

MICA *wave*

A Periodic Publication of the Marco Island Civic Association
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September 2016

News and Reviews of
What's Really Happening
on Marco Island

Update From Your City Manager
Scenes from MICA's 2016 July 4th Sand Jam
2016 Marco City Council Election - Candidate Q & A

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

2016 Marco Island City Council Candidate Forums
Thursday, October 13th - 5pm and Wednesday, October 19th - 5pm
at Rose History Auditorium

President's Message

by *Dianna Dohm, MICA President*

One of our most influential powers as citizens is exercising our right to vote. However, with this power comes a civic responsibility to consider our options and make informed decisions when electing representatives to office, whether it be at a local, state or national level. This is not always an easy task, especially with the constant efforts by campaigns to persuade voters to elect certain politicians. In today's fast paced society, it may seem difficult to remain informed without spending hours sifting through each candidate's material to find the most accurate information. That is why MICA issued this special Election Edition of the *MICAwave*, asking all City Council candidates 11 questions. Their answers are gathered here in one publication for your convenience.

In addition, MICA, Marco Island Chamber of Commerce and the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors will be sponsoring two City Council Candidate Forums. The first forum, Thursday, October 13th, will present questions developed by all three organizations, asked of all eight City Council candidates. At the first forum we will be soliciting your questions which will then be asked at the second of the forums on Wednesday, October 19th.

This is your chance to hear directly from the candidates on the critical issues facing our island community. Many people may feel that their vote will not make a difference. However, it is important to understand that if more people decide not to vote, our democracy will be at great risk. The healthiest democracy is one where everyone participates. At the end of the day, we the people hold the power. Just a reminder, there are eight candidates running for four City Council seats. You may vote for no more than four candidates.

Attend our City Council Candidate Forums, hear the issues and the candidates' solutions to our community problems. Be an informed voter.



*Dianna Dohm, President,
MICA Board of Directors*

2016 Marco Island City Council Candidate Forums

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Wednesday, October 19th - 5:00 p.m.
at Rose History Auditorium

Marco Island Civic Association

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City Efforts Lower Flood Insurance Rates for Marco Island

by *Dianna Dohm, MICA President and Jim von Rinteln, CEM, FPEM, CFM*

For those of us who insure our homes and businesses from flood damage through the Federal Government's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as of May 1st 2016, you should receive an additional 5% discount on your flood insurance policy – for a total of a 25% discount from what your undiscounted NFIP rate would be. The City of Marco Island has successfully improved its rating, attained a Class 5 rating from the NFIP, Community Rating System (CRS).

This is due to the efforts of our City government and its staff by qualifying for NFIP insurance through the adoption of minimum floodplain management regulations, and by participation in the voluntary CRS program. The CRS gives communities additional discounts to all of the NFIP policies within its jurisdiction based on additional activities and higher regulatory standards it practices aimed at lowering the potential for flood losses.

Of the 1,368 participating CRS communities in the country, there are currently only 113 Class 5 communities nationally, and only 25 of those are in Florida. The City of Marco Island has qualified for this level of discount by working diligently on; record keeping, mapping, enforcement of stringent building code regulations, public information, outreach, stormwater management and flood warning and response programs. Additionally, they had to document their efforts to the Insurance Services Office (ISO) who oversees this program for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during a rigorous multi-day audit.

The City's participation in the NFIP CRS program was already accounting for almost \$2 million in savings for the 14,179 NFIP flood policies in-place on Marco Island. The move to a Class 5 community will add just shy of \$500,000 additional savings to the community – averaging to about \$34 per policy. Since flood insurance



continued on page 5

Flood Zone Map Revisions
Surface Water Management Plans
Site Development Design and Permitting



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Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Florida International University Announce Partnership

~ Partnership will attract new research focus and spur educational opportunities ~

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Florida International University (FIU) have established a new partnership that will serve FIU students as well as citizens of Collier County and surrounding areas.

This unique educational and research partnership will enhance the environmental understanding necessary to manage the reserve's 110,000 acres. Nine joint reserve and FIU staff positions have been created for scientific research, education and resource management. This partnership will enable both FIU and the reserve to continue developing science-driven monitoring and management approaches to these issues.

"Current watershed-level restoration projects, such as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, make this a critical time for long-term research, education and stewardship in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem," said Rookery Bay Reserve Director Keith Laakkonen.

Partnership goals include enhancing both FIU's and the reserve's ability to provide field-based environmental studies instructions to students; promoting shared use of facilities, vessels, vehicles and informational resources; establishing environmental studies, internships and research projects that address regional scientific priorities; providing FIU staff direct access to the reserve's long-term water-quality, fisheries and biological data for analysis and use for joint research and publications; and expanding FIU's partnerships in Southwest Florida ecosystems science, management and education fields with federal, state and local agencies and non-profit organizations.



"Scientists from Florida International University have long been involved in generating information vital to managers of many of the marine protected areas and parks in the region," said James Fourqurean, director of the Marine Educational and Research Initiative in FIU's College of Arts, Sciences & Education. "FIU is looking forward to using this new partnership to increase its research collaboration with the local universities as well as the reserve."

A joint research and educational support facility is being planned to house future programs from FIU adjacent to the reserve's headquarters and Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center campus in Naples. The planned facility would facilitate ongoing research programs, attract new research focuses and spur new educational opportunities for students in the local area.

