

MICA *wave*

SPRING 2025

www.marcocivic.com



A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association

RESPECT AT RESIDENTS' BEACH

by Ruth McCann, Executive Director, Marco Island Civic Association

This is a conversation most parents typically have with their child. Speaking to a young child, a parent might say, "you must be respectful of adults, remember to say please and thank you, be kind to people, never yell or touch anyone because you do not agree." The topic of conversation is common courtesy. Then the parent displays these features for the child to see firsthand.

According to Merriam-Webster, courtesy means, "a behavior marked by polished manners or respect for others." Practicing common courtesy sets a positive example for others, especially children and younger generations. Every day in all our encounters, we are expected to behave with kindness, courtesy and civility.

Daily living encompasses abiding by the laws of our community, clubs and organizations, and to respect our neighbors with the goal of harmony for all.

If you belong to a country club, there are rules. If you are a member of a gym, there are rules. If you join a swim club, there are rules.

There are rules for membership of Marco Island Residents' Beach. The rules are given to everyone who joins each year. They are also shown on MICA's website: marcocivic.com.

Each and every member is expected to abide by the regulations to create harmony for all. When someone enters the MICA office, he or she is greeted with a smile and a simple question, "how can we help you?"

Every member has his or her picture taken at the MICA office and an ID card is issued. Members also have the option to utilize the MICA app on their phone. Rule number one is to never give your ID to anyone to use. Only you can show your ID at Residents' Beach. After all, it does have YOUR picture on it!

Highlighted in the rules is the following: Members are required to present their MICA Membership ID to the gate attendant and to any MICA representative, upon request, while on MICA property. A secondary photo ID may be requested if the identity of the presenting individual is in question.

Any violation of the admission policy, membership rules or beach access regulations will be grounds for revocation of the entire Residents' Beach membership.

Do you think it is appropriate to zip through the Residents' Beach entrance with tinted windows up, without stopping to hand your ID to the gate attendant? Is it proper to run through the entrance and yell four letter words at the gate attendant who is just doing his job? Is it appropriate to put hands on a gate attendant and push him into the sand?

You most certainly answered "no" to the above scenarios. All of these situations and many others have occurred recently at Residents' Beach, creating an unharmonious atmosphere at best.

We implore you to read the rules of membership and abide by them. Pretend your children or grandchildren are watching you to learn how to live in a peaceful society.

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Cover Photo: by MICA Member Lucille Corva

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THE ART OF VOLUNTEERING: VOLUNTEERING FOR ARTS AND CULTURE CAUSES

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

Studies show that happiness is one of the primary benefits of volunteering - the more we give, the happier we feel. Volunteering is the selfless act of offering one's time, skills, and energy for the betterment of others and the community. Volunteering is a testament to the human capacity for altruism and care. When you volunteer, the benefits extend far beyond the immediate impact on the people and communities served; they also profoundly affect you, fostering personal growth, empathy, and a deeper understanding of your area and the world. It is also a great way to network, make new friends and have fun.

Volunteering for arts and culture organizations brings its own unique benefits. Art has the power to bring people together, create engagement and uplift spirits. When you volunteer your time and talents to an arts and culture cause, you can make a real difference in the lives of others. You can give back to your community, support the world of arts and culture, and explore your own creative side when you become a volunteer for a museum, art gallery, theater or an arts education establishment. The scope and breadth of volunteer opportunities is different based on the particular organization.

Your perfect volunteer opportunity is waiting for you. Based on your interests, you can search online for community theater groups, cultural organizations, and local arts councils. Check local online social media pages or websites. You can make a phone call or just walk in and let someone know you want to volunteer. A lot of community art organizations, museums, venues and theatres have limited budgets, resources, and staff, and your assistance is always appreciated.

How can you help? At a museum or art gallery you can give guided tours, serve on committees or work

on program and fundraising events. Office support is always welcome as well cleaning up and making the facility look better.

Community theaters need people to help build and paint sets and props, sew costumes, offer technical assistance with lighting and sound and usher guests to their seats on performance nights. Community theater relies on volunteer actors to make the productions come alive. Without the actors there is no show.

Arts education programs need volunteer support too. You can offer to assist children, teens, and adults learn more about expressing themselves through various mediums or performing arts styles. You can recruit new teaching artists or be part of improving classroom facilities.

You don't need to be an artist to lend a helping hand. The most important qualities are time, enthusiasm, and a willingness to help out in any way needed. Write letters, market events, organize schedules, clean up after a performance or art show, and lend a helping hand to make everything run smoothly. What are you waiting for?

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

YOU CANNOT DROP OFF
ANYONE AT RESIDENTS' BEACH.
YOU MUST STAY WITH YOUR
GUESTS AT RESIDENTS' BEACH.

HISTORY OF MARCO ISLAND WATER QUALITY 2018 - 2024

by Collier Citizens Council

In July 2018, Florida was neck-deep in the worst water crisis the state has arguably ever experienced. Record rainfall and massive discharges of polluted fresh water combined to help fuel a widespread water quality disaster across the state.

On August 22, 2019, the Marco City Council received a letter from FDEP with notification that the canals were impaired for high levels of nitrogen pollution. Marco Island then engaged a Dr. Harper to investigate this impairment and make recommendations. The recommendations from the “Harper Report” form the basis of the current city program to correct the nitrogen impairment called the “Matrix.”

Even though dredging of Marco Island was the #1 recommendation of the Harper report at a staggering \$189,820,000, Dr. Harper stated verbally (twice) that he did not recommend dredging Marco Island. Who made that recommendation? Harper did say verbally (twice) “take care of the reuse water first.” The Marco sewage reuse water contains high levels of phosphorus.

Marco has since come out of nitrogen impairment. What happened? Looking at the history of nitrogen pollution from the Marco Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), the nitrogen concentration in the sewage reuse water increased by 120% between 2009 and 2017. The Marco waterbody went into nitrogen impairment in 2017 and 2018 and, following the rules, was declared impaired in 2019.

In April 2019, during the Florida water quality crisis, Marco Island City Council convened a water quality workshop. It is reported that the sewage plant manager met with the city manager and one of the councilors. A decision was made to voluntarily reduce the nitrogen concentration in the sewage reuse water. By 2021, the Marco canals were out of nitrogen impairment. The Marco canals have been out of nitrogen impairment for three full years now and Marco Island is currently in the FDEP “delist” process for the nitrogen impairment. It appears that the sewage plant was the cause of the nitrogen impairment and the solution.



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Why does this matter? According to the Public Works Department Report (May 2024), future spending on the projects that make up the “Matrix” is projected to be over \$48,000,000. The justification for these projects is to correct a nitrogen impairment that has not existed for three full years. The momentum to spend money in the “pipeline” is unstoppable. Let’s not embarrass anyone. This is a gross misuse of public funds.

One thing about Marco Island water quality cannot be denied: The summertime oxygen in the Marco canals has dropped by 70% between 2019 and 2023. Why? The island has reached the limit of how much phosphorus pollution can be absorbed by the island sediments. Phosphorus in the sewage reuse water is now feeding algal blooms.

Phosphorus levels in the Marco waterways has been increasing for three years now and have now exceeded the FDEP impairment limits. Marco Island is technically impaired for excess phosphorus. If this continues for two years, FDEP will formally declare Marco Island impaired for high levels of phosphorus in 2026.

When the Harper Report was underway in 2020 and 2021 the canal oxygen decline was in its infancy. Dr Harper was focused on nitrogen impairment. Nitrogen was then high (bad) – and now it is low (good). Oxygen was then high (good) – and now it is low (bad). Marco now has an additional three years of environmental data that was not available to Dr. Harper. Water quality conditions have radically changed. The Harper report is not relevant to the current water quality problems.

Marco Island is now formally listed by FDEP as impaired for low oxygen trend. In 2023, Collier County Pollution Control recommended upgrading the five county sewage plants using Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) technologies that remove phosphorus from the reuse water.

The cost? Putting a nutrient “polishing” step at the end of the WWTP would cost between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000. Operating costs would be reduced in less chlorine used and no need to deep-well inject excess reuse water. This project might produce a positive cash flow.

In late 2022, the City of Marco Island issued a Request for Information (RFI) for Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) technologies to remove phosphorus from reuse water. There were several responses. In early 2023, the Marco City Council voted on a motion to hear from these firms. This motion failed with 3 yes votes and 4 no votes.

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.

Presenting *Magical Marco*
Thinking of Buying or Selling? . . . Call us First!

View Featured Homes

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FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS SERVING THE PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) celebrates its silver anniversary in conserving the wildlife and habitats of Florida and providing diverse recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The FWC became operational July 1, 1999, after Florida voters elected to replace the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Marine Fisheries Commission and parts of the Department of Environmental Protection with a new agency.

“I’m proud to say that over the past 25 years, we’ve made outstanding strides in our mission to manage Florida’s fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people,” said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. “Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly through many changes, and because of their unwavering commitment and passion, we’ve accomplished so much.”

Many of those accomplishments include enhancing and increasing our recreation opportunities including:

- The FWC and partners have grown the Wildlife Management Area system to include more than 6 million acres of public land.
- The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail has more than 500 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state that were selected based on their unique wildlife viewing opportunities and ecological significance, educational opportunities, access for the public and resilience to recreational use.
- Catch a Florida Memory is a saltwater angler recognition program that rewards anglers for their fishing efforts while encouraging them to target diverse species.
- TrophyCatch is a citizen science program that collects valuable data and helps encourage fishing and conservation.



- The State Reef Fish Survey helps improve recreational data for several reef fish species such as snapper, grouper and hogfish.

Other major accomplishments over the past 25 years include:

- Restoring the wild turkey population in Holmes County that had virtually disappeared by the 1990s.
- Developing the world-renowned Python Challenge, an innovative competition created to increase awareness about invasive species and the threats they pose to Florida’s ecology.
- Building the Florida Youth Conservation Center Network, a statewide group whose massive growth can be attributed to a thriving partnership with the non-profit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, a robust network of partners, and families’ need to get kids outdoors and away from devices.
- Establishing the Vessel Turn-In Program, which allows vessel owners whose vessels are at risk of becoming derelict to voluntarily surrender their unwanted vessel to the FWC. Surrendered vessels are removed from Florida waters and destroyed at no cost to the vessel owner.

