

# MICA*wave*

SUMMER 2024

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



A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association



*Bob Brown, President,  
MICA Board of Directors*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Season has ended and many of our snowbirds and part-time folks have left us until Fall. This has been a very busy season, and we strive to make our amenities the best for all of our members.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that we work hard to keep our pristine beach just that, pristine. Please do your part by not leaving anything on the beach that you brought and if you happen to see someone leave something, please help us all by picking it up. Over and over, we ask that no glass be brought on the beach. If you have a youngster, I guarantee you would not enjoy rushing your child to Urgent Care with a gash that needs stitches. My nephew had this one time and it was terrible for the child and also for the parents. If the Beach Patrol catches you violating this, you will be cited and fined. Please fill in any holes dug in the sand for the Sea Turtles and the human walkers on the beach

The rules state that a member can not drop off guests at Residents' Beach. What does this mean, you ask? You must stay with your guest(s) just as you would at any other private club. If you are leaving the property, your guests must leave with you. If you want your family members who are visiting and staying with you to utilize Residents' Beach without you, you can purchase a weekly guest pass.

If you are at the office, please thank our office staff for the great job they do to help MICA succeed. Please do not forget our gate attendants also. They work very hard for your comfort and benefit. This sometimes-thankless job is handled very well by these wonderful folks. Many of you all know them either by name or by face and a friendly smile is always appreciated. For those who enjoy the South Beach experience your membership card is all you need to park at Sarazen Park.

Of course, we would never write anything unless we mentioned Ruth and Dennis McCann, who work tirelessly to help us all enjoy the MICA experience. Many thanks to our Board of Directors who meet every month to discuss how to improve your experience.

Lastly, I want you to be aware that MICA will be sending our survey to you all again. Please take the time to fill this out as we share it with the city and other members of our community. It lets everyone get a pulse on the feelings of our community.

The Board and I wish you the best during this summer season and beyond.

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# THE MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES CITY COUNCIL TO UPGRADE THE MARCO ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) TO ADVANCED WASTEWATER TREATMENT (AWT)

Oxygen is an essential component of the aquatic environment. The most important measurement of water quality, oxygen indicates a waterbody's state of health – that is, the ability to support aquatic life. Watersheds with oxygen concentrations of 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or higher can support well-balanced, healthy biological communities.

In August 2019 the average oxygen levels in the Marco waterways were a healthy 6.8 mg/L. By August 2023 the average oxygen levels have dropped to 2.4 mg/L, for a reduction of 65%. This was 52% lower than healthy levels.

Excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) delivered to a waterbody can lead to both overgrowth of algae and eutrophication. As dead algae decompose, oxygen is consumed in the process, resulting in low levels of oxygen in the water. Because there are increasingly more people living in coastal areas, there are more nutrients entering Florida's coastal waters from wastewater treatment facilities, runoff from land in urban areas during rains, and from farming.

The Collier County Pollution Control Department (PCD) recommendation 7.6 (FY22 Collier County Surface Water Report) states; "Reduction of nutrient pollution should remain a priority County-wide. Reducing nutrients at the source is more cost effective and efficient than restoring ecosystems after they have been impacted by nutrients. Source reduction strategies should be considered and include the following: require low impact development for new and redevelopment; agricultural operations (including golf courses) should be following assigned best management practices (BMPs) for their operations and verified that the BMPs being implemented are effective; permitted discharges not meeting water quality standards should be remediated; and **converting existing wastewater plants to advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) technologies.**"

The Marco Island Civic Association encourages the Marco Island City Council to implement PCD recommendation 7.6 and upgrade the Marco Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT), targeting the reduction of sewage reuse (reclaimed) water nutrients to current (2023) Limits of Technology (LOT) in order to eliminate this source of pollution going into the Marco waterways.

Board of Directors  
Marco Island Civic Association

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# DO SEA TURTLES EAT STRAWS?

by Maria Lamb

On May 11, 2024 the Marco Island Area Board of Realtors along with volunteers from the Marco Island Academy Key Club and Marco residents gathered at South Beach for a beach clean-up. After 2 hours, volunteers removed up to 120 pounds of trash from the beach.



*Volunteers from Marco Island Academy's Key Club*

But once again, single use drinking straws topped the list as one of the most common items picked up during a beach clean-up. During the April beach clean-up, straws led the list and volunteers from the Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee are keeping a tally.

Who can forget the video of a plastic drinking straw lodged up a sea turtle's nostril that went viral on social media in 2015? It is an image you cannot "un-see" once you've seen it and this sparked the anti-plastic-straw movement worldwide.



*Say No to Straws - Save a Sea Turtle!  
Making it on the top list of trash picked up on Marco's beach - single use drinking straws - this bucket contains straws picked up from April and May's clean-up in a two hour period from South Beach to Winterberry walkway.*

Did you know that on March 5, 2018, Marco Island City Council unanimously voted to "prohibit the use of plastic straws by those businesses located directly adjacent to the City beaches."

Drinking straws that are made from plastic or compostable/corn based are showing up in noticeable quantities during a 2-hour beach clean-up. Luckily, these straws are being intercepted by volunteers before washing up in the ocean before they cause harm to sea turtles and other marine life.

Save a Sea Turtle - Say No To Straws!



*Thanks to the Marco Island Area Board of Realtors, Marco Island Academy Key Club volunteers and Marco residents for cleaning up the beach and intercepting 120 pounds of trash before it ends up in the Gulf as marine trash!*

# A BIT OF MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH HISTORY

PAGE 18 MARCO ISLAND EAGLE THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1979

## Marco Island Is A Lifetime For The Martinezes



"THE BEACH is our life," said Nancy and Jesus Martinez, who built a home just two blocks from Marco Island's resident beach. The Martinezes have been Marco Islanders since 1969, when they first discovered an island sunset.

Way back in 1969 Jesus and Nancy Martinez first discovered a Marco Island sunset and its Gulf beach. From then on, they became Marco Islanders.

Virtually every weekend for years they drove over from Hialeah to visit their beach and their island.

Three years ago they built a home on a lot they owned just two blocks from the residents beach, on Manor Terrace and started spending long weekends, every weekend, on Marco Island.

When the Marco Island Beach Association was formed and the Martinezes read about it

in The Marco Island Eagle, they called C.W. (Wally) Valleau, the temporary president, and said they wanted to be the first to join the beach association.

Valleau visited the Martinezes and they gave him \$500 for a lifetime membership, the first one.

"With us Marco Island is a lifetime. That's how we feel about it," Nancy Martinez said.

"We think the Marco Island community and the Marco Island Beach Association are both worthwhile and deserve our support. We have always wanted to be a part of it and do our share to help improve the community."

Nancy Martinez said that she and Jesus, a wholesale grocery distributor, always have done everything as a team, including getting their American citizenship and joining the Marco Island Civic Association.

The beach and the ocean always have meant something special for the Martinezes. They grew up just a block or two from the beach in a suburb of Havana, Cuba.

That was before 1961 when Martinez resigned his position and distributorship with Coca-Cola and he and Nancy fled to Florida with his daughter, Mercy.

Living in Hialeah, which is several miles from the beach, the Martinezes searched the Florida east and west coast for a home near a beach. That is when they came across Marco Island.

Married now for 19 years the Martinezes drove over from Miami almost every Thursday with their daughter Nancy, 16. Often Mercy drives over Friday or Saturday with their four grandchildren.

It's a happy time for the Martinezes, their long weekend on Marco Island.

*The descendants of Jesus and Nancy Martinez continue to enjoy life on Marco Island!*



# MARCO ISLAND WOMAN'S CLUB – THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

*by Maureen Chodaba, MIWC President 2024-25*

*“Why you were born and why you are living depends on what you are getting out of this world and what you are giving.”*

The words of our motto are simple but deliver a message that is so true. 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 are devoted to improving our community in a spirit of giving.

Since 1989, we have awarded approximately \$775,000 in scholarships to more than 225 students living on Marco Island. This year, the MIWC Education Foundation awarded \$19,000 to four students continuing their previously awarded Verne Cabooris and Evelyn Mc Dowell scholarships and \$58,735 to eighteen well deserving Marco Island seniors. Four MIWC Renewable scholarships, totaling \$10,300 were funded from the MIWC Charitable Foundation and the Matthews Family Charitable Giving Fund in

memory of their beloved grandmother, Betty Cioffi, who was a longtime member of the club. These amounts brought a grand total of \$88,035 awarded to twenty-six amazing students. This is the largest scholarship amount we have ever given in one year! This is what it's all about! We are funding the future to make this world a better place! Special thanks go out to our Education Chair Anne Marchetti, 2023-24 Endowment Chair Debbie Rago, and their committees.

