

SPRING 2024

# MICA *wave*

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



A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association



*Dr. Gerald Swiacki, President,  
MICA Board of Directors*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Dr. Gerald Swiacki, President, MICA Board of Directors*

I open this message by saying this is my last column as the President of MICA. I have enjoyed serving the residents of Marco Island on the MICA Board of Directors for the past six years but my term has come to an end. Rest assured; the MICA Board is in good hands as there are 12 extremely dedicated volunteers working on your behalf.

As we move quickly into season and our snowbirds arrive, we hope all feel welcome! If you have not yet received your September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 Residents' Beach Pass, it would be expeditious to apply and pay online, and then you would just need to pick up your pass at the MICA Office.

On January 23rd, MICA held its Annual Meeting, with directors giving a brief update as to the status of everything that we are accomplishing at MICA, including Sarazen Park located at South Beach. We would like to thank all that were able to make it to our meeting and hope we were able to

help answer some of your questions. We look forward to a great year at Residents' Beach and have announced the dates for the music at Residents' Beach. Please see the back page for details of the "Concerts on the Green."

Members should have received their ballots for the upcoming election, and we ask you to vote for your choices for board members. There are six people on the ballot, two of them are incumbents, and we ask you not to vote for more than four. The results will be posted on MICA's website.

Finally, please take a moment out of your busy days to greet our employees, especially the folks with the smiling faces at the office and our wonderful gatekeepers, who try to keep things flowing for us.

**PLEASE DO NOT LET ANYONE USE YOUR BEACH PASS (INCLUDING FAMILY) OR YOU MAY LOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**



*MICA Annual Meeting, January 2024*

# VOTER APPROVED COLLIER COUNTY ONE-CENT SURTAX SUNSET EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Collier County and Municipal Infrastructure One-Cent Sales Surtax, approved by voters in 2018, reached the \$490 million collection threshold and sunset two years early on December 31, 2023. Throughout 2024, MyCollier Newsletter will include feature stories on the projects that are underway, or have been completed, as a result of the Surtax. Watch your inbox for future issues containing these stories.

The Surtax was designed to enhance safety, mobility, and hurricane preparedness in Collier County and its cities by constructing, repairing, and maintaining roads, bridges, signals, sidewalks, parks, evacuation shelters, and governmental and emergency services facilities. The Surtax was also created to acquire land and support construction for workforce housing, facilitate career and technical

training, support the development of a veteran's nursing home, and expand local mental health facilities.

The Florida Department of Revenue administers many of the taxes levied in Florida, including fuel, sales and use, local surtaxes, severance, communication services, tourist development, and transient rental local option taxes. More information on discretionary sales surtaxes and other taxes applied, by county or address, can be found on their website at <https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/discretionary.aspx>

*More information about the Collier County One-Cent Sales Surtax can be found at [collieronecenttax.com](http://collieronecenttax.com)*

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# MICA & OUR DAILY BREAD SPONSORED BEACH CLEAN UP, OCTOBER 2023





# LOOKING BACK AT 2023 – AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

by Maria Lamb

For 2023 Florida had one of the hottest summers to date according to the National Weather Service, with the Gulf of Mexico experiencing a record hot water temperature. The summer of 2023's rainfall was also lower than normal.

Storm Hurricane Idalia arrived in late August, 2023, and though not as severe as Hurricane Ian in 2022 and missing Collier County/Marco, it still brought heavy rain, storm surge and flooding in sections of Marco.

On December 21, 2023 we wind up the year with a report of a Burmese Python captured and removed from Hideaway Beach – it had to be more than 12 feet long from the photo. Please make sure to keep your small pets inside!



*Marco Island Police Lieutenant Gallup, Sergeant Belardo, Officer Carey and FWC Licensed Python trapper holds a Burmese python caught in the bushes near a residence at Hideaway Beach on December 21, 2023.*

The longest ever recorded Burmese python measured 19 feet and weighed 125 pounds captured in the Big Cypress National Preserve on July 12, 2023 by local hunters.

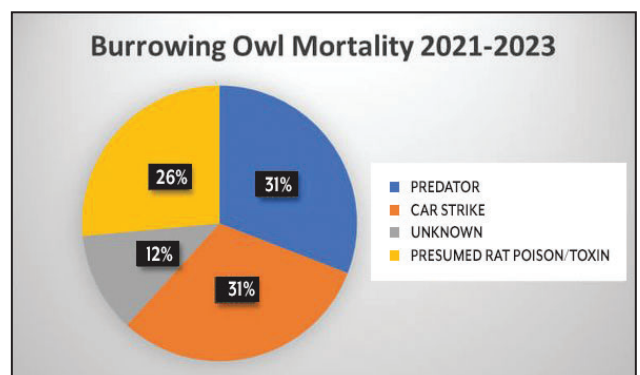
November 2023 was a deadly month for Florida Panthers. According to FWC, five Florida Panthers were found dead, with a total of 13 for 2023. Vehicle collisions have been reported as the cause for every Florida Panther's death recorded by FWC.

Something unknown also has been detected as causing panther's permanent impairment. According to FWC, this new disease called FLM – felineleukomyelopathy appears to be exclusively in SW Florida and they are increasing efforts to locate affected animals.

Rodenticide also has been found in tissues of dead panthers and the EPA is "trying to mitigate the harm caused by the rodenticides by requiring bait to be placed inside tamper-resistant bait boxes. Theoretically this would lessen the non-target animals such as the Panthers from eating the poison laced bait."

Burrowing Owls - Marco Island has the second largest population of Burrowing Owls in Florida and according to Owl Watch Marco's 2023 end of nesting season stats—they recorded 261 active sites. From January 2023 to December 10th, vehicular strikes caused the death of 32 owls according to Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE). Just as deadly is the use of rodenticide poisoning with an astounding 26 owls testing positive (out of 32 samples tested).

On the upside, the Starter Burrow Program has 110 participants and according to AWE, is the key to keeping a successful owl population in Marco Island.



*The mortality chart for Burrowing Owls in Marco showing vehicular strikes at 31% and presumed rat poison at 26%.*

Gopher Tortoises - AWE has completed 278 surveys with a current total of 2838 potentially occupied burrows; 471 abandoned burrows equating to an estimate of around 1419 Gopher Tortoises in Marco Island. 2023 was a deadly year for gopher tortoises recording 32 vehicular strikes with the latest reported on 12/10/2023.

Manatee update - According to FWC, over 300 manatees died during the first half of 2023. FWC reported most of them were red-tide related; other causes of death are starvation and watercraft fatality. Total 2023 deaths: 518 and according to Zoo Tampa – “this is a human-made issue.”

Sea Turtle 2023 - Preliminary numbers from Collier County: 127 nests with hatchling disorientation running at 60% for the 2023 nesting season – another record high for Marco with 429 false crawls; MIPD issued 94 sea-turtle lighting related violations with 14 brought before the Code Magistrate in December.

What do Florida Panthers, burrowing owls, gopher tortoises, manatees and sea turtles have in common? Their biggest threats are all human-made and preventable.



*A male burrowing owl looks over the deceased female mate with the suspected cause of death is eating poisoned prey.*



*For 2023 sea turtle nesting season, a record high of 429 False Crawls (photo by Jenna Flickinger)*

# US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MARCO ISLAND, WHY TAKE A BOATER SAFETY CLASS?

Florida leads the nation with over 1 million registered vessels across the state. Collier County registered almost 25,000 vessels in 2022. Each year Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) releases a Boating Accident Statistical Report. In 2022, the most recent report available, it reported 735 boating accidents in Florida with 65 fatalities, and 18 accidents reported in Collier County with no fatalities. Florida has the dubious distinction of leading the Nation in boating accidents; California (454) and Texas (238) rank second and third, respectively. Lack of boater education is often cited as a contributing factor in most accidents!

Since 1967, the USCG Auxiliary in Marco Island has educated thousands of students, offered hundreds of classes, and provided thousands of hours of certified instruction. We educate mariners on boater safety, navigating our waters, paddle craft safety, PWC safety, and information on local tides and weather. One of the more popular classes, “Boaters Local Knowledge-Marco Island” has been

taught 78 times to over 1600 students and has been endorsed for training by 5 professional groups. The course objectives not only include safe boating and navigation around Marco Island, but also provide tips for boating to local restaurants, beaches, and excursions to Keewaydin Island, Cape Romano, the Esplanade, Naples, and Everglades City.

Another popular class offering, “Boaters Local Knowledge-Backwater”, explores the navigating challenges and fishing opportunities within the 10,000 Islands. Thousands of students have benefited from instructor lessons on six “safe” passages into and out of back bays of our pristine waterways. The shallow waters in the 10,000 Island backwater offer significant challenges to all boaters as instructors begin class with one statement of conviction: “...it’s not a matter of if but when you run aground in the backwater.” Learn what to do next.

A new course offering this year from USCG Certified Instructors includes personal watercraft (PWC) safety instruction, Jet Ski, and Craig Cat operation in the 10,000 Islands. Safety, etiquette, proper safety gear, and navigation knowledge are essential to handling these popular craft in our fragile ecosystems. Instructors will guide you to explore locations in the backcountry including Calusa shell mounds, historic island cemeteries, and rivers taking you as far north as the Tamiami Trail.