The FWC and its staff would like to thank all its partners, stakeholders, volunteers and others who have helped make it one of the foremost conservation agencies in the country. We look forward to making the next 25 years even more outstanding!

PROUD TRADITIONS, WORTHY MISSIONS; US COAST GUARD CHANGE OF WATCH CEREMONY

The Symbolism of the “Missing Man Table” at the 58th Annual Change of Watch was not lost on the US Coast Guard Auxiliary members and invited dignitaries at this year’s ceremony at the newly renovated Marco Island Yacht Club. As a retired Air Force Colonel, Collier County Commissioner Rick Locastro spoke to the importance of tradition and service as it relates to the Change of Watch ceremony within our military services. Michael Massey and Frank Ciriello were sworn in as the 58th Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander, respectively, by Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz. Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, Joe Riccio was the morning’s master of ceremonies.

More than fifty individuals in attendance, including approximately two dozen Auxiliarists and their spouses. Also in attendance were members of the U.S. Coast Guard’s enlisted personnel who serve as liaisons to the Coast Guard Auxiliary; County and City Officials; and other local community leaders.

In addition to facilitating the formal change of watch, the ceremony was an opportunity for all of Flotilla 95’s Staff Officers - the Flotilla leaders responsible for managing key programs and departments - to be officially sworn in for the current year. Auxiliarists Richard Hurd and Frank Ciriello were also recognized as “Auxiliarists of the Year” in appreciation for their outstanding dedication to service.

As part of this year’s ceremonies, various speakers highlighted how Flotilla 95’s commitment to its mission of promoting recreational boating safety stands out within Southwest Florida. For 2024, Flotilla 95 - whose area of operations spans from Rookery Bay to Chokoloskee - ranked first in Division 9 for public education graduates



From left to right, Flotilla Vice Commander Frank Ciriello, Boatswain’s Mate 1 Hartfiel, Seaman Baird, immediate past Flotilla Commander Joe Riccio, Flotilla Commander Mike Massey

and second in the division for both vessel exams and recreational boating safety partner visits.

The ceremony underscored the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary’s proud tradition of service and continued dedication to upholding the highest standards of safety on the water. New Flotilla leaders Massey and Ciriello emphasized their intention to build upon Flotilla 95’s proud track record of success and commitment to upholding the customs of the Auxiliary.

Individuals interested in making a difference through promoting recreational boating safety can help advance Flotilla 95’s mission by joining the proud men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Visit our website: www.USCGAuxMarco.org.

For further information about other USCGAux programs, including complimentary Vessel Safety Examinations, or how to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, call (239) 394-5911 or www.USCGAuxMarco.org Saving Lives since 1939.

AN EXPERIMENT IN NATURE (1972)

Reprinted from Marco Islander, Summer 1972

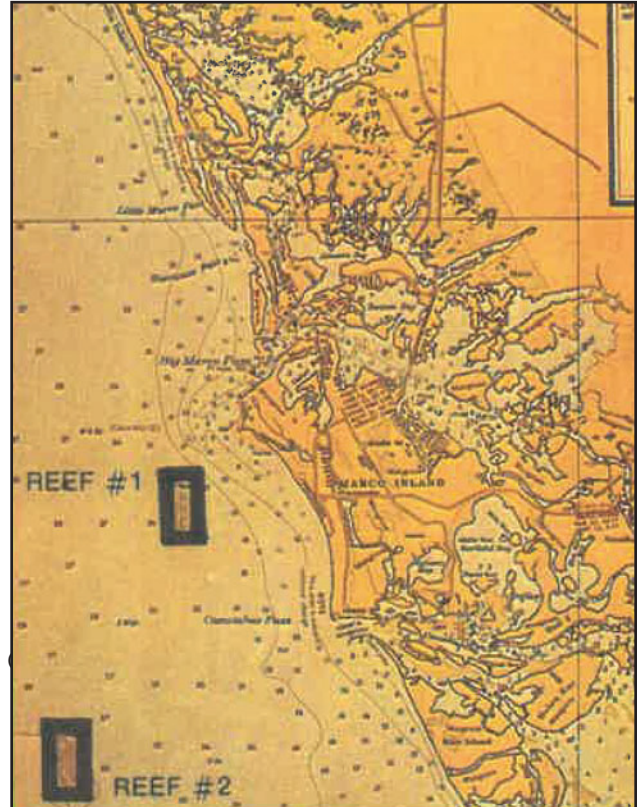
Construction of a gigantic artificial reef that should improve the already fabulous fishing is underway in the Gulf of Mexico just off Marco Island .

When completed, the reef will be a mile long and half a mile wide and will be the largest in the State of Florida and probably the second largest in the United States.

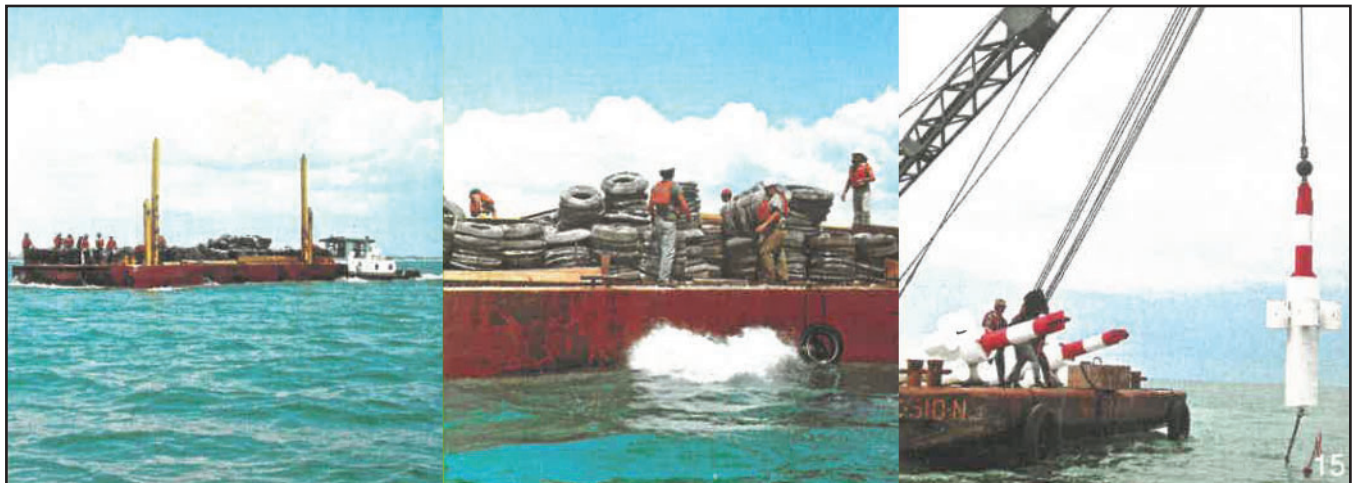
Located in some 20 feet of water a mile and a half to two miles off the beach, the reef is the first of three being planned as part of a long range environmental study and management program for ecological research at Marco Island.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company is providing The Deltona Corporation with 50,000 discarded tires a year for the project.

Approximately a dozen tires at a time are compacted and bundled by a special machine, also furnished by Goodyear. Concrete is poured into the bottom of each bundle to anchor it to the smooth Gulf bottom. Barged to the reef site, the tires are dropped in units of 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 bundles to an acre.



Original map of artificial reef locations.



Left: Tug pushes tire laden barge. Middle: Workers dump tires at reef site. Right: Red and white buoys mark reef perimeter.

Pre-reef fishing at the site has determined a catch of 1.6 fish per man hour of fishing. Future fishing and observations by divers at the site will determine the optimum number of tire bundles per acre.

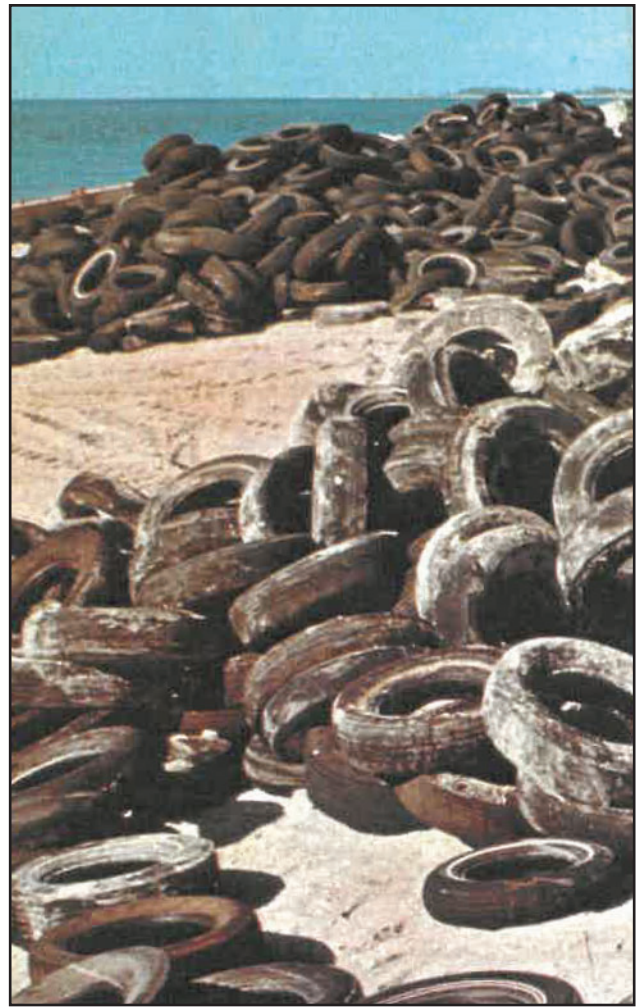
“The artificial reef has been proven a boon to attracting fish as well as fishermen for years,” according to Dr. Jay Harmic, research director at the Marco Applied Marine Ecology Station (MAMES).