But our spirit of giving does not end there. This year, under the leadership of 2023-24 MIWC President Sharyn Kampmeyer and her Board of Directors, the MIWC Charitable Foundation awarded a grand total of \$53,050 to local charities and organizations, including American Legion Post 404 (for Vietnam War Memorial Sculpture), NCH (MI Urgent Care), Marco Island Academy, CCPL (MI Public Library), Avow Foundation (Avow Nurses Week), The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Marco Island Center for the Arts, Marco Island Historical Society,



*Scholarship recipients. Photo by Scott Shook*



*MIWC members Debbie Rosen and Christina Wergiles (far right) with Avow nurses*

American Cancer Society (Road to Recovery Patient Care), Our Daily Bread, Meals of Hope, Marco Island Cemetery (new flags), Dress for Success, City of Marco (Beach and Coastal Beach), and more.

Funds were raised through our annual Fashion Show, our Cards & Games Luncheon, events at Culver's and J McLaughlin, generous sponsorships, and other donations.

Our May luncheon, held at the Island Country Club, featured the presentation of scholarships and the installation of the 2024-25 MIWC Executive Board. The new officers are President- Maureen Chodaba, Vice President – Karen Caster, Treasurer – Sue Niebling, Assistant Treasurer – Dawn Marceau, Recording Secretary – Gwyn Steiner, Corresponding Secretary – Anita Drake, and Advisor – Sharyn Kampmeyer.

During the summer months, we take a break from our regular meeting schedule to enjoy informal social gatherings and opportunities of volunteerism. We will keep the momentum going as we look forward to resuming our official meeting schedule in October at Naples Lakes Country Club.

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. Our special interest groups offer a little

something for everyone! Our Stitchers Group has created and donated blankets, booties, sweater sets and other items to Golisano Children's Hospital and other organizations. We offer Book Clubs, a Travel Group, a Theater Group, and more! 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*



*Sue Ellen Welch installs 2024-25 MIWC officers  
– Maureen Chodaba, Karen Caster, Sue Niebling,  
Dawn Marceau, Anita Drake, Gwyn Steiner*



# CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY: PROVIDING IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE 1954

*by Sydney Walsh, Audubon*

People agree that spending time in nature is good for the body, mind, and soul. Stepping onto the 2.25-mile boardwalk at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is an immersive experience in nature like no other. A walk through this world of giant cypress trees evokes a feeling of calm and reverence, like stepping back in time to a forgotten, magical Florida where traffic noise is replaced by bird song.

Corkscrew Swamp jumped to the forefront of conservation in the early 20th century when plume hunters decimated colonies of Florida's iconic wading birds in search of their feathers. In 1913, the National Audubon Society assigned a warden to protect the

birds that nested in the tops of giant bald cypress trees known as the Corkscrew rookery. Within a few decades, local community members came together to buy 5,680 acres to further protect the trees from logging, establishing Corkscrew Swamp as an Audubon Sanctuary.

Now celebrating its 70th anniversary, the Sanctuary has expanded to more than 13,000 acres and hosts the largest remaining expanse of old-growth bald cypress forest in the world.

Standing nearly one hundred feet tall, some of these trees are 25 feet around and more than 500 years old. Just looking at these amazing trees instills a sense of wonder.



*Aerial view of the Blair Visitor Center at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.*



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary offers many ways to enjoy this enchanting wilderness, including special events, guided experiences, and the 2.25-mile boardwalk through five ecosystems including the bald cypress forest. This month, celebrate Summer Solstice in the Sanctuary with an evening of wellness and nature-based activities, including a nature journaling workshop, Yoga, ukulele band performances, or enjoying hammocks set up for relaxing along the boardwalk. Plus! Enjoy 10% off all purchases in the Nature Store.

Audubon's Blair Visitor Center and boardwalk, located at 375 Sanctuary Road W. in Naples, are open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the last admission at 1 p.m. in summer months, from May through October. The Center offers a Nature Store with many locally made products, including honey. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$6 for kids 6-14, and free for children and members. Online tickets for any visit, event, or guided program are recommended: [corkscrew.audubon.org/visit](https://corkscrew.audubon.org/visit).



*Many of the old-growth bald cypress trees visible from the boardwalk are more than 500 years old!*  
*Photo: Renee Wilson/Audubon Florida*



*The Summer Solstice event on June 20 enables visitors to enjoy sunset along the boardwalk.*  
*Photo: RJ Wiley, photographer in residence*



# OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY CELEBRATES GENEROSITY

by Maria Lamb

On Sunday, April 28th, the United Church of Marco Island (UCMI) presented Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP) a check for \$50,000 towards meals for the 2024 year. ODBFP's Executive Director, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan received the check on behalf of the Pantry and thanked the congregation, "all of us at Our Daily Bread Food Pantry are so grateful for the renewed support of the United Church of Marco

Island. Your generous \$50,000 investment this year to help our neighbors in Marco Island will make a real difference in fighting food insecurity for the children and families we serve."

Michelle Hennessy, Chair of the Missions Committee added, "the United Church of Marco Island is proud of our long partnership with ODBFP. We look forward to continuing to help in the fight against hunger locally with our food collections at



*Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Volunteers at the San Marco location*



*Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Saturday Volunteers at Winterberry location*



the church as well as at the Bargain Basket and to fulfilling this grant request.”

According to Samantha Arago, UCMI's Director of Operations, “our partnership with Our Daily Bread has existed since their inception. We are proud to work with them year after year. Their work in this community is above and beyond.”

### ***Did you know?***

- Our Daily Bread hands out food six days per week.
- The Saturday Food Pantry on Marco Island consistently serves about 1,000 households each week.
- The Pantry is registering over 150 new households each month.
- The Pantry will deliver over 20,000 snacks to school children in 2024.

Big Thanks to Our Volunteers - they are the Heart & Soul of the Pantry! According to Evelyn Rosetti-Ryan, “our 250+ volunteers give of themselves selflessly 6 days a week to ensure that neighbors dealing with food insecurity receive food, hope, and encouragement. They are the unsung heroes who get

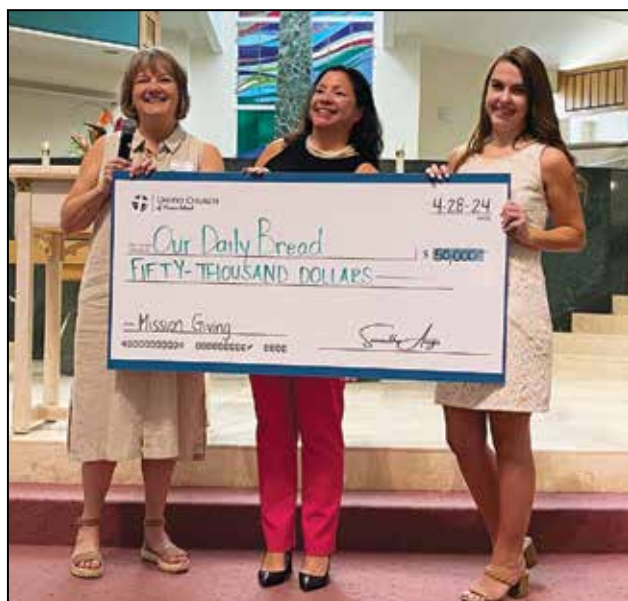
it done everyday! At the end of the day, the smiles on our Guests' faces say it all.”

On January 9, 2024, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry turned EIGHT years old and started in 2016, with five local women who wanted to solve a problem here in Marco with school students coming in hungry on Mondays. In 2016, 2,600 individuals were served by ODBFP. In 2023, the Pantry's 250 volunteers distributed two million pounds of food to Collier County residents facing food insecurity.

ODBFP volunteers organize and pack food donations and distribute food at the Saturday pantry and mobile pantries. Our Daily Bread Food Pantry volunteers also deliver breakfast and weekend backpack meals to partner schools.

According to Rosetti-Ryan, ODBFP is proud that close to 10 percent of the original volunteer team remains actively involved. This group includes people like Ron and Nancy McClay who manage the Pantry's operations and ensure that the Pantry runs like a well-oiled machine.

Call for volunteers: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is seeking volunteers. If you are interested, please email [info@ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org) or call 230-259-5188.



