

News from Your Collier County Commissioner

by Commissioner Donna Fiala

The design of the median landscaping for Collier Boulevard, north of the Jolley Bridge, is underway. The landscape design costs were funded by Collier County and the landscape construction costs will be funded by a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant that the county applied for and achieved in the amount of \$448,100. The landscape design will be coordinated with FDOT to assure that the landscaping does not interfere with any future construction on the Jolley Bridge. FDOT has advised that we may commence the landscaping 1000 feet north of the bridge. The landscape project limits are approximately 1000 feet north of the bridge for 1.4 miles north along Collier Boulevard. There will be a remaining 0.5 miles of grassy median before reaching the Hammock Bay landscaping on Collier Boulevard and the approximate cost to landscape this additional area is \$160,000.

I have begun talks with Marco Island City Council to request the city apply for a grant to finish the job completely to Hammock Bay. We'll work closely together. The landscape construction is scheduled to commence April 2009.

The Hideaway Beach beach renourishment issue will be coming

back to the County shortly.

When the job was originally approved, it was for the county to install T-groins along the shoreline and Hideaway would pay for the sand. At the time of approval, it was stated for "one time only."

The T-groins were installed where the engineers thought they were needed, leaving a large area protected by Coconut Island and without T-groins. Who would ever suspect that Hurricane Wilma would obliterate the island altogether?

Since that time, the beach has eroded badly and rapidly. Now Hideaway is asking the County to complete the job not included the first time. I have a few zealous people in North Naples who are enraged that I am even asking the TDC to complete the job.

They said one time only, no more. Well, for goodness sake... who would have ever expected Coconut Island to vanish? I feel the County needs to step up to the plate and get the job done. Hideaway is now hosting many beachgoers and boaters (rather than a completely private beach) and that is what the TDC funds are for.

It will be a fight, that's for sure. I plan to win. Stay tuned.

I attended a meeting the other night sponsored by a consortium hoping to build retail and residential along the

951/U.S.41 corridor. To this point, they have been denied approval to move forward because of traffic congestion. The roads just cannot accommodate any more traffic (this is called concurrency). These 12 developers have formed a group to work with the County Transportation Department to solve the problem, so they can move forward. The plan was presented to the audience for information and comments. It's a \$42 million fix, which will include completely redesigning the 951/ U.S. 41 intersection and widening the two lane section of U.S.41 East to six lanes for a distance, then drop down to four lanes to the end of their project. It's a very ambitious project with many dollars, permits and time involved, but they recognize the potential in that area and are pressing forward. Those involved include Kite Realty, who develops for companies such as Lowe's and Super Target. They can't say at this time who they are actually negotiating with, but they know the business that can be generated from Marco Island, Isles of Capri, Fiddler's Creek, Lely Resort, Treviso Bay, and more.

I just wanted you to know there is earnest conversation going on that will, hopefully, benefit all of us, bringing more retail and restaurants to the area. I'll keep you updated as I hear more.

District Droplets – Water Reuse Primer

Submitted by South Florida Water Management District/Big Cypress Basin



Growth Increases Demand

Southwest Florida is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, so subsequent water demand is also expected to continue growing. The demand for urban and agricultural water uses is projected to increase significantly over the next 20 years in the South Florida Water Management District. These water demands need to be met without causing harm to our environment and water resources. Within this region, every day, each person uses about 175 gallons of water! That's twice the national average. About half of that total is used outside the home, often wastefully, to maintain landscapes.

Water Reuse is a common-sense way to offset potable water use and accommodate the water demands of a growing South Florida economy. More than 100 water reuse systems throughout South Florida currently produce more than 230 million gallons of reclaimed water each day – the equivalent of nearly 15,000 residential swimming pools. This water is used to irrigate hundreds of golf courses and thousands of residential lots as well as to provide environmental enhancement and recharge of regional water resources across the District's 16 counties.

Water Reuse

Water reuse plays an important role in water resource, wastewater, and ecosystem management in Florida. It reduces demands on valuable surface and ground water, sources used for drinking water. Reclaimed water also reduces discharges to surface waters, recharges ground water and postpones costly investment for development of new water sources and supplies. Water reuse has allowed some communities to continue to grow where the availability of historically used freshwater sources has become extremely limited.

In collaboration with Florida Governor Charlie Crist, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) proclaimed September 9-15 **Water Reuse Week** in South Florida. Water reuse is an integral part of the District's water conservation program and a vital alternative source of water for the State of Florida. Currently, Florida leads the nation by reusing 660 million gallons of reclaimed water each day to conserve freshwater supplies and replenish our rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers, according to the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection.

