

# MICA*wave*

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

Season 2023



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*

September 28, 2022, was a day like none other in Southwest Florida. Hurricane Ian took a shot at Marco Island, while hitting our neighbors to the north head on. All of us were in a major state of recovery for months and months and are happy to report we have come out on the other side!

As a reminder of Mother Nature's fury, this edition of the MICA WAVE has many incredible photos taken by a neighbor to the south of Residents' Beach. There are also a few pictures taken just last week from the same location that depict our recovery. The list of repairs is long but the good news is that your MICA Board of Directors has responsibly been setting aside funds for a number of years for just such a situation! Repair costs are close to \$400,000 at this writing with more yet to be expended and with no special assessment to the members of Marco Island Residents' Beach. You should also know while MICA carries all required insurance, unfortunately none of the damage to landscaping, chickees, parking lots, pavers, etc., was covered by insurance.

Residents' Beach manager Dennis McCann led the recovery efforts and assembled a terrific and dedicated team to return Residents' Beach to its pristine state. We appreciate his tireless efforts.

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Cover Photo: A beautiful morning at Residents' Beach by Liz Fitch

In light of Hurricane Ian, Season "snuck up" on all of us on Marco Island this year, but we have stepped up to the challenge. Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park are open and welcoming members. Paradise Grill is open seven days per week, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and later on Fridays with a delicious "Fish Fry Friday." Concerts are back at Residents' Beach! The schedule is printed on the back page of this publication. Please bring your Residents' Beach ID, a chair and a blanket, and be ready for fun!

Two issues that seem to be occurring more and more at Residents' Beach must be mentioned. You do not want to lose your privilege to utilize Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park, so **DO NOT GIVE YOUR RESIDENTS' BEACH ID TO ANYONE** and **DO NOT BRING A PET TO RESIDENTS' BEACH** under any circumstance. Those are two very simple rules that each and every member must abide by. Unfortunately, some people have lost their membership due to infraction of a very simple rule. Don't be like these **FORMER MEMBERS**, please.

We hope to see you, our members, at the beach!



# RESIDENTS' BEACH'S SMALLEST RESIDENT

by Brittany Piersma, Field Biologist, Audubon Western Everglades

Residents' Beach is not only a place for the public to enjoy the water, but also a home to a special Burrowing Owl named Ocean. Ocean is a male that was banded back in 2016. He was an adult when banded, thus we are unsure of his age. We believe he is at least 6 years old, and he has successfully produced large numbers of chicks every summer with his mates.

There have been a lot of challenges for him including losing at least two mates to both predation and possible rodenticide. He found himself at the Von Arx Wildlife Hospital with potential rodenticide side effects and was treated and released. One of our goals is to eliminate the use of rodenticide on Marco Island by educating the public and working with pest control companies.

This year we have restarted our banding program under the direction of Raoul Boughton. We recaptured Ocean and he weighed 174g which is a very healthy weight! I have personally seen him hunt and obtain a

variety of prey items, with his favorite being Cuban tree frogs.

I was able to band Ocean's newest mate and we named her Moana! This current pair had 5 chicks this past nesting season. They were famous for laying flat resting on the beach startling most beach goers fearing that they were injured or dead. Their young have grown up and moved out to find their own burrows and mates. Ocean and Moana are still present at their burrow.

The average life expectancy for Burrowing Owls on Marco Island has been determined to be 5-6 years old. We are hoping Ocean will beat the odds and continue producing young with his current mate. While you visit the beach, give them space and say hello!

If you are interested in adopting an owl, visit our website at: <https://audubonwe.org/adopt-an-owl/>



# HURRICANE IAN ON MARCO ISLAND

September 28, 2022 -- Long-term residents of Marco Island were as surprised as newer Island residents as the tidal waters swiftly rose in the morning. By 3 p.m. Marco Island Residents' Beach was completely under water with the exception of the pavilion, which stood on its own little island.

Cleanup of the "muck," no other word to describe the 12 inches of soaked, sandy, smelly, messy debris left behind as the water receded, took weeks of scraping the parking lot, pavers and grass. Recovery was a lengthy process. The crew, on site the week before the hurricane to begin repaving the parking lot, returned in a cleanup capacity. They employed lots of heavy equipment and eventually hauled 12 dump truck loads of muck from the Residents' Beach property!

The salt water that engulfed the properties killed most of the landscaping and so, was pulled out and replaced with new greenery and more than 600 colorful plants. More than 170 pallets of sod were installed at Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park.

Absolutely every one of the chickee huts in the picnic areas and every one of the umbrella chickees on the

beach sustained damage. Thus, every chickee had to be rethatched with some requiring additional repairs.

MICA's mechanical equipment that is used to load and haul trash was also under salt water and took months to rebuild.

Both gate houses were under approximately three feet of salt water. Sheetrock walls were removed and computers, furniture, etc. were disposed of and replaced.

Of course, there was damage that was not visible to the naked eye. There was extensive damage to electric that ran underground as well as to the underground sprinkler and telephone systems. Much has had new lines run but we are still awaiting some new wiring.

All in all, the island came together, helped neighbors and survived another, but entirely different kind of hurricane.

*See pages 6 & 7 for photos of damage from Hurricane Ian, and pages 38 & 39 for photos of the clean-up efforts*

## LETTERS TO MICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My husband and I would like to acknowledge some of the exceptional people who work at Residents' Beach beginning with Dennis. Dennis is everywhere at once working at his job yet he takes the time for you if you have a question. He's always so pleasant and enthusiastic.

Ed, Earl, Tim, and others are so welcoming upon entering Residents' Beach. Andy and his crew always do a great job as we have had many muffins, BLT's, and breakfasts at Paradise Grill.

All the new plantings around Residents' Beach add beauty to this perfect paradise.

Many thanks,  
Kevin and Christine

Hello MICA,

We want to thank you for ALL THAT YOU DO to provide us with such a wonderful beach experience, and for all that you do! Getting our passes renewed was a delightful experience and we appreciate each and every one of you!

Warmest Regards,  
Jeanne & Matt Wakenight



# FLORIDA STUDENTS RECOGNIZE KLEEFSTRA SYNDROME AWARENESS

For the second year in a row, the Marco Island Academy in Florida turned purple around Kleefstra Syndrome Awareness Day in September, and students sold KS Awareness bracelets, held a Big Purple bake sale and accepted donations to raise money for IDefine. The effort was spearheaded by 78 members of the school's Key Club and embraced school wide. In all, the students raised \$1,082.

Lori Galiana, the faculty advisor to the Key Club, presented a check for IDefine to Matt and Maria Lockwood, the parents of 5-year-old Wynne, who has KS, when their family visited the school on December 9th, 2022.

"The students have really embraced and connected to this effort," said Galiana. "We showed the students a video about Kleefstra Syndrome, they've explored the IDefine website, and they've seen Wynne's progress, they know her story."

The students became aware of KS through Marie Lynn and Ray McChesney, Wynne's grandparents. Marie Lynn is an advisor to the Key Club through the Kiwanis Club of Marco Island.

"We love Mrs. McChesney – I think of her as another grandma – so once we learned about Wynne we would do anything to help and got the school involved," said Taylor Drott, a senior at Marco Island Academy and president of the Key Club. "Once everyone met Wynne last year and saw the impact we could make, they wanted to do it again. We didn't bring it up, people were asking us when Wynne was coming back."

The Lockwoods traveled from their home in suburban Detroit for the visit during which Wynne mingled with students (many wearing purple) during their lunch hours saying hello, asking students their names, posing for pictures and saying thank you.

In addition to the check, the school also presented Wynne and her sister, Josie, 8, with gift bags and purple cookies.

"It's really heartwarming to see how much these high school student's care," said Maria. "Wynne remembered our visit to MIA last year and was so happy to see her friends again. The students really are an inspiration."

*Article reprinted from IDefine Newsletter, December 2022*



*5-year-old Wynne, who has Kleefstra Syndrome, and is also the granddaughter of a MICA board member, visits with students at the Marco Island Academy, along with sister, Josie*

***Presenting Magical Marco***



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# RESIDENTS' BEACH DURING HURRICANE IAN

*Photos submitted by a Friendly Neighbor to the South of Residents' Beach*



6, MARCH 2023



# RESIDENTS' BEACH AFTER HURRICANE IAN





# RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

by Eugene Wordehoff, Marco Island Resident

A petition drive is underway that will add an **amendment to the Florida constitution** that creates a *fundamental right to clean and healthy waters* for the residents of Florida. This will be voted on in the General Election of 2024. The amendment may be used to sue state executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems such as the Rookery Bay Estuary and the 10,000 Islands.