*Our Daily Bread Food Pantry receiving a \$50,000 check from United Church of Marco Island (l-r) Michelle Hennessy, Chair of Missions Committee, Evelyn Rosetti-Ryan, ODBFP Executive Director and Samantha Arago, Director of Operations at United Church of Marco Island*



*Our Daily Bread Food Pantry's Executive Director Evelyn Rosetti-Ryan moved during the award presentation at United Church of Marco*

# LCEC HAS A HURRICANE PLAN

LCEC stands prepared to quickly and safely address any potential hurricanes approaching Southwest Florida.

LCEC cultivates relationships with power line and tree-trimming contractors, fuel companies, material vendors, food service vendors, other cooperatives and local agencies to secure back-up resources.

The primary focus of the LCEC plan is to prioritize restoration of critical circuits serving hospitals, traffic signals, shelters, law enforcement.

Next, efforts are directed towards restoring power to the largest number of customers as efficiently as possible.

Lastly, individual services in localized areas or those requiring reconnection after home electrical system repair are restored.

Customers can rest assured knowing LCEC works around the clock during restoration situations to ensure that customers get their lights back on as quickly as possible.



Do you have your home and business hurricane season plan ready? Visit the LCEC Storm Center at [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) for tips!

*LCEC – Lee County Electric Cooperative*  
800-599-2356  
[LCEC.net](http://LCEC.net)

 <h2>SUNSHINE TOURS</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OFFSHORE FISHING</li> <li>• BACK COUNTRY FISHING</li> <li>• NEAR COASTAL FISHING</li> <li>• ISLAND SHELLING</li> </ul> <p>With our fleet of five very different boats we welcome everyone from the serious sports fisherman to those seeking fun family fishing</p> <p><b>Offering Shared &amp; Private Charters</b> <a href="http://www.sunshinetoursmarcoisland.com">www.sunshinetoursmarcoisland.com</a></p>		 <h2>Marco Island Princess</h2> <p>Marco's Most Unique Waterfront Dining Experience!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sightseeing</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Sunset Dinner</li> <li>• Narrated Nature &amp; History Cruises</li> </ul> <p>Families Welcome!</p> <p><a href="http://www.themarcoislandprincess.com">www.themarcoislandprincess.com</a></p>	
  		   	
<p>Serving Marco Island since 1984!</p> <h1>239-642-5415</h1> <p>Planning a special gathering or celebration? Leave it to us! Call today to speak with our Event Planning Professionals.</p>		<p>Stop by our Chickee Hut 7am-7pm Daily</p> <p><b>Sunshine Tours ★ Marco Island Princess</b> Rose Marina 951 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL</p>	



# USCG AUXILIARY MARCO ISLAND ANNOUNCES NEW FLOTILLA COMMANDER, JOSEPH A. RICCIO

Joseph A. Riccio was elected and sworn in as Flotilla Commander of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 95, Marco Island on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Riccio recently served as Flotilla Commander in 2022 and returns to a familiar role with a passion and a mission to enhance boater safety through education within the Marco Island Community.

Flotilla 95 was established in 1967 on Marco Island, and since then has graduated thousands of students, provided thousands of complimentary vessel exams, and executed hundreds of boater safety missions in the Marco Community.

Today our Flotilla 95 numbers 45 volunteer members, including 11 Certified Instructors, 10 Certified Vessel Examiners, and 3 USCG Certified "Facilities" (which are patrol available vessels). Flotilla 95 leads USCG Auxiliary Division 9, home to over 450 auxiliaries in 9 Flotillas in southwest Florida, in number of students graduated, vessels inspected, and partner visitation relationships.

*If you have a passion for boater safety, community service, and some free time join us and visit our facility in Caxambas Park or visit our website for more information: <https://www.uscgaux.info/>*

## WHAT CAN I BUY FOR \$200?

- Rent a pontoon boat? **NOPE!** Cost is approximately \$500 + gas for 8 hours
- Play a round of 18 holes of golf? **NOPE!** Rates range from \$180 to \$500 per person
- Dinner at a moderately priced restaurant on Marco? **MAYBE!**

*Possibly dinner for four with no alcoholic drinks or dessert*

- Groceries for two for a week? **NOPE!** (not these days!!)

*Average cost of groceries for two is \$220.82 per week*

- How about an Everglades Airboat Ride? **NOPE!**

*Cost is approximately \$220 for two people for a 50-minute ride*

- **MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH MEMBERSHIP? YES!**

The \$200 annual membership fee for Marco Island Residents' Beach allows you to go to Residents' Beach for 365 days, from 6 a.m. until sunset! It also offers umbrella chickees on the beach, sand rinse-off showers, picnic chickees, grills, playground, restrooms, Paradise Grill at Residents' Beach, concerts on the green, the Discount Program and the smiling faces of our friendly staff, to name a few amenities!



# MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN FLORIDA EXHIBIT AND PAUL ARSENAULT RETROSPECTIVE

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) continues its 30th anniversary celebration with two special exhibits at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM). The first is a Museum of Florida History exhibit, *Holiday Traditions in Florida*, June 11-September 21, 2024. The second is a 50-year retrospective of works by Naples-artist Paul Arsenault, October 1, 2024-February 15, 2025.



*Halloween in Florida. Image courtesy of  
State Archive of Florida.*

## ***Holiday Traditions in Florida***

*Holiday Traditions in Florida* sparks both reflection and amusement with photographs from the past and present that depict how Floridians put their own special spin on holidays, reflecting the Sunshine State's environmental, cultural and ethnic diversity. Sometimes they even fashion one of their own. The exhibit presents images ranging from Christmas Island Style to swamp buggy races. The exhibit also includes items and images from the MIHS collections



*Swamp Buggy Race. Image courtesy of Marco Eagle,  
Marco Island Historical Society. (2015-20-3428)*

as well as loans to demonstrate holiday celebrations that are unique to Marco Island and greater Collier County.

## ***Paul Arsenault 50 Year Retrospective***

Paul Arsenault has traveled the world to record stunning landscapes, seascapes, seaside villages and more in his plein air paintings. However, he always returns home to Naples where, for 50 years, he has





*Paul Arsenault in his studio. Photo by Vandy Major.  
Image courtesy Marco Island Historical Museum*

found a treasure trove of subject matter for his work. Arsenault captures and celebrates the unique history and soul stirring beauty of Naples and Collier County. This 50 year retrospective conveys the inviting charm and beauty of Southwest Florida through Arsenault's captivating paintings of its architecture, seaside lifestyle and history. A book signing for his new book will be held on October 17 and a reception and presentation by the artist will be held at Rose History Auditorium on January 15, 2025.

### ***THE RETURN of the Key Marco Cat continues***

After traveling through time and space to return to its birthplace on Marco Island in 2019, the world-famous

Key Marco Cat continues its stay at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM). On loan to the Museum from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the enigmatic feline will remain at MIHM until April 2026.

The Key Marco Cat is joined by other rare pre-Columbian Native American artifacts discovered with it on Marco Island in 1896. Fourteen additional Key Marco artifacts, including the Key Marco Deer Figurehead are on loan from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum) through March 2025.



*The Key Marco Cat is one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America. It will be exhibited at the Marco Island Historical Museum until April 2026. Photo credit: Courtesy Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution (A240915)*

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.

*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).*

# CALLING ALL MARCO ISLAND & NAPLES JEEP ENTHUSIASTS!

Nestled amidst the stunning landscapes of Marco Island, TrailMarco has become a beloved haven for Jeep enthusiasts united by a deep appreciation for nature and a commitment to preserving the beauty of Southwest Florida. Founded in October 2021, TrailMarco thrives on off-road adventure and fosters the Jeep community among fellow islanders who share a love for exploration and camaraderie.

Whether you're a seasoned off-roader or new to the Jeeping world, everyone is welcome to join our tight-knit community. From exhilarating Jeep trail rides to engaging meets, we offer opportunities to connect, share knowledge, and support charitable causes—without hidden costs or gimmicks. TrailMarco: Where genuine Jeep love and a passion for adventure meet.

Now, let's delve into the vibrant heart of TrailMarco, where individuals ignite the spark of adventure and camaraderie. Ryan Darling, the visionary founder affectionately known as the "Trail Boss," leads with boundless passion, complemented by his wife, Mila Darling, whose homemade treats and captivating photography enhance our experiences. Jason Bailey, a

cornerstone member, embodies our adventurous ethos, seamlessly integrating his leadership and trail prowess. His fearlessness in navigating challenges underscores our belief that true adventure lies in embracing the unknown.