Southwest Florida has led the state in implementing water reuse programs. All of Collier County's municipal utilities (Collier County, City of Naples, City of Marco Island, City of Everglades City) have water reuse programs. These Reuse lines easily identified given their purple color.

Reuse 101

Water reuse involves taking domestic wastewater, giving it a high degree of treatment, and using the resulting high-quality reclaimed water for a new, beneficial purpose. The resulting water is called reclaimed water. Extensive treatment and disinfection ensure that public health and environmental quality are protected. Reclaimed water can be used for many purposes including:

- Irrigation of golf courses, parks, residential properties, highway medians and other landscaped areas (even the Naples Zoo uses reclaimed water)
- Urban uses such as toilet flushing, car washing, dust control and aesthetic purposes (i.e. decorative lakes, ponds, and fountains)

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The Impossible Dream

by George R. Abounader, M.Ed., Principal, Marco Island Charter Middle School

With the 2007-08 school year, Marco Island Charter Middle School (MICMS) has begun its tenth year of delivering educational service to public, middle school age students.

At this ten year anniversary reflecting on some of the school's successes is appropriate. MICMS enjoys a wonderful academic reputation. Not only has the school consistently earned a grade "A," but it also has achieved "Annual Yearly Progress" (AYP), which is the federal government's "No Child Left Behind" program complete with 35 criteria.

A dedicated faculty and staff, an open-minded student body, and a challenging curriculum move the school toward these sterling academic achievements.

Another major accomplishment of our school, of which the entire community can be proud, is the brand new \$18 million facility that houses the superb and hard working faculty, staff and students. This new facility was built by a partnership between the District School Board of Collier County and MICMS. The school contributed approximately \$800,000 towards the project. This is the first time in the history of the State of Florida that a local school district has financed the building of a school facility for the exclusive use of a public charter school.

This new facility consists of a

two story building that houses the academic program and a single story building that houses the gymnasium, chorus, band, art classrooms, skills lab, multi-purpose room and TV studio. The campus is wireless and contains state-of-the-art technology equipped with document cameras, an enhanced audio system in each classroom that projects teachers' voices through speakers, computers, mimeo boards, technology porches, DVD players, LCD projectors, etc.

Moreover, the campus has a somewhat transparent security system with a single point of access. The public can enter the main lobby but can only reach the 400 students, all of whom are beyond a glass wall, by signing in and getting buzzed through the double doors by a staff member.

Once into the body of the school, security cameras, which are inconspicuously placed, silently watch. The hallways contain no visual obstructions, allowing staff to stand at one end of the long hallway and observe all the way down to the other end. Key exterior doors have magnet locks that allow these doors to be locked and opened automatically when the bell that signals the end and beginning of each period rings.

How do these magnificent successes materialize? Our local School Board members, all of

whom are islanders, legislate policy and are responsible for the finances of the school. They are ultimately the driving force behind these successes. The School Board would be the first to admit, however, that they can discharge their duties only with the help and support of the local community.

Parents contribute thousands of hours of service and thousands of dollars every year. The YMCA has provided their facilities and staff to the school since the school's inception at no charge. The Rotary Clubs have donated almost \$100,000 over the past 10 years and Kiwanis has contributed approximately \$65,000 in the last decade. The Chamber of Commerce, many local businesses and community members have heard our pleas for assistance on various occasions and responded generously.

MICMS is a success because of our community, and we thank you for sustaining the life of our school. When the school announces its dedication during this semester, please join us in celebrating this success story.



GARAGE DOOR REPAIRS
Sam Cimino's
GREAT Garage Doors
Quality is valuable,
but Experience is Priceless!
(239) 642-9050
www.greatgaragedoors.com