Our waters are teeming with hundreds if not thousands of paddle craft enthusiasts! USCG Auxiliary provides a unique Paddle Craft Safety Course taught by a Nationally Certified instructor with 35 years of kayaking and paddle craft experience. The class is offered in cooperation with the American Canoe Association and provides novice paddlers information on the best craft for you, basic issues and gear for paddling safety, and backcountry camping opportunities in the 10,000 Islands and Everglades National Park.



*USCG continued on page 42*



# MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## “ART AT THE HEART OF EVERY COMMUNITY”

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

Putting art at the heart of a community enhances our lives by stirring hard-to-articulate feelings and inspiring us to look beyond what we believe to be possible and imagine a more vibrant, exciting future.

It also reminds us that we're all creative beings - and that whether we're making art or music, telling stories or cathartically sharing in the experience, we're all connected.

The thing to realize is that artists are the one asset that is present in every community. When you are thinking about asset-based community development, not every city will have a beautiful waterfront or fancy public transportation system or major university. However, every single community has people who paint, draw, sculpt, design, sing, act, dance and tell stories. Most art is consumed in-person, in real time and with other people. Therefore, people have to go somewhere and do something together. That drives foot traffic, which is good for community development. Art can create positive street presence, which results in increased observations and public safety. Some of the benefits about bringing big groups of people (or any size for that matter) in cultural venues is that they tend to spend money. Not only do they buy art or see a show, they will buy a snack or magazine or dinner or a drink. Arts and culture can drive foot traffic, local economies and improve public safety.

Of course, if that was all a community cared about it could invest in a sports stadium or giant shopping mall. But why we ultimately need art is because the arts do something that nothing else does, which is drive more stable communities and build community attachment and social cohesion and civic engagement. Research shows that people who participate in the arts are more likely to participate in activities beyond the arts, like volunteering, at higher rates.

The NEA [National Endowment for the Arts] published a research-driven white paper called How Art Works, showing that when art happens, there are



*The Marco Island Arts Center Theatre, located in Marco Town Center*

benefits to communities and to individuals. Those benefits include increased creative capacity and insight, the ability to bridge and bond and make connections with people who are not like you. Art is unique in that it offers individualized experiences, which can comfort you, sometimes provoke you, sometimes challenge you and sometimes it does all of those things.

*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)*

# FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL UPDATE

by Allie Delventhal, Friends of Tigertail

Friends of Tigertail has recently focused on working with Collier County officials to upgrade Tigertail Park facilities and amenities. The county has completed some of the requested projects such as relocating a fishing line receptacle, preparing the butterfly garden for revision to a pollinator garden, and replacing orange pylons with sidewalk ropes around a front area containing equipment.

Other suggested projects include increasing landscaping in the parking lot and garden, restoring or removing the osprey platform which sustained hurricane damage, reconditioning the telescopes in the viewing platform, and repairing an uneven asphalt area in the parking lot.

Due to structural instability, the front building containing restrooms and the ranger station will be completely rebuilt. During construction porta-potties will be available and access to the lagoon and beach will change, with signage directing beachgoers.

Once the building is complete the county hopes to secure a vendor so that food will again be available at the snack hut.

County Commissioner, Rick LoCastro, Director of Parks and Recreation, Olema Edwards, and other county staff members have been very responsive



*The restroom/ranger station building at Tigertail Park is slated for demolition and replacement, with new sidewalk ropes visible on the right.*

to FOTT suggestions and all of us hope to upgrade the park facilities to reflect the beauty of the natural area. Inclement weather caused the cancellation of the January Breakfast and Birds presentation, and rescheduling is planned.

Friends of Tigertail will continue hosting quarterly beach clean-ups, with the next scheduled for April 20, 2024, in association with Keep Collier Beautiful Bay Days.

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



*Fall in Bloom at Residents' Beach*

# “THE RHINESTONE RODEO” - OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY’S INAUGURAL GALA

by Evelyn Rosetti-Ryan, EdD, Executive Director, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry kicked up its heels and kicked off the 2024 gala season with its very first gala, Rhinestone Rodeo. This sold-out event was held at the Island Country Club on Marco Island.

The Back Country Boys and Angie’s Boot Scoot Country Line Dancing provided the entertainment. “I can’t think of a better way to commemorate our 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary than a fabulous party with our friends, neighbors, and supporters. Sincere thanks to our sponsors, NCH, Elite Concierge Nursing Services of Naples, Coastal Breeze News, and Life In Naples. The Rhinestone Rodeo came together thanks to the leadership of our dynamic gala chair, Allyson Richards, and our incredible gala committee,” shared Evelyn Rosetti-Ryan, EdD, Executive Director.

Based on Marco Island, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry gives a hand-up to those in need by providing food, hope, and encouragement. The six-day-a-week food pantry provides breakfast and weekend

backpack food to Collier County students during the school year, delivers to homebound seniors, offers appointments for weekday pick-ups, four mobile pantries, and a Saturday drive-thru pantry.

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry offers healthy, nutritious food to those in need. Starting in 2016 as a mission of the Family Church Marco, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry provided food to 3,600 individuals in its first year. It became a nonprofit organization in 2019. The majority of people who utilize the pantry are working people trying to make ends meet.

Today, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry feeds over 1,700 households, students, and seniors every week. “We could not do what we do without the amazing work of our 300-plus volunteers. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the pantry,” shared Rosetti-Ryan.

To learn more, go to [www.ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org](http://www.ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org)



# CONSERVATION COLLIER PROGRAM

by Kelly J. Farrell, Coastal Breeze News

Conservation Collier is a program funded by voters' approval to be taxed for Collier County to purchase and maintain conservation land. Voters last approved the ad valorem tax in 2020, up to .25 mil, or \$250 each year for a \$1 million assessed property. The Collier County Board of Commissioners approved what would have been Marco Island's largest conservation land purchases since the purchase of The Otter Mound in 2004. However, only two of three Marco Island sellers followed through, closing on January 5. The purchases still totaled about 2.5 acres instead of the goal of adding 3 acres to Marco Island's conservation land. The seller backing out at the last minute equated to about half an acre less conservation land.

## **Two approved purchases closed on January 5, 2024:**

- Adjoining vacant lots near Publix on South Barfield with short, black barrier fencing built around them to keep the tortoises safely on the property and away from the traffic. On the lot closest to Publix is a bald eagle nest high in a tree that is visible from the multi-use path. This South Barfield purchase includes four lots: 181, 191, 201, and 221 South Barfield. They total 2.13 acres bought at a cost of \$3.14 million from Anney Marco LLC and closed on January 5, 2024.
- 1125 Caxambas Drive, a half-acre lot purchased from South Terra Corp at a cost of \$1.62 million. The Caxambas Drive lot sits across from what was once a historic hotel with Indian Hill, Florida's highest natural elevation at 51 feet, right around the corner. It is situated next to a lot where human remains had been found. The waterfront property is home to gopher tortoises. The property closed on January 5, 2024.

## **Three More Marco Island Properties Considered for Purchase in 2024**

At the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) meeting on

Wednesday, January 3, five properties located throughout the county were considered for purchase, with three situated on Marco Island.

- 511 S. Barfield Drive, near the intersection of South Barfield Drive and Inlet Drive, is .4 acres owned by the W.L. Ramoski Revocable Living Trust. The property is located along the multi-use path and has conservation value for its tropical hardwood hammock and habitat for gopher tortoises and burrowing owls.
- 363 S. Barfield Drive is .38 acres owned by HK Investment AG. It is located near one of the recently purchased Conservation Collier properties that closed on January 5. The lot includes xeric oak scrub in an area otherwise described as high-intensity urban. Breeding gopher tortoises and burrowing owls have been reported on the property. A threatened plant species, West Indian Mahogany, is on the property, Collier County staff reported.
- 383 South Barfield Drive is .43 acres owned by Gary Van Cleef, located between the old fire district building and HK Investments' parcel listed above. An estimated market value for this property will be obtained prior to the March 5 CCLAAC ranking meeting.

The other two properties included one in eastern Collier County bordering I-75 towards the Everglades and another in northern Collier County off Immokalee Road.



# LEE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP IS COMMUNITY CENTRIC

The seventh cooperative principle focuses on concern for community. From packing meals for the homeless to planting mangroves in areas devastated by Hurricane Ian, LCEC employees spend countless hours making an impact. LCEC employees also serve on many professional boards throughout our service territory giving of their time and talents to help organizations flourish. Outside of mind power and physical work, LCEC also monetarily sponsors and supports different agencies, events and initiatives throughout our six-county service territory which includes beautiful Marco Island. LCEC has been proud and honored to sponsor the Annual Marco Island Christmas Decorating Contest since its inception 30 years ago! This is just one example of how LCEC energizes SWFL. Our concern for community shows a serious commitment to both our cooperative roots and our community overall.



# RUTH MCCANN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH MICA

by Maria Lamb

The very special plaque summed it best, "Presented to Ruth McCann, in recognition of the 30 years of exceptional devotion, guidance and leadership that keeps MICA the organization it has become today." On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, MICA decided to throw Ruth McCann a "surprise" celebration and filled the room at Joey D's Restaurant.

Ruth also received a Citizen Commendation from the Marco Island Police Department presented by Chief Tracy Frazzano, "This Citizen Commendation is awarded in recognition of 30 years of service as Executive Director of Marco Island Civic Association and in appreciation for your many contributions to the City of Marco Island and its residents."