Enter Ken and Kris Young, the dynamic duo behind TrailMarco's #duckduckjeep initiative. With infectious enthusiasm, they distribute ducks adorned with the TrailMarco tag, spreading a sense of unity and connection throughout our community. If you've ever discovered one of these charming tokens on your Jeep, it's likely a gift from this enthusiastic pair.

Our love for Florida's rugged wilderness runs deep, as we relish exploring the trails in our surrounding areas. In December 2023, TrailMarco partnered with park rangers at the Big Cypress National Preserve for the Swamp Heritage Festival, organizing a thrilling trail ride through Fakahatchee and Big Cypress. The event brought together 27 Jeeps from our community, along with 40 more from the South Florida Jeep club, showcasing the strength of our bonds and our commitment to adventure.





Just beyond the Jolley Bridge, TrailMarco regularly leads Jeep rides through the Picayune Strand State Forest, offering diverse landscapes from cypress swamps to subtropical hardwood hammocks. These adventures often include stops for lunch along the trail or at nearby campgrounds, making for memorable days of exploration.

Venturing into Florida's wilderness, TrailMarco Radio, hosted by Ryan Darling and Rick Vaske, serves as the perfect companion. Broadcast live from Ryan's Jeep, Deja Blue, our radio show immerses Jeepers in a mix of tunes and valuable insights, enhancing every trail experience. Beyond music, TrailMarco Radio delves into the history, wildlife diversity, and land management plans of the Picayune Strand State Forest and surrounding areas, ensuring each adventure is both thrilling and enlightening.

Our Jeep meets on Marco Island offer more than just gatherings; they're opportunities to forge connections, swap tips, and share laughs at local establishments. If you're a restaurant owner on Marco Island interested in hosting our dynamic group, please reach out—we'd love to patronize your establishment and others regularly.

Looking ahead, TrailMarco is excited to enhance our community involvement and environmental impact. We plan to participate in the annual Christmas parade, showcasing our festive spirit and love for adventure. Additionally, we're organizing events to support the preservation of Marco Island's iconic burrowing owls by constructing perches. We also aim to expand our presence on the island with more Jeep meets, providing opportunities for members and enthusiasts to connect and forge lasting connections in our beautiful setting.

We invite you to help us build the TrailMarco family by connecting with us on social media, joining our Jeep meets, and spreading the enthusiasm for the Jeep community.

Follow us on Facebook at "TrailMarco" and join our vibrant social media community by sharing photos of your Jeep, upgrades and trail rides. Engage with fellow enthusiasts, ask questions and offer advice to foster friendships and camaraderie. Visit TrailMarco.com to gain trail insights through our blog and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Your contributions not only inspire others but

also contribute to a supportive and collaborative environment. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of the excitement on and off the trails!

TrailMarco isn't just about Jeeps; it's about camaraderie, conservation and the thrill of the open trail. Join us, and let's explore Marco Island's hidden gems and surrounding areas together!

*Visit [TrailMarco.com](http://TrailMarco.com)  
for more information*



# MARCO ISLAND IS A SEWAGE LAGOON - BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE

by Eugene Wordehoff, Van Z. Williams, Mike Lyster, & Ian McKeag, Collier Citizens Council

Marco Island canals are being used as the final step in the sewage treatment process. Sewage that is naturally high in nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) is treated by the Marco Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Solids are extracted, the liquid is treated and released to three golf courses and the condos and hotels along Collier Boulevard as what is called "reuse" or "reclaimed" water.

Informally known as the "purple pipes" program (the pipes are painted purple) this reduction of freshwater demand saved the Florida aquifer. Prior to implementation of this program, the Florida aquifer was dropping due to extensive fresh water use for developments, both for drinking water and for irrigation. Wells for residential homes were at risk of running dry. The "purple pipes" program used reclaimed sewage water for irrigation, reducing the freshwater demand on the aquifer. The City of Naples alone reduced their freshwater consumption by 5,000,000 gallons per day.

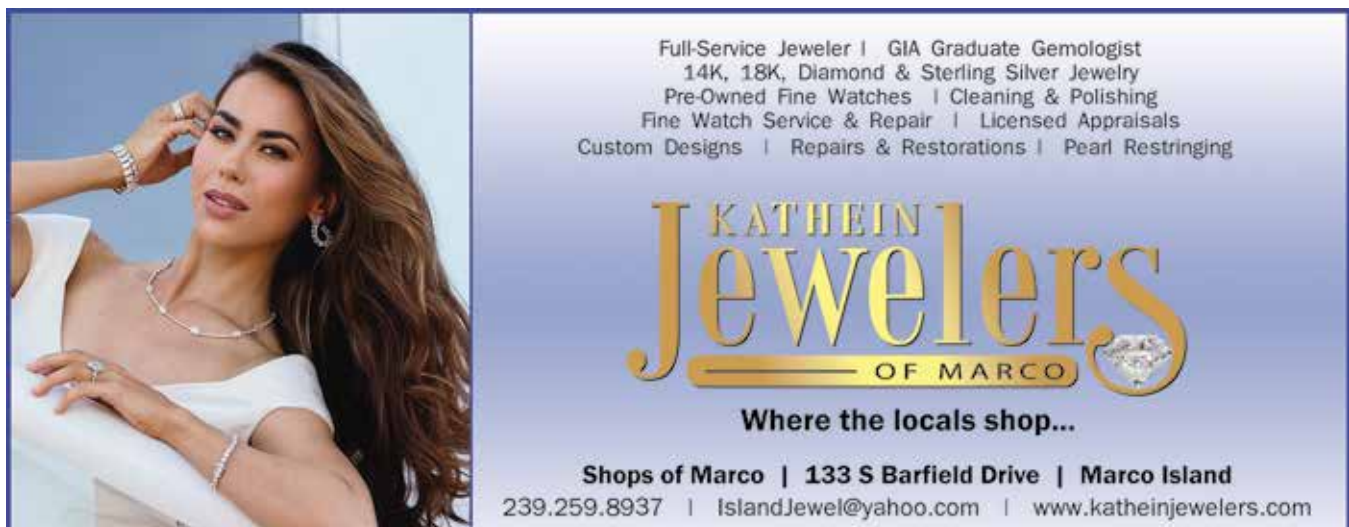
There are unintended consequences. It was known when the purple pipes program was implemented that nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) may occur if reclaimed water was overused. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Marco Wastewater Treatment Plant process removes 80% of the nitrogen from the reuse water but removes NONE

of the phosphorus from the reuse water. The final step in removing the remaining nitrogen and phosphorus takes place with the naturally existing algae population in the canals.

Excess nutrient pollution from the reuse water has triggered the collapse of the Marco eco-system. Algal blooms explode in the summertime on Marco. During the month of August, life giving oxygen in the Marco canals has dropped 65%. Seagrass has died. Fish have left. Birds have left. Manatees have no food. The canals stink. The algal blooms are toxic. Property values are affected. Tourism is impacted. The lowest waterbody oxygen levels are seen on the west side of the island along Collier Boulevard, where most of the reuse water is distributed.

The Marco WWTP is in violation of the permit issued by FDEP. Section IX.5 of the permit states "This permit does not relieve the permittee from liabilities for harm or injury to human health or welfare, animal or plant life." The animal and plant life in the Marco canals is being destroyed by reuse water. Marco Island is effectively a sewage lagoon.

*The Collier Citizens Council is a coalition of civic leaders whose purpose is to represent the interests of county residents by influencing local and state policies.*



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# MORE THAN 100 AMERICAN FLAMINGOS COUNTED IN FLORIDA DURING FEBRUARY CENSUS

In February, Audubon Florida organized an American Flamingo survey across the Sunshine State. This effort was coordinated through the Florida Flamingo Working Group as part of a larger effort by the Caribbean Flamingo Conservation Group to census all American Flamingos throughout their range from February 18-25, 2024.

More than 40 people filled out the survey to record 101 wild American Flamingos across Florida. The largest group (50+) was spotted in Florida Bay; 18 were counted in the Pine Island area, with another 14 at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

“We are thrilled that there are flamingos that have remained in Florida after being blown here in 2023 by Hurricane Idalia. I actually suspect that 100 flamingos is the floor of this new population, and there could

be more that were not counted during the one-week survey. We are continually monitoring for breeding flamingos,” says Jerry Lorenz, PhD, State director of research for Audubon Florida. Flamingos used to live and probably bred in Florida. Unfortunately, the 19th century plume trade—when an ounce of feathers was worth more than gold—decimated wading birds in South Florida. Even after legislation and Audubon wardens protected these birds, extensive draining and ditching of the Everglades destroyed their habitat.