“Essentially, it starts the fish food chain almost immediately. It provides surface for aquatic organisms to attach themselves to and shelter for the smaller fish. For the larger fish, as well, the reef serves as a reference point, or ‘home’ and as a food source too.”

A number of artificial reefs have been constructed in Florida and other coastal waters of the United States as well as throughout the world. Materials used have included auto bodies and other metal junk, broken concrete pieces, discarded trolley cars, sunken ships, and specially built concrete block houses.

However, tires have been among the most satisfactory as they are impervious to salt water and last indefinitely, they’re non-toxic and they begin to collect marine life almost immediately.

In the hopper Harmic and his staff have a raft of other experimental programs relating to fish and shellfish. These include the use, testing and observation of artificial kelp beds in various colors, wooden “fish houses,” lobster shelters and transplanting of mangrove trees.



Compacting the tires into bundles.



Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company provided discarded tires for the artificial reef project.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEBBIE BARKER

Debbie Barker, who many of you knew as the owner and publisher of The Marco Review from 1994 to 2023, and as the Layout Editor of the MICAWAVE, passed away on the morning of June 22, 2024.

In July 2022, shortly after losing Stephen, her husband of almost 50 years, to a heart attack, Debbie was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She bravely fought the disease through surgery and chemotherapy treatments while enjoying every minute possible with her family. Debbie showed nothing but grace and strength and was an inspiration to all she met. She will be gravely missed by so many who she touched with her kindness and thoughtfulness every minute of her life.



AUDUBON'S WILD FLORIDA ADVENTURE CAMP

Get ready for a summer to remember!

This exciting, nature-based summer camp at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is perfect for children aged 6-12 years of age. Running June 2 through July 17, each week features a different theme with fun, hands-on activities for campers to explore the natural wonders of the Sanctuary. Campers will discover the ancient forest and animals in the Sanctuary and along the boardwalk through activities that integrate science, arts and crafts, sports, water play, and more.

Teen campers are invited to join our Wild Florida Adventure Counselor-in-Training Camp, where they will gain practical experience in helping with summer camp and have an opportunity to collect volunteer hours for high school. CIT campers will also learn valuable new skills in first aid, leadership, nature identification, and working with children.

*Sign up for one week or more, but space is limited. Register today!
Scholarships and sibling discounts may also be available.
Learn more at corkscrew.audubon.org/summer-camp-25.*



MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES THE FLORIDA HOUSE — A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Was there actually a time when you could buy a ranch-style home in sunny Florida starting at \$18,650? Indeed there was. Learn all about it at the Marco Island Historical Society exhibit, The Florida House, and take a trip back in time. The exhibit marks and celebrates the 60th anniversary of modern Marco Island and the construction of the island's first model homes. Island Country Club Charitable Foundation is the presenting sponsor of the exhibit.

The exhibit opens at the Marco Island Historical Museum on February 25 and runs through June 7, 2025. A free, open to public exhibit reception will be held on March 13, 2025, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The Florida House delves into the fascinating history behind Marco Island's development that resulted from the vision of three brothers to create a showcase island paradise where people could live, work and play. The brothers were Elliott, Robert and Frank, Jr. Mackle who, with their company, the Deltona Corporation, created modern Marco Island.

Through an interactive app developed for The Florida House exhibit, visitors can imagine themselves in the 1960s buying a Mackle-built home, and can even put their own finishing touches on the interior. The exhibit also will include images, documents, publications, and objects from the Marco Island Historical Society's collections to share with visitors the nostalgia and color of this optimistic and adventurous period in Florida history.

Marco Island's Mackle-built homes can be traced back to the post-World War II "Florida House" that was crafted to entice Northerners to the Sunshine State. A period of relative prosperity and optimism followed the Second World War and Florida transformed into a vibrant haven for the burgeoning middle class and retirees seeking sunshine and serenity. With this influx of new residents came an unprecedented demand for housing and, by the end of the 1950s, homebuilding had become Florida's biggest industry.



PRESENTED BY
Island Country Club Charitable Foundation

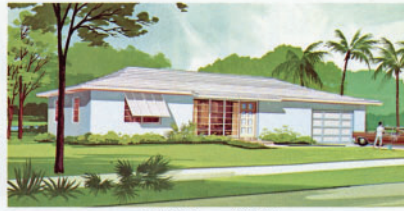
Marco Island Historical Society is mounting an exciting new exhibit, The Florida House. Opening February 25, 2025 and runs through June 7, the exhibit marks and celebrates the 60th anniversary of modern Marco Island and the construction of the island's first Mackle-built model homes.

Among the most influential of the homebuilders and developers were the visionary Miami-based Mackle brothers. The Mackle brothers had constructed more than 25,000 homes across the Sunshine State by the time they opened their Marco Island community in 1965.

Between 1965 and 1975, Deltona architect Herbert Savage designed 72 distinct model homes in the Florida House style exclusively for Marco Island. Promoted by Deltona as the "high point of over 60 years of southern building experience," these diverse models were tailored, inside and out, to embody the elegant tropical resort and leisure living the Mackle Brothers envisioned for what they called the "crown jewel" of their planned communities. Over 770 of these homes were built on the island, and a significant number remain today, coloring the community landscape.



TARTAN . . . \$18,650
1 bedroom, 1 bath, screen porch, garage



OAKMONT . . . \$19,100
2 bedroom, 1 bath, screen porch, garage



MERION . . . \$21,350
2 bedroom, 1 bath, screen porch, garage



PINEHURST . . . \$21,950
2 bedroom, 1 bath, screen porch, garage



CRUSADER . . . \$23,750
2 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, garage



AUGUSTA . . . \$24,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, garage



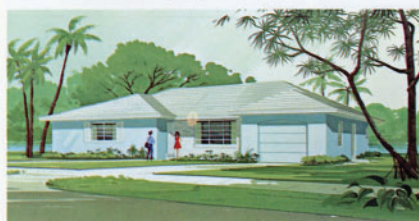
NAUTILUS . . . \$24,500
3 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, garage



CONSTELLATION . . . \$25,300
2 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, garage



GREENBRIER . . . \$26,550
3 bedroom, 2 bath, Florida room, garage



ADMIRAL . . . \$26,850
3 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, garage



CONGRESSIONAL . . . \$27,650
3 bedroom, 2 bath, double garage



CLIPPER . . . \$29,750
3 bedroom, 2 bath, screen porch, family room, garage



SEAMASTER . . . \$35,650
3 bedroom, 2 bath, screen patio, family room, double garage



CENTURY . . . \$45,600
3 bedroom, 2 bath, Atrium, family room, sewing room, double garage



VOYAGER . . . \$56,500
3 bedroom, 3 bath, family room, sunken dining, double garage

*Marco Island's 1968 Mackle-built model home line.
Photo Courtesy Marco Island Historical Society.*

The allure of the Florida House and its promise of affordable tropical leisure living drew home buyers from throughout the country. The new Florida House type modified the affordable middle class suburban ranch home with designs and features that suited the region's climate and emphasized tropical indoor-outdoor living. Within a generation, both coasts of Florida were transformed into a sprawling landscape of communities of Florida Houses populated by

middle-class sun and surf fans from across the United States.

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 and fully ADA compliant and accessible to all visitors. For information, call 239.389.6447 or visit www.theMIHS.org.



Are My Recycling Efforts Going to Waste?

BY: KARI HODGSON, DIRECTOR OF COLLIER COUNTY SOLID WASTE DIVISION



Where does my recycling go?

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

What happens to the non-recyclable materials?

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

Who receives the revenue generated from recycling?

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

Is recycling worth it?

In Collier County, yes, recycling does make a difference and Collier County leads by example ranking third in the state for recycling. Last year, Collier County residents recycled over 35,000 tons of material at the curb, that would have otherwise been landfilled. Most recyclables, like glass and plastic, do not readily decompose, taking up valuable space in the County's only active landfill. The value of recycling is in preserving our paradise. Recycling is an environmental stewardship that keeps our beaches, lakes and natural preserves pristine for future generations.

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

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

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

How can I help?

Collier County is ranked third out of 67 counties in the state with a recycling rate of 75%. Help us increase this rate by feeding your yellow top recycling bin this:



Make sure that recyclables are clean, dry and loose. Also, plastic bags are not allowed in curbside recycling. If you are ever in doubt, throw it out or call us at 239-252-2380.

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

PRESERVE OUR PARADISE REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



PEST CONTROL ALTERNATIVES

Brittany Piersma, a field biologist at Audubon Western Everglades, works on Marco Island managing shorebird stewardship, burrowing owls and gopher tortoise programs along with teaching the public on the do's and don't's to wildlife during outreach programs. She suggests some pest control and rat poison alternatives:

Ask your nearest reputable pest control company about Fertility Control (Example: Contrapest – Waiting for Good Bites once it is available on the market by Wisdom Good Works).

Please call von Arx Wildlife Hospital when faced with a nuisance animal or pest control issue at 239-262-2273 | 8 am - 5 pm (ET).

PEST CONTROL ALTERNATIVES KEEP WILDLIFE SAFE USING THESE METHODS



Rat Zapper Contained



GoodNature CO2 Traps



Snap Traps Contained



Detour Rat Gel Contained



Fertility Control



Cayenne Pepper Deterrent

Sharon & Dolph

**von Arx
Wildlife
Hospital**



If you find injured or orphaned native wildlife, contact the von Arx Wildlife Hospital at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida at 1495 Smith Preserve Way, Naples, FL. Call 239-262-2273 for assistance. Admissions open: 8AM - 6PM EST, 7 days a week

WORLD WETLANDS DAY HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

In recognition of World Wetlands Day, the South Florida Management District is highlighting the significant progress that continues to be made to protect and restore our wetland ecosystems and ensure the resiliency of our water resources.

DID YOU KNOW: The District and our local, state, federal and tribal partners work year-round to advance the world's largest wetland restoration effort - Restoring America's Everglades.

IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS: Wetlands enhance water quality, provide flood protection, provide places for recreation and serve as a habitat for numerous species, among many other benefits.



BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Wetlands provide many important benefits, including:

- **Enhance Water Quality:** Wetland plants help remove nutrients from the water as it flows through the ecosystem.
- **Protect Water Supplies:** Wetlands help recharge aquifers and groundwater supplies.
- **Flood Protection:** Wetlands store excess water during times of heavy rains.
- **Plant and Wildlife Habitat:** Wetlands provide

important habitat for native plants and wildlife, including wading birds and fish.

- **Outdoor Recreation:** Wetlands provide many recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy, including fishing, wildlife viewing, canoeing and kayaking, and more.

CONTINUED MOMENTUM: The District and our partners are working every day to accelerate restoration projects that are improving the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

We encourage you to visit [SFWMD.gov/Restoration](https://www.sfwmd.gov/Restoration) to learn more about the comprehensive effort to protect and restore the Everglades and safeguard our water resources – now and for future generations.

WHO CAN USE MY
RESIDENTS' BEACH ID?

**YOU
AND
ONLY YOU**

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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LYNN BRADEEN

Lynn E. Bradeen of Orlando, FL, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on November 3, 1940, in Kalamazoo, MI, he was the son of the late Allen “Cye” and Beulah (Maine) Bradeen.

Lynn is lovingly remembered by his son, Ward Bradeen, his sister, Beverly Meadows, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his three brothers; Marlin (Janice) Bradeen; Rex (Charlotte) Bradeen and Lyle (Rose) Bradeen.

In his youth Lynn was an avid hunter and fisherman, always embracing the outdoors with enthusiasm and a deep love for nature. A natural problem solver and visionary, Lynn brought innovation and passion to everything he did. His adventurous spirit nurtured a love of travel and throughout his life he explored six of the seven continents, with a special place in his heart for Italy, where he spent significant time living and traveling.

Lynn graduated from Michigan State University in 1964, and his career in construction began in Philadelphia, where he founded and served as president of Contractors of America, American Buildings Company in 1968. After relocating to Cinnaminson, New Jersey, Lynn’s leadership, craftsmanship, and unwavering dedication earned him a distinguished reputation in the metal building industry. He was proud to have built over 2,500 structures throughout the greater New Jersey area, and was honored to serve as president of the Metal Builders Association. In 1986, he was inducted into the Metal Builders Association Hall of Fame.

Beyond his professional success, Lynn was deeply committed to giving back to his community. Serving as Chairman of the Board for Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital in Riverside and Rancocas, NJ, Lynn spearheaded innovative initiatives that transformed hospital best practices and cultivated strong, enduring relationships among the staff, until he stepped down in 1989.

In the 1990s, Lynn began dividing his time between his home in New Jersey and his residence in Marco Island, Florida. His commitment to improving the lives of others extended to his role as president of the Marco Island Civic Association (MICA). As president of MICA, with the support of like-minded individuals, Lynn was the catalyst for the major renovation and preservation of Marco Island Residents’ Beach.



The success of Lynn’s visionary efforts and improvements will continue to have a lasting impact on residents for generations to come. In 2001, Lynn moved from Marco Island to Orlando, FL, where he continued to support MICA’s board, for at least a decade, notably supporting the construction of the new members’ pavilion on Residents’ Beach as chair of the Pavilion Committee.

Throughout his life, Lynn’s dedication to improving the lives of others was reflected not only in his public contributions but also in his private acts of generosity. He anonymously funded numerous college scholarships for underprivileged students, opening doors for those who might otherwise have been overlooked. Lynn was equally generous with his time and knowledge, always willing to offer business advice and guidance to individuals of all ages, mentoring with patience, and a genuine desire to help others succeed.

Above all, Lynn will be remembered as a loving father to Ward and a devoted brother to Beverly. His friends and family will fondly miss his quick wit, infectious sense of humor, and his unshakeable passion for life, art, and world travel.

Lynn’s life was a testament to hard work, integrity, and an unwavering love for those around him. His legacy will endure; a lasting tribute to a life well-lived.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FLORIDIANS

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, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is celebrating our 75th Anniversary this year! The District is highlighting our continued commitment to ensuring our regional flood control and water management system operates smoothly and efficiently to safeguard our water resources. The District operates and maintains one of the largest flood control and water management systems in the world. Central and Southern Florida's regional system of canals, levees, pump stations and other critical infrastructure is vital to protecting water supplies and providing flood control for over nine million people.

In 1948, the U.S. Congress adopted legislation creating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project, the largest civil works project in the country. Construction began the next year and continued over 20 years as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the massive flood control plumbing system stretching from just south of Orlando to Florida Bay.

On June 2, 1949, under Florida Governor Fuller Warren, the State Legislature created the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, the predecessor agency to the District, to manage the C&SF Project.

Today, 75 years after the creation of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, the District continues to operate and maintain Central and Southern Florida's regional water management system to effectively manage and safeguard our water resources, now and into the future. The flood control system moves approximately 20 million acre-feet of water per year.

Using state-of-the-art technology, District water managers monitor the weather around the clock to determine the optimal operation of hundreds of control structures located from Orlando to the Florida Keys. Our dedicated team of employees is working every day to manage and maintain:

- 2,175+ miles of canals
- 2,130+ miles of levees/berms
- 915+ water control structures
- 90+ pump stations
- Approx. 3,537 hydrological monitoring stations at more than 687 flow sites, including 201 rain gauges and 22 weather stations.



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



*Dredging of the Kissimmee River into a 30 foot deep
straightaway called the C-38 canal as part of Central
and South Florida Project*



*On June 6, 2024, South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Drew Bartlett presented a proclamation to the Governing Board honoring 75 years of service to Floridians.
Photo by South Florida Water Management District.*



Pictured from L-R: Board Member Ben Butler, SFWMD; Curtis Osceola, Chief of Staff, Miccosukee Tribe; Executive Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Diamond Bergeron, Bergeron Everglades Foundation; Board Member “Alligator Ron” Bergeron, SFWMD; Superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades National Park; Col. James Booth, USACE - Jacksonville District; Secretary Shawn Hamilton, DEP; Chairman Chauncey Goss, SFWMD; Rep. Lauren Melo; Violet Osceola, Student Business Council Chairwoman, Miccosukee Tribe; Chairman Talbert Cypress, Miccosukee Tribe; Board Member Charlette Roman, SFWMD; Ellin Goetz, Vice-Chair, The Everglades Foundation Board of Directors; Paul Backhouse; Seminole Tribe of Florida; Petties Osceola, Jr., Lawmaker, Business Council, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Incoming Col. Brandon Bowman, USACE - Jacksonville District; Maj. Cory Bell, USACE - Jacksonville District. Photo by South Florida Water Management District.

75 Years of Service, continued on page 20

75 Years of Service, continued from page 19

The District continues to make significant infrastructure adaptation investments to carry out its mission of safeguarding and restoring Central and Southern Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protecting communities from flooding, and ensuring an adequate water supply for all of South Florida's needs.

Recently, the District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida celebrated the groundbreaking of the first major feature of the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), the L-28 South Culverts.

The new culverts are part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and will restore and reconnect Water Conservation Area 3A with Big Cypress National Preserve and Lostmans Slough. This project is located in an area of South Florida where Water Conservation Area 3, Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park as well as the Miccosukee Alligator Alley Reservation all intersect.

The goal of installing these culverts is to improve the timing and distribution of water to re-establish ecological connectivity and restore the natural hydrologic conditions in Big Cypress National Preserve and western Everglades National Park.

At the end of May here on the west coast, the District and the USACE, along with many state officials and stakeholders, celebrated the completion of an important component of the Picayune Strand

Restoration Project. The plugging of a major canal, the Faka Union Canal, is now complete, marking another milestone on this project. It was one of the final components needed to accomplish the Picayune Strand Restoration Project's goal of restoring the natural hydrology of over 55,000 acres of native wetlands and uplands on Florida's Southwest coast. Three out of the four canals are now plugged.

This restoration 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. Some of the expected environmental benefits include:

- Restoration of wetlands that are already making a significant contribution to the landscape of Southwest, Florida
- Restored and enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife, including the Florida Panther
- Reduced drainage of adjacent sensitive ecosystems
- Improved aquifer recharge to protect underground water supplies and prevent saltwater intrusions
- Reduced freshwater releases/improved health of downstream estuaries

In 2009, the Picayune Strand Restoration Project was the first Project Partnership Agreement that the USACE executed with the District as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).



The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2025 with the plugging of the fourth canal. We are so close to completing this important Everglades project which will restore the hydration and ecosystem of this incredible national treasure. The Picayune Strand Restoration Project is near and dear to my heart, and I am so proud of the progress we are making on this project and all of the projects in South Florida.

The Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) Record of Decision was signed in August 2024. The USACE updated the Lake Okeechobee operations manual to define operations for the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule. New lake level management will be implemented in a manner that reduces harmful discharges into the coastal estuaries, sends more water south to benefit the environment and better meets the needs of the communities. South Florida Water Management District Board Chairman Chauncey Goss released this statement below.

All of us remember Hurricane Ian in September 2022. As we enter each hurricane season, it is important for everyone to remember that there are simple steps you can take now to prepare your home and help reduce the risk of flooding in your community.

By taking early precautions, you can protect your home and help keep water flowing through our interconnected drainage system. They include:

- Making sure drainage gates, ditches and swales in your neighborhood are clear of debris.
- Trimming your trees and removing dead vegetation in your yard. Do not trim trees if a major storm is in the forecast.
- Securing and storing objects that can easily blow away.
- Checking your community retention pond or lake for obstructed pipes and contact the appropriate authority for removal (could be your HOA, city, county, or local drainage district).

75 Years of Service, continued on page 30

"Historic. Collaborative. Important. We have worked for five years to get to the record of decision, and we are finally here. I'm proud of the South Florida Water Management District staff who worked with the team at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) was implemented in a manner that reduces harmful discharges into our estuaries, sends more water south to benefit the environment and meets the needs of our communities. I want to thank everyone who engaged in this process over the years, especially all of our stakeholders and members of the public who contributed to its development every step of the way."