In 1993 Joe Corriaci, then President of MICA, hired Ruth. She started working part time for about a year and then went on to full time becoming MICA's first Executive Director. MICA is the oldest and largest



*(l-r) Laura Owen holding a Tara O'Neill painting, Dennis and Ruth McCann, Kim McIntosh and Patti LaMotte.*

civic group on Marco Island serving over 20,000 residents and property owners on Marco Island.



*(l-r) MICA Presidents, Present & Past: (front) Dick Adams and Ruth McCann; back - Jim Johnson, Jerry Swiacki, Bob Brown, Howard Jordan, Lynn Bradeen, Kathy Sullivan and Dianna Dohm.*

MICA is a non-profit corporation whose general purpose is to promote and advance the principles of civic improvement and betterment of Marco Island.

Dianna Dohm, Executive Director of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, has worked with Ruth for over 15 years in a number of capacities from her bank days to MICA Board President to the present. "Ruth's unique charm lies in her ability to seamlessly blend professionalism with a warm personal touch," shared Dianna.

Whenever anyone has a MICA question, the reply was always – ASK RUTH! According to Dianna, "after 30 years, Ruth's knowledge of our Island's development and history is astonishing."



*Ruth Cutting the Celebration Cake with Sandi Johnson, Leonore and Eleanor Bezos*

Daren Pledger of Hang 10 Media also had a message for Ruth. Daren recounted his part in "dragging MICA kicking and screaming into the 21st Century." As a key partner of MICA, Daren shared that "Ruth's impact on MICA is immeasurable and we at Hang 10 Media are proud to be part of her remarkable journey."

"She still looks 30," remarked Katie O'Hara, who drove back to Marco from Central Florida to celebrate Ruth's special moment with friends and colleagues. Katie first met Ruth in 2009 when she got involved in beach clean-ups and during her time at the Marco Chamber of Commerce and as a member of Marco's Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, (BACR) and lastly as a member of the MICA Board of Directors.

Ruth is passionate about the environment and as Chairperson for the BACR for six years and during her tenure, three important Ordinances were sponsored by the Committee and passed by the City Council: the elimination of single-use plastic straws on the beach where beach front restaurants switched to the use of biodegradable straws.

The Fertilizer Ordinance was approved on May 7, 2016 which created a rainy season ban on the use of fertilizer. The third ordinance added protection to local wildlife such as burrowing owls and gopher tortoises.

Ruth is Hurricane Seasoned – 2004 brought four hurricanes to SW Florida in just 44 days, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne - the first was Charley which delivered devastating winds to Residents' Beach and required extensive clean-ups and repairs.



*Thanks to all the Well Wishers to Ruth's 30th with MICA!*

*Ruth McCann, continued on page 16*

*Ruth McCann, continued from page 15*

Wicked Wilma whipped through Residents' Beach on October 24, 2005 as Category 3 Hurricane having made landfall at Cape Romano, just south of Marco Island. Hurricane Irma's eye passed over Marco on September 10, 2017, with devastating winds as a Category 3 and on September 28, 2022,

Hurricane Ian's storm surge brought damages to Residents' Beach.

After each storm, Ruth immediately checked on the damages to both Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park and started making arrangement for repairs.

In the past 30 years, "Ruth managed to raise two wonderful adults, Katie and Patrick and is a devoted grandma to Landry Kate and Corbin."



*(l-r) Back at the Office: Richard Stoller, Laura McLaughlin, Ruth McCann, Marie Lynn McChesney, Shannon Combs, Elaine Felipe and Rina Lazo.*



THE COLLIER COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR HAS OPENED A TEMPORARY MARCO ISLAND OFFICE LOCATION AT 650 E. ELKCAM CIRCLE (OPERATING IN A PORTION OF FIFTH THIRD BANK BUILDING)

This temporary office space will allow Marco Island residents to access Tax Collector services directly on the island. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Services offered include:

- Florida Identification Cards
- Partial Florida Driver License Service (no testing)
- Property Tax
- Vessel title and registration
- Motor Vehicle title and registration
- Hunting & Fishing licensing
- Florida Birth Certificate



The Collier County Tax Collector's office located on Winterberry Drive was severely damaged during Hurricane Ian. Now that the official determination has been made that the damage exceeded FEMA limits, the Marco Island office will be razed and rebuilt.

For more information, visit [colliertaxcollector.com](http://colliertaxcollector.com).





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# EVERGLADES RESTORATION WORKS - OUR PROGRESS FOR THE RESILIENCY AND RESTORATION OF THE REGION'S WATER RESOURCES

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

To all of my fellow MICA members, I would like to begin this article with some very exciting news. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis joined the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board Members to begin filling the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Project's Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) - marking this era as the golden age of Everglades restoration. The SFWMD expedited this important project in 2019 after Governor DeSantis signed Executive Order 19-12.

When complete, the EAA Reservoir Project will preserve our freshwater resources by reducing damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers. This project will also help recreate the historic flow of water south to recharge our aquifers, nourish the Everglades, and support the health of Florida Bay.

The SFWMD will fill the entire 6,500-acre STA with water later this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District is working to complete the 10,500-acre reservoir in the coming years.

This was a historic day for Everglades restoration. It was made possible because of the support of the Florida Legislature, our partner agencies, Everglades stakeholders, and the hard-working staff at the SFWMD.



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



## *EAA Reservoir Project Stormwater Treatment Area Ribbon Cutting*

*L-R: Col. James Booth, USACE - Jacksonville District; Board Member Ben Butler, SFWMD; Board Member Jay Steinle, SFWMD; Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Board Member "Alligator Ron" Bergeron, SFWMD; Chairman Chauncey Goss, SFWMD; Gov. Ron DeSantis; Secretary Shawn Hamilton, DEP; Board Member Charlette Roman, SFWMD; Board Member Charlie Martinez, SFWMD; Chairman Carlos de la Cruz, Jr., Everglades Foundation; Daniel Andrews, Captains for Clean Water; Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation; Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Wes Brooks; Asst. Secretary Shannon Estenoz, U.S. Department of the Interior; Brig. Gen. Daniel Hibner, USACE - South Atlantic Division; Superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades National Park; Director Roger Young, FWC. Photo by SFWMD.*



*Turning on the Pumps at the EAA Reservoir Project's Stormwater Treatment Area. Photo by SFWMD.*

The SFWMD joined federal, state, and local officials to celebrate the completion of a new pump station for the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir Project in Hendry County. The massive pump station will move water from the Caloosahatchee River (C-43 Canal) into an 18-square-mile reservoir and reduce harmful flows of water from reaching the downstream Caloosahatchee Estuary.



*L-R: Commissioner Ramon Iglesias, Hendry County; Commissioner Hugo Vargas, City of LaBelle; Commissioner Emory "Rowdy" Howard, Hendry County; Vice Chair Mitchell Wills, Hendry County; Chairperson Emma Byrd, Hendry County; Chairman Chauncey Goss, SFWMD; Rep. Adam Botana; President Kathleen Passidomo, Florida Senate; Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Sen. Jonathan Martin; Board Member Charlette Roman, SFWMD; Councilwoman Holly Smith, City of Sanibel; Commissioner Karson Turner, Hendry County; Mayor Julie Wilkins, City of LaBelle; Deputy Secretary Adam Blalock, DEP; Maj. Cory Bell, USACE - Jacksonville District; Board Member Ben Butler, SFWMD. Photo by SFWMD.*

The C-43 Reservoir is a water storage project that supports healthy salinity levels in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. It will reduce harmful flows of water to the Caloosahatchee Estuary from Lake Okeechobee and the local watershed during the wet season and provide beneficial freshwater flows to the estuary during the dry season. It will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water, which is around 55 billion gallons.

The new pump station, one of the largest pump stations in the state, is the main inflow structure for the Caloosahatchee Reservoir. It has the capability to move more than 650,000 gallons of water per minute from the Caloosahatchee River into the reservoir using four large pumps.

The reservoir also includes 19 miles of dam embankments, 15 miles of perimeter canals, 14 major water control structures and more. The remaining portions of the reservoir project are expected to be substantially complete by 2025.

The SFWMD also remains focused on improving the health of Biscayne Bay. The SFWMD joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Miami-Dade County, along with local, state, and federal officials, to celebrate the completion of S-709. This new pump station, built by our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is part of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project. This project serves as a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and our efforts to improve the bay.

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project Phase I is comprised of three components: Deering Estate, L-31 East Flow Way, and Cutler Wetlands. This pump station is the first of five pump stations to be completed as part

*Everglades Restoration, continued on page 24*

# MARCO ISLAND WOMAN'S CLUB – EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY

*by Maureen Chodaba, MIWC Publicity Chair*

The Marco Island Woman's Club (MIWC) is an active social network of women dedicated to serving our community. Chartered in 1966 by a group of 16 Marco Island ladies, the Club has grown to over 150 members. We live by the words of our motto, "Why you were born, and why you are living, depends on what you are getting out of this world, and what you are giving."