There is currently no political will at the Florida state level to truly clean up the water pollution that is all around us. Massive amounts of funds are expended on "downstream" projects but due to special interests, nothing is done to eliminate the root sources of the nutrients that are polluting our waterways. Manatee are dying in alarming numbers.

Take Marco Island for example. We have determined that the oxygen declines in our waterways

are directly a result of the nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in the reuse water from our Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Marco WWTP has a permit from FDEP that has no limits to the amounts of these pollutants that can be spread onto the island. No limits!

The WWTP permit issued by FDEP has a clause that prohibits harm: "This permit does not relieve the permittee from liabilities and penalties for harm or injury to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property caused by the construction or operation of this permitted source ..." This is not enforced.

FDEP relaxed the impairment standard for low levels of oxygen in the waterways in 2013. Prior to 2013, the lowest limit for oxygen was defined as 5 mg/L measured by Dissolved Oxygen (DO). In 2013 FDEP changed the ruling to make the lowest limit for oxygen defined as 42% measured by Dissolved Oxygen Saturation (DOSAT). The new lower limit is about equal to 2.5 mg/L of dissolved oxygen, which is hypoxic water or a "dead zone." FDEP dropped the oxygen limits for all of Florida by 50%. No warnings. FDEP will let you know when your waterway is completely dead.

Collier County is responsible for twenty-two waterbodies. Eleven of these waterbodies would be considered impaired even by the lower oxygen standards, however, FDEP has not officially set oxygen limits on twenty-one of these waterbodies. No lower limits. If the higher standard from prior to 2013 were applied, only ONE of the Collier County waterbodies would NOT be impaired. Regulatory gaps. A constitutional "Right to Clean and Healthy Waters" would enable the citizens to hold the state accountable.

To do its part in the statewide effort, Collier County needs to get 4,187 petitions signed by March 1, 2023, to help trigger a Florida Supreme Court review of the amendment and a total of 16,748 petitions signed by November 30, 2023, to help qualify for the 2024 ballot. Go to this web site to learn more: <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org>

Please call (239-642-7778), visit (1770 San Marco Road #204) or email the MICA office ([info@marcocivic.com](mailto:info@marcocivic.com)) for the petition.

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# MICA ENFORCES DELTONA DEED RESTRICTIONS SINCE 1986

In October 1986, The Deltona Corporation, developer of Marco Island, assigned to the Marco Island Civic Association the responsibility of enforcement of the declaration of restrictions that had been recorded against properties developed by Deltona on Marco Island.

Deltona created the deed restrictions to protect the integrity of the island and to assure conformity of all new construction in those geographical areas covered by the restrictions. Deed Restrictions are an excellent tool for maintaining property values.

A condition of the turnover agreement was that an Architectural Review Committee (ARC) be formed which would act as an authority in the review process. The restrictions state that no new structure shall be constructed without a review of the design drawings and written approval by ARC.

MICA's ARC has continued to meet monthly on a regular basis since 1986. ARC is composed of volunteers who are engineers, architects, or individuals with a background in construction.

Deed Restriction setbacks differ from City of Marco Island zoning setbacks and in all cases property owners must meet the most stringent setbacks. Corner or shoulder lots have unique deed restrictions. It is suggested that MICA's ARC be contacted prior to commencing design.



The Deed Restrictions cover single-family residential, multi-family residential and commercial properties on the island and apply to most of the island. Areas that Deltona did not place Deed Restrictions are Old Marco (north of the center of Old Marco Lane), Marco Highlands (area west of Marco Lake), Hideaway Beach and Key Marco.

In deed restricted areas, plans for construction must be submitted to the Architectural Review Committee. If you are considering building a screen enclosure, deck, swimming pool or house, putting an addition on your home, or building a commercial building and you are not sure if there are deed restrictions that run with your property, please call the MICA office at 239-642-7778. Application for plan review is available at the MICA office and on MICA's website [www.marcocivic.com](http://www.marcocivic.com).





# OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY IS SEVEN YEARS OLD

by Maria Lamb

Oh My – how far we’ve come! On January 9, 2023, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP) turned SEVEN. In 2016, five local women banded together to solve a problem here on Marco Island. Students at a local school were coming in hungry on Mondays as they did not have enough food to eat over the weekend. And yes, it was confirmed that there was food insecurity right here in Paradise. In 2016, 2,600 individuals were served.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in Marco Island and while ODBFP was not hit, it served as the Emergency Food resource for the island. The pantry served first responders and FEMA personnel in addition to 11,700 individuals that year. ODBFP’s founders received The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) Humanitarian of the year award.

In 2018, Allyson Richards and Lorraine Corva teamed up with the pantry, offering mobile pantries through Al’s Pals, on Marco and areas of Naples for those who could not come to the Saturday Pantry. 26,000 people were served that year.



*On January 9, 2023 -  
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry turned  
SEVEN Amazing Years!*



*Allyson Richards and Lorraine Corva of Al’s Pals Mobile Food Pantry teamed up with  
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry in 2018.*



In 2019, ODBFP focused on developing their strategic plans and Vision of ‘Working to Wipe Out Hunger;’ while serving 27,565 people.

Year 2020 was a significant year in many ways. ODBFP launched their first website; set up a Donor Management system, and implemented new processes to accommodate the COVID-19 protocol while serving a record 115,606 individuals.

In 2021, ODBFP continued to adhere to the COVID-19 protocol and implemented grocery delivery to families’ cars. ODBFP served 157,000 that year.

In 2022, Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc on Marco Island and its neighbors. ODBFP implemented the pop-up mobile pantries to better serve areas worst hit by the hurricane.

In 2022, ODBFP also hired its first paid staff member, Executive Director Amanda Nelson. 99% of our work continues to be done by dedicated volunteers. 190,000 people were served this year.

For 2023, high on the pantry’s wish list is a permanent location to call home. Amanda Nelson, Executive Director of ODBFP would like to thank the generous spirits of those living on Marco Island and Naples “who’ve been with us for the long-haul, and for helping make ODBFP such a vital organization for the last seven years.”



*Liz Pecora, Nancy Kot and  
Amanda Nelson celebrating the 7th anniversary  
of Our Daily Bread Food Pantry*

*Photos by ODBFP*



*The “original five” founders (l-r) Shawnee Huff, Vicki Johnson, Liz Pecora, Jennifer Ludwigsen  
and Jo-Ann Lundquist.*

# SUCCESSFUL MARCO DEMENTIA RESPITE PROGRAM ADDS NEW DAY

“September 12, 2022 was an historic day for MDR. To say our inaugural session was a resounding success would be a serious understatement,” said Marco Island resident and Chair of MDR Tim Rose. “Today we celebrate that we all are kindred spirits and should treat each other with understanding and humanity every day we’re lucky enough to share with each other.”

Marco Dementia Respite (MDR) is a program for Marco area residents provided by local residents, that gives caregivers a hiatus while offering a safe, enjoyable and no-cost haven for loved ones with early-stage Alzheimer’s/Dementia. During the four hours that participants attend MDR, there are new friendships formed, clapping, encouragements and much laughter. The nurturing, loving environment allows participants to relax while enjoying activities that include shared memories, daily themes, arts and crafts, brain fitness and gentle physical exercises, music, dog therapy and a healthy lunch, which is critical to maintaining cognitive health.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from the public, MDR is doubling its capacity to serve by adding a Friday program day to the existing Monday program. The Marco Dementia Respite program is held Mondays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Wesley United Methodist Church on Marco Island. Due to this new capacity, caregivers of potential participants are encouraged to call 239.330.MDR3 (6373) now to begin the screening process. If you are interested in volunteering, call MDR for an explanation on the various volunteer opportunities. Also, at 10:30 on program days, MDR offers a highly successful and expanding Caregivers Support Group.

Additionally, on Monday, March 20, there will be a special event at the Island Country Club, 500 Nassau Road, Marco Island, which will be open to Country Club members and the general public. Start time 6:00, dinner, live auction, dancing with music provided by Joe Marino and the Kingsmen; Country Club Casual attire. Tickets are \$200 per person.

For further information about the dinner dance at ICC, or to purchase tickets, call 239.642.6731 or 239.642.4044.

“The demand for Alzheimer’s/Dementia programs is a new reality as Marco area residents live longer,” said Rose. “MDR’s rapid growth and acceptance is heartwarming and we will continue to work hard and expand MDR’s services for Marco area residents.”