2007 MICA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

1. How would you rate the performance of the MICA Board of Directors?	Excellent -811	Good-1244	Fair- 149	Poor-28
2. How would you rate the MICAWAVE?	Excellent -836	Good-1274	Fair- 80	Poor- 5
3. In the past the City of Marco Island has granted additional density (additional living units per acre) to developers in exchange for one of the following items: traffic light at intersection, public walkway along bayfront property, 15 ft wide pathway to beach, funds toward road improvement. Should the city continue this policy?		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Undecided</i>
		288	1989	165
4. Under what conditions should the city grant additional density, if at all? *Not at all - 2276				
5. Do you favor the granting of variances that could have the result of increasing population density?		124	2376	58
6. Do you favor changing zoning from commercial to mixed use (commercial on first floor, living units on upper floors) which could have the result of increasing population density?		249	2188	95
7. Do you support City Council rezoning property for a use other than what is permitted and which is inconsistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map?		89	2286	125
8. Should commercial development be permitted on single-family residential zoned lots?		33	2473	49
9. Should the city insist that as older condominiums on Collier Boulevard are redeveloped that new construction not permit a canyon effect along Collier Blvd?		1920	391	133
10. Should public access walkways to the beach be closed after dark?		1214	1083	183
11. Do you favor a toll on the Jolley Bridge to facilitate the completion of a second bridge at an earlier than anticipated date?		435	1874	129
12. Should the City rezone Tract K (aka School Site) from "residential single family- 4 units/acre" to "public/community use?"		1345	790	418
13. Are you in favor of a city ordinance that would restrict rentals of single-family homes to a 30 day minimum?		1194	1226	135
14. Should the city provide additional bike paths?		1550	634	208
15. Should the City establish a canal/waterway maintenance program?		1423	567	380
16. Do you favor additional medical and hospital facilities on Marco Island?		1677	568	201
17. If a Continuing Care Retirement Community is constructed on Marco Island, when do you envision yourself entering it:				
	Never -1341	Independent Living-164	Assisted Living-428	Skilled Nursing -72
18. If you required a skilled nursing facility at some point in your life, how important is it that it be on Marco?			Very important-892	Not important-1480
19. If you required assisted living, how important is it that it be on Marco?			Very important-742	Not important-1378
20. When should Veterans Park (the Glon property) be developed?				
	Immediately-564	2 years-536	5 years-551	10 years or longer-508
Please rate the performance of the following:				
21. Marco Island City Council	Excellent- 186	Good-680	Fair-619	Poor-742
22. Marco Island Planning Board	Excellent- 144	Good-715	Fair-587	Poor-527
23. Marco Island City Manager	Excellent- 262	Good-723	Fair-518	Poor-687
24. Marco Island Fire Department	Excellent- 1129	Good-920	Fair-166	Poor- 23
25. Marco Island Police Department	Excellent- 943	Good-881	Fair-290	Poor- 84
26. Marco Island Code Enforcement Department	Excellent- 214	Good-903	Fair-615	Poor-335

* 96% of the responses were "not at all." A very small number of respondents cautioned that if a variance were to be granted, it would have to be done with close scrutiny paid to all details & should only be granted when an immense benefit was given to all the residents, such as a hospital facility, affordable housing construction, or an improved park.

7,166 surveys were mailed to members and 2,637 were returned to MICA.

Thank you all for your participation.

Where Are Those Pesky Sandbars?

And Other Important Boating Questions Answered!

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 95, has been offering boating education programs on Marco Island for 40 years. The mission of the Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety Program is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and negative environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats through preventive means.

Flotilla 95 is making the programs below available to the boating public. To sign up for a program or to receive additional information on any of the courses, please contact Doug Johnson, Staff Officer for Public Education at 642-8406. Classes are offered at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station in Caxambas Park and pre-registration is required.

Boating Skills & Seamanship Course (BS&S) - Oct 22-Nov 15.

This course runs for four weeks and meets every Monday and Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. This course covers: Florida Boating Laws; legal requirements for your boat; tips on how to handle a boat; navigation rules you must follow when operating a boat; how to read a chart and plot a course; common knots, bend and hitches used by boaters; weather patterns and how to read the signs of impending bad weather; and proper use of the marine radio.

GPS - October 23 & 30.

This class runs for two consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Navigation Basic and Advanced Coastal Navigational Courses are offered based on demonstrated need.

Hurricanes and Your Boat

This program has been developed to help you protect your boat in a hurricane. Please refer to our website, a0700905.uscgaux.info, for a free copy of the brochure, "Your Boat and Hurricanes in Collier County." This program will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Local Knowledge – November 6 & December 3.

This new program was developed at the request of local boaters who want to know more about the various waterways in and around Marco Island and the Ten Thousand Islands. Find out where the sandbars are!

Weather

This unique course is a must for boaters in the Marco Island area as it will help you decide if today is a good boating day and how to read the signs of impending bad weather.