*- SFWMD Governing Board Chairman
Chauncey Goss*



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY - AN ENCHANTED EVENING RAISES FUNDS FOR THE CURE

by Maureen Chodaba, ACS Publicity Volunteer

Imagine a world without cancer. The Marco Island chapter of the American Cancer Society did just that on February 7 at the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort. The 2025 ACS Imagination Ball, Enchanted Evening, presented by Paradise Found Restaurant and chaired by Debra Shanahan for the thirteenth consecutive year, raised funds with a mission to eliminate cancer, as we know it, from our world. It was a night of enchantment as butterfly fairies welcomed guests. The Palms Ballroom had been magically transformed into an enchanted garden for this black-tie optional gala. Guests enjoyed fine dining in the JW Marriott tradition, music by the Stacey Allison Band, and both live and silent auctions. Emceed by Lindsey Sablan of WINK News, it was a night of elegance and celebration of life.



Volunteers are the fuel of ACS!

The American Cancer Society is a volunteer driven organization, and this event was no exception. Volunteers for the evening included familiar faces from several local organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes, San Marco CCW, Kiwanis, and Marco Island Woman's Club.

Gala Chair and ACS Volunteer Committee Emerita, Debra Shanahan welcomed the crowd, sharing her personal story of triumph over the disease. Shanahan was diagnosed with renal failure in June 2022. She began dialysis and was pursuing



Gala Chair Debra Shanahan

Photos by Maureen Chodaba

acceptance into the kidney transplant program when her life was turned upside down even further by a diagnosis of stage 2 uterine cancer. Fortunately, her cancer was treated successfully with hysterectomy and radiation. She will be eligible to apply for a transplant once again when she reaches her approaching 2-year anniversary of being cancer-free.

Shanahan's story is evidence of the success that is being achieved every day by the American Cancer Society through funding of research. "Every fifteen seconds someone hears the words 'You have cancer,'" said Lindsey Sablan. "But someday soon we can end cancer, as we know it, for everyone." Live auctioneer Rick Gallo shared his story of surviving prostate cancer but reminded us that the fight against cancer must go on. He wears a lapel pin in awareness of multiple myeloma, a form of cancer that stole the life of his brother-in-law.

Perhaps the most profound message of the evening was delivered in the featured survivor and caregiver's video. Magen Hardardt was diagnosed with Stage 4 Her2+ breast cancer at the age of thirty-four. She is a loving mother of two beautiful children, ages two and four. Her diagnosis came out of nowhere, shocking



Survivor Magen Hardardt and husband Steven

her entire network of family and friends. Her husband Steven instantly became a caregiver, navigating the system of finding the right doctors who would provide the best treatments. He reached out to the Marco Island office of the American Cancer Society where ACS Senior Development Manager Sue Olszak provided him with resources that have supported the Hardardt family on their journey. Magen underwent chemotherapy, including a successful protocol that did not even exist fourteen years ago. Thanks to ACS research, this treatment has provided an abundance of hope in treatment of Magen's aggressive form of breast cancer. Chemo was followed with a double mastectomy and radiation. Magen was present at the Imagination Ball, exuberant with hope and vitality, blessed with Steven by her side. The Hardardt's love story inspires us to never abandon the quest to find a cure.

It was paddles in the air in the Finish the Fight round as generous Marco Islanders pledged their support of the American Cancer Society. All funds raised will be used for research, education, and patient support services in the fight against this deadly disease.

*Please join us in the fight!
We need YOU to help us make a difference!
For more information about the Marco Island office of
the American Cancer Society,
including opportunities to volunteer
and donate, please visit
<https://www.cancer.org> or contact
sue.olszak@cancer.org or
239.610.3032.*



An Enchanted Evening



Jill Sandberg, Allyson Richards, and Bonita Schwan



"Moose" and Mary Jo O'Regan



*Pat Hagedorn, Billie Maine, Pete and Darcy Guerin,
Bill and Roseanne Christ*

FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE ANNOUNCES RESULTS AND WINNERS OF THE 2024 FLORIDA PYTHON CHALLENGE™

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and partners celebrated a successful 2024 Florida Python Challenge™ by announcing the final results and winners of the 10-day competition. This year, 857 participants from 33 states and Canada helped support Everglades conservation by collectively removing 195 invasive Burmese pythons from south Florida as part of the competition, with the Ultimate Grand Prize winner removing a total of 20 pythons. The aim of the Florida Python Challenge™ is to increase awareness about invasive species and the threats they pose to Florida’s ecology.

“The success of the 2024 Florida Python Challenge™ was a collective achievement, made possible by the contributions of more than 800 participants, the dedicated efforts of our staff, the invaluable support from our partners and the dedicated leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis,” said Rodney Barreto, FWC Chairman. “Over 14,000 pythons have been successfully removed by FWC and South Florida Water Management District contractors since 2017. This collective effort continues to have a direct positive impact on the Everglades and our native wildlife through removal and awareness.”

Ultimate Grand Prize: Awarded to the participant who removes the most pythons as part of the competition	\$10,000	Ronald Kiger, 20 pythons
Most Pythons Prize	Professional \$2,500 Donna Kalil, 19 pythons	Novice \$2,500 Thomas Hobbs, 16 pythons
Most Pythons Runner-Up Prize	\$1,500 Marcos Rodriguez, 16 pythons	\$1,500 Donald Straughan, 7 pythons
Longest Python Prize	\$1,000 Quentin Archie, 8 feet, 11 inches	\$1,000 Dennis Krum, 9 feet, 11 inches
Military – Active Duty and Veteran		
Most Pythons Military Prize	\$2,500 Jeff Lince (Army), 5 pythons	
Most Pythons Military Runner-Up Prize	\$1,500 David Wagner (Army), 3 pythons	
Longest Python Military Prize	\$1,000 Antonio Ramos (Army), 9 feet, 7 inches	

“Congratulations to all the 2024 Florida Python Challenge™ winners! Our python hunters are passionate about protecting the Everglades, and I am proud of their efforts to remove these invasive snakes from across this precious ecosystem. Every invasive python that is removed makes a difference for Florida’s environment and its native wildlife,” said South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Member “Alligator Ron” Bergeron. “Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida has taken unprecedented steps to remove invasive pythons, protect our natural resources and conserve native wildlife. The great partnership between the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is critical as we continue to work together to protect this national treasure for generations to come. Long live the Everglades!”

The winners of the 2024 Florida Python Challenge™ were announced at the FWC’s Commission Meeting held in Duck Key. The Ultimate Grand Prize winner was Ronald Kiger, who removed 20 Burmese pythons, winning \$10,000. More information on winners and prizes for longest pythons and most pythons removed in the novice, professional and military categories, is detailed in the chart.

“There were over 700 competitors from Florida and over 100 from out of state, including two from Canada, who participated in this year’s Florida Python Challenge™,” said Roger Young, FWC Executive Director. “Thanks to Governor DeSantis and our many partners who support the Florida Python Challenge™ each year to bring awareness to removing invasive Burmese pythons from Florida’s environment.”

Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the FWC, South Florida Water Management District, and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida host the Florida Python Challenge™ to continue raising awareness about invasive species in Florida and their impacts. The annual competition also encourages people to get directly involved in Everglades conservation through invasive species removal. This year, Bergeron Everglades Foundation and Inversa Leathers each generously provided \$10,000 as Platinum Level sponsors to support conservation efforts in Florida through the Florida Python Challenge™. Additional prize funding was generously provided by Gold Level sponsor Edison National Bank/Bank of the Islands and



Silver Level sponsor Dakota Matting, as well as by the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida.

Burmese pythons are not native to Florida and negatively impact native species. They are found primarily in and around the Everglades ecosystem in south Florida, where they prey on birds, mammals and other reptiles. A female Burmese python can lay 50 to 100 eggs at a time. Since 2000, more than 22,000 wild Burmese pythons have been removed from the state of Florida and reported to the FWC.

In addition to the Florida Python Challenge™, there are other ways people can continue to help control nonnative species such as Burmese pythons. Anyone may remove and humanely kill pythons and other nonnative reptiles at any time on private lands with landowner permission and on 32 FWC-managed lands throughout south Florida.

The public can also help control invasive species by reporting nonnative snakes, tegus and monitor lizards to the FWC’s Invasive Species Hotline at 888-IVE-GOT1 (888-483-4681), and by reporting sightings of other nonnative fish and wildlife online at IveGot1.org or by downloading the free IveGot1 smartphone app. For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives.

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the FWC and other public and private partners to conserve Florida’s native animals and plants, and the lands and waters they need to survive. Since its founding in 1994, the Foundation has raised and donated nearly \$100 million to conservation and outdoor recreation and education. More information can be found at WildlifeFlorida.org.



Residents' Beach Members Only Concert Series -
Rock Republic, February 17, 2025





MARCO ISLAND WOMAN'S CLUB – THE JOY OF GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

by Maureen Chodaba, Marco Island Woman's Club 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.



MIWC President Maureen Chodaba



MIWC volunteers at the 2025 ACS Imagination Ball

I am blessed with the opportunity of being the 2024-25 President of the Marco Island Woman's Club. We think of ourselves as the “Mother Earth” of this community. We live with a mission to touch the lives of others in our community with kindness, volunteerism, and philanthropy. In 2024, we gave back to our community with a record amount of \$88,035 in scholarships to twenty-six amazing students living on Marco Island. We also gave to American Legion Post 404, NCH Urgent Care Marco Island, Marco Island Center for the Arts,



Breast Cancer Awareness Month Luminaria display for survivors and loved ones who have passed



MIWC Membership Chair Joyce Frame with new members Bonita Schwan, Cathy Mendygraw, Cyndi Varner-Bixler, and Susanne Grossman



Groovin' to the sounds of Rosetta Stone

Marco Island Academy, City of Marco Beach and Coastal Services, Avow Foundation, The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Our Daily Bread, Marco Island Historical Society and Museum, American Cancer Society, CCPL (Marco Island Public Library), Meals of Hope, Marco Island Cemetery (new flags), and Dress for Success. We have been hands-on helpers as volunteers for the Beach Cleanup, ACS Imagination Ball, Little Pink Houses of Hope, Camp Able, Meals of Hope Food Packaging Event, and so much more!

with a Luminaria display of survivors and loved ones who have passed. I shared my personal story of three generations of women with breast cancer in my family, including myself, now a 30-year survivor. In November, we learned all there is to know about our beloved burrowing owls with a presentation by Brittany Piersma of Audubon Western Everglades. December was a time to celebrate the holidays with the music of Rosetta Stone. In January, we welcomed Dennis Solon of the SW Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking where we learned about sextortion, the fastest growing crime in America according to the FBI. February was the month to celebrate our love of shells with a presentation by the Marco Island Shell Club.



