VISITORS & RESIDENTS

COMPETITIONS FOR AMAZING PRIZES FROM MARCO BUSINESSES

www.Facebook.com/themarcoreview

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION "MEMBERS ONLY" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

DINING

Present discount card before ordering

Aria Restaurant @ JW Marriott MI
10% off bill with purchase of 1 entrée per person Sun thru Thurs. Complimentary valet parking. Other offers do not apply, no discount weekends & holidays.
400 S Collier Blvd, 642-2695

CJ's on the Bay, Esplanade
www.cjsonthebay.com
Excludes Gazebo Bar, 389-4511

Cold Stone Ice Cream,
Esplanade, 393-0046
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

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

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

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

ZAZA Kitchen
1095 Bald Eagle Drive, 239-970-5205
Free Order of Queso!
www.eatatza.com

SALONS & SPAS

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

Miranda's Hairworld
15% off services & retail
when booking with Didi or Brenda
5 Front Street, 239-259-8848

The Spa at JW Marriott MI Beach Resort
400 S Collier Blvd,
389-6029 10% off spa services

HEALTH CARE/ WELLNESS

Always There Home Health Care
Loyalty Program, 389-0170
www.alwaystherehomehealthcare.com

Better Balanced Living
In-home massage therapy & pilates training
15% off first serve; 10% off always!
610-331-6184
BetterBalancedLiving@gmail.com

Feather-Light Living, Wellness Coach
15% discount offered;
free 30 minute consultation
573-356-1727
featherlightliving@gmail.com

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

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

Kathie 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
410-944-4440 & 410-302-2387

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

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

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
994 N Barfield Dr

A.S.A.P. Lock of Marco Island, 394-0318
www.asaplockofmarcoisland.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Easy Street Moving, 248-4136
www.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
JW Marriott & Hilton Resorts 394-4344

Marco Pedal Boat
Book online: www.MarcoPedalBoat.com
10% discount use code "MICA"
when booking. 239-920-1230
Pickup at 3620 Collier Blvd, Naples 34114

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

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

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

Blue Marlin Marine Construction
Seawall inspections only 642-4284

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Daily & weekly rate, 642-4488

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

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

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

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

Marco Island Computers
Marco Town Center, 1035 N Collier Blvd.,
239-269-1928, Marcoislandcomputers.com

Marco Island Computer Service
Computer, Photography & Web Design
816 E Elckam Circle, 239-537-0523
www.marcocomputers.com

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

Marco Island Photography
Portrait sitting & finished portraits by
Peter Berec, 642-3500
www.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.

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
1770 SAN MARCO ROAD, SUITE 204, MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145

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Marco Island City Council **CANDIDATES FORUM**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
6:00 - 8:30PM

Marco Island City Council Chambers
Open to the Public

Live Streamed from the City Council Chambers and Live from Marco's Own 98.1 FM

5 CANDIDATES COMPETING FOR 3 SEATS

ERIK BRECHNITZ
CHRISTINE DOWELL
GREG FOLLEY
DARRIN PALUMBO
NANETTE RIVERA

ELECTION DAY IS TUES, NOV 8TH

PRESENTED BY:

Marco Island Area Association of Realtors, Marco Island Civic Association
and Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce.