MARCO COMMUNITY BANK
MCB
Now Open
MCB takes great pride in serving
Our community.
For your convenience, we now have
A Marco Community Bank ATM
located at Residents' Beach.
"Community" is our Middle Name
www.marcocommunitybank.com
Member FDIC

*Remember....
No Glass
at the Beach!*

Cafe de Marco

*Fresh Seafood
since 1983*

244 Palm Street,
Olde Marco

Reservations please 394-6262

MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION "MEMBERS ONLY" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The following businesses would like to say "thank you" and are extending a minimum 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members who present their MICA membership cards AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. These discounts are not valid with any other offers and are at the discretion of each business. Discounts are for MICA & Residents' Beach members' purchases only.

A. Pinto Self Storage

5% off self storage rental fee for new rentals & document shredding
994 N Barfield Drive, Unit 23, 394-1822

Adam Peters Construction Inc. Fine Finish Carpentry

10% off any crown molding job over \$1,000
www.adampetersconstruction.com
207-7650

Airboat Experience

Base of Goodland Bridge, 642-3141

Always There Home Health Care

After first month of service, deduct 5% discount on weekly billing. Not to be combined with other offers.
317 N Collier Blvd #201, 389-0170

Angelica's Boutique

Latest fashion in clothing & accessories including handbags, costume jewelry, shawls, sunglasses, belts, etc. Your styles at your price!
681 S Collier Blvd. 394-6632

Dr. Constance Aria

Licensed Psychologist
997 N Collier Blvd, Suite D
Royal Palm Mall, 394-5599

Autocraft

5% off non-insurance repairs
Present card prior to estimate being prepared
754 Elkcam Circle, 642-5309

Avon by Judy & Lucinda

10% Discount, 642-0297

Bayview Restaurant

Good at Bayview only, not at "The Bar at the Esplanade" - The Esplanade
740 N Collier Blvd, 389-4511

Beachworks

10% off excluding sale items
Marco Town Center Mall,
642-7777

Beach Unlimited

1001 N Collier Blvd, 642-4888

Blue Marlin Marine Construction

10% off seawall inspections
418 S Barfield Drive, Suite A,
642-4284

The Body Shop at Home

Pamela Broad, Independent Coordinator.
We bring the store to your door! Free make-up lesson when you purchase \$75 or more.
800-472-6082 or 394-7977

Jeffrey M. Bogan Insurance Agency, Inc.

15% off annual premium for long term care
261-6533

Cache Dry Cleaners

666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

Cedar Bay Marina

10% off boat rentals & .10/gal off fuel
705 E Elkcam Circle, 394-9333

China Rose Florist

10% off fresh flowers,
excluding out-of-town orders
678 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-6663

Cold Stone Ice Cream

\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake
Esplanade, 111 N Collier Blvd, 393-0046

Connie's Art Workshop & Gallery

10% off prints, photo to program & custom framing. 953 N. Collier Blvd, 389-2500

Critter Cafe

10% off all goods excluding dog & cat food
810 Bald Eagle Drive, 389-8488

Crystal Blue Pools

New customers take 10% off first 3 months' service
799 E Elkcam Circle, 394-8240

Dry & Clean Carpet Cleaning Inc.

Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning
642-0092

Dry Clean & More

1763 San Marco Road, 642-7222

Easy Street Moving

10% off total billing. 248-4136

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

10% off daily & weekly rates
Across from Texaco
717 Bald Eagle Drive #1C,
642-4488

Fabulous Faux Finishes

394-5747 or 537-1879

Fussy Fraulein, Inc

Office, construction and window cleaning, property maintenance. 10% off first service for new customers.
394-0562

GNC, General Nutrition Center

Shops of Marco, 642-3336

Georgie's & the Shoe Resort

Town Center Mall, 394-2621

Great Garage Doors

10% off torsion spring repairs
642-9050

Gulf American Marine Inc.

10% off parts
994 N Barfield Drive, Suite 4, 642-9515

Gulf Coast Jewelers

668 Bald Eagle Dr
(next to Subway on Collier Blvd)
642-9009

Gulfoast Painting and Pressure Cleaning

10% off all services. 642-1005

H.I. Studios, Ltd, Memorable Keepsakes

239-821-9458

Habitat for Humanity Home Store

11145 Tamiami Trail East, 732-6388

Holiday Rentals

10% off all crib rentals
394-6349 or 1-800-472-4064

House of Mozart Restaurant

151 S Barfield Dr, 642-5220

Island Jewelers

Specializing in sterling silver & gold
935 N Collier Blvd (near Cocomo's)
394-1475

Island Pet Sitters

10% discount on overnight jobs, 272-1659

Island Print Shop

10% off all printing-
excludes copies & typesetting
11 Front Street, 642-0077

Islander Pool & Patio, Inc.