*MDR falls under the 501(C)3 umbrella of WUMC. Tax-deductible donations are critical to allow MDR to continue and expand and can be made online at [www.MarcoDementiaRespite.org](http://www.MarcoDementiaRespite.org) or sent to Marco Dementia Respite, 350 S. Barfield Dr., Marco Island, FL 34145.*





# KIWANIS CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND – SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

*by Maureen Chodaba, Kiwanis Publicity Volunteer*

Can you say “Kiwanis”? That name, derived from a Native American expression, “Nunc Kee-wanis,” means “We trade.” The motto evolved a bit to become “We build.” Those words were the origin of Kiwanis International, a service organization founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan. Through time, the club’s motto has evolved to embrace the true mission of Kiwanis, “Serving the Children of the World.”

Did you know that we have a Kiwanis Club right here in our community? The Kiwanis Club of Marco Island is part of Kiwanis International. We behold and maintain a vision to enhance our local communities and enrich the lives of children through our service.

Following some setbacks during the era of Covid, the club is re-energized and ready to soar to new heights through the leadership of Co-Presidents Mike and Barbara Murphy, Club Treasurer Lucky Lang, Club Secretary Cindy Crane, and a growing membership of vibrant, spirited residents of our community.

You may have seen us dressed as elves, selling 50-50 tickets at various local venues during the holiday season. Those funds raised were used to distribute a Christmas gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus to every student at Manatee Elementary School back in December.



*Kiwanians dressed as elves selling 50-50 raffle tickets during the holiday season*



*New Kiwanis Club of Marco Island  
Co-Presidents Mike and Barbara Murphy,  
with their daughter Andrea*

Each month we host a breakfast for Terrific Kids of Tommie Barfield and Manatee Elementary Schools and their families at Stonewalls. This student recognition program promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. The Marco Island Police Department has recently partnered with us to launch the Terrific Cops program, sharing their spirit of positivity and goodwill with the students.

*Kiwanis, continued on page 21*



*The holiday money raised was used to give a Christmas gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus to every student at Manatee Elementary School*



# ACHIEVING EVEN MORE NOW FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND WATER QUALITY

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

To all my fellow MICA members, this is an extremely exciting time for Everglades restoration and water quality throughout Florida. To kick off 2023, I had the honor of joining Governor Ron DeSantis as he unveiled a new and ambitious environmental agenda that will do even more to protect and restore our precious water resources and ecosystems. On January 10, Governor DeSantis signed Executive Order 23-06, “Achieving Even More Now for Florida’s Environment” to continue the momentum for improving Florida’s environment and to enhance our ongoing efforts to expedite Everglades restoration and water quality projects. The executive order calls for a record-breaking \$3.5 billion over four years for Everglades restoration and the protection of Florida’s water resources.

The Governor’s announcement came exactly four years to the day after his historic first ecological executive order that resulted in record environmental funding and expedited Everglades projects. Let me share more with you about the significant progress that has been made over the last four years and the way ahead for Florida’s environment. Since January 2019, over 50 Everglades projects have been completed, broken ground or hit a major milestone. These projects are working to move more water south.

Record flows of water are nourishing the Everglades ecosystem, and Florida Bay is more regularly achieving salinity goals.

Executive Order 23-06 continues to build on this historic momentum. The record investment in Florida’s environment will allow us to expedite Everglades restoration projects, expand our ongoing resiliency efforts and prioritize strategies and projects to accelerate water quality improvements.



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



*Governor Ron DeSantis Announces  
Executive Order 23-06 “Achieving Even More  
Now for Florida’s Environment”*

Across the South Florida Water Management District’s 16-county region, numerous projects are currently underway that will continue to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, from the headwaters of the Kissimmee Basin south to Florida Bay. With the support of Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, the District continues to make significant progress on the state’s portion of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir. Federal components of the project are also advancing. This vital project will reduce damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the estuaries and move more water south to the Everglades.

The District, in partnership with Everglades National Park, recently broke ground on a restoration project that will improve the hydrologic connectivity within Taylor



*Construction at the EAA Reservoir Project  
Stormwater Treatment Area Water Control Structure*

Slough, one of two major sloughs within the national park. The Taylor Slough Flow Improvement Project will allow more clean freshwater to flow south through Taylor Slough and into Florida Bay, where it is needed to balance salinity levels and promote ecological health. Up to 18 culverts will be constructed at nine locations along a 3.2 mile section of Old Ingraham Highway in Everglades National Park to improve the distribution of freshwater flows and restore natural plant communities and wetlands. The project is expected to be complete this summer.



*America's Everglades*

The District also broke ground on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project, which will extend the underground wall built during the earlier 8.5 Square Mile Area Seepage Wall Project. That wall has already had a beneficial impact. During heavy rain events, water that typically would flood nearby communities has remained inside Everglades National Park and stayed away from residential communities. The CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project adds five miles of underground seepage wall along the L-357 Levee.

*continued on page 16*



*Taylor Slough Flow Improvement Project. L-R: Kelly Cox, Director of Everglades Policy, Audubon Florida, Mark Perry, Executive Director, Florida Oceanographic Society, Dr. Wes Brooks, Florida Chief Resilience Officer, Pedro Ramos, Superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Chauncey Goss, Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the U.S. Department of Interior, SFWMD Governing Board Member Cheryl Meads, SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Governing Board Member Charlette Roman, Eric Eikenberg, CEO Everglades Foundation, and Lt. Col. Todd Polk, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.*



*Everglades Restoration,  
continued from page 15*



*CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier  
Wall project*

Personally, I am very excited about a recent ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of an upgraded water control structure in the Big Cypress Basin. The improved water control structure will help protect local communities from flooding during the rainy season. The completion of these upgrades allows for fully remote and automated control of over 26 miles of canals in the Golden Gate watershed, which reach from the headwaters of the system at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary down to Gordon River and Naples Bay. This structure also balances freshwater flood control releases to protect regional wetlands and ecosystems.



*Upgraded Water Control Structure in  
Big Cypress Basin*

Major components of the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir are advancing. The reservoir will reduce harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and provide beneficial freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary in the dry season. This project is a major part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and is designed to store approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water or approximately 55 billion gallons of water.

Work continues on Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The project is expected to result in improved flows of water into Collier Seminole State Park, Ten Thousand



*Major components are advancing on the  
Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Project*

Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Crews are actively removing crumbling roads, plugging canals, and building pump stations to restore the natural sheet flow of water, which will rehydrate drained wetlands and in turn enhance habitat for fish and wildlife.

Progress on the project includes degrading 90% of the old roads and 98% of the logging trams, backfilling over 60% of canals, and beginning construction on the project's conveyance features.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the 38th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference. The theme this year was "A Watershed Moment for America's Everglades." The event featured speakers on a variety of topics relevant to the restoration of the Everglades.

I also spoke at the SWFL Climate and Community Initiative Summit about the tremendous momentum now with Everglades restoration. Florida is really at the forefront of critical and innovative ecosystem restoration and resiliency work.

The South Florida Water Management District is strongly committed to resiliency planning and addressing the impacts of climate change. We experienced a devastating hurricane last year, Hurricane Ian, which was one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to impact Florida. Ian brought significant rainfall, storm surge, strong winds, and tornadoes to the region. District crews supported local recovery efforts and worked diligently to remove debris from a number of canals in Lee County.

The District also worked in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Osceola County, Orange County, City of Kissimmee and the City of St. Cloud to reduce flows of water into the regional lake system and provide relief to impacted communities.





*L-R: Captain Dan Andrews, Captains for Clean Water, Julie Hill-Gabriel, Vice-President, Water Conservation for the National Audubon Society, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Shawn Hamilton, and Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the U.S. Department of Interior*



*Governing Board Member Charlette Roman speaking at the SWFL Climate and Community Initiative Summit*

The District is also coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, on studies such as the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study to work on innovative ways to reduce the risks of flooding, sea level rise and other climate impacts on local communities.

The District is also making significant infrastructure adaptation investments that are needed to successfully implement its mission of safeguarding and restoring South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protecting communities from flooding, and ensuring an adequate water supply for all of South Florida's needs. Working to ensure the region's water resources and ecosystems resiliency, now and in the future, is part of everything the District does.



*The SFWMD worked with Lee County to remove debris from the drainage system with a focus on Ten Mile Canal, Telegraph Creek, Daughtrey Creek, Orange River and Hickey Creek*



*Planning Meeting to Discuss the Advancement of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study, to evaluate the existing flood risk management infrastructure and recommend strategies to build flood resiliency in the communities served by the C&SF system*

It is an honor to serve as a member of the Governing Board during very exciting and historic times for Everglades restoration and water quality. As Floridians, we all know just how important water quality is to our quality of life. Our team at the District is working every day to expedite critical restoration and water quality projects for the benefit of the people and the environment of South Florida.