Now that restoration momentum is flowing in the River of Grass, we are hopeful that protected wetlands and improved water flow will create enough habitat resources for the Hurricane Idalia flamingos to survive and thrive here.



*An American Flamingo in Tampa Bay. Photo: Sydney Walsh/Audubon*

# SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CONTINUES FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

*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.

On April 22, Governor Ron DeSantis was joined by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board Members, Executive Director Drew Bartlett, and many other officials in West Palm Beach to highlight the unprecedented state funding and momentum that are making a real difference to protect Florida's natural resources and restore America's Everglades. Governor DeSantis announced \$1.5 billion for Everglades restoration and water quality improvements in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Of the \$1.5 billion in funding, approximately \$850 million will go towards Everglades restoration projects, including \$614 million to support the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir. This is the largest state investment in a single year since CERP was established in 2000.

This funding brings Florida's total investment in Everglades restoration and the protection of our water resources to a record-breaking \$6.5 billion since Governor DeSantis took office in 2019.

The District continues to make significant progress on restoration and resilience efforts that are improving the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. In addition, the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined local, state, federal and tribal officials as well as stakeholders to cut the ribbon on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Seepage Barrier



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



*Governor Ron DeSantis Announces His Commitment to Approving \$1.5 billion Included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget for Everglades Restoration and Water Quality Improvements on April 22, 2024. Photo by SFWMD.*



Wall Project, which extends the successful underground wall that was built as part of the 8.5 Square Mile Area Seepage Wall Project in Miami-Dade County.

The project supports ongoing restoration efforts to move water south through the Everglades and into Florida Bay while mitigating potential flooding impacts in communities outside of Everglades National Park. It was completed 8 months ahead of schedule.

The District completed the 2.3-mile first phase of the wall in September 2022 and then broke ground on the second phase in December 2022. The second phase adds five miles of the underground seepage wall. The total seepage wall is approximately 7.3 miles long, 63 feet deep and 30 inches wide. During heavy rain events, water that typically would flood communities will remain inside Everglades National Park to support the park's historic hydrology.

By supporting restoration flows of water through the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, the new underground wall supports the Combined Operating Plan (COP) and new infrastructure being put in place throughout the Everglades that delivers more water into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay - two key areas that need increased flows of water.



*Pictured from Left to Right on April 24, 2024: Maj. Cory Bell, USACE - Jacksonville District; Deputy Secretary Adam Blalock, DEP; Superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades National Park; Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez; Board Member "Alligator Ron" Bergeron, SFWMD; Mayor Jose "Pepe" Diaz, City of Sweetwater; Board Member Charlette Roman, SFWMD; Board Member Cheryl Meads, SFWMD; Curtis Osceola, Miccosukee Tribe; Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation.*  
*Photo by SFWMD.*

Over on the west coast, 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 and rehydrate drained wetlands, which will in turn enhance habitat for fish and wildlife.

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



*Charlette Roman talking about the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Southwest Florida.*  
*Photo by SFWMD.*

The District will also begin the Corkscrew Watershed Initiative Study. This new project will study how to restore wetland hydrology within the Corkscrew System, including the 13,000+ acre Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, while reducing flood risk in nearby flood-prone areas and without adversely impacting water supply.

This is a three-year public planning project in collaboration with Audubon Florida and was introduced at the recent Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum. The project team will work closely with the public and stakeholders to gather data and identify viable short and long-term strategies to benefit Southwest Florida's ecosystem.

*Everglades Restoration, continued on page 22*



*Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum.  
Photo by SFWMD.*

In an effort to increase water storage north of Lake Okeechobee, the SFWMD submitted the feasibility study for the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (LOCAR) Section 203 Study to the Department of the Army. The study is currently under review and may now be considered by the U.S. Congress for inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act of 2024.

The proposed project has many benefits including increasing water storage in the northern estuaries, reducing the duration and frequency of both high and low water levels in Lake Okeechobee, reducing the likelihood of harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the northern estuaries, and providing ecological benefits to Lake Okeechobee and the northern estuaries.

On a personal level, I was honored to pass the ceremonial purple jacket to my fellow Governing Board Member Cheryl Meads at the 2024 May Governing Board Meeting. The "Power of the Purple" jacket is a symbol of the purple-colored pipes and pumps that carry reclaimed water for reuse in our communities. The tradition began in recognition of Water Reuse Week. When reclaimed water is used,



*L-R: SFWMD Governing Board Members Cheryl Meads and Charlette Roman at the 2024 May Governing Board Meeting in Stuart in Martin County. Photo by SFWMD.*



*Signing of the Feasibility Study for the North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (LOCAR) Section 203 Study.  
Photo by SFWMD.*





*C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area. Photo by SFWMD.*

it eases the demand on traditional, often limited, sources of water. Since its first appearance in 2009, the purple jacket has been passed to a different Governing Board member each May in recognition of Water Reuse Week.

The District's Governing Board also officially designated the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area as a "Stormwater Treatment Area." The area will soon be open for regularly scheduled public access and nature-based recreation. Activities will include hiking, bicycling, wildlife viewing and more. Audubon-led birding tours will also likely be conducted. Birdwatchers will be able to spot sandhill cranes, snail kites, great blue herons, great egrets, and black-bellied whistling ducks, along with roseate spoonbills, white pelicans, wood storks, and migratory shorebirds. In addition, limited entry waterfowl and alligator hunts managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will take place. Visit [SFWMD.gov/Recreation](https://www.sfwmd.gov/Recreation) for the latest information.

Overall, a comprehensive effort is underway to protect and restore America's Everglades - now and for future generations. Working together with our federal, state, and local partners, the District

continues to accelerate key Everglades restoration projects that are improving the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Overall, a comprehensive effort is underway to protect and restore America's Everglades - now and for future generations. Working together with our federal, state, and local partners, the District continues to accelerate key Everglades restoration projects that are improving the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Since 2019, the District has celebrated 70 project completions, groundbreakings, and other major milestones!

Ensuring the health of the Everglades benefits all of us. The District 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  
District and the ways you  
can get involved by visiting  
[SFWMD.gov](https://www.sfwmd.gov).*

BACK COUNTRY BOYS IN CONCERT  
On The Green at Marco Island  
Residents' Beach

Monday, February 19, 2024









# AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CELEBRATES NIGHT OF ILLUSIONS AND MORE

*by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer*

Imagine a world without cancer. That is what Marco Island did the night of February 2 at the JW Marriott as Paradise Found Restaurant & Bar presented the 2024 American Cancer Society Imagination Ball, Night of Illusions. Stilt Walkers in festive attire welcomed guests to the Banyan Ballroom. Emceed by Lindsey Sablan of WINK News, it was a night of elegance and a celebration of life, energized with the mission to raise funds in the fight against cancer.

Funds were raised by both live and silent auctions, and two revenue enhancers. The Diamond Dig, sponsored by Kathein Jewelers, added sparkle to the evening while the Purse Grab featured a drawing for a Louis Vuitton handbag.

The American Cancer Society is a volunteer driven organization, and this event was no exception. Among the volunteers for the evening were the friendly familiar faces of members of Rotary, Kiwanis, the Marco Island Woman's Club and other local service organizations, all pitching in to make the evening a success.

Debra Shanahan, chair of the gala for the twelfth consecutive year, delivered a heartfelt message that although we are working hard to shatter cancer to a mere illusion, at present it is sadly still a reality; a reality that touched her personally this past year. Shanahan was diagnosed with stage 2 cancer and has been successfully treated. She looks forward to a long active cancer-free life. She credits the American Cancer Society's dedication to research for the progress that has been made in treating this deadly disease.

Debra's story would not be the only one shared that evening of a personal encounter with the disease. Auctioneer Rick Gallo told the shocking news of his recent diagnosis but was blessed with the benefit of early detection. "Early detection is everything," he said. "I have two granddaughters that I want to see grow up in a world that is cancer-free."



*Ed and Cindy Crane*



*Survivor Angie with her daughter*

A touching moment of the evening was the Survivor/Caregiver video. Local cancer survivor Angie shared her story of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC tends to be an aggressive form of the disease. The term triple negative refers to the fact that the cancer cells do not have estrogen or progesterone receptors and do not make significant amounts of the protein HER2. Fewer treatment options are available for TNBC as traditional hormone therapies and anti-HER2 drugs will not work. Thanks to research funded by the American Cancer Society, advances are being made. Angie, now cancer-free, is a shining example of the hope that exists in the fight against all forms of cancer. She thanks her support system,





*Ari and Avital Kathein, sponsors of the  
Diamond Dig, with friends*



*Debra Shanahan with Presenting Sponsors  
Jim and Sandy Paradise of Paradise Found*

including her many friends who filled the floor for a photo opportunity at the Ball, and her daughter who traveled here from Pennsylvania to take care of Angie in her time of need. Angie is a force to contend with on the pickleball court, often playing with MIPD Chief Tracy Frazzano, also a cancer survivor. What an inspiration for all of us!