Barbara Lialios, Anita Drake, Margaret Zurschmit, and Joyce Frame with the official MIWC t-shirt.

Our luncheon meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from October through May at the Naples Lakes Country Club. Each luncheon features a special theme and program presentation. In October, we painted the club pink as we honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month

At press time, we are getting ready for our annual Fashion Show fundraiser, Mardi Gras Masquerade held on President's Day, February 17. Every dollar raised will be given back to this community with scholarships and donations to other local charitable causes through the Marco Island Woman's Club Charitable Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Membership of the Marco Island Woman's Club is available to all women who live on Marco Island, whether you own or rent, full time or part time. We invite you to join us in our spirit of friendship and goodwill. Please visit <https://marcowomansclub.com> to learn more.

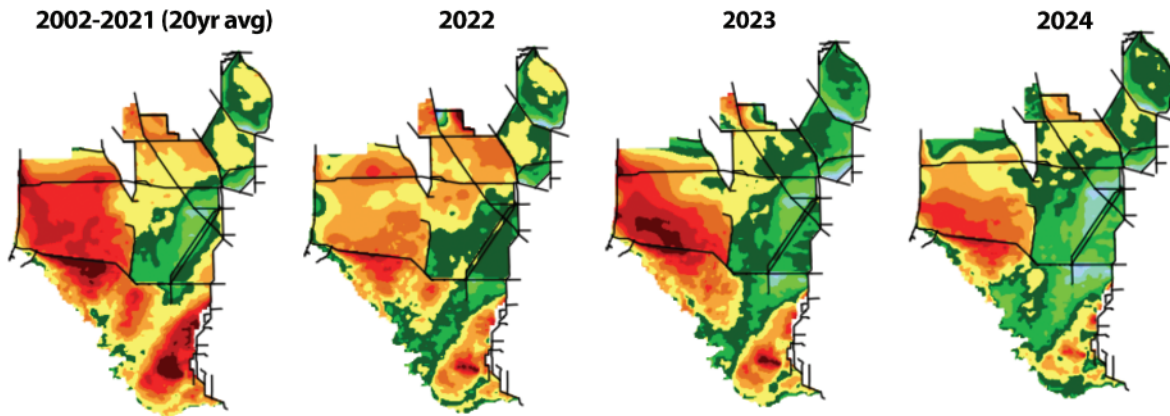


District crews worked to remove debris from waterways in Lee County after Hurricane Ian in 2022. The District team was dedicated to the recovery effort and continuously worked to provide relief to communities impacted by Hurricane Ian.



Pictured from L-R: Executive Director Roger Young, FWC; Executive Director Drew Bartlett, SFWMD; Florida Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez; SFWMD Board Member “Alligator Ron” Bergeron; Diamond Bergeron, Bergeron Everglades Foundation; Interagency Python Management Coordinator Zac Chejanovski, FWC; Nonnative Fish & Wildlife Program Coordinator McKayla Spencer, FWC. Photo by South Florida Water Management District.

May 1st



- Finding out who is responsible for drainage in your community. Visit [SFWMD.gov/FloodControl](https://www.sfwmd.gov/FloodControl).
- Making a personal hurricane preparedness plan for you and your family. Learn more at [Floridadisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org).

The District may take a number of steps to ensure the primary system can receive rainwater from local drainage systems. If a major storm is approaching the region, you may see canals or lakes that are lower than normal. This is because our water managers will temporarily “draw down” the system to create more room for anticipated storm water.

Stay tuned to [SFWMD.gov](https://www.sfwmd.gov) for the most up-to-date information when storms are approaching our region.

The District has local partners, state partners, federal partners, tribal nations, stakeholders, members of the public, contractors and more all working together. We are continuing to see both small and incredible large-scale projects come on-line; and the beauty of it is...Everglades restoration is working!

New data demonstrates the success of restoration and resiliency projects across our region - proving recent investments and momentum are working. Record water flows and water depths in the Everglades coupled with rainfall demonstrated that restoration can support healthy salinity levels in Florida Bay. Balanced salinity supports sea grass and spawning fish. The graphic above shows water depths over the years in two key locations, Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough. The improvements in

water depths over the past three years demonstrate that restoration projects and operations work well together to nourish the Everglades and send water south to support the health of Florida Bay.

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

I am honored to be a South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Member as we work on the largest ecosystem restoration effort on Earth. This is truly the “Golden Age of Everglades Restoration,” and with your help and support, we can keep this momentum moving forward for generations to come.

If you want to get engaged, make sure you visit our website at [SFWMD.gov](https://www.sfwmd.gov) to learn more about the work of the South Florida Water Management District. The District’s November Governing Board Meeting is going on the road and will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:00am in Hendry County at the John Boy Auditorium located at 1200 W.C. Owen Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440. If you would like to attend, please visit [SFWMD.gov/Meetings](https://www.sfwmd.gov/Meetings) for more information.

Connect with the District on our social media channels. I invite you to learn more about the District and the ways you can get involved by visiting [SFWMD.gov](https://www.sfwmd.gov).

VOLUNTEER BY JOINING USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 95, MARCO ISLAND

Why Join USCG Auxiliary? Are you looking for adventure while serving your country and your community?

If you are looking for some adventure in your life, consider joining the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Wherever your interests lie, and whatever life skills you have, chances are that the Coast Guard Auxiliary can offer you an area to serve your community that will enrich your life in ways you may not have imagined.

The Auxiliary offers you a unique opportunity to make a real difference in your local community and across the country.

We welcome and recognize your experience, skills, and talent. We challenge you to have fun learning new skills and qualifications in company with a very special group of volunteers. The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers several opportunities, but the tasks can generally be divided into three service areas:

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY: One of the Auxiliary's primary missions is recreational boating safety. This mission is accomplished by qualified members delivering Public Safety Boating Education training and classes, by providing voluntary vessel safety checks to boaters, by visiting with and educating local marine related industries, and by general outreach to the boating public through boat shows and other public venues and events.

OPERATIONS AND MARINE SAFETY: For those interested in boating, the Auxiliary offers a rigorous level of hands-on training and qualification as boat-crew and coxswain. Qualified Auxiliarists perform regular safety patrol missions in their local area and support local boating activities on-the-water such as regattas, fireworks & fleet visits.

In addition, the Auxiliary works side-by-side with their active-duty USCG counterparts in many other mission areas, including environmental protection, Commercial Vessel Safety Inspections, Port Security and Planning, Licensing and Documentation, and other vital operational roles. Auxiliarists receive training virtually identical to that of their active duty and reserve counterparts.

MISSION SUPPORT: The Auxiliary needs people with leadership, administrative and technical skills (such as web site design, computer server administration, graphic design, photography, videography, communications, public relations/public affairs, instruction and instructional design, and personnel services) to support those Auxiliarists involved in the recreational boating safety and operations & marine safety missions.

For further information about other USCGAux programs, including complimentary Vessel Safety Examinations, or how to join, (239) 394-5911 or www.USCGAuxMarco.org Saving Lives since 1939.

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary –
A Proud Tradition, A Worthy Mission.*

For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

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A LEGACY IN SHELLS

by Joyce Mullen, Publicity, Marco Island Shell Club

For over 40 years, the Marco Island Shell Club, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, has been a fixture of life on Marco Island. Today, 60 members meet regularly to further the club's mission to promote the study, conservation, history, and science of seashells and mollusks, and to encourage shell-related interests, such as shell collecting, crafting, and shell art.

Members create shell-based art, disseminate shell-related information to the public, and distribute educational scholarships and endowments to further the study of marine life and sciences. Our outreach includes programs for children and adults with the Spring Expo & Shell Art Sale as the culmination of our season.

We've helped inspire young people by bringing the Baily National Shell Museum's "Mollusks on the Move" program to elementary schools. Last year we supported Marco Island Academy's marine science classes, and we awarded annual scholarships to high school, college and graduate school students to help them continue their studies of marine biology and sea life.

Hopefully, the students we help now can have a big impact on our environment in the future. We share our love of shelling with the community via seminars

usually held on the first Friday of January, February and March at the MI Library. These programs are free to the public and give Marco Islanders and visitors access to notable experts from museums and universities across the state. Some of our members also make presentations to our neighbors at the Hideaway Buddy Day, MI Women's Club, Naples Newcomers South Club and each year we support the work of Little Pink Houses and their care of women battling breast cancer.

Our members are hard at work creating beautiful art pieces designed to highlight the natural beauty of local shells in home goods, jewelry, mirrors, frames, critters, ornaments, flowers and more.

We invite our neighbors and visitors to join us:

**Spring Expo & Shell Art Sale,
March 14th and 15th
from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at New Life Community Church,
489 W. Elkcarn Circle**

WEBSITE: www.marcoislandshellclub.com
FACEBOOK: [marcoisland_shellclub](https://www.facebook.com/marcoisland_shellclub)
INSTAGRAM: [@marcoislandshellclub](https://www.instagram.com/marcoislandshellclub)



SOLVING THE MARCO ISLAND WATER QUALITY PROBLEM

by Eugene Wordehoff

Oxygen in the Marco canals has dropped 70% over the last four years. Oxygen is the most important water quality indicator - essential to all aquatic life. No oxygen – no life.

Phosphorus is one of the watershed pollutants monitored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). As of October 2024, phosphorus levels in the Marco canals exceeded the FDEP limit. The Marco canals may complete the first year of phosphorus impairment in 2025. The indicator of algal biomass (CHLA) is also approaching the impairment limit. Marco is now officially impaired for low oxygen trend. The Marco canals are approaching “triple impairment” status. Not good.