We are enjoying our busy 2023-24 season. Our monthly luncheons at Naples Lakes Country Club have included presentations by various members of our community. In October, we cultivated our green thumbs with advice from Yvette Benarroch, co-owner of Affordable Landscaping Service & Design, LLC. She shared her knowledge and love of the tropical flora that thrives in this amazing paradise we call home. In November, MIWC member and founder of the Marco Island Academy (MIA) Jane Watt shared the story of the school's development, from the original campus on Winterberry Drive, moving forward to the modular



*MIWC President Sharyn Kampmeyer  
and VP Dr. Debbie Rosen*

units on San Marco Road, and finally to the magnificent structure and center for learning that MIA is today. MIWC is looking forward to an upcoming tour of the



*MIWC Community Outreach Chair Kristina Jones and the MIA Key Club at Culver's*



*Sharyn Kampmeyer presents Meals of Hope donation to Sue Purvis*

campus. We witnessed one of the fruits of our efforts as 2019 MIWC Verne Cabooris Scholarship recipient Marshall Daffner joined us to share the story of his education. December's luncheon was a celebration of friendship as we bestowed Honorary Memberships to three longtime members of our club – Marie Senechal, Vini Just, and Kay Folsom. We welcomed 2024 with a step into the Blue Zones, presented by behavioral psychologist and wellness provider Dr. Debbie Rosen who just so happens to be the current Vice-President of our club!



*MIWC at Meals of Hope Packaging Event*

Our service to the community is always first and foremost throughout the year. In November, we met for our annual Beach Cleanup. It was a labor of love as we nurtured our beloved sands, the glistening gems of our amazing island. Just weeks later, we dusted the sand from our soles and marched forward to the Charter Middle School to participate in the Meals of Hope Packaging Event. This organization, led by our very own MIWC Membership Chair Sue Purvis, seeks to end hunger in our area. MIWC President Sharyn Kampmeyer and

*MIWC, continued on page 27*



*MIWC Beach Clean-Up*

# MARCO SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE KICKS OFF ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

by Maria Lamb

On January 8, 2024 longtime Commissioner Bill Shurina and beloved league assistant and friend Judy O'Connell threw out the Opening Day first pitches. 2024 is a milestone for the Marco Senior Softball League kicking off its 25th season with over 200 players and 16 teams in three divisions.

The Marco Island Senior Softball League is an organized winter senior activity for the benefit of senior men who are residents of Marco and surrounding communities and playing in accordance with the rules of the USA Softball. The Winterberry Athletic Field is home to the players aged 55 and older (no age limit).

Here in Marco, Senior Softball has a "cult-like following," or a "sub-culture of senior devotees" playing what is considered a young person's game. They don't mind you calling them "crazy old guys" playing ball on a hot and sweaty summer morning on Winterberry Field. You will find these boys of summer, some 30-40 players gathering for a pick-up game three mornings a week.

You hear it all the time "age is just a number," but to these old codgers at the ballfield, it is all about the



*Bill Shurina, Marco Island Softball League's long time Commissioner throwing out the Opening Day first pitch for the Marco Island Division.*

"softball family." Marco's softball league might be the only place on or off the island where players who are in their 80s and 90s still swing a bat, hit and field a ball, catch and run and they are living proof that age is just a number.

According to Tom Polston, the Marco Senior Softball League's Commissioner, "20 of our 212 roster



*Judy O'Connell, beloved league assistant and friend throwing out the Opening Day first pitch for Marco Island Senior Softball League's Island Division.*

players are 80 or above. Tom also added, “you don’t quit playing when you get old, you get old when you quit playing.”

“Use it or lose it” for these players. The following are some of the super-agers:

John Ranieri (93) is the league’s senior phenom and is playing for the Crazy Flamingo team; Ray Niemeyer (87) is on the Crazy Flamingo team; Bill Dauch (88) plays for the Crazy Flamingo team and Dick DeAnna (86) is on the American Legion.

The Marco Island Softball League is not all about playing ball – there is the ever present spirit of the softball family. It means, patience, lots of laughter; helping out; forgiveness; silly banter and camaraderie. The wives also attend their husbands’ games during season, and they join them for the “after game” celebration.

What’s the attraction? Among the many reasons are the joy of playing a competitive sport; the excitement of getting a solid hit or making a tough catch; the camaraderie among the players and the benefit of physical exercise.

According to Paul Nussbaum, a shortstop and an expert on brain health, “Marco Senior Softball is more than a game; it is living life to its fullest; it is a game played by older men who believe they are still young boys.”



*John Ranieri age 93 during a summer pickup game - for him “age is just a number.”*



*Stonewalls Team getting ready for their first opening game*

*Everglades Restoration, continued from page 19*

of the L-31 East Flow Way component. It is designed to move over 25 million gallons a day of water to restore the southern wetlands.

All components of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project will be complete by 2026.

When complete, it will restore freshwater flows to southern Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park while

improving salinity distribution near the shore. It also restores historical freshwater wetland habitat adjacent to the Bay, which acts like a sponge, soaking up water in the wet season and slowly releasing it in a more natural pattern. Reestablishing productive nearshore habitat also supports nursery habitat for key marine wildlife including shrimp, shellfish, and fish.



*Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County. Photo by SFWMD.*



*L-R: Maj. Cory Bell, USACE - Jacksonville District; Chairman Noah Valenstein, Biscayne Bay Commission; Deputy Secretary Adam Blalock, DEP; Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Superintendent Penny Del Bene, Biscayne National Park; Board Member Charlette Roman, SFWMD; Representative Alina Garcia; Chief Bay Officer Irela Bague, Miami-Dade County; Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County; Col. James Booth, USACE - Jacksonville District; Board Member "Alligator Ron" Bergeron, SFWMD; Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, Miami-Dade County; Board Member Charlie Martinez, SFWMD; Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation; Kelly Cox, Audubon Florida; Representative Jim Mooney; Council Member Suzy Lord, Town of Cutler Bay; Council Member Richard Ramirez, Town of Cutler Bay. Photo by SFWMD.*



Over here on the west coast, the entire Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Board along with officials from Collier County celebrated the completion of a new water control structure in Naples. Improvements to water management infrastructure are designed to enhance water resources and ecosystems while protecting communities from flooding.

The new, fully automated weir provides improved water quality with better timing and distribution of flood waters, improved flood protection with enhanced flood control operations, and more operational flexibility. The SFWMD and the BCB will continue working to improve the resilience of Florida's communities by protecting and restoring Florida's water infrastructure and resources.



*L-R: Andy Hill, BCB Board Member; Michelle McLeod, BCB Board Member; Drew Bartlett, Executive Director of the SFWMD; Lisa Koehler, BCB Administrator; Michael Romano, BCB Board Member; Charlette Roman, Chair of the BCB Board; Dan Waters, Vice-Chair of the BCB Board; Jay Ahmad, Director, Transportation Engineering Division of Collier County; Patricia "PJ" Smith, BCB Board Member; and Matthew Thomas, Principal Project Manager, Transportation Engineering Division of Collier County. Photo by SFWMD.*

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 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, rehydrate drained wetlands and in turn enhance habitat for fish and wildlife.

The project will restore over 55,000 acres of native Florida wetlands and uplands on Florida's Southwest Coast and is expected to be complete in 2025.



*Charlette Roman's acceptance speech at the 2024 Everglades Coalition Conference for the Public Service Award. Photo by SFWMD.*

On a personal note, I was honored to receive the 2024 Everglades Coalition Conference Public Service Award. This year's conference focused on the rewards of Everglades restoration and how they benefit ecosystems, economies, and communities. I joined hundreds of my peers for this year's conference and can tell you that the momentum and progress we are making is inspiring.

I have spent my life in public service, and receiving this award was a humbling and special experience. It is an honor to serve as chair of the Big Cypress Basin Board and as a member of the South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board during these significant times for Florida's environment. I will never forget this experience and I am so grateful to be this year's honoree.

Overall, a comprehensive effort is underway to protect and restore America's Everglades - now and for future generations. New data demonstrates that restoration and resilience projects across our region are making a measurable difference for water quality and the ecological health of South Florida's natural resources.

*Everglades Restoration, continued on page 26*

*Everglades Restoration,  
continued from page 25*

More than 65 Everglades restoration and resilience projects have been completed, broken ground or hit a major milestone since January of 2019. Working together with our federal, state, and local partners, the SFWMD continues to accelerate key Everglades restoration projects that are improving the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Recent data shows these investments and momentum are working. Successes include:

- Proactive Lake Okeechobee Management. Lake Okeechobee management and weather patterns helped reduce harmful estuary discharges for the last five years while maintaining water levels in the lake to support the environment, businesses, and communities.

- Salinity Levels in Florida Bay Hit Goals. Record water flows and water depths in the Everglades coupled with rainfall demonstrated that restoration can support healthy salinity levels in Florida Bay. Balanced salinity supports sea grass and spawning fish.
- Record Hydration in the Everglades. End of the wet season water depths in two key locations, Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough, demonstrate that restoration projects and operations work well together to nourish the Everglades and send water south to support the health of Florida Bay.
- Ensuring the health of the Everglades benefits all of us. The SFWMD is committed to protecting Florida's natural resources and restoring, revitalizing, and safeguarding our River of Grass.

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



*America's Everglades. Photo by SFWMD.*

*MIWC, continued from page 21*

Stitchers Chair Anne Marchetti recently journeyed to Golisano Children's Hospital with a donation of seventy-one blankets and nine preemie sets, all handmade by the MIWC Stitchers, a special interest group within the club. This special delivery had soared on the wings of angels to reach its destination. It included fifty pink and blue hand-beaded angel charms, created by a member of our club as a gift for the Spiritual Center of the hospital.

We embrace the opportunity to reach out to our community through causes that are near and dear to our hearts. Several members, including myself, are cancer survivors, while others have experienced the wrath of this disease in their families. We look forward to serving the American Cancer Society as volunteers at the 2024 Imagination Ball.