559 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-4844
10% off patio accessories & pool toys

JetSet Surf Shop

10% off everything except hardgoods
674 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-5544

Jewelry by Laura

at the Marriott Hotel, 394-2511

Joey's Pizza & Pasta House

10% off entree items. Dine in Only
257 N Collier Boulevard, 389-2433

Kahuna Sailing Catamaran

10% off all trips, including Dolphin Explorer & Sailing Club & school.
1081 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-7704

Konrad's Restaurant

Marco Walk, 642-3332

La Casita Restaurant

1817 San Marco Road, 642-7600

Laminate & Exotic Wood Floors of Naples

10% off hardwood flooring material
2348 J&C Blvd, Naples, 598-0913

Little Caesar's Pizza

10% discount off regular menu prices
911 N Collier Boulevard, 394-4422

Lotus Blossom Feng Shui Designs

10% discount on first consultation
404-0678

Maintain Domain, etc.

Joan Jennings, 394-1971

Marco Community Bank

1770 San Marco Road, 389-5200

Marco Dental Care

Fred Eck, DDS - 10% off all non-surgical procedures. Free bleaching with new patient exam, xrays and cleaning at regular price.
950 N. Collier Blvd. 389-9400

Marco Island Floor Covering

Special discounts vary from product to product. 1711 San Marco Road, 394-1171

Marco Island Leak Detective

10% off Pool & Spa Leak Detection
239-200-6608

Marco Island Photography

10% off portrait sitting & finished
"Portraits on the Beach" by Peter Berec
642-3500

Marco Island Princess

Marco River Marina, 642-5415

Marco Island Ski & Watersports, Inc

10% off their water sports activities at the Marriott & Hilton Hotels, 394-4344

Marco Pool & Tropical Island Pools

New customers: 5% off monthly pool service for six months
537-3039

Marco Island Small Engine

10% off parts
47 Front Street #6, 389-0200

Marco River Marina

10% off retail goods-excluding sale items & fuel
951 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-2502

Marco Tanning Salon, Inc.

20% off all products
1000 N Collier Blvd #13B, 642-3646

Marco Upholstery

10% off cornices & headboards, not to be used with any other offers
919 N Collier Blvd, 394-8338

Margie's

Please present at time of purchase
137 South Barfield Drive
Shops of Marco, 389-4224

Mobile Tactics

20% off CCW & other private classes, by appointment
555 E Elkcam Circle, 866-662-4400

Ne Ne's Kitchen

10% off breakfast & lunch, dine-in only
356 North Collier Blvd, 394-3854

Nikken

10% off retail wellness products
651 S Collier Boulevard, 394-1580

Optical Boutique of Marco

Marco Walk #309, 642-4776

Chet Palys Screens

PO Box 801, Marco, 394-0310

Polished Performance

10% off initial service
Property mgmt; residential/commercial cleaning; home/condo monitoring; concierge services, 304-6350

Porky's Last Stand

701 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-8727

Prime Outlets

Discount pack at Management Office
1722 Isle of Capri Rd, Naples, 775-8083

Radio Shack

10% off any item in store
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5888

Rolsafe Shutters

10% off upgrades only
2403 Trade Center way #8, Naples
597-7717

Royal Palm Hair Studio, Inc.

10% off all hair products by Joico & Paul Mitchell, 981 N Collier Blvd
394-7800

Sailmaker, Bronwen McKiever

20% off do-it-yourself Sunbrella cloths, vinyls & cleaning products.
"The only sailmaker between Ft. Lauderdale & Sarasota"
350 Royal Palm Drive, 248-3169

The Sand Bar

10% off food. Regular menu items only (please present card before ordering)
826 E Elkcam Circle 642-3625

Scuba Adventures

1141 Bald Eagle Drive, 389-7889

Sea Tow Marco Island

10% off Sea Tow membership, 394-1188

Sea Gone Fishing Team

10% off all charters except 3 hr charters
www.fishmarcoisland.com 642-0657

Sealco of SW FL, Inc.