I invite you to learn more about the District's work and the ways you can get involved by visiting [www.SFWMD.gov](http://www.SFWMD.gov)

# THE RARE AND BEAUTIFUL JUNONIA SHELL

by Maria Lamb

The Junonia is a white to pinkish white shell with spiral rows of squarish dots of dark-mauve, reddish brown or dark brown allowing the snail to be camouflaged in the ocean floor. It is named after Juno, the ancient Roman goddess known for her stately beauty.

*Scaphella junonia* – is a species of marine gastropod mollusk found in Florida and on the beaches along the Gulf of Mexico. In easier terms, a sea snail! The term gastropod refers to a single shell mollusk.

Becky Miller, a member of the Shell Club shared that she found her three Junonias on Residents' Beach and she knew the exact date and year and on two occasions, she also found a golden olive with the Junonia.

Beach resident Francine Klein found four Junonias on Marco's beach by Cape Marco years ago during low tide. Cristina Leske of Cape Marco also found a perfect specimen after a big storm. Tyler Klefot of Ocean Soul has had good luck finding Junonias on Kice Island.

*Why are they rare?* According to shell experts, the Junonia live so far away from shore in water between 100 and 420 feet deep and it is so rare to find one in perfect shape and if you do – you might get your name in the local newspaper.

According to the Registry of World Record Size Shells, the largest Junonia shell ever found was only six inches long and was collected in the Gulf of Mexico in 1972. Their usual size is anywhere between one and four inches.

For shellers the Junonia is a trophy shell and the grand prize. I have been beachcombing for over ten years and I've only found a few not-so-perfect Junonias. Yet, there are people who visit our beaches for the first time and they find one – it is pure luck!

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and along the wrack line a sheller can find all kinds of interesting things. Someone asked "What about the Scotch



*Becky Miller, a member of Marco's Shell Club, displays three Junonias she found on Residents' Beach in her collection*



Bonnet shell, another collectible from Gulf area beaches.”

I have an assortment of alphabet cones, banded tulips, horse conchs, lettered olives, and sand dollars. But the best part about shelling is meeting people hunting for treasures washed ashore.

What to do to with the “not-so-perfect” shells in your collection? How about shell art? The Marco Island Shell Club is a good start. Or turn them into beautiful jewelry keepsakes.

*Please save the date:*  
**Marco Island Shell Club**  
**Spring Expo and Sale**  
**March 10-11**  
**New Life Community Church**



*Junonia - a rare and beautiful shell found on Gulf area beaches*



*Members of Marco Island's Shell Club (l-r) Marge Tunnell, Jackie Lynch, Cindy Wesolowski (Club President), Becky Miller and Judy Arnold*



*Tyler Klefot of Ocean Soul had good luck finding these Junonias on Kice Island*

# SEE CUBA THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS OF WORLD-RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER CLYDE BUTCHER

*Cuba: The Natural Beauty at Marco Island Historical Museum now-April 29, 2023*

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) presents Cuba: The Natural Beauty, a photography exhibit by world-renowned photographer Clyde Butcher, at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) now through April 29, 2023. Presenting sponsor of the exhibit is Chris Sullivan Luxury Real Estate, RE/MAX Affinity Plus and media sponsor is Coastal Breeze News.

The stunning photography of Clyde Butcher captures and reveals the seductive beauty, subtle grandeur and majesty of this diverse island and its people, and shares his haunting images with the world. Butcher's powerful black and white



*Salto el Rocio 4 by Clyde Butcher*



photographs explore his intense and personal bond with the environment. For more than 50 years, he has preserved on film the untouched areas of the landscape.

The exquisite beauty and depth of his photography draw the viewer into a relationship with nature. As official photographer for the United Nations' Conference for the Sustainable Habitat of the Mountain held in Cuba in 2002, Butcher went on three expeditions, accessing places not seen by visitors for over 50 years while photographing Cuba's mountains and wondrous beauty.

Expedition one reached across Eastern Cuba deep into the Sierra Maestra mountains where he captured on film the mountain mists, the Coral Coast, surrounding landscape and small towns. He, his wife Niki, and Cuban guides hiked the Comandancia Trail with 120 pounds of camera equipment to reach Fidel Castro's historic rebel camp, "Comandancia de la Plata."

Expedition two took the group throughout Western Cuba to the Cordillera de Guaniguanico mountains where Butcher found the landscape to be "astounding" as well as to the capital of Havana with its colorful and eclectic architecture.

Expedition three included American ecologists with whom Butcher explored Central Cuba's Escambray Mountains and Parque Natural Topes





*Clyde Butcher at Via Escencia*

de Collante, known for its caves, rivers, waterfalls, canyons and natural pools with crystal-clear water. The expedition also explored Trinidad to document urban sites and spectacular landscapes. They then headed back to the Sierra Maestra mountains to gather for the United Nations' Conference for the Sustainable Habitat of the Mountain.

*Cuba: The Natural Beauty* is part of ¡ARTE VIVA! - a collaborative initiative that brings together the arts and culture organizations and hospitality partners of Florida's Paradise Coast to celebrate the artistic contributions of the Hispanic community. The year-long celebration features over 50 local events, exhibits, performances, and educational opportunities. Presented by the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB and supported by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.

*The Marco Island Historical Museum is located at  
180 S. Heathwood Drive.  
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Admission is free. For information,  
call 239.389.6447 or  
visit [www.theMIHS.org](http://www.theMIHS.org).*

*Photos © Clyde Butcher Galleries*

### *Kiwanis, continued from page 13*

Kiwanis also support Reading is Fundamental (RIF), a program that supports literacy and book ownership for elementary students; and Key Club at Marco Island Academy, a program of over one hundred students that promotes volunteerism, leadership, and development, as well as awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

We are hosting several fundraisers to support our cause. Marco Island Kiwanians worked diligently in planning the annual Texas Hold'em Tournament at Marco Lutheran Church on January 27, and the 5K Family Fun Run/Walk "For the Kids" on January 28.

Smile away that poker face, dust off your sneakers, and then it is time to Zoom Zoom into the 19th annual Marco Island Car Show, Sunday, February 19, 9 am – 3 pm at the YMCA, 101 Sand Hill St, Marco Island. We expect over 150 show cars of various makes and models. Stroll the grounds, partaking an awesome collection from the vintage automotive era, and let DJ "Sugarcube's" tunes of the 50's, 60's, and 70's transport you to a fantasy of being in the seat of a Speedster, Corvette, or Maserati. Enjoy the burgers and hot dogs prepared by the amazing chefs of the Knights of Columbus with a cold soft drink or good old H2O. The show car entry fee is \$25, while spectator admission is just \$10. It is a wonderful way to enjoy your day and support our children!

We are blessed to live in this beautiful community. The Kiwanis Club of Marco Island is committed to making the future even brighter by supporting our children. Our children are our future leaders, and we need funds to support their programs and scholarships. We cannot do this alone. We need YOU! Please join us for fellowship, friendship, and fun all in the spirit of giving.

*To learn more about our fundraisers,  
events, and membership, please visit  
<http://marcokiwanis.org> or scan our QR code.*



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Scan our code to find out what day your services are.

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  - Once-a-week yard waste collection
  - Once-a-week bulky item collection (appliances, electronics, furniture)
- Call (239) 252-2380, 48 hours prior to schedule

### Preparations and Guidelines to follow:

- There will be no curbside services on Fourth of July, Thanksgiving or Christmas Day
- Set your carts out before 6 a.m. on collection day and remove before 6 a.m. on the day after collection
- Place your carts at least three feet from each other and from other obstacles like mailboxes

## DISPOSE OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Safely dispose of paint, batteries, electronics and more at a Drop-Off Center near you Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

- Naples
- Marco Island
- Northeast Collier – Tim Nance Center
- North Collier

Most items are accepted free of charge. For a full list of accepted material and rates, visit [colliercountyfl.gov/dispose](http://colliercountyfl.gov/dispose)

## PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Visit [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep) to learn how you can prepare for a storm



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# US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MARCO ISLAND ANNOUNCES NEW WINTER 2023 CLASS SCHEDULE

*by Richard Hurd, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Marco Island*

At sea we are all in the same boat, so let us teach you to be a safer boater. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAux), Marco Island proudly announces Winter 2023 boater education classes. The following courses will be offered: Boating Skills and Seamanship, Boater's Local Knowledge-Marco Island, Boater's Local Knowledge - Backwater Edition, Suddenly in Command, and Paddlecraft Safety. All classes are facilitated by USCG Certified instructors.

**Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S):** A comprehensive instructional program that includes the following topics: Which Boat Is for You; Equipping and Handling Your Boat; Navigation; Weather; The Rules You Must Follow; Knots and Lines; and Your Boat's Radio. Upon satisfactory completion of the (BS&S) course, the student will qualify to receive a Florida-issued Boater Safety Identification Card (BSIC) which is required for any individual born after January 1, 1988, to operate a motorized vessel of more than 10 HP. Many insurance companies offer discounts with the BSIC.



Totaling 7 classes each session is being offered: March 6 - March 27 on Mondays and Thursdays from 5pm to 7:30pm. A course textbook is provided on the first night.

## **Boater's Local Knowledge-Marco Island (BLK):**

This course provides information on how to navigate waterways in and around Marco Island. This course is recommended for the novice, and intermediate boaters, or boaters new to this area. Each course is approximately 3-1/2 hours long and taught: 3/7/23 and 4/4/23 at 5pm. Note: Top Spot Chart #204 is required for use during this class.

## **Boater's Local Knowledge-Backwater Edition:**

This course begins where BLK ends, providing navigation tools, and waterways knowledge for boaters wishing to explore the unique backwaters of the 10,000 Islands. Each course is approximately 3-1/2 hours long and taught: 3/8/23 and 4/5/23 at 5pm. Note: Top Spot Chart #204 is required for use during this class.

*USCGAux, continued on page 26*

# THE CASE FOR FIRE INCLUSION

by Kaitlin M Sikes

The Florida landscape has long been shaped by fire. For thousands of years, lightning scorched trees - burning patches of land, unimpeded by homes and roads. It was so regular that multiple ecosystems evolved alongside fire to maintain a healthy balance of flora and fauna. Take the Florida scrub for example.

Maybe you've taken a walk through a well-preserved scrub. If you have, you'll remember. The ancient dunes are blazing hot and dry, carrying only the memory of the ocean they were once surrounded by. Without a tree canopy for shade, the sun reflects up off the patches of sand, baking your skin and leaving you wishing for a breeze. It's a brutal place where only the toughest, most adaptable, survive.

Sounds very appropriate for a habitat in Florida.

Many of the plants and animals that survive in the scrub are pyrogenic, they have adapted to depend on fire. In the scrub, fires occur naturally on a 10-40-year cycle. Fire is dangerous and lethal, but it can also be life-giving. Saw Palmetto, Sand Pine, and Florida Rosemary depend on fire to reproduce. Fire prompts Sand Oak to make acorns, which the Florida Scrub Jay, Florida Mouse, and the Black Bear eat. Ash from fire recycles nutrients back into the nutrient-poor sand. This all happens quickly. Within days of a fire, plants emerge from the ground and within weeks, animals return.

There are drawbacks, of course. After all, fire is destructive and Florida is now populated with (interesting) people. Fire threatens lives and livelihoods, property and resources. Understandably, for a long time,

**PRESCRIBED FIRE**  
... IS GOOD FIRE

**WHAT IS IT?**  
Prescribed fire is the use of fire to meet a specific objective, using a specific plan, to restore or maintain the health of a specific ecosystem. The prescription includes specific weather and fuel conditions required to carry out the fire.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The South prescribe burns more acres annually than any other region:  
**ABOUT 6 MILLION**  
In fact, several ecosystems of the South are dependent upon periodic fire to sustain healthy animal and plant communities.

**50%** or more of the wildfires that occur in the US annually are in the South.

**7 BENEFITS OF A BURN**

- 1. Removing Hazardous Fuels**  
Prescribed fire reduces or removes fuel that can burn, which **lowers a potential wildfire's intensity**. This makes it easier and safer for firefighters to suppress a wildfire and acts as an insurance policy to **protect timber investment** from more catastrophic wildfires.
- 2. Forest Health**  
Fire returns nutrients to the soil creating healthy habitats while controlling some diseases, insects, and invasive plants that can affect tree health. Periodic fire can **improve water quality** by increasing aquifer absorption.
- 3. Economic Gain**  
Prescribed fire can **aid regeneration of Southern pines**, by creating seedbeds for proper germination. Prescribed fire also **helps establish seedlings** by controlling competing vegetation.
- 4. Community Risk Reduction**  
Well planned prescribed fires **help protect and reduce wildfire risks to communities** where wildfires pose the greatest threat to life and property.
- 5. Aesthetics**  
Prescribed fire increases the occurrence and visibility of wildflowers, which attract pollinators, and maintains open spaces and transparency that improves the scenic quality of a forest.
- 6. Farm, Range, and Brush Management**  
Periodic fire can replenish rangelands by improving the palatability, quality, and quantity of grazing forage while reducing needs for fertilization.
- 7. Wildlife Habitat Improvement**  
Prescribed fire can **attract wildlife and songbirds** by increasing plant diversity which also yields a variety of food. Fire **allows plants to capture sunlight and grow**.

Publication provided by the Southern Group of State Foresters through a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

**GoodFIRES**  
Goodfires.org





*Florida scrub, made up of Saw Palmetto, Sand Pine, and Florida Rosemary, depend on fire to reproduce*

fire has been excluded from landscape management throughout North America. Indigenous Peoples practiced cultural burning, but by the 19th century many Indigenous nations were forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands, and the practice of cultural burning was criminalized.



*Less than two weeks post-prescribed fire, these native grasses are already starting to regrow*  
Photo: Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Over the last few centuries, natural debris (fuel) has built up and when lightning strikes, the resulting fires burn hotter and longer. It's a conundrum, since we know that certain ecosystems in Florida need fire. Without it, many of Florida's native species would disappear. Mechanical removal of debris can only do so much.

"Prescribed" burns are a way of maintaining the landscape by mimicking natural conditions based on fire science. After months of planning, when the conditions are just right, a team of experts gathers and tilts their drip torches. Animals scatter or hide. Gopher Tortoises share their burrows with Florida Mice, Gopher Frogs, Mole Crickets and insects. Flames dance from one waxy Saw Palmetto leaf to another, germinating Florida Rosemary seeds while claiming the plant.

The embers of death whisper with life.  
Balance is restored.



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USCGAux, continued from page 23

Both courses extensively use aerial and on-the-water photos as well as Google Earth mapping.

**Paddlecraft Safety:** The objective of this course is for paddlers to be aware of the basic issues and needs for paddling safety, the basic equipment you should have, and provide some information about paddling that will help keep you a more knowledgeable and safer paddler.  
Date/Time: 2/16/23 at 5pm

All Classes are held at USCGAux Station,  
903 Collier Court, Caxambas Park, Marco Island.

For more information about these and other boating courses offered by the USCGAux, contact Public Education Officer at (239) 384-7416 or [CGAuxCourses@gmail.com](mailto:CGAuxCourses@gmail.com)

For further information about other USCGAux programs, including complimentary Vessel Safety Examinations, or how to join the Auxiliary, (239) 394-5911 or [www.USCGAuxMarco.org](http://www.USCGAuxMarco.org)

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*Author Randall  
Kenneth Jones*

Author Randall Kenneth Jones is a master storyteller, entrepreneur, public speaker, humorist and actor who always looks for the positive in people. His charismatic personality is infectious and we know you won't want to miss his presentation.

His literary journey began with his 2016 book, a feelgood opus entitled *Show Me: Celebrities, Business Tycoons, Rock Stars, Journalists, Humanitarians, Attack Bunnies & More!*

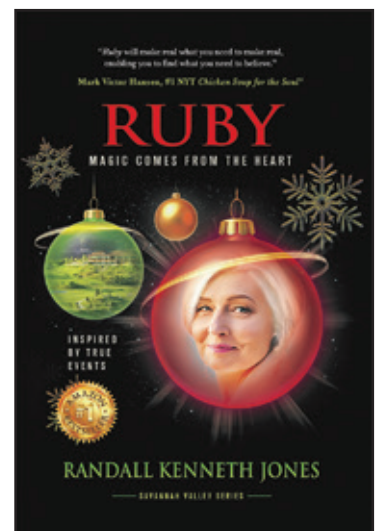
Jones spent several years running his boutique marketing agency in a pre-Civil War building in Leesburg, Virginia. Today, he is enjoying the sunshine of Southwest Florida, living in Naples with his family, Derek, Kevin, Maribeth and his Airedale, Alexander.

His new book, *Ruby*, set in Savannah Valley, evokes memories of the Golden Girls, Harry Potter and even Peyton Place - everybody seems to be up to something - yet he stays true to his ongoing quest to look for the best in people. With spirits, angels, messengers and boundless imagination alongside mystery, whimsy, speculation and a search for truth, *Ruby* tempts even the most hardhearted naysayer to believe in "believing" again.