We recently enjoyed a night at Culver's, assisted by students of the MIA Key Club. Several Marco Island residents came along to show their support. Culver's generously donated a portion of their sales from that evening to the MIWC Charitable Foundation. We look forward to a Shopping Event generously hosted by J McLoughlin in the Town Center Mall on March 8, International Women's Day.

It's time for more fun and fundraising at our upcoming annual Fashion Show at Naples Lakes Country Club on February 19 and our Cards & Games Luncheon at CJs on the Bay, March 14. Funds raised will provide scholarships to students living on Marco Island and support other charitable causes through the MIWC Charitable Foundation.

Our special interest groups offer a little something for everyone! In addition to our Stitchers Group, we have Book Clubs, a Theater Group, and a Travel Club. The Theater Group is celebrating ten years of arts and entertainment. They recently enjoyed the Broadway Tour presentation of *Company* at Artis-Naples. Our Travel Club is looking forward to "Elephants and Wine," a visit to the Myakka Elephant Ranch with lunch and wine tasting at a vineyard.

*Wouldn't you like to join this wonderful club? Membership is available to all women who live on Marco Island, whether you own or rent, full-time or part-time. We would love to welcome you to this movement of friendship in the spirit of goodwill and giving back to our community. Please visit <https://marcowomansclub.com> to learn more.*



*MIWC Theater Group enjoyed Company at Artis-Naples*

# THE SHELLS OF MARCO ISLAND

*by Becky Miller, President Elect & Workshop Committee Chair, Marco Island Shell Club*

Marco Island is a barrier island, the largest in the Ten Thousand Islands Group. It is surrounded by sand, water, and shells. A wide variety of shells arrive on our beaches every day - some are plain and some are fancy - but they are all beautiful.

Finding shells requires a plan and luck. Timing is important. First on the beach is good. Low tide is helpful. Wind and waves are important. A good eye is a must. A bag or bucket is necessary. Water shoes are a plus. When all of the above are in place the fun begins - walking along the beach looking for the beautiful shells the Gulf of Mexico brings to Marco Island.

There are a wide variety of shells that land on the beach. Everyone has their favorites. Olives are long and slender and they roll onto the beach in large numbers. On a very lucky day one might find a Golden Olive—a beautiful yellow golden shell that shines brightly on the sand and causes an “ah ha” moment.

Florida Fighting Conches are plentiful. Finding an albino Fighting Conch or one with a lavender lip is a special event. Whelks are found in a variety of sizes from small to large. It is especially exciting to see the tip of a large whelk emerging from the sand hoping it is empty. If it is not - leave it there. **NO LIVE SHELLING IS ALLOWED.**

Kings Crown is a beautiful shell with sharp points and it's considered a prize. The Horse Conch is the Florida State Shell. The orange color makes them easy to spot when they are small. They can grow to about 24 inches and finding a large unoccupied Horse Conch is a sheller's dream. Sun Ray Venus, Clams, Scallops, Arks, Turkey Wings, Nutmegs, Tulips, Alphabet Cones are all found on our beaches.

The most coveted shell found on the beach is the Junonia. A beautiful cream colored shell with brown spots. They are deep water mollusks so seldom make it to the beach. The last one I found was early in the



morning on a cold New Year's Eve Day. I walked onto Residents' Beach and far from the water, all alone - nothing surrounding it - was a Junonia. First on the beach, luck, good eye, wind!!!! Shell seekers are anxious to join the "J" Club.

The Marco Island Shell Club is a friendly and dedicated 501(c) (3) non-profit organization for shell enthusiasts at all levels of interest and experience. Our mission is to promote the study, conservation, history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as shell collecting, crafting, and shell art.

Join the Marco Island Shell Club at their:  
**2024 SPRING EXPO & SHELL ART SALE**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 8th**  
**& SATURDAY, MARCH 9th**

From 10:00 to 4:00

At the NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
489 W. ELKCAM CIRCLE

*Proceeds go toward our Scholarship  
and Education Programs.*

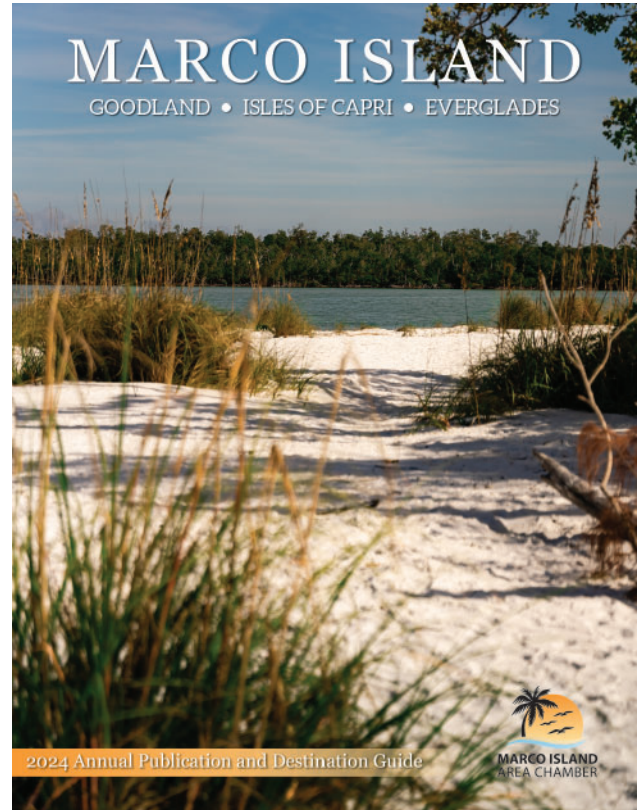
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# PARADISE FOUND PRESENTS 2024 AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IMAGINATION BALL “A NIGHT OF ILLUSIONS”

*by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer*

The Marco Island unit of the American Cancer Society is putting their finishing touches on a Night of Illusions, the 2024 ACS Imagination Ball to be held Feb. 2 at the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort. This black-tie optional gala fundraiser, presented by Paradise Found Restaurant for the second consecutive year, and chaired by Debra Shanahan for the twelfth consecutive year, will be a magical evening of elegance with the mission to eliminate cancer, as we know it, from our world. This amazing event will feature fine food, music by the Stacey Allison Band, both live and silent auctions, and revenue enhancers, including a chance to own a diamond necklace or Louis Vuitton handbag.

Cancer is a monster that has roamed the earth for too many years. Like a thief in the night, this deadly disease has stolen our loved ones and ended precious lives far too early. Our goal is to debilitate cancer’s power, shattering its beastly image into a mere illusion.

Sometimes in life, we are blessed to live amidst those who have made a direct and positive impact on the lives of others. On Marco Island, this blessing is experienced daily through the kind and generous spirit of so many of our residents. Two of those caring and generous souls are our very own Rick Popoff, who was recently recognized by the American Cancer Society as an Impact Maker, and Jim Paradise, owner of Paradise Found Restaurant and Bar, the Presenting Sponsor of the ACS Imagination Ball.

The Impact Maker Award was presented to Rick Popoff by ACS Tampa Area Board Chair Anthony Brooks. Popoff is the Immediate Past President of the Marco Island Volunteer Leadership Board of the American Cancer Society. He has served ACS by going above and beyond the call of duty, taking an active role in signature events like Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and Paint the Town Pink. He



*Rick Popoff, Immediate Past President of the Marco Island Volunteer Leadership Board*

and his family always enjoy the ACS Imagination Ball as the event raises funds for research, education, and patient support programs.

When asked about his service to the American Cancer Society, Rick Popoff humbly says, “I’m just happy to be able to do it.” Perhaps his dedication grew from his roots. Rick’s dad fought a battle against leukemia. Rick described his father as a “tester of new drugs” through a program at the University of Michigan, saying, “Whenever a new anti-cancer drug came out, my dad always agreed to let them try it on him; always hoping, always willing.”

Jim Paradise knows the devastation and sorrow that cancer has thrust upon the world. When Jim



*Jim and Sandy Paradise, owners of Paradise Found Restaurant and Bar, the Presenting Sponsor of the ACS Imagination Ball.*

was just eight years old, he tragically lost his mother to breast cancer. It was a loss that penetrated his soul...the soul of a child. As that child grew, perhaps it was that indelible scar that fueled his mission to be successful and use that success to comfort those in need. In addition to sponsoring the ACS Imagination Ball, through his association with various hospitals, Jim has generously offered and provided financial assistance to many cancer patients in need. He has said that his greatest joy in life has been found through helping others. "Life is so precious," says Jim Paradise. The words are simple, but the message is so profound. This is what fuels the American Cancer



*Imagination Ball Chair, Debra Shanahan and Sue Olszak, American Cancer Society*

Society - Life. More birthdays. More gatherings of family and friends to celebrate all that is precious. This is how and why we strive to find a cure.

It is the ability to hope and the willingness to dream that has led to the development of successful treatments against many forms of cancer. On a personal note, in 2024, I will celebrate twenty-nine years of being a cancer survivor. I personally give thanks to people like Rick Popoff and Jim Paradise who are committed to the quest of finding a cure. Thank you for your positive impact on life. Thank you for your dedication to humanity.