What causes the low oxygen in Marco canals? Two data sources were compared. The city measures phosphorus in sewage reuse water distributed as irrigation water. The city also measures oxygen in fourteen canal locations. Comparison of these two data sets showed a strong statistical correlation between high phosphorus in the sewage reuse water and low oxygen in the canals.



Marco Island Algae. Photo by Rick Woodworth

What does science say about the connection? Nutrients in the sewage reuse water, nitrogen and phosphorus (think fertilizer), feed algae in the canals. Low levels of algae are always present. When the equivalent of 70,000 bags of fertilizer from the reuse

water are added to the canals each year, the algae population explodes. This is one bag of fertilizer for each canal every day. Decomposition of dead algae consumes canal oxygen.

Oxygen is dropping and phosphorus is increasing, indicating the existence of a major environmental problem in the Marco canals called “eutrophication.” No oxygen for the fish. No food for birds and other wildlife. Algae in the water column blocks sunlight and the seagrass dies – this means no food for manatee. The algae scum on the surface of the canals stinks and is toxic. No swimming in the canals.

There is only one source of phosphorus on Marco Island – the sewage reuse water! The Marco eutrophication problem is an unintended consequence of the sewage reuse program implemented to save the Florida aquifer.

The solution? Cleaning the nitrogen and phosphorus out of the sewage reuse water will eliminate this pollution at the Source. In late 2022, the city of Marco Island issued a Request for Information (RFI) for technologies to clean nutrients out of reuse water. One of the responses was from a firm used by FDEP to prevent a major environmental catastrophe at Piney Point (the equipment was installed in 17 days by a firm called NuQuatics). The cost to “polish” 97% of the nutrients out of the Marco sewage reuse water was estimated to be between \$3-5M. A lease option might be available. A grant from the FDEP Innovative Technologies Portal might cover 100% of the cost. A “shovel ready” project.

There is substantial public support for this solution. Several boards have issued letters to the Marco City Council supporting this project: Marco Island Civic Association (MICA), Marco Sportfishing Club, Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron (MISPS), Clean Marco Waters, LLC, and Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS).

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ROOKERY BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

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

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center 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! The hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-12 and 3 and under are free.

Rookery Bay Boat and Kayak Eco-Tours

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 or call 239-530-5972 for more information.



Volunteer Barbara Faha, with guests Melonie, Charlie, Elizabeth and Dan learning hands on at the touch tank inside the Environmental Learning Center at Rookery Bay



APRIL AND MAY 2025 EVENTS

Signature Rookery Bay Research Reserve Event: Rookery Bay Community Day Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

FREE Admission All Day

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center

Mark Saturday, May 3rd on your calendar for Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's FREE Day of coastal fun – Rookery Bay Community Day! The annual FREE event will feature family fun for everyone. Rookery Bay is yours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect! There will be something for everyone in the family - kayak demos on the water, boat rides, art, kids' crafts and activities, face painting, photo booths, food trucks, nature and wildlife exhibits, marine-life touch tank, boat tours, art gallery exhibit and FREE admission all day to the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. It's the perfect opportunity to learn more about the coastal environment as well as the research and conservation taking place at Rookery Bay including sea turtle monitoring, shark research, shorebird monitoring, water quality, natural history, indigenous peoples and pioneers that inhabited the area long ago.



Forest Bathing is a slow, quiet, guided-sensory and meditative experience to connect with nature and yourself

Essentials of Digital Photography Workshop April 19 & May 17, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
\$55, Registration is required

If you want to get the best pictures possible and a 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.

Forest Bathing at Rookery Bay April 5, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
\$50, Registration is required

Enjoy a slow, quiet, guided-sensory and meditative experience in nature at Rookery Bay Research Reserve. A Certified Forest Bathing Guide will conduct a guided-meditation session and offer a series of invitations to use your curiosity and senses to connect with nature and yourself. Look, listen, smell and feel what the forest is offering you.

Lunch & Learn Lecture Series: Spotlighting Rookery Bay's Environmental Partners

12 – 1 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
\$20, includes buffet lunch from Carrabba's Italian Grille and complimentary admission to the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center.
Registration is required

Please join Rookery Bay for one or all the 2024-2025 Lunch & Learn Lecture series presented in Rookery Bay's auditorium. This year's series spotlights environmental partners who work together with Rookery Bay Research Reserve staff to preserve and protect the land, water and wildlife of Southwest Florida.

Rookery Bay Events, Continued on page 38

Rookery Bay Events, Continued from page 37

April 10, 2025 - “Burmese Pythons” by Ian Bartoszek, Science Coordinator, Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

May 1, 2025 - “Preserving Archaeological Sites” by Natalie A. De La Torre Salas, MA, RPA, Public Archaeology Coordinator, SW Region FL Public Archaeology Network (Florida Atlantic University Anthropology Department).



Ian Bartoszek, Science Coordinator, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, displaying his Burmese Python find

Watercolors & Wildlife: Painting with Jan

April 8 – Sea Star 12:30 – 3 p.m.

April 17 – Sea Star 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

May 13 – Mangroves 12:30 – 3 p.m.

May 15 – Mangroves 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
\$85, (includes all materials) Registration is required

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



*Watercolor and Wildlife:
Painting with local artist Jan Deswick*

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.

**Birding with Biologists Workshop –
(For Beginners)**

April 3, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

\$30, Registration is required

Enjoy this fun and informative class designed to help you identify birds around you. Oriented toward the beginning birder, this workshop explores how to use birds’ plumage, shape, behavior and habitat to recognize various species. Practice using your binoculars and field guides as you tour the paved paths of Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park, led by local expert biologists from Audubon Florida and Rookery Bay Research Reserve.

Event Registration Required.

Call 239-530-5972, or visit

[https://rookerybay.org/events/Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](https://rookerybay.org/events/RookeryBayEnvironmentalLearningCenter) is located at

300 Tower Rd., Naples, FL 34113. RookeryBay.org

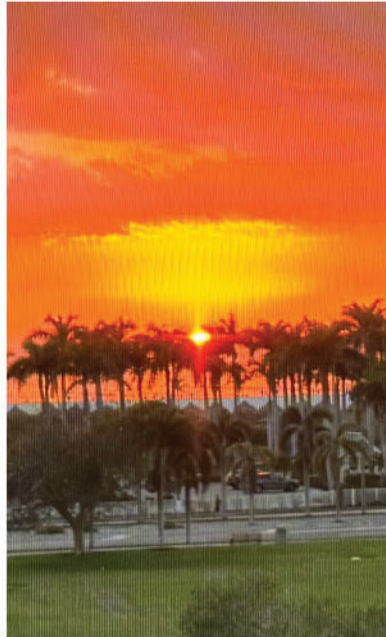
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 9am – 4pm.

Adults: \$10. Children Ages 4-12: \$5. Children Under 3: FREE. Friends of Rookery Bay members: FREE.

Active & Retired Military personnel and family: FREE

RESIDENTS' BEACH PHOTOS - Member submitted photos

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



Top Left: Buck moon before sunrise, by Diane Janco
Middle left: Sunrise on Resident's Beach, by Diane Janco
Top Middle: Sunset over Residents Beach taken from The Sands, by Diane Janco
Top right: Sunrise on Resident's Beach, by Diane Janco
Bottom: A beautiful sunset on the beach, submitted by Miles Blunt

A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN

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

For so many families in Collier County, rising costs for housing, groceries and basic necessities have made it impossible to get ahead. More than 60% of renters in Collier County are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. That's one reason why so many who work in Collier County are forced to live elsewhere. In fact, more than 50,000 workers, nearly 40% of our workforce, live in other counties. Those who do reside here are often forced to live in overpriced, untenable conditions, sometimes moving in with others so rent becomes a little more affordable. We see families having just one bedroom in an apartment where mom, dad, and the children sleep and keep all of their possessions. Sometimes they even share just one bed. Each family shares a kitchen, bathroom, and living space with the other families. This is embarrassing and intimidating, especially for children. They do not have the privacy and security that they deserve.

One mom, Yuleidy, was experiencing hardships like this, trying to find a safe, affordable place to live with her teenage daughters. To them, home has always meant family. Yuleidy grew up in Naples, but the high cost of rent here made finding a place of their own feel impossible—until Yuleidy discovered Habitat for Humanity. Her determination throughout the application process was evident, and soon, she and her daughters were accepted into the Habitat program.

When they applied, Yuleidy and her daughters were sharing space in a home with extended family. Though grateful for their support, they knew this was not a permanent solution. The house was overcrowded with some elder family members struggling with health issues. Yuleidy longed for a home where her daughters could have the space and stability they needed to thrive. Even though they were living with family, the situation wasn't sustainable. When Yuleidy applied for a Habitat home she wrote, "I want a stable home for my



This spring, Yuleidy and her daughters will move into their very own Habitat home

children, and I don't want to be a burden on my family."

Despite the challenges of their living situation, Yuleidy remained focused on creating a better future. She is employed at the Publix on Marco Island in the produce department, a job she has held for two years. She is in training for a promotion. Her daughters are excelling in school, earning A's and B's at Golden Gate High and Golden Gate Middle Schools.

This spring, Yuleidy and her daughters will move into their very own Habitat home in the community of Majestic Place. For the first time, her daughters will have their own space to grow, study, and dream. Yuleidy will have the peace of mind that comes with knowing her daughters are safe in a home that belongs to them. When completed in 2026, the beautiful community of Majestic Place will be home to 109 grateful families like this one.

Habitat Collier remains the only option for affordable homeownership in our community. Since our founding in 1978, thanks to our friends in Collier County, especially those on Marco Island, we have helped more than 2,600 families - with 6,200 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 ReStores, 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. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea at amckenna@habitatcollier.org

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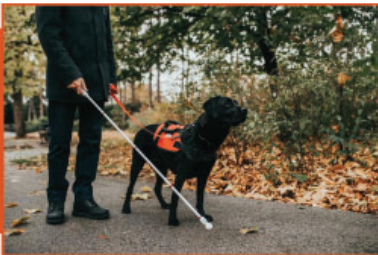

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 DUE TO HYGIENE AND SANITARY REASONS, ONLY REAL SERVICE ANIMALS
 CAN ENTER OUR PREMISES.**

**UNDER THE ADA, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, THERAPY, COMFORT, OR COMPANION ANIMALS
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FRIENDS OF TIGERTAIL REPORT

by Allie Delventhal, Friends of Tigertail

Friends of Tigertail hosts quarterly beach clean-ups. The most recent on December 7th, 2024, included 20 students and 16 adults who retrieved 60lbs of trash and 40lbs of recycle materials. The next event will be March 22nd, at 8am in association with Collier County and Keep Collier Beautiful. Entitled "The Great American Clean-up," many local coastal areas will participate. Since 2006, the Tigertail Beach Clean-ups have collected over 3.5 tons of trash.