Michelle Wykowski was a caregiver for her husband Wesley in his battle against glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer. They shared thirty-eight years of a beautiful marriage. Wesley loved to fish, and he treated Michelle "like a princess," in her words. Their roles were reversed when Michelle became his loving caregiver following his diagnosis. Michelle found great support from their son and daughter. Wesley went online to cancer.org to learn all that he could about the disease. Michelle said, "He wanted to go up on stage to tell his story and inspire others." Wesley passed away in 2023, but his memory will live



*Caregiver Michelle Wykowski*

on and will indeed inspire others, especially those he loved.

In other news, Shoot Down Kids Cancer, an event to benefit the Relay For Life was held March 17, 2024. It was a huge success with about eighty participants. We honored the late Gary Landis, a founder of this event, to raise funds that were split between the American Cancer Society and Golisano Children's Hospital.

The Members Club at Marco had their end of season golf tournament that benefited four local charities, the American Cancer Society, Grace Place, Wounded Warriors, and Our Daily Bread. The Members Club at Marco's team for the Relay For Life will be receiving a new award from ACS called the Legacy Award. This award is for teams that have raised over \$1,000,000.

The American Cancer Society will never stop fighting against this disease until we find a cure. We believe that day is coming, and we believe with your help, that day will be soon. Imagine a world without cancer! That day will surely be our Paradise Found!

*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>.*

# THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

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

Families in Collier County continue to struggle to find that place to call “home” where they are safe and secure. Home needs to be a place where families find comfort and peace, a place they can afford and call their own, so they are free from worry about the landlord raising the rent once more. Nearly 60% of renters in Collier County are cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their income on housing. This leaves little for necessities such as food, medical care, and children’s school supplies. Many families are forced to move in with others so rent becomes a little more affordable.

Gregory and Marie came to Habitat because they and their family were living in a house shared with their extended family. They lack privacy and feel uncomfortable using the kitchen to prepare meals. They live in Immokalee but work at the Hilton on Marco Island. Gregory is a housekeeping houseman and Marie is a room attendant. They work long hours, including overtime, and then face their long commute home when their workday is done. On their application they said, “We need a place to lay our heads after working.”

Gregory and Marie’s daughter has started



*Marco Residents volunteering at our Whitaker Woods community*



college but when she is home, the three of them share one bedroom. Clearly this situation is not ideal.

Even though Gregory and Marie have very little free time, they have completed their 500 hours of “sweat equity” working on the job site building their home and homes of future neighbors and taking classes that will help them be successful homeowners now and for years to come. They will be purchasing and moving into their own home this summer.

Habitat Collier is the only option for homeownership for low-wage, critical members of our workforce in Collier County. Four Habitat communities are currently under construction in Collier County. Our largest and one of the largest Habitat communities in the U.S. is underway in Immokalee. This community is called Kaicasa. When complete by 2030, 281 families will call this community home. Two Naples communities are nearing completion. Songbird at Whippoorwill, conveniently located near Pine Ridge Road and I-75 will be completed by the end of 2024. It is our first condominium community. Fifty-two grateful families will be peacefully settled in this community. Whitaker Woods, located off Santa Barbara Blvd, will be home to 125 families. The community will be completed by this summer. A new community, Majestic Place, is starting to take shape in Naples as well. By the end of 2024, the first families will purchase homes here and begin settling in. When completed in 2026, this community will be home to 109 families.

Since our founding in 1978, thanks to our friends in Collier County, especially those on Marco Island, we have helped nearly 2,600 families - containing 6,500 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. You may offer a hand-up to local families in need by volunteering on our jobsites, in our stores or with our families. Remember that you may donate your gently used items to one of our ReStores. If you are involved

with congregations, organizations, or clubs, you could consider inviting a representative from Habitat Collier to come share our story. You could also host a friend-raising event where we could share the Habitat story. Every gift of your time, talents, and treasures is life-changing for those needing a simple, affordable place to live. Thank you for all you do.

Your continued partnership will help more families in need to 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).

*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.

# ROOKERY BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER CAMPS & EVENTS

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



The attraction at 300 Tower Road in Naples features aquariums, touch tanks with marine critters, natural history, environmental and wildlife exhibits, an art gallery, picnic area, guided walking trails, butterfly garden and a scenic overlook bridge. Special events and activities for all ages are held year-round including watercolor and photography classes, gallery nights, presentations about wildlife and conservation, birding field trips, marine science camps and more!

Rookery Bay Research Reserve also offers guided boat tours or kayak adventures into the tranquil waters of Rookery Bay Reserve. Guests can choose from a variety of tours including shelling trips to deserted white sand islands, sunset tours or bird rookery excursions. Visit [RookeryBay.org](http://RookeryBay.org) or call 239-530-5972 for more information.



*Campers searching for coastal critters*

## **Rookery Bay Research Reserve Marine Science Camp**

A perfect camp for middle or high school students who love coastal waters, marine wildlife and want to experience hands-on marine science with biologists. Join Rookery Bay Research Reserve's flexible and fun marine science camp in June. Select 1, 2 or 3 days of camp and choose from a variety of themes like kayaking through mangroves tunnels, searching for coastal critters in the bays and beaches or get hands-on in the labs with microscopes and a real squid dissection. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity - that also happens to look great on a college application!

Camp Dates: Choose just 1 day, 2 days or an entire session week. June 4, 5 and 6; June 11, 12 and 13; June 18, 19 and 20; June 25, 26 and 27. 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$75 per day (camp scholarships are available)

## **Watercolors & Wildlife:**

### **Painting with Jan at Rookery Bay**

June 20, July 16 & 18 - Reflections on Water  
Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
\$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.

## **Essentials of Digital Photography Workshop**

June 22 & July 20 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, \$55

If you want to get the best pictures possible and a





*Marine Science Camp offers fun, learning in the bay*

true understanding of 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.

### **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 Research 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,



*The Summer Camp also offers hands-on lab learning*

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.

*Event Registration Required. Call 239-530-5972, or visit <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 4-12: \$5.*

*Children Under 3: FREE.*

*Friends of Rookery Bay members: FREE.*

*Active and Retired Military personnel and family: FREE*

*Association of Nature Center Administrators Reciprocal*

*Program Members: FREE*



*A guided kayak tour through Rookery Bay*



CONCERT by NAUTICAL WHEELERS  
On The Green at Marco Island  
Residents' Beach

Sunday, March 10, 2024

THE JIMMY BUFFETT PARROT HEAD  
CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON





# YOU HAVE THE POWeR

## To Keep Yourself and Others Safe When E-biking

Florida law defines an electric bicycle (e-bike) as a bicycle with pedals, a seat or saddle, and a motor of less than 750 watts. The law also requires that e-bikes must meet the same requirements as bicycles, including the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's requirements. E-bikes must also operate with the following features:

**Braking:** The bike must have brakes that can stop the bike

**Speed:** The bike can't go faster than 28 mph

**Operation:** The bike must stop pedaling or the brakes must be pressed, and the motor must stop working

E-bikes are a fun, environmentally friendly and easy way to get around the island. Before you take your e-bike for your next ride, make sure you know how to operate it safely.

- Slow down to walking pace when others are on the path; E-bikes accelerate fast and brake slow.
- Ring your bell and call on your left to let others know you're approaching
- Be ready for sudden changes around you and remember the basics: helmet fit properly, bell, lights, and a bike that's legal.

### CONTROL YOUR SPEED AND BRAKING

Get comfortable with your e-bike's speed controller and brakes • Follow posted speed limits • Practice to ensure safe e-biking in different settings, especially around groups of pedestrians

### KNOW YOUR TRAFFIC LAWS

Only carry a passenger if you have a passenger seat • Use white headlights and red taillights • If on or next to a road, ride in the same direction as others • 



### BE A PROACTIVE E-BIKER

Wear a well-fitted protective helmet • Stay aware of other riders and cars and never assume they see you • Limit distractions (No cell phones or ear buds) • Do safety and maintenance checks regularly

### BE A COURTEOUS E-BIKER

Slow down and announce yourself before passing on the left of a nearby group or person • Slow down for appropriate use of dismount zones • Use turn-signals (electronic or hand) • Make eye contact with drivers and others when you enter and exit intersections

*\*Please note, motorbikes are not e-bikes.*

# MARCO ISLAND SHELL CLUB UPDATES

*by Joyce Mullen*

In keeping with our mission, the Marco Island Shell Club, a 501 ( c )(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, conservation, science, history, and appreciation of seashells and mollusks in all their forms, spent the last year creating, sharing and volunteering in the greater Marco Island community. We are a dedicated group of people who join together each week to not only create beautiful shell art, but to expand the knowledge and opportunities for our fellow residents and visitors to interact with shells, marine life and artistic endeavors.