*We will finish the fight against this bully of a disease once and for all. But we can't do it alone.*

*We need YOU! Imagine a world without cancer!*

*For more information, please visit*

*<https://www.cancer.org> or contact your American Cancer Society at [Sue.Olszak@cancer.org](mailto:Sue.Olszak@cancer.org) or 239-610-3032.*

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

# THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

The need for affordable housing is a top priority for community leaders and employers who are unable to fill vacant jobs since qualified candidates cannot afford to live in Collier County or on Marco Island. Members of our community are also seeing this as a crisis. The most recent Collier Community Assessment conducted by The Richard M. Schulze Foundation and the Collier Community Foundation concluded that controlling housing costs was the #1 priority for 65% of those completing the survey, up from 45% in 2018. It is nearly impossible for hard-working earners in our community to find an affordable, decent place to live. These workers are squeezed out of the home buying market due to their low

wages. They would not qualify for a conventional mortgage. Even if they did, there are no homes on the market in a price range they could afford, unless they are Habitat Collier homes.

This dire situation is about to change for Eddie, Maria and their two children. They completed Habitat Collier's rigorous application process, were approved to purchase a home of their own, and will soon be closing and moving into that forever home in Habitat Collier's community of Whitaker Woods. Today, this loving family of four lives in a home with seven others. They pay \$1,000 in rent for two bedrooms and share the other living spaces, a situation that is all too common for Habitat applicants. In fact, our Selection



*Christopher, Gaudalupe and Iris turned to Habitat Collier as their only hope for an affordable, safe home of their own*



Committee - volunteers who meet with applicants prior to their approval in the places where they currently live - say that conditions are the worst they have ever seen and rents are higher than ever. Very soon, Eddie and Maria will purchase their new home with a no-interest, affordable mortgage. They will have the privacy, security and stability that come with homeownership. Their dream will come true!

For many years Eddie has worked at The Hilton Marco Island Resort and Spa. To make ends meet, he also works a second job at The Little Bar where Maria has worked for 16 years. The parents have instilled in their children a strong work ethic and the importance of a good education. Their son just graduated from Lorenzo Walker Technical College. He loves solving automotive problems. His younger sister is a good student who is considering going into the medical field.

Gaudalupe and Christopher decided to apply for a Habitat home last November after the arrival of their young daughter Iris. Over the past three years, their rent for a 700 square foot apartment increased from \$1,600 to \$1,700, then up to \$1,900 per month. Rent was projected to increase to \$2,200 per month in 2024, a number Gaudalupe and Christopher knew they could not afford. They moved in with Guadalupe's parents where other family members were also living. They turned to Habitat Collier as their only hope for an affordable, safe home of their own where they could provide their baby with the life she deserves.

Christopher has been a security officer at JW Marriott Marco Island for five years making a decent salary. Even so, rents are out of reach. Gaudalupe is staying home with Iris for now but plans to return to work when she is a little older. Guadalupe graduated in 2021 from Johnson & Wales University in Miami with a degree in Hospitality, so she anticipates no difficulties finding a job when the baby is a little older.

Habitat Collier remains focused on our singular goal of making homeownership a reality for hard-working, low-wage earners in our workforce.

We are their only option to achieve affordable homeownership. Our goal for this year is to make homeownership a reality for 100 families. Since our founding in 1978, thanks to our friends in Collier County, especially those on Marco Island, we have helped more than 2,560 families and 6,100 children realize their dream of having a simple, decent home that is affordable. We are sincerely grateful for the partnerships offered to us and the families we serve.

Your continued partnership will help more families in need escape untenable living conditions in Collier County. For more information and to learn about our work in Collier County and how you may help, please visit our website [www.habitatcollier.org](http://www.habitatcollier.org) If you have any questions, please contact Andrea at [amckenna@habitatcollier.org](mailto:amckenna@habitatcollier.org)

*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 1% of charities to earn a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator, the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in the U.S. Additionally, Habitat Collier has received eighteen four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog. In 2014, Habitat Collier was recognized as #1 in the nation for Housing and Community Development. In 2023 and 2023 Habitat Collier earned the Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. 95¢ of every donated dollar is used to build homes and serve families.

# MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH EXHIBIT BY NIKI BUTCHER, WORLD CLASS MUSIC SERIES AND MORE

This year, the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) celebrates 30 years of preserving and presenting the unique cultural heritage of Marco Island and surrounding area. Anniversary festivities include exciting exhibits, musical entertainment and more on the beautiful Marco Island Historical Museum campus as well as the annual gala, Kings & Queens...A Royal Affair, on March 9, at the Island Country Club.



*The Key Marco deer figurehead — one of several painted wooden animal carvings excavated in 1896 from the Key Marco archaeological site. On exhibit now until June 2024.*

*(Photo courtesy of Penn Museum, object 40707A-C, image #15012)*

## **THE RETURN continues through 2026**

THE RETURN of the Key Marco Cat and companion artifacts continues. The ancient artifacts were discovered on Marco Island during a Smithsonian led archaeological dig in 1896. The mysterious half-cat, half-human Key Marco Cat is known as one of the finest pieces of pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America. It is on loan to Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History through April 2026.

Sixteen additional Key Marco artifacts as well as a Key Marco Deer Figurehead are on loan from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum) through March 2025. Second only to the Key Marco Cat in terms of famous objects from the site, the Key Marco Deer Figurehead was likely created by a Calusa or Muspa artist for use in masked processions. It was masterfully decorated with blue, black, and white pigments (now faded) and its detachable ears may have moved realistically using a system of cords.

## **Niki Butcher's Daydreaming March 12-June 8**

Daydreaming, Niki Butcher's Hand-Painted Photography, is an exhibit of more than 60 images created over five decades by photographer and artist Niki Butcher. Inspired by the hand-painted postcards of the 1930s, the artist invites the viewer to see the historical, beautiful, and sometimes quirky aspects of our world through the eyes of a thoughtful optimist. Daydreaming opens in the Museum's Sandlin Gallery with a March 14 reception, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. that will include a book signing of Butcher's book Daydreaming.

Butcher has photographed the beauty and uniqueness of places and people throughout the



*Alligator Alley by Niki Butcher*

world with her husband, legendary black-and-white photographer Clyde Butcher. Her keen eye and artistic insight capture images that illuminate and suspend moments in time and place. From serene naturescapes to vibrant, sometimes humor-infused scenes evocative of days gone by, her hypnotic images invite the viewer to step closer and daydream



*Monroe Station by Niki Butcher*

right along with the artist. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

*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).*

### **Back by popular demand — World Class Entertainment Series**

In February and March, you can get your music on with the MIHS World Class Entertainment series of tribute performances featuring famous musical artists. Shows take place on the Museum campus at the Rose History Auditorium with a 6 p.m. curtain. Tickets are \$50.00

- Feb. 22: A Tribute to Paul McCartney with artist John Babcock
- Feb. 29: The Rhythm Chicks — Great Girl Groups through the Decades
- Mar. 27: Legends: Donna Summer & Tina Turner



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

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

## UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

### Watercolors & Wildlife:

#### Painting with Jan at Rookery Bay

March 7 & March 12 – Seastars, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
\$85, (includes all materials)

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.

**2024 Lunch & Learn Lecture Series:** Research in the Reserve – Mangroves, Mud and Management: Stories of Resilience and Restoration in South Florida  
March 6, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
\$20, includes buffet lunch from Carrabba’s Italian Grille

*Sea-Level Rise and Mangroves: Why is this Important?* Andrew From of the U.S. Geological Survey’s Wetland and Aquatic Research Center will present in Rookery Bay’s comfortable auditorium. A hot lunch buffet is included and provided by Carrabba’s Italian Grille.



*Touch Tank at the Learning Center*



*A guided tour through Rookery Bay*

The 2023-24 lecture series, “Mangroves, Mud and Management: Stories of Resilience and Restoration in South Florida,” focuses on the importance of mangroves habitats along the coastline and key conservation projects occurring within Rookery Bay’s 110,000 acres of land and water. Rookery Bay scientists and biologists will present their current findings and ongoing research to protect the wildlife, plants, water and communities of Southwest Florida.

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

February 17 & March 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, \$55

If you want to get the best pictures possible and truly understand 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 – Shorebirds**

February 19: 1 – 2:30 pm & March 20: 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
Virtual Program Via Zoom, \$15

Southwest Florida is a critical stopover site for thousands of migrating and wintering wading and shorebirds. In this program, Megan Hatten of Audubon Florida and Collette Lauzau of Rookery Bay Research Reserve will discuss the identification, life history, and the incredible journeys many of these birds make annually. Join us for a 1.5-hour zoom



*Bird Counting with Rookery Bay*

session to learn ID skills and discuss the amazing journeys of our local and migrating birds.

Afterwards, you are invited to an exclusive 1.5-hour field trip to a local birding hotspot for an opportunity to practice bird identification skills with expert biologists. This field trip has limited space available and is FREE to those who have attended the zoom session. You will receive an exclusive link in your Virtual Binoculars Workshop confirmation email where you can sign up for this field trip.

### **2024 Natural Selections Rookery Bay Photography Opening Reception & Awards**

February 22, 2024, 5:30 – 7 p.m., FREE  
Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center Gallery

Join exhibiting photographers and juror for our Annual Photography Art Reception. Three winners will be selected and announced during the evening’s festivities as well as the first screening of a virtual exhibit.

### **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 barrier island or a sunset tour. Find out more at [RookeryBay.org](https://RookeryBay.org) or call 239-530-5972.