On January 11th, the group hosted the first two 2025 Breakfast and Birds presentations. Despite inclement weather, 19 participants enjoyed seeing many avian species on the lagoon beach, enabling them to practice bird identification techniques. The next presentation will be on Saturday, March 15th at 10am.

The building housing the bathrooms and ranger office is scheduled to be demolished and rebuilt this year. Once completed, county officials are hoping to secure another food vendor.

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. The Marco Island office is in the process of being razed and rebuilt.

For more information, visit colliertaxcollector.com.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ANTHONY AND CAROLINE COSTANTINO FOR TAKING
THIS PICTURE OF THE DOME HOME THAT HAS BEEN CHOSEN
TO APPEAR ON NEXT YEAR'S RESIDENTS' BEACH ID CARD**

*MICA,
Thank you very much for choosing the photo
I submitted for this year's Residents Beach ID card.
My wife Caroline and I have been full time
residents on Marco Island for 23 years.*

*The photo of the Dome Home was taken on one of
our many past boating excursions to Cape Romano.
The pristine and secluded tropical beaches make our
island a true boater's and nature lover's paradise.*



*Thank You
Anthony and Caroline Costantino*

BEACH CLEAN-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 ANNUAL BAY DAYS	8 AM	TIGERTAIL BEACH
SATURDAY, APRIL 5	8 AM	SOUTH BEACH
SATURDAY, MAY 17	8 AM	SOUTH BEACH
SATURDAY, JUNE 14	8 AM	SOUTH BEACH
SATURDAY, JULY 5 QUARTERLY BEACH CLEAN-UP	8 AM	TIGERTAIL BEACH

For more information, please contact City Staff Liaison at 239.389.3949

Friends of the Library present

WEAVING A TALE OF
MARCO ISLAND HISTORY
PIONEER AND MODERN



MARCH 27, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

*Marco Island Library Rose Hall
Marco Island Florida*

Betsy Perdichizzi, local historian, author and publisher of seven historical fiction and non-fiction books about the pioneers of Marco Island, will speak in Rose Hall on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Marco Island Library. Perdichizzi will relate the untold story of being inspired to start recording old timers' oral histories of Marco Island after attending author Douglas Waitley's lecture on "The Last Paradise" at Eagle Creek in 1989.

Join us to hear the story of our beautiful island on March 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

*Refreshments will be served
ALL ARE WELCOME*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry Celebrates 9 Years of Fighting Hunger and Inspiring Hope

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (ODBFP) proudly marks a significant milestone - nine years of dedicated service to Marco Island and surrounding communities. Since its founding in 2016, ODBFP has remained steadfast in its mission to fight hunger, bring hope, and nourish families across southern Collier County.

Reflecting on the journey, Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Executive Director of ODBFP, shared her heartfelt gratitude, “We celebrate nine incredible years of impact, growth, and community support. None of this would be possible without our volunteers, donors, and partners who have stood by us every step of the way. Together, we’ve built more than a pantry - we’ve built a lifeline of food, encouragement, and hope for families in need. Here’s to many more years of serving our community with compassion and purpose.”

Over the past nine years, ODBFP has expanded its reach and programs to address growing needs. From its beginnings as a grassroots initiative, the pantry now operates six days a week, including a robust mobile pantry service. Together, these efforts provide food assistance to over 1,000 households each week through 14 distribution opportunities each month.

This milestone serves as both a celebration of past accomplishments and a call to action for the future. ODBFP remains committed to wiping out hunger and invites the community to join its mission by volunteering, donating, or becoming a partner. Together we can ensure that no family in southern Collier County goes hungry.

The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) partners with ODBFP at Members Concerts, where donations of money and food are gratefully accepted. Look for the ODBFP table at the upcoming concerts at Residents’ Beach!



2025 Rhinestone Rodeo Gala Committee

OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY WILL
BE COLLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS
AT MICA'S CONCERTS AT RESIDENTS'
BEACH ON MARCH 30TH AND APRIL 27TH



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LETTER FROM A THANKFUL MEMBER

Dear MICA Board of Directors and Staff,

Two weeks ago I was at Residents' Beach when I locked my keys in my car, along with my phone. I went to the shed and Julio let me use the phone where I called the police. The police were not able to help me, and my house was too far away to walk to for my extra set of keys. Julio was getting off of work and offered to drive me home to get my extra set and drove me back to my car. He went way above and beyond to help me.

Without his help I don't know what I was going to do.

I am so happy to be a member of MICA and a resident of Marco Island. Julio was very kind and I hope all your employees are just as nice and helpful as Julio!

Thank you
 Lisa S

Residential Curbside Collection

Service include:

- Twice-a-week Household Waste curbside collection.
- Once-a-week Recycling, Yard Waste, and Bulky Items collection.

Call (239) 252-2380 to schedule collection of appliances, electronics, standard vehicle tires, or vehicle batteries.



Cart Out By 6 a.m.

on collection day & removed by 6 a.m. the following day. Pick-up can occur any time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Space Carts & Materials

3ft apart from each other, mailboxes, and other obstacles.



Cart Repairs/Replacement

call (239) 252-2380 and follow prompts.

There will be **no curbside services** on Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

There are **no make-up days**. If your collection falls on one of these holidays, your trash, recycling, bulky items and yard waste will be collected on your next scheduled day.



Bring batteries, polystyrene foam, paint, and other household hazardous waste to a County drop-off center for proper disposal.



Visit colliercountyfl.gov/collection for more information

LETTER FROM A MEMBER

Dear MICA Board of Directors and Staff,

I attended my first MICA yearly meeting on 01/29/25.

In these uncertain times all of you have seemed to adapt to the facility and learn to balance and recognize patterns and opportunities in adopting a holistic perspective and creating a culture that encourages innovation.

It was also apparent that the MICA team fosters an environment where members feel comfortable discussing uncertainty and change, encouraging open dialogue about concerns and ideas.

I commend and thank Team MICA for your continued efforts to make MICA and Residents' Beach spectacular.

Michael Forcella

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MICA Board & Staff Members Assisted at Lunch with Friends, November 2024

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 CIVIC ASSOCIATION "MEMBERS ONLY" DISCOUNT PROGRAM

DINING

Present discount card before ordering

CJ's on the Bay, Esplanade

www.cjsonthebay.com 389-4511

10% off your bill, excluding Happy Hour beverages.

Not available on Holidays

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Esplanade, 393-0046

\$1 off purchase or \$3 off ice cream cake

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15% off at this Phelan Family Brands location

Esplanade, 239-235-7497

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www.dolcemaresweets.com

Island Hideout

2 Marco Lake Drive, 239-970-0812

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Marcoisland@kavaculturefranchise.com

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10% off Haircut, Blow dry and Style with Kaydee or Linda

10% off Acupuncture with Barbara, any massage therapy

session, Cyro Treatment for face or body, Tixel Treatment &

facials with Krista,

10% off Salon retail hair products

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,

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www.alwaystherehomehealthcare.com

Better Balanced Living

In-home massage therapy & pilates training

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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

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

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

First Pawn Jewelry & Loan

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

Keep In Touch, Shops of Marco
Excludes Post Office, copy and internet
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, notary
(In store only). Excluded from discount:
paperback books, toys, gifts, greeting
cards, shipping & USPS Services.
1000 N Collier Blvd, 394-5343
677 S Collier Blvd, 393-0353
www.sunshinebooksellers.com

DRY CLEANERS**Cache Dry Cleaners**

666 Bald Eagle Dr, 394-0099

HOME SERVICES/IMPROVEMENT**A. Pinto Self Storage**, 394-1822

5% off new rentals & document shredding
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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

www.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

Marco Home

10% in-store purchase
Discount available for design/staging services
207 N Collier Blvd., 239-778-6810
www.marcohomeshop.com

Marco Island Floor Covering

Discounts vary.
1711 San Marco Rd, 394-1711

Marco Island Lock

394-2121
www.marcoislandlock.com

Ridge Valley Exteriors, Inc

Free roof enhancement/upgrade on roof replacement
& up to \$1,000 off replacement or \$250 off repairs
www.ridgevalleyexteriors.com
551 E. Elkcam Circle, 239-237-3717

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 Snook Inn)
239-289-8654 www.DolphinCoveMarina.com
Free shirt with every boat rental

Dolphin Explorer by Sea Excursions

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 rec 90 marine 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
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642-9988

Living Refreshed, LLC

Concierge/Home Watch Service
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Marco Island Computer Service

Computer, Photography & Web Design
816 E Elkcam Circle, 239-537-0523
www.marcocomputers.com

Marco Island Living

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

Marco Island Photography

Portrait sitting & finished portraits by
Peter Berec, 642-3500
www.marcoislandphotography.com

South Made Marketing

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

The above businesses participate in MICA's Members Only Discount Program and extend a 10% discount to MICA & Residents' Beach members unless otherwise noted. Please present your card at time of purchase. Discounts are not valid with any other offers. Discounts are for MICA members' purchases only.

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

MARCO ISLAND RESIDENTS' BEACH MEMBERS ONLY CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 5-7 P.M.
CONCERT BY NAUTICAL WHEELERS
(A JIMMY BUFFET PARROT HEAD CELEBRATION)



SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 4-7 P.M.
CONCERT BY THE SHANE DUNCAN BAND



ID WILL BE CHECKED FROM ALL POINTS OF ENTRY.
BRING YOUR RESIDENTS' BEACH ID, CHAIR AND/OR BLANKET.