Our season starts each fall with the commencement of weekly workshops where members gather to create beautiful shell artwork that will be sold during two public events: Our Holiday Show & Sale (11/29/24) and our Spring Expo & Sale (3/14 & 3/15/25). Each of these events is highly anticipated by the public with lines forming early on opening day.



*Marco Island Shell Club  
Scholarship recipient Stacy Sanderlin*



*Marco Island Shell Club member artwork*

At our Spring Expo & Sale, prizes are awarded for outstanding artistic and scientific contributions by members (see pictures). The proceeds from these sales are donated to fulfill our mission of sharing and supporting the study and conservation of marine life in and around Southwest Florida. We support programs such as:

- Seminars to bring the public closer to the amazing sea life surrounding our island and to learn more about conservation and of course, to collect shells for future creations. These learning opportunities also include programs for children like our support of Rookery Bay Estuary Preserve, our sponsorship of "Mollusks on the Move" at various Collier County schools, and our participation in Buddy Day at Hideaway Beach.
- Scholarships and Endowments to under-graduate and graduate students studying marine





*Marco Island Shell Club  
Scientific Peoples Choice Winner*

sciences at schools located in Southwest Florida (see pictures). Please visit our website for more information and to access our application [www.marcoislandshellclub.com](http://www.marcoislandshellclub.com)

- Luncheons and excursions for members to enjoy fellowship and shelling
- Participation in local Marco Island community events

The Marco Island Shell Club was started over 40 years ago and has been a source of beauty and inspiration since its inception. We welcome all shell lovers and those interested in conserving our beautiful Marco Island home. Donations to support our mission are most welcome and can be made on our website [www.marcoislandshellclub.com](http://www.marcoislandshellclub.com). Join us on Facebook [Marcoland\\_ShellClub](https://www.facebook.com/Marcoland_ShellClub) and Instagram @ [Marcoislandshellclub](https://www.instagram.com/Marcoislandshellclub)

YOU CANNOT DROP  
OFF ANYONE AT  
RESIDENTS' BEACH.

YOU MUST STAY WITH  
YOUR GUESTS AT  
RESIDENTS' BEACH.



**LIFE IS GOOD**



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PERFECT PUZZLE

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**Marco Souvenirs & Gifts**

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FLORIDA



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**Marco Island Cookies,  
Puzzle, Candles, Stickers & License Plates**



*Congratulations to Collette Combs upon her graduation from Marco Island Academy, Class of 2024! Congratulations also to her parents, Jerry and Shannan Combs.*

WHO CAN USE MY  
RESIDENTS' BEACH ID?

**YOU  
AND  
ONLY YOU**

NO ONE OTHER THAN  
YOURSELF CAN USE  
YOUR RESIDENTS'  
BEACH ID,  
NO EXCEPTIONS.

## BEACH CLEAN-UPS

SATURDAY, JUNE 8	8 AM	SOUTH BEACH
SATURDAY, JULY 6	8 AM	TIGERTAIL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24	9 AM	SOUTH BEACH
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21	8 AM	TIGERTAIL
SUNDAY, OCT. 13	8 AM	RESIDENTS' BEACH

For more information, please contact City Staff Liaison at 239.389.3949



# FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL

## UPDATES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

*by Allie Delventhal, Friends of Tigertail*

Friends of Tigertail had their annual meeting on April 9. Participants listened to guest speaker, Collier County Waterkeeper Ray Bearfield discuss the condition of water bodies in and around the county and measures underway to improve their status. He expressed the hope that various environmental groups will join this effort, and the Friends of Tigertail board voted to send a donation to support their work.

In association with Keep Collier Beautiful Bay Days, our April 20 beach clean-up collected 29 pounds of trash, and members of the board cleaned out the butterfly garden, planting new greenery to convert the space to a pollinator garden. The next beach clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, July 6.

Friends of Tigertail continues to collaborate with county officials to make necessary improvements to the park. Due to structural damage to the restroom building it is slated for demolition and replacement. During construction porta-potties will be available, and once the new building is complete, the county will increase their effort to secure a new snack bar vendor.



*FOTT Board president Susan Lagrotta working on the new pollinator garden*



*FOTT board member Harriette Tax with her granddaughter Dina at the 4/20/24 "Bay Days" beach clean-up*

Continuing the mission to support youth environmental education, Friends of Tigertail has underwritten five Ken Kubat memorial scholarships for middle/high schoolers to attend the 3-day Rookery Bay Student Institute for Marine Science (SIMS) camp, teaching 7th -10th graders about the conservation efforts of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, giving them time in the field to learn about local research and wildlife monitoring.

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



*Newly enhanced pollinator garden at Tigertail Park*



Marco Island's Own ROCK REPUBLIC  
in Concert On The Green  
at Marco Island Residents' Beach

Sunday, April 14, 4 to 7 pm









# KAVA CULTURE CAVA BAR, NOW OPEN

Kava Culture Kava Bar is a community-focused, alcohol-free bar that serves a wide variety of ethnobotanical teas, craft mocktails, cold brews and teas. Kava Culture is the place to meet and connect. We offer our spaces as a neighborhood venue for creativity, work, friendship, and good vibes. Offering live music events including our open mic every Thursday night from 8pm-11pm. Our lounge is always family and pet friendly. Happy Hour Every Day 2pm-5pm - Everything in a shell 50% off. Plus Kava Culture now offers the MICA discount.



*Open everyday from 8am-2am*

*Kava Culture Kava Bar is  
located in the Marco Towne Center*

*They can be reached at  
Marcoisland@kavaculturefranchise.com  
or call 239-919-7208*



## 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:

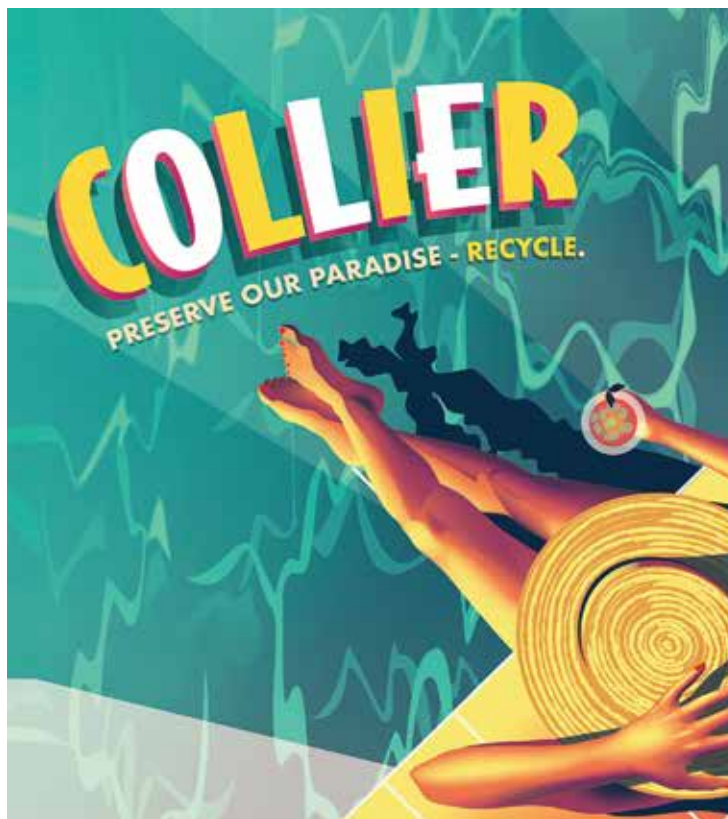
- Florida Identification Cards
- Partial Florida Driver License Service (no testing)
- Property Tax
- Vessel title and registration
- Motor Vehicle title and registration
- Hunting & Fishing licensing
- Florida Birth Certificate



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).