*Event Registration Required at  
<https://rookerybay.org/events/>*

*Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is located at 300 Tower Rd., Naples, FL 34113  
[RookeryBay.org](https://RookeryBay.org)  
Hours: Monday – Saturday, 9am – 4pm.  
Adults: \$8. Children Ages 6-12: \$5.  
Children Under 6: FREE. Friends of Rookery Bay members: FREE. Active and Retired Military personnel and family: FREE  
Association of Nature Center Administrators Reciprocal Program Members: FREE*

# BEACH CLEAN UPS

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

MARCH 1 - Friends of Tigertail Beach, Annual Bay Days, Tigertail Beach Park, 8:00AM

MARCH 16 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 8:00AM

APRIL 13 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 8:00AM

APRIL 20 - Annual Bay Days, Tigertail Beach, 8:00AM

MAY 11 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 8:00AM

JUNE 8 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 8:00AM

JULY 6 - Friends of Tigertail Beach, Quarterly Clean Up, Tigertail Beach Park, 8:00AM

AUGUST 24 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 9:00AM

SEPTEMBER 21 - Friends of Tigertail Beach, Annual International Coastal Clean Up,  
Tigertail Beach Park, 8:00AM

OCTOBER 13 - Beach Advisory Committee, Residents' Beach, 8:00AM

NOVEMBER 9 - Beach Advisory Committee, South Beach Boardwalk, 8:00AM

DECEMBER 7 - Friends of Tigertail Beach, Quarterly Clean Up, Tigertail Beach, 8:00AM



For more information, please contact City Staff Liaison at 239.389.3949

## MARCO ISLAND DOWNSIZING SOLUTIONS, LLC

*Two women with a passion for helping people in all stages of life.*

### Services:

Decluttering/Organizing  
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Reno/Construction Home Prep  
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*We are here to help you every step of the way.*

**262-309-5278 / 508-344-1146**

**WWW.MARCOMOVEMANAGERS.COM**

**MARCOISLANDDOWNSIZINGSOLUTIONS@GMAIL.COM**



Emily & Logan became engaged on the white sand of Residents' Beach in the morning of January 23, 2024. Congratulations to the lovely couple!



## SUNSHINE TOURS

- OFFSHORE FISHING
- BACK COUNTRY FISHING
- NEAR COASTAL FISHING
- ISLAND SHELLING

With our fleet of five very different boats we welcome everyone from the serious sports fisherman to those seeking fun family fishing

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

## ★ Marco Island Princess

Marco's Most Unique Waterfront Dining Experience!

- Sightseeing
- Lunch
- Sunset Dinner
- Narrated Nature & History Cruises

Families Welcome!

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



Find us on Facebook



Serving Marco Island since 1984!

# 239-642-5415

Stop by our Chickee Hut 7am-7pm Daily

**Sunshine Tours ★ Marco Island Princess**  
Rose Marina 951 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL

Planning a special gathering or celebration? Leave it to us! Call today to speak with our Event Planning Professionals.

# FRIENDS OF THE MARCO ISLAND LIBRARY

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

by Nanette Finkle, Board Member

### Storytime on Every Friday, 10:30 AM

All ages welcome!

### February 27th, 2:00-3:00 PM

An **Abraham Lincoln** impersonator will present “Political Lincoln: Honest Abe on Campaigns and Elections”. Join us for a first-hand account from Abraham Lincoln on his rise to power and the U.S. Presidency.

### March 6th, 2:00-3:00 PM

The Master Gardeners will present the last of their series of programs entitled “**Growing Herbs at Home**”.

No land? No problem! This program will show you how you can grow fresh herbs on your window sill or patio. You will be amazed at how much better your meals will taste with the addition of fresh herbs.

### March 21st, 10:00 AM

#### Special Event- Books and Brews

The Friends of the Library of Marco Island are proud to present Pauline Hayton, a prolific author of eleven fiction and nonfiction books. Her books trace the heroic acts of men and women in sometimes difficult situations. The topics are varied. For example, Naga Queen tells the story of Ursula Graham Bower, who spied on the Japanese in Burma for Britain while doing anthropological work with the Naga tribes. If You Love Me, Kill Me is a funny, sad and intense story based on the author’s painful and personal experiences while caring for her elderly parents.

Please join us in Rose Hall to meet Pauline and hear her interesting stories. Refreshments will be served.

### March 27, 2:00-3:00 PM

The Library will welcome **Thomas Eastman** to present “Operation Underworld”. Did you know the Mob helped the US Government guard the coastline of the U.S.A. during World War II? Come and find out how this interesting combination came about and worked.

Full-Service Jeweler | GIA Graduate Gemologist  
14K, 18K, Diamond & Sterling Silver Jewelry  
Pre-Owned Fine Watches | Cleaning & Polishing  
Fine Watch Service & Repair | Licensed Appraisals  
Custom Designs | Repairs & Restorations | Pearl Restringing

**KATHEIN**  
**Jewelers**  
OF MARCO

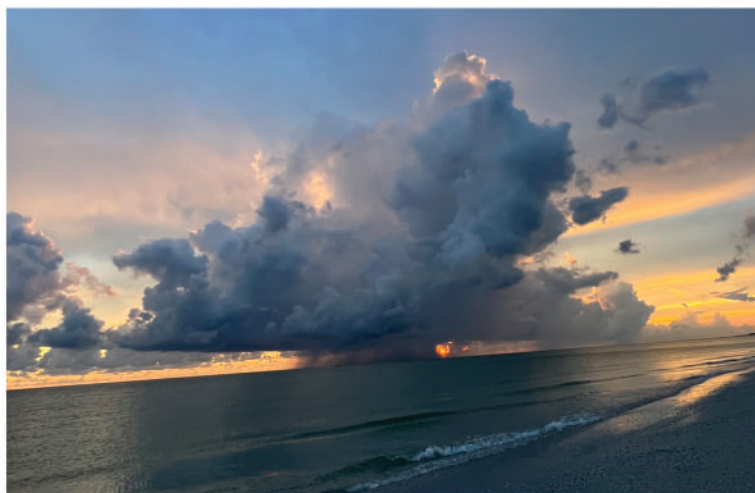
Where the locals shop...

Shops of Marco | 133 S Barfield Drive | Marco Island  
239.259.8937 | IslandJewel@yahoo.com | www.katheinjewelers.com



# 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: The sun rising taken by Diane Janco*

*Top right: Full Beaver Moon setting taken by Diane Janco*

*Middle Right: Cloudy sunset at Residents' Beach, by Anita Sargese*

*Bottom Right: A beautiful day at Residents' Beach, taken by Tim Ornato*

*Bottom Left: Hunter and Hugo Gordon enjoying the sunset, photographed by A. Vandelay*

USCG continued from page 8

# Shipping





Marco's ONLY  
**FedEx**  
Authorized ShipCenter

**FREE local pick-up**  
When shipping through our account

- Professional and trusted concierge packing service & pick up in your home
- No job too fragile or too large
- Estate packing & shipping
- Boxes & packing supplies for sale
- Notary Services





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1000 North Collier Blvd., #14 239-394-5343

The USCG Auxiliary also offers several traditional "Boater Safety" classes that graduate students with a Boating Safety Education ID Card. A comprehensive class, Boater Skills, and Seamanship (BS&S) is a 20-hour series of 6 classes; and a one-day Boat America (BA) eight-hour class provide a more compact intensive instruction on boater safety. The Boating Safety ID Card is issued for both courses and can provide discounts on your boater insurance.

All local courses are offered by both the USCG Auxiliary and the Power Squadron throughout Naples and Marco Island for a modest cost ranging between \$25 and \$75 per course. USCG Auxiliary Classes are held at our new "state of the art" classroom location in Caxambas Park, Marco Island.

Take a class or two or three, ask us for a free vessel safety check (VSC), commit to being a safer boater, and please always wear your life vest!

For more information and a complete class schedule with the USCG Auxiliary, Marco Island use the QR Code below:



All Classes are held at USCGAux Station, 903 Collier Court, Caxambas Park, Marco Island, FL 34145. 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. For further information about other USCGAux programs, including complimentary Vessel Safety Examinations, or how to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, (239) 394-5911 or USCGAuxMarco.org

Saving Lives since 1939.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – A Proud Tradition, A Worthy Mission. For more information, please visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)



ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org

*Welcome!*

We hope you enjoyed your beautiful vacation on Marco Island. When it is time to bid farewell to the sand and surf after your stay, please consider donating your leftover, non-perishable, unopened food items to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, helping those in need, by giving it away.

① Use the labeled brown paper bag provided in your welcome packet to pack your non-perishable, unopened food items. See a list of food requested below

It's Simple!  
Just 2 steps



② Leave directly at the outdoor collection boxes behind the 1450 Winterberry Dr. Marco Island building. (Auburndale Ave. entrance side of ODBFP building).

**Critical Food List**

- 15 oz. Canned Beans
- 14-16 oz. Dry Beans
- 15 oz. Canned Fruit
- 15 oz. Canned Vegetables
- Rice-A-Roni
- Pasta Roni
- Cereal
- Spaghetti

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 239.259.5188

SCAN HERE TO SUPPORT




ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org

# MICA FINANCES AND BUDGET

What goes into the MICA budget? First, you should know that MICA's Fiscal Year is September 1 through August 31. On the income side, there are just a few categories – Architectural Review plan fees, which vary from year to year based upon the number of houses, pools, decks and screen enclosures built; Residents' Beach membership fee; and guest passes, which also vary depending on the number of visitors our members have each year. Last year, we ended the fiscal year with approximately 8,000 memberships.

Some assume that MICA receives property taxes to operate Marco Island Residents' Beach. MICA receives no tax funding. All funding comes from the above categories.