10% on any exterior repaint with premium paint package, 642-0906

Shattuck Lawn & Landscape

New customers take 10% off first 3 months service, 389-6244

Sherwin-Williams

15% off to MICA preferred customers
814 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-3236

Snook Inn Restaurant

10% off entire bill
1215 Bald Eagle Drive, 394-3313

Something Olde Something New

10% off any item not currently on sale
207 N Collier Blvd. 389-9700

Southern Comfort Air

10% off any repair or service work
642-6642

Southwest Marine

960 Chalmer Drive #101, 394-4168

The Spa at**Marco Island Marriott Resort**

10% off Spa & 15% off Salon Services
400 S Collier Blvd, 389-6029

Sparkle and Shine Cleaning

Maintenance, handyman & repair services.
www.sparklenshinecleaning.com
866-476-0575 or 239-919-9137

Summer Day Cafe

10% off vitamins. Town Center Mall, 394-8361

Sunset Grille

(at Apollo Beach Front)
900 S Collier Blvd, 389-0509

Sunshine Books

10% off hardback books
1000 N. Collier Blvd. 394-5343
677 S. Collier Blvd. 393-0353

Surf & Sand/Sweetwaters/Crosswinds

New Retail Shops at Marco Island Marriott
400 S Collier Blvd, 389-6051

Tiny Tikes Treasures

247 N Collier Blvd 389-1868
4776 Radio Rd, Naples 417-2742

Two By Faux Finishes

10% off master bathroom color wash
272-3090

Vantastic Tours

10% off up to 2 children's fares when each child is accompanied by an adult. 394-7699

Vergina Marco Restaurant

The Esplanade, 760 N Collier Blvd, 394-9822

Walkers Marine

Parts & service discounted 10% to customers in Walkers Marine computer
785 Bald Eagle Drive, 642-6764

Weinerdog Kids Toys

An old fashioned kid's store
1089 N. Collier Blvd, Town Center
www.wd-toys.com 389-0966

Discounts are only valid when card is shown at time of purchase.

Introducing *511

The Florida Department of Transportation's (DOT) free Southwest Florida 511 travel information service debuted April 11, 2007. Southwest Florida 511 is Florida's fifth regional traffic and travel system and the 34th to go online in the United States. The new Southwest Florida 511 travel information service provides free, real-time traffic information for 29 roadways in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. When Southwest Florida motorists dial 511, they automatically connect to Florida's statewide service. To reach Southwest Florida's regional service, they say "Southwest Florida 511." From there, they can ask for "highways," "airport," "public transit" or

"other 511 systems." The State-wide 511 service provides travel information for all interstate highways in Florida and Florida's Turnpike, with the emphasis on roadway conditions, severe weather alerts, construction updates, lane closures or other major incidents. It also connects callers to Florida's four other regional 511 services in Northeast Florida, Central Florida, Tampa Bay and Southeast Florida. Travelers can plan ahead and call 511 on their landline or cell phone. Traffic information is available 24 hours a day and it's free. Standard cell phone minutes and roaming charges may apply. Travelers can also visit www.SouthwestFlorida511.com.

Evacuation plans should include 511

When hurricanes and other severe weather threaten Florida, area residents and visitors can make Southwest Florida's new 511 travel information service part of their evacuation plan. Evacuation updates will include information about toll suspensions if they occur. Floridians should assemble a disaster supply kit before they need it. Kits should include first aid supplies and essential medication, at least three gallons of water per person, a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries. When it's time to evacuate, people should load emergency supplies into their vehicles and call 511.

Foundation Formed to Benefit Marco Firefighters

Marco Island firefighters and their families were honored on September 20 at the inaugural Marco Fire Rescue Foundation Luncheon, and by no less than the Lt. Governor of the State of Florida. The Lt. Governor gave the keynote address at the Marco Island Country Club honoring those individuals who have committed themselves to serving their communities throughout the State of Florida.

The new Marco Fire Rescue

Foundation was formed with the assistance of the Marco Community Bank and its advisory board as a way to give back to the community and those that serve it. Howard Montgomery, President of the Marco Community Bank was honored for his efforts by the presentation of a ceremonial fire axe by Fire Chief Mike Murphy.

The event was a sell out with over 165 individuals and businesses in attendance to honor



Marco's bravest.

Also featured at the event was a brand new Bourget custom motorcycle which will be raffled off to benefit the new foundation. Only 750 tickets will be sold for only \$75 each to win the bike and trailer worth \$60,000. Tickets are available at the Marco Community Bank or at the Marco Fire Department. The winning ticket will be pulled at Stan's on Goodland, November 11, at 2pm.