*Registration is required.*

*Come and enjoy a complimentary breakfast and his fascinating presentation provided by the Marco Island Friends of the Library. Doors open at 10 am. Mr. Jones will be available for questions and to autograph copies of his book at the conclusion of his presentation.*

*Rose Hall is located at the  
Marco Island Branch Library at 210 S. Heathwood Dr.  
They can be reached at 239 394-3272*



# ALL ARE WELCOME!

# BEACH CLEAN-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 8am - Annual Bay Days, Tigertail Beach Park

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 8am - Quarterly Clean-up, Tigertail Beach Park

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 9am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 8am -

Annual International Coastal Clean-up, Tigertail Beach Park

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 8am - Residents' Beach

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 8am - South Beach Boardwalk

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 8am - Quarterly Clean-up, Tigertail Beach Park

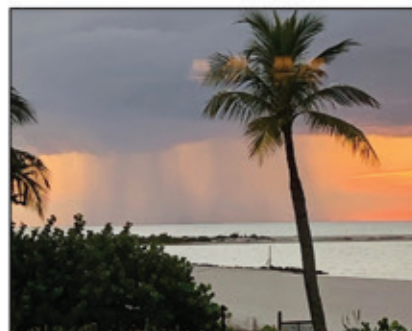
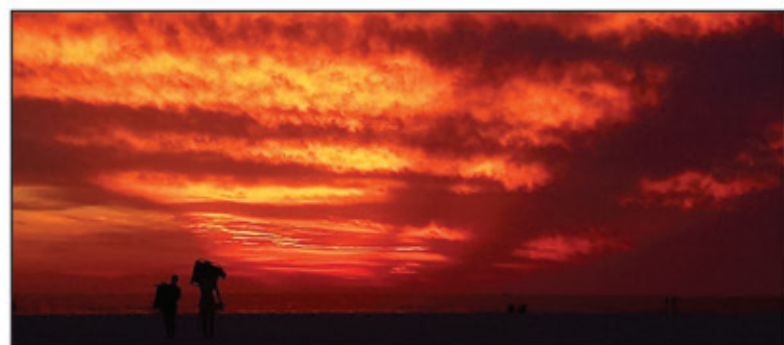
For more information, please contact City Staff Liaison at 239.389.3949





# 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](mailto:info@marcocivic.com)



Top left: Sunrise at Residents Beach, taken by Diane Janco.

Top right: Residents' Beach reflection, by Amy Hendricks.

Top middle left: Sunset by Melissa Prefontaine

Middle right: Sunset by Miles Blunt.

Middle left: Daughter Jill and Grandson Zakaria from Virginia enjoying a quiet time on Residents' Beach, by Marie Annette Johnson.

Middle center: A Florida snowman, by Kristin Mary.

Middle right: "Summer Storm" by Richard Clarke.

Bottom middle: Friends for 60 years, Mary Ann and Marie Annette enjoy Residents' Beach.

Bottom right: Sunset over Smokehouse Bay by Carter Onkka.



# AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS ON MARCO! PARADISE FOUND PRESENTS 2023 ACS IMAGINATION BALL

*by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer*

Your American Cancer Society cordially invites you to Join Us on the Red Carpet Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the JW Marriott as we celebrate 40 years on Marco Island! Paradise Found Restaurant and Bar presents the 2023 Imagination Ball! The event is chaired by Debra Shanahan for the eleventh consecutive year.

It is hard to believe that it has been 40 years since the American Cancer Society established its presence on Marco Island through the help, determination, and support of Marco Islander Corrie Grado. To this day, Grado continues to be a driving force in the mission of ACS in our community.

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support. We strive to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. Our goal is to eliminate the threat of cancer in our world.

But how do you outsmart this deadly disease? Research. The American Cancer Society is the largest nonprofit funder of cancer research in the United States outside of the federal government. Since 1946, ACS has invested over five billion dollars in cancer research. And just think – Marco Island has been an integral part of the fundraising for forty of those years!



*The 2023 Imagination Ball Gala will be emceed by Lindsey Sablan of WINK News*





*Current Imagination Ball chair Debra Shanahan,  
with longtime ACS Marco Island supporter  
Corrie Grado at the 2022 Gala*

The focus of this year's Imagination Ball will be research. But it will also be a night of celebration. The black-tie optional gala will be emceed by Lindsey Sablan of WINK News and will feature fine food, live music, dancing, both live and silent auctions, and a video of survivors sharing their inspirational stories of how the American Cancer Society has impacted their lives. Kathein Jewelers will add sparkle to the evening with their dazzling revenue enhancer, the Diamond Dig.

The real celebration will take place on the day that we finish the fight once and for all when we find the cure. That will truly be our Paradise Found. Imagine a world without cancer!

*To learn more about the  
American Cancer Society, including news of its  
research, and patient support  
programs, please visit  
<https://www.cancer.org>.*

*To learn more about the  
Imagination Ball and other local events,  
please contact  
[Sue.Olszak@cancer.org](mailto:Sue.Olszak@cancer.org) or 239.610.3032.*



*Annalee, Sue and Debra at The 2022 Imagination Ball*

# THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS WORSENS

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

The extreme need for affordable housing which has been with us for decades has only worsened since the pandemic and Hurricane Ian. It has reached the level that local employers came together a few weeks ago through Greater Naples Leadership to host The Affordable Housing Forum. Employers spoke of how they have increased their compensation and benefits packages but potential employees often are forced to decline their employment offer because it is just too expensive to live in Collier County. Those currently working here who already struggle to pay exorbitant rents are seeing their rents increase by hundreds of dollars each month. Many applicants come to Habitat Collier saying they will soon be homeless if they are not approved to purchase a Habitat home.

Today more than 48,000 people commute to

Collier County for jobs but they are forced to live elsewhere due to our high rents and home purchase prices. It is critical that each and every one of us spreads the word to our local government officials that more needs to be done to make access to affordable home ownership a reality for low-wage, hard-working families that make our community, especially Marco Island, paradise.

During our last fiscal year, in total just over 1,500 families inquired about whether they would qualify to purchase a Habitat home. We are barely through half of our fiscal year and already over 1,000 families have inquired. The situation is dire for these families desperate to put a roof overhead for their children.

Andrea and Jean came to Habitat Collier last October saying "I want to live in a place where we



*The beautiful new construction Habitat Collier neighborhood, Whitaker Woods*



feel comfortable and safe. A place where we can truly be ourselves. It doesn't matter how big or small. I live in a small apartment with my children and husband." Andrea went on to say, "The reason why my family and I need a Habitat home is because a home is a place of blessings, where my family and I can be secure and share the sadness and happiness, the ups and downs. Where we can help each other as a family. A place where we can truly be ourselves." This is what a Habitat home will mean for them.

These devoted parents want to provide the very best for their children. Andrea has been working for more than five years at the JW Marriott on Marco Island as a cook. Jean is an electrician. Even with their stable employment, the only housing they had been able to find is a small two-bedroom apartment, with rent over \$1,100 per month. Their 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter were forced to share a bedroom. When their landlord notified them, with very little notice, that their rent would be going up by \$500 a month, panic set in. They were barely able to make ends meet as it was, how would they afford this huge increase in rent each month? With the hope of providing their children with the stability of a forever home, they turned to Habitat for Humanity.

This spring the grateful family will be moving into their very own home in the beautiful Habitat neighborhood of Whitaker Woods. For the first time ever, Andrea will be able to send the kids outside to play without fear. Their children will be able to ride their bikes around the neighborhood and enjoy the playground, experiencing the true joys of childhood. They can look forward to coming home each night to their own bedrooms. Most importantly, they will feel the safety and security their parents have worked so hard to provide for them.

Making the dream of homeownership a reality for Habitat families certainly presents challenges in this tough housing market with increased costs and limited availability of supplies. This year, Habitat Collier's Whitaker Woods community will be complete, providing 125 more families the security and stability that come from owning a home of one's own.

Construction is also underway at our new neighborhood called Songbird. Songbird, located

off Pine Ridge Road in North Naples, gives families access to a highly desirable area, close to employment opportunities and good schools, at a cost they can afford. When complete, Songbird will be home to 52 families. These homes and the 2,450 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](http://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](mailto: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.



## Promoting the visual, literary and performing arts on Marco Island

### Proceeds support MIFA's Student Scholarship Fund

[www.marcoislandfoundation.org](http://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: 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](http://www.marcoislandfoundation.org)



# WHAT MAKES GREAT ART GREAT?

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

The question “What is art?” is something I often consider in my line of work. When I ask people their opinion I hear everything from, “it is a passion,” or “it’s a relaxing way to spend some time,” or “it makes me feel part of a community.” Of course, there are working artists who will add that it is a way to make a living. Guess what. They were all correct.