With three properties requiring constant upkeep and manpower, there are many expenses. Marco Island Residents' Beach and MICA's Sarazen Park have similar expenses. Those include lawn service and landscape improvements; tree trimming and care of more than 400 trees; pest control; chickee hut construction and maintenance; constant plumbing and electrical repairs and maintenance; sprinkler maintenance costs for 23 acres of park land; utilities (telephone, water, electric) and waste removal; parking lot upkeep; paper and cleaning products; payroll; and production, printing and mailing of the MICA WAVE three times per year. Insurance has its very own heading and encompasses flood, wind, property, liability, directors & officers, cyber and workers compensation.

There are always necessary professional fees, such as IT consultants, which includes maintenance of MICA's APP and daily interactions with members who have issues with utilizing the APP, and the upkeep of MICA's website and computer systems. Accounting and legal fees are also included in the professional fees category.

Residents' Beach also has a budget for events. The caliber of concerts and entertainment is expected to be outstanding and pleasing to a majority of our members, so much goes into ensuring we meet that high bar!

On September 28, 2022, Marco Island was hit by Hurricane Ian, which resulted in Residents' Beach

and Sarazen Park being completely submerged by the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of the pavilion at Residents' Beach. The cost to date for repairs to the two properties is just under half a million dollars. We have not closed the book on that yet as pipes are still breaking underground and plants that have been struggling are now being replaced. As a homeowner, you are no doubt aware that insurance covers no landscaping, cleanup, etc. All funds came out of MICA's general fund.

Being fiduciarily responsible, the MICA Board of Directors established an Emergency Fund and continues to add to this fund each year. The board is also in the process of obtaining a cost analysis should Marco Island receive a direct hit hurricane accompanied by a storm surge, such as the catastrophic hurricane that hit the beachfront of Fort Myers Beach.

MICA management recently met with outside accountants to review the draft results of MICA's annual financial review. In the opinion of the auditors, no changes are required to the financials.

The volunteer members of the MICA Board of Directors and the MICA staff appreciate the support of the membership. We thank you for taking care of Residents' Beach and Sarazen Park and our beautiful surroundings on Marco Island!

YOU CANNOT DROP  
OFF ANYONE AT  
RESIDENTS' BEACH.

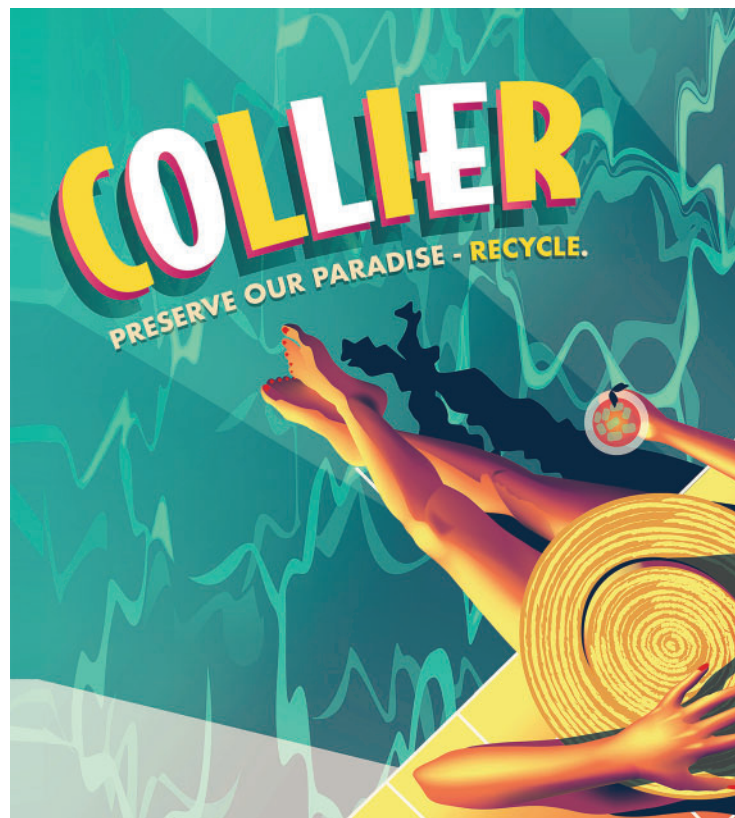
YOU MUST STAY WITH  
YOUR GUESTS AT  
RESIDENTS' BEACH.



The MICA office “Painted the Town Pink” in October, for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Thanks to Elaine for welcoming in the New Year in such a fine manner!



## KNOW HOW TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

### CURBSIDE SERVICES

- No curbside services on 4th of July, Thanksgiving or Christmas Day.
- Set carts out before 6 a.m. on collection day and remove before 6 a.m. the day after.
- Place carts at least 3 feet apart from each other and from obstacles like mailboxes.
- For cart repairs, replacements and inquiries call 239-252-2380.



### RECYCLING

- Plastic, Glass, Paper and Metal Cans.
- Recyclables must be empty, dry and not in plastic bags.
- Do not place plastic bags or film of any kind in your recycling cart.
- For a directory of reuse and recycling organizations, please visit [colliercountyfl.gov/reuse](http://colliercountyfl.gov/reuse)



### DROP-OFF CENTERS

- Safely dispose of paint, batteries, foam and more.
- Most items accepted free of charge or for a small disposal fee.
- Scan for a list of locations, acceptable material and rates.
- Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



### HURRICANE PREPARATION

- Keep storm debris separate from your regular household garbage and recycling.
- Separate storm debris into categories by large appliances, construction/furniture debris, vegetative and electronics.
- Do not place debris near trees, mailboxes, or other obstacles.
- Do not block culverts, swales, storm drains, or roadways.



239-252-2380  
[colliercountyfl.gov/solidwaste](http://colliercountyfl.gov/solidwaste)

# Bryan's Best Home Watch

**Among** The Things We Check:

Water Meter  
Insects



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A/C

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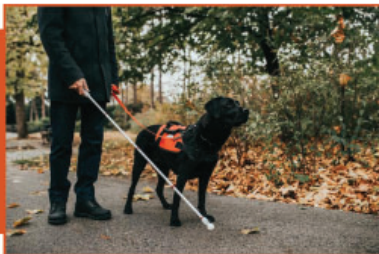
[BryansHomeWatch@gmail.com](mailto:BryansHomeWatch@gmail.com)

Veteran Owned

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## **NO PETS ALLOWED** **SERVICE ANIMALS WELCOME**

*Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Act Title II S. 35.136 Regulations*



**PLEASE DON'T TRY TO  
PASS OFF YOUR PET AS A SERVICE ANIMAL.  
FAKE SERVICE ANIMALS MAY HURT THE REPUTATION  
AND ACCEPTANCE OF VALID SERVICE ANIMALS.**

**IMPERSONATING SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY TO OBTAIN BENEFITS IS A CRIME.  
FLORIDA STATUTE 413.08 WAS AMENDED IN 2020 TO INCLUDE A CRIMINAL PENALTY  
FOR PERSONS WHO FRAUDULENTLY CLAIM THE NEED FOR A SERVICE ANIMAL.  
DUE TO HYGIENE AND SANITARY REASONS, ONLY REAL SERVICE ANIMALS  
CAN ENTER OUR PREMISES.**

**UNDER THE ADA, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, THERAPY, COMFORT, OR COMPANION ANIMALS  
ARE NOT CONSIDERED SERVICE ANIMALS.**

# 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 389-4511  
10% off your bill, excluding Happy Hour beverages. Not available on Holidays

### **Cold Stone Ice Cream,**

Esplanade, 393-0046  
\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

### **Deep Lagoon Seafood & Oyster House**

15% off at this Phelan Family Brands location  
Esplanade, 239-235-7497

### **Dolce Mare**

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

### **LaTavola Restaurant**

10% off regular food & drink prices  
www.latavolarestaurantandbar.com  
961 Winterberry Dr 239-393-4960

### **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  
15% off at this Phelan Family Brands location

### **The Sand Bar**

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

### **Snook Inn**

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

### **Texas Tony's Ribs & Brewhouse**

15% off at this Phelan Family Brands location  
4519 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL  
239-732-8392

## 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

### **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

#### **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 & Town Center #306

#### **Patchington Ladies Boutique –**

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

#### **Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200**

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

#### **Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters / Crosswinds**

JW Marriott Resort, 389-6051

## NON-APPAREL

#### **Bella Florals and More**

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

#### **duo furniture & lighting**

Interior Design Studio and Showroom with  
Indoor/Outdoor Furniture, Lighting, Home  
Accessories and More! Town Center #411  
239.970.2346

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

**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  
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**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  
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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

**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

**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

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

**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

**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

**Blue Marlin Home Watch**  
10% discount to pricing list  
239-241-1597 jcwilson@comcast.net  
FB: Blue Marlin Home Watch

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

**Davis Security & Home Watch Services**  
10% off each visit & trip escort to RSW  
Free site surveys & safety training  
www.DSSH.com 239-946-9047  
1770 San Marco Rd #201

**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

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

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

**Living Refreshed, LLC**  
Concierge/Home Watch Service  
www.LivingRefreshed.com 630-610-3464

**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.

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# MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH MEMBERS ONLY CONCERT SERIES

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 5-7 P.M.**  
NAUTICAL WHEELERS (PARROT HEAD CELEBRATION)



**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 4-7 P.M.**  
ROCK REPUBLIC



PLEASE BRING YOUR RESIDENTS' BEACH ID CARD TO GAIN ENTRANCE