## 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)

# 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.**

*Paradise Grill at Residents' Beach*

~ **Welcome to Paradise** ~

*Come Enjoy Our Fresh Food,  
Fast Service & Great View!*

Featuring Mimosas, Beer and Wine



**Burgers, Dogs, Sandwiches,  
Fish & Shrimp, Wraps & Salads,  
Daily Specials, Smoothies,  
Ice Cream & More**

*Open 7 days per week, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
June through September 2<sup>nd</sup>*

239-394-1475

Credit Cards Accepted \* Free Internet Access

## MARCO ISLAND

GOODLAND • ISLES OF CAPRI • EVERGLADES



2024 Annual Publication and Destination Guide



# Bryan's Best Home Watch

**Among** The Things We Check:

**Water Meter**

**Insects**



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**A/C**

**(239) 571-5916**

**BryansHomeWatch@gmail.com**

**Veteran Owned**

**Licensed & Insured**



# MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND THE ARTS CENTER THEATRE

Summer at Marco Island Center for the Arts means welcoming young artists to participate in a myriad of workshops taught by practicing artists. The Children's Summer Art Program has seen exponential growth since 2021 when the decision was made to offer all the programs for free.

In 2021, the Art Center offered 9 workshops over a 6 week period and 80 children participated. That number increased to 116 children in 2022 when 13 workshops were offered over a 6 weeks. In 2023, the program expanded to 7 weeks and with 25 workshops offered including a two week theater intensive program that culminated in a musical theater production. In the summer of 2023, 242 children were served. When registration opened in 2024, the majority of the 29 workshops offered were fully enrolled in 3 days. This year it is anticipated that 286 children will participate in the visual art workshops at the Art Center and the two-week theater program at the Arts Center Theatre. This expansion has happened due to the generous support of The State of Florida Division of Art and Culture, Collier Community Foundation, United Church of Marco Island, the Island Country Club Charitable Foundation, The Sunrise Rotary of Marco Island, The Noontime Rotary of Marco Island and generous individual donors.

Some of the classes that will take place in 2024 are Environments: Creative Thinking, Cursive: Patterns & Design. Miniature Models/Making Miniatures, Recycled Art, Felt Art, Cursive: Create Your Own Book, The Snoof Show Puppetry: Bays Beaches and Boats in Pastel, Storymakers Lab, Watercolor: "Remember it's Just Paint and Paper!", Mixed Media Art, Pet Portraits in Pastel, Campfire Art, Cursive: Creating Stationary, Nature Art for Kids, Shell Art, Thinking Outside the (Mail) Box, Inspiration Board, Polymer Clay, All Hands on Clay.

Children's Summer Theater Program will take place at the Arts Center Theatre in Marco Town Center and is for youth 9-13 year old. High school aged youth can participate as teaching assistants. Not only do the



children, learn dialogue, choreography and music, they are responsible for building the sets, making costumes and designing their own program and marketing materials. They also have the opportunity to learn about how to design lights and sound and operate lighting and sound equipment. In 2023, the program culminated with a musical production of "A Year With Frog and Toad - KIDS". In 2024, the production will be "Finding Nemo - KIDS" which is based on the 2003 Pixar movie. The production will bring the vibrant underwater world of Nemo and his friends to life on stage in a story full of family, friendship, and adventure. In 2023, the production was only open to family and friends. This summer tickets will be available to the public.

Program benefits include enhanced collaboration abilities, stronger ties to the community and to peers, improved motor, spatial, and language skills, increased sense of self, and enhanced levels of creativity, problem-solving, and decision-making. Furthermore children who participate in the arts see improvement in their grades at school. For example, theater students typically scored 65 points higher on their SATs and 34 points higher on the SAT math component than their non-theater peers, according to the American Alliance of Theater & Education (AATE). Supporting children's creativity is good for them.

*Marco Island Center for the Arts - 1010 Winterberry Drive  
Arts Center Theatre - Marco Town Center - 1089 N Collier*

# 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

### **Kava Culture**

Marco Town Center, 239-919-7208  
Marcoisland@kavaculturefranchise.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 Elcam Circle, 642-3625  
5% off food, regular menu items only  
www.sandbarmarco.com

### **Snook Inn**

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

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



**First Pawn Jewelry & Loan**

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

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

**Linda Roberts Gallery/Marco Art**

"As Seen in the MICA Office"  
Marco Island art prints and notecards.  
30% discount to MICA members.  
Also 30% off non-Marco  
Island prints.  
www.lindarobertsgallery.com  
410-944-4440 & 410-302-2387

**Sunshine Booksellers**

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

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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.DSSHW.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**

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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.marcophotography.com

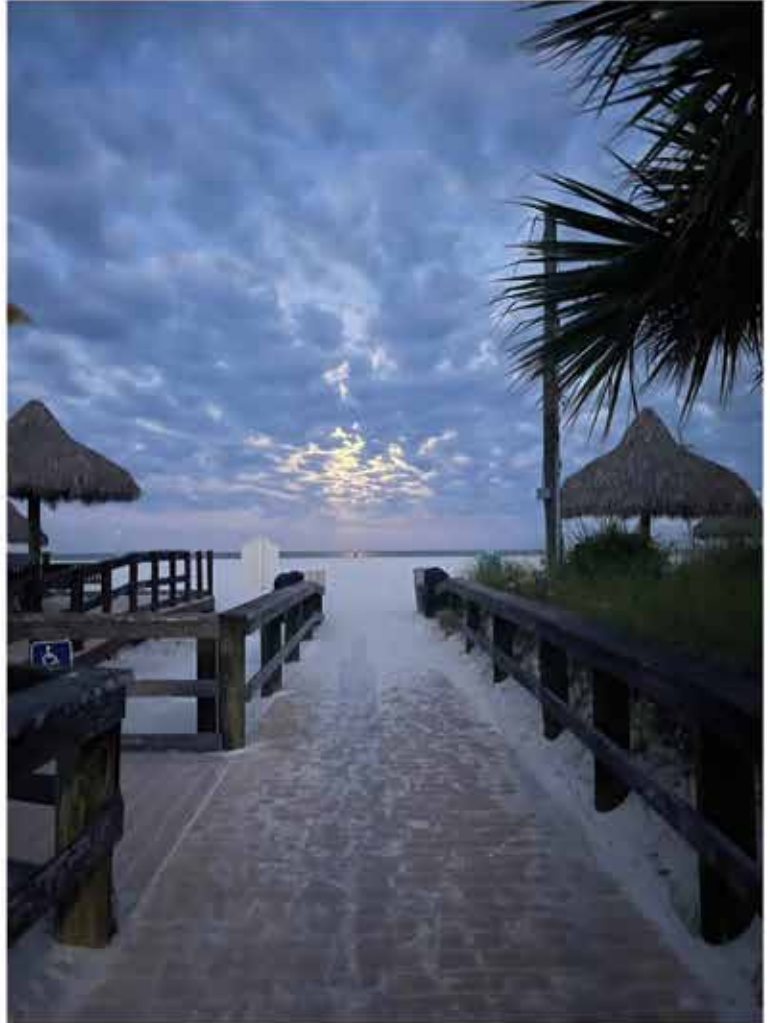
**South Made Marketing**

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.

# 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 and Left Middle Row: A compilation of Residents' Beach photos, submitted by R. Thompson  
Top right: Sun rise on Resident's Beach, by Diane Janco  
Bottom Left: April's Pink full moon, by Diane Janco  
Bottom Right: Resident's Beach path & sunrise on beach, by Diane Janco*





*MIWC gives to Vietnam War Memorial Sculpture, L to R – Debbie Rosen, Harry Weathers, Terry Kehoe, Maureen Chodaba, Maureen Chodaba, John Apolzan, Sharyn Kampmeyer, Lee Rubenstein, Yvette Benarroch, Lee Ross, Karen Caster, Anne Marchetti*

## MARCO ISLAND DOWNSIZING SOLUTIONS, LLC

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



### Services:

Decluttering/Organizing  
Moving Prep - packing/unpacking  
Estate Cleanout  
Reno/Construction Home Prep  
Storage Unit Cleanout  
Garage Cleanout

*We are here to help you every step of the way.*

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**WWW.MARCOMOVEMANAGERS.COM**

**MARCOISLANDDOWNSIZINGSOLUTIONS@GMAIL.COM**

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

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TAMPA, FL



# MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

**THURSDAY, JULY 4TH, 2024  
RESIDENTS' BEACH WILL BE  
OPEN TO MEMBERS FROM  
6AM THROUGH FIREWORKS**

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY  
WILL BEGIN AT  
APPROXIMATELY 9PM**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR RESIDENTS' BEACH ID CARD TO GAIN ENTRANCE**