Why is it that some paintings, sculptures, musical performances, or live theater productions leave you thinking, “That is ok” or “Meh” and you forget them. Some are so exceptional that they leave a lasting impression and stay in your memory for days or even forever.

Have you ever contemplated the difference between good art and great art? What makes art stand out and memorable. By art, I mean both visual and performing art. So what makes great art great?

There are countless reasons but I am going to share the four ideas that when combined lead to great art.

1. Artists will generally have pretty considered reasons for their choices of material, subject, and technique. Clear vision, purpose and meaning can raise the excellence of artwork.
2. If a creative endeavor is the first to express a new idea artistically, people will notice. Originality can make the art exceptional and noteworthy.

3. A hobbyist - or, really, anyone - can accidentally create something that turns out beautiful and profound. What makes true greatness in a body of work is the frequency with which artistic successes occur. Stand out work is created or produced by artists or performers who make a commitment to the process, and have the artistic judgement to consistently shine.
4. Skill matters. Artists develop refined technique through hard work and practice. There is no one technique better than another is. However, an artist’s command of the appropriate techniques to express their idea will determine how good a piece of art is.

There are many other reasons but these are a few. Even if all these factors come together, timing and good fortune can play a role in what people perceive as excellence. Many great pieces were made before their time, and did not get the deserved recognition when created or performed. Art can be subjective and sometimes it is just one person’s opinion. In the visual art world, any artist’s ability to attract and keep the interest of galleries, patrons and the public depends on what is in style, what resources they have, and just providential kismet. This can also apply to performing artists and their work. In general, I believe the artwork that ends up “at the top of the heap” and are deemed truly great show purposefulness, meaning, creativity, originality, consistency and technique.

Now you go make something great! Marco Island Center for the Arts and the Art Center Theatre are ready to help you on your creative journey.

REMEMBER...  
NO GLASS  
AT THE BEACH!

*Marco Island Center for the Arts is located at  
1010 Winterberry Drive,  
Marco Island, Florida 34145.*

*You can reach them at 239-394-4221  
or visit [www.marcoislandart.org](http://www.marcoislandart.org)*

# OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET®

A pharmaceutical take-back program brought to you by:  
DrugFreeCollier.org

Working to Save & Change Lives



Operation Medicine Cabinet helps keep harmful drugs from falling into the wrong hands and offers a responsible alternative for reducing pharmaceutical contaminants in our environment.

## A Prescription for Safe Kids & Clean Environment

- Do Lock up all medications and keep away from children and teens.
- Do Bring unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medication to one of the locations listed for proper disposal.
- Don't Flush medication down the toilet. It is a danger to our environment.
- Don't Bring needles or other "sharps." They cannot be accepted.\*

Drug Free Collier

P.O. Box 770759

Naples, Florida 34107

Phone: (239) 302-6717 info@DrugFreeCollier.org

## PERMANENT DROP-OFF SITE MARCO ISLAND:

Marco Island Police Dept.

51 Bald Eagle Drive

Marco Island, FL

34145

Ph: 239.389.5050

Mon. - Fri., 8am - 5pm

\*Sharps may be taken to a Collier County Recycling Drop-off Center during regular business hours. For information on sharps disposal call Collier County Public Utilities Solid Waste Division at (239) 252-2008.

## PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



# Bryan's Best Home Watch

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(239) **571-5916**

**BryansHomeWatch@gmail.com**

**Veteran Owned**

**Licensed & Insured**



# 2023 FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL UPDATE

*by Allie Delventhal, Friends of Tigertail*

After a long hiatus due to COVID, Friends of Tigertail resumed their Breakfast and Birds programs on January 21st, 2023, and over 50 people enjoyed the presentation by Susan Kubat and Fran Huxley, Friends of Tigertail members and experienced birders. They explained physical and behavioral characteristics that distinguish various species of winter avian residents, then proceeded to the lagoon beach for participants to practice bird identification. A follow-up Breakfast and Birds program will be held at Tigertail Beach on March 18.



*Breakfast and Birds will be held at Tigertail Beach on March 18. Photo by Allie Delventhal*

Well attended quarterly beach clean-ups have continued. With less beach visitation due to damage and water issues following Hurricane Ian, the December clean-up brought in more construction debris and less bottles, cans, and food packaging. The next clean-up is scheduled for April 1 in association with Bay Days, an effort by the county and Keep Collier Beautiful to clean local beaches.

Friends of Tigertail has continued to actively support the Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Restoration project to restore the beach and park to pre-hurricane Irma condition. After permits were issued by several oversight agencies the work is



*The lookout tower at Tigertail Beach is the perfect location to spot birds that call Tigertail home*



*Willets. Photo submitted by Lori Gaspar*

now in progress, scheduled for completion in April. Supplemental funding is currently being sought after Hurricane Ian's damage increased the cost of the overall project.

The goal is to open and restore a large portion of the channel from the northern tip of Sand Dollar Spit to a bit north of the actual lagoon. Large amounts of sand will be used to rebuild the protective central coastline to a condition which will promote optimal conditions for shorebird nesting as well as add a beautiful sand beach for walkers.

*Visit [www.FriendsofTigertail.com](http://www.FriendsofTigertail.com)  
or find them on Facebook  
for more information*

# OCTOBER 2022 RESIDENTS' BEACH CLEAN-UP



## Residents' Beach

Oct 25, 2022 • 🌐

Beach Clean-Up sponsored by the Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) and Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP), more than two hundred strong!! Volunteers scoured from Tigertail Beach to South Beach and collected over 800 pounds of debris.

MICA appreciates all those who cleaned the entire beachfront. Volunteers were outfitted with gloves, more than 100 grabbers, buckets and bags. Some arrived prior to the actual 8 a.m. start, some at 8 a.m. and others a bit later.

The cleanup was done in conjunction with the City of Marco Island's Beach & Coastal Resources Committee and was a great success. While on the schedule for over a year, the cleanup was the first coordinated one following Hurricane Ian. As you can see from the pictures, the cleanup removed a large number of tires, huge pieces of lumber, wooden steps and dock boxes, and other trash not usually found on our beach. Special thanks to the young folks who joined in this extraordinary effort!







# ROOKERY BAY RESEARCH RESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER EVENTS & ECO-TOURS

*Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center – Visit and Rediscover Rookery Bay!*

The attraction at 300 Tower Road in Naples features aquariums, touch tanks with marine critters, natural history, environmental and wildlife exhibits art gallery, picnic area and walking trails. Hours are 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday – Saturday. Admission of \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12 benefits the Friends of Rookery Bay, a nonprofit that supports the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Guests may apply their admission fee toward Friends of Rookery Bay membership on the day of their visit. Active and retired military personnel and family members are free year-round, as are guests on kayak and boat ecotours booked through the Friends of Rookery Bay.

## ***Rookery Bay's Farmers Market***

Sundays – January through May 28, 2023

9am to 1pm

Rookery Bay Environmental Center Parking Lot

More than three dozen vendors offer fruit, vegetables, local seafood, cottage foods, international cuisine, local honey, guacamole, baked goods, specialty coffee, organic skincare, clothing, handmade jewelry, accessories, art and more. Live music will be featured each week. The nature center will not be open, but the Friends of Rookery Bay will offer special promotions to market attendees.



## ***Lunch & Learn Lecture Series: Research in the Reserve***

March 8 (Fisheries) & April 5 (Sea Turtles)

12 Noon, \$20

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center

Registration required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

The Lunch & Learn Lecture Series hosted at Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center invites guests to enjoy a hot buffet from Carrabba's Italian Grill, while learning something new about Research in the Reserve on the big screen in the comfort of the auditorium. Fee includes lunch, presentation and Q & A with speaker, plus admission to the Learning Center.

*Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is located at:*

*300 Tower Rd., Naples, FL 34113*

*They can be reached at 239-530-5940 or visit their website at [www.RookeryBay.org](http://www.RookeryBay.org)*





### ***Watercolors & Wildlife: Painting with Jan***

March 9, March 23, April 13

Adult (Ages 13+) - \$85,

Includes all materials, 2.5 hours

Registration required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

Paint the beauty of coastal Naples and the wildlife of estuary waters in this watercolor painting class. Local artist Jan Deswik offers step-by-step simple instructions and creative support perfect for beginners or anyone inspired by the coastal environment and wants to bring it to life in a one-of-a-kind painting. Each class spotlights a natural theme from shells to birdlife to local waterways. Held in classrooms at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, all materials are included. Participants will complete a painted piece with matte at each session.

### ***Essentials of Digital Photography Workshop***

March 18, April 22, 9:30am - 12:30pm.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, \$55

Registration required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

If you want to get the best pictures possible, and truly understanding your camera's features, this camera workshop is for you. The class covers the essentials of your digital camera. You will learn how to use your camera's shutter, aperture, ISO control and the drive modes to create images with impact and creativity. Sonny Saunders has over 35 years of experience in photography and instruction and is renowned for his ability to communicate to a wide variety of students. No previous camera or photography experience is necessary, just a desire to learn.



### ***Virtual Binoculars Birding Workshop – Migrating and Wintering Shorebirds ID***

March 14, 5:00 – 6:30pm.

Virtual Program Via Zoom - \$15

Registration required [www.rookerybay.org/calendar](http://www.rookerybay.org/calendar)

Southwest Florida is a critical stopover site for thousands of migrating and wintering shorebirds and seabirds. In this program, Rochelle Streker of Audubon Florida and Collette Lauzau of Rookery Bay Research Reserve will discuss the life history of these birds and the incredible journeys many of them make annually. Join Rookery Bay for a 1.5-hour zoom session to learn ID skills and discuss the amazing journeys of migrating and wintering shorebirds.

### ***Rookery Bay Eco Kayak & Boat Tours – Get out on the water with US!***

Join Rookery Bay Research Reserve for a guided boat tour or kayak adventure into the beautiful waters of Rookery Bay Reserve. With our kayak tours, guests paddle through beautiful mangrove tunnels, teeming mudflats and intricate oyster reefs while searching for amazing wildlife like sea stars, large snails, birds, dolphins and manatees! Our boat tours are small 6-passenger boats and offer a comfortable and informative ride. Guests can choose from different tours including a shelling trip to a deserted a barrier island or a sunset tour. Find out more at [www.RookeryBay.org](http://www.RookeryBay.org) or call 239-530-5972.

# 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 happy hour & 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

Two daily Happy Hours: 3pm-6, 10pm-midnight  
Entertainment, reduced drink prices.  
www.thenachomamas.com  
Marco Walk, 389-2222

### Napoli on the Bay - 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

### 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.eatatzaza.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 Ana or Suzanne  
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

### Butterfly Beach, Esplanade

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

### Bottoms Up Yoga Pants

www.BottomsUpYogaPants.com  
239-207-0820  
Receive 10% off with code MICA10

### JetSet Surf Shop,

394-5544, Excludes hardgoods,  
674 Bald Eagle Dr

### Jewelry by Laura 394-2511

JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort

### Kathein Jewelers of Marco, 239-259-8937

(Formerly known as Golden Gate Jewelers)  
Shops of Marco  
www.ggjmarco.com

### Ocean Soul, 970-2916

10% off, excluding sale items  
www.oceansoul.net,  
740 N Collier Blvd Suite 108,  
The Esplanade

### OMG That's Chic, 239-970-2102

10% off, excluding sale items  
www.OMGthatschic.com,  
287 N. Collier Blvd

### Patchington Ladies Boutique –

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

### Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200

1106-1/2 N Collier Blvd, Chamber Plaza  
www.sunshinestitchers.com

### Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters / Crosswinds

JW Marriott Resort,  
389-6051

**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.



## 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

## 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

### **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, kayaks included  
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

### **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

### **Marco Island Lock 394-2121**

www.marcoislandlock.com

### **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

## 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  
Free shirt with every boat rental

### **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.

## MARINE/AUTO

### **Ion1 Professional Limousine, Inc.**

Lowest rates, dependable professional  
service, 239-389-0004  
www.ion1limousine.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

## 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 Elkcam 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 Computer Service**

Computer, Photography & Web Design  
816 E Elkcam 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.marcoislandphotography.com

### **South Made Marketing**

865-214-7216 Derek@southmade.com  
10% off website design, search engine  
optimization, graphic design, social media  
management, photography & marketing  
strategy.  
www.southmade.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 members' purchases only.

# MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB - SHELL ART

*by Becky Miller, Chair of Workshop Committee, Marco Island Shell Club*

The Marco Island Shell Club is planning a Spring Expo and Shell Art Sale, March 10 and 11, 2023, 10:00 to 4:00, at the New Life Community Church, 489 W. Elcam Circle, Marco Island. A wide variety of Shell Art will be available as well as artistic and scientific exhibits by current Marco Island Shell Club members.

This brings the question - who makes the Shell Art and how is it made?

Members of the Shell Club meet weekly (January thru early March) in a two hour Workshop to complete Shell Art. Project Leaders organize materials, present projects and oversee members in completing varied and beautiful works of Shell Art. Projects include shell flowers, wall art, home décor, jewelry, holiday decorations. Projects are as varied as the Project Leaders imagination - some are classic - some are whimsical. The shell crafters are varied - some long term crafters and some new and emerging artists

The shells used are found in a variety of ways - some from our very own Gulf beaches, some from donations of long time beach walkers, some

*Shell Club, continued on page 46*







# ARE MY RECYCLING EFFORTS GOING TO WASTE?

by Kari Hodgson of Collier County Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Division



## Where does my recycling go?

All residential recycling that is collected at the curb is hauled to a Material Resource Facility (MRF) located in Miami. It is owned and operated by Waste Management of Florida, Inc. At the MRF, the material is sorted, baled, and shipped to third party wholesalers. Recycled material is then processed into new material, such as clothes, bicycles, furniture, and paper.

## What happens to the non-recyclable materials?

Non-recyclable materials are removed through a combination of manual labor and mechanical processes. Non-recyclable items are shipped to a disposal facility as directed by the MRF Operator, NOT Collier County's Landfill. To learn more about how to recycle where you live, work and play, visit [colliercountyfl.gov/recycles](http://colliercountyfl.gov/recycles).

## Who receives the revenue generated from recycling?

The MRF operator, Waste Management of Florida, Inc., is responsible for sorting, processing, and marketing the recyclable material. They receive the revenue generated from the commodities and are also responsible for disposal associated with the non-recyclable material.

## Is recycling worth it?

In Collier County, yes, recycling does make a difference and Collier County leads by example by reaching the 75% recycling rate set by the Florida Environmental Protection, making it one of only five counties to reach this goal. Collier County recycled 1.5 million tons of the 2 million tons of waste that would have otherwise been landfilled. Most recyclables, like glass and plastic, do not readily decompose, taking up valuable space in the County's only active landfill. The value of recycling is in preserving our paradise. Recycling is an environmental stewardship that keeps our beaches, lakes and natural preserves pristine for future generations.

The recycling industry is a commodity-driven market, subject to economic fluctuations, adapting to the supply and demand of the world markets. More commercial industries are making products from recyclable materials, thereby increasing the domestic value of these recyclables. Recycling is vital to the manufacturing supply chain.

## What do I do if I see recyclables and garbage mixed by the collector?

Call 239-252-2380, Collier County Utility Billing and Customer Service. Collier County reached a 75% recycling goal because of YOUR EFFORTS. As for commercial recycling, Collier County maintains a Recycling Ordinance that requires all businesses to recycle their primary recyclable material. For a list of known recycling commercial haulers, or assistance assessing your recycling program needs, call a Recycling Coordinator at {239} 252-7575 or email [recycling@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:recycling@colliercountyfl.gov)

## How can I help?

Help us increase this rate by feeding your yellow top recycling bin this:

- Glass - Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic - Bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs
- Metal - Food and beverage cans
- Paper - Clean cardboard, cartons, magazines and newspapers

Make sure that recyclables are clean, dry and loose. Also, plastic bags are not allowed in curbside recycling. If you are ever in doubt, throw it out or call us at 239-252-7575.

To properly dispose of other environmentally sensitive items, like used oil or paint, visit one of Collier County's Recycling Drop-Off centers. To find a recycling center near you or to view a list of acceptable material, visit [colliercountyfl.gov/recycle](http://colliercountyfl.gov/recycle) for an all-inclusive guidebook on waste disposal and recycling, visit [colliercountyfl.gov/guide](http://colliercountyfl.gov/guide).

**Help preserve our environment by recycling.**

**It's worth it!**

**Please contact  
The Solid Waste Division  
at 239-252-7575  
for more information**



*Shell Club, continued from page 44*

purchased. The Club makes an effort to learn about the shells being used in crafting and to understand the life of the mollusk. As a group, we are respectful of our environment and support the laws of not taking or using any live creatures.

Marco Island Shell Club is a 501 ( C ) 3 non-profit, whose mission is to promote the study, conservation, history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as collecting and crafting.

The funds collected from our Shell Art Sales are used to support our mission. We provide scholarships to higher education students studying marine sciences, educational materials and opportunities to school age learners, and informational seminars to the public.

*Please save the date:*

**Marco Island Shell Club  
Spring Expo and Sale  
March 10-11  
New Life Community Church**



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SUNDAY, APRIL 16,  
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