About Rookery Bay Reserve

Located at the northern end of the Ten Thousand Islands on Florida's Gulf Coast, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve represents one of the few remaining undisturbed mangrove

estuaries in North America. The reserve's mission is to provide a basis for informed coastal decisions through land management, restoration, research and education. The reserve works in partnership with local communities and institutions to promote coastal stewardship adjacent to one of the fastest developing coastal areas in the United States. In support of this mission, the reserve supports 38 personnel and operates three field stations and a headquarters facility as well as a learning center. The reserve is part of NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center's National System of Marine Protected Areas. The National Estuarine Research Reserve system is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship. Rookery Bay Reserve protects 110,000 acres of state-owned coastal lands and waters managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Coastal Office. For more information visit www.rookerybay.org.

About Florida International University

Florida International University is classified by Carnegie as a "R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity" and recognized as a Carnegie Community Engaged university. It is a public research university with colleges and schools that offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as business engineering, computer science, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU contributes almost \$9 billion each year to the local economy and is ranked second in Florida in Forbes Magazine's "America's Best Employers" list. FIU graduates are consistently among the highest paid college graduates in Florida and are among the leaders of public and private organizations throughout South Florida. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission with multiple state-of-the-art research facilities including the Wall of Wind Research and Testing Facility, FIU's Medina Aquarius Program and the Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute. FIU has awarded more than 220,000 degrees and enrolls more than

54,000 students in two campuses and centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75, the Miami Beach Urban Studios and Tianjin, China. FIU also supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, the Wolfsonian-FIU and the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. FIU is a member of Conference USA and more than 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.

Flood Insurance Rates... continued from page 3

is mandatory for homes that have a Federally backed mortgage, and a good idea for everyone else who lives on our island, that's like a tax cut for everyone.

On August 1st at the City Council meeting, a plaque was presented to the City by FEMA for this accomplishment, a resident in attendance was overheard stating, "This is a great example of what government can do to save the taxpayers money."

If you're not sure if you are receiving the proper discount on your flood insurance, you should contact your insurance agent and have them review your policy. The new rate as a class 5 community should take effect after May 1, 2016, when your policy renews. If you have any questions for the City you can contact Kelli DeFedericis at 389-5000, or kdefedericis@cityofmarcoisland.com.

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Beach Stewardship Program Sponsored by Marco's Beach Advisory Committee

by Maria Lamb

A successful training session for the Volunteer Beach Stewardship Program was conducted in mid-June with Marco Island Police Chief, Al Schettino and Captain Dave Baer reviewing these key points of Marco Island's Beach Ordinance.

- Volunteer Beach Stewards are NOT law enforcement officers.
- If a violation is observed, notify Marco Island Police Department.
- Beach Stewards are the "extra eyes and ears" of law enforcement.
- Dogs or pets of any kind are prohibited on our beaches unless they are guide dogs.
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on our beaches.

Tony Ferrara, Beach Advisory Committee (BAC) member and Coordinator of program highlighted "points to remember" for the new volunteers present.

- Objective is to educate beach-going public and assist with their inquiries.
- Inform beach goers on the "etiquette" on local wildlife (sea turtles and migratory birds).
- Always represent Marco Island in a positive and friendly manner.



Monthly Beach Clean-up is sponsored by the Beach Advisory Committee; Publix supplies gloves, water and trashbags; MICA supplies the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster; Leadership Marco supplies buckets and picker-uppers.

The training session was well attended with members of the hospitality businesses along the beach taking the lead in this important partnership. Several volunteers from Cape Marco were also present.

A Call for Volunteers:

The Beach Advisory Committee is seeking participants to join this award winning Volunteer Beach Stewardship Program.

Please consider becoming a vital part of this community partnership to keep our beaches healthy, clean and to protect our rich and diverse wildlife.

For information on the next scheduled training session, please call Samantha Malloy at: 239-389-3917 or send an e-mail to: smalloy@cityofmarcoisland.com.

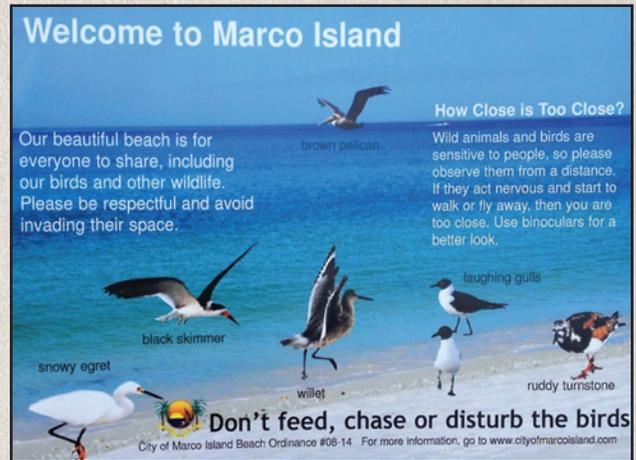




Volunteer Beach Steward, Cristina Leske, and Ruth McCann, BAC member, at a monthly beach clean-up.

Ask me a question:

Beach Stewards will be highly visible on our beaches wearing their orange shirts and visors, walking, talking, educating, engaging with the beach-going public, collecting data and providing much needed feedback to the BAC and Marco Island Police Department.



Wildlife Poster Box at South Beach

Award winning program:

The Florida Association of Planners gave an award to the City of Marco Island for creating and implementing this excellent program. The grassroots program started in 2012 by the BAC. The Committee researched several beachside communities before it came up with the current format. Nancy Richie, then City Environmental Specialist, created the manual depicting the current structure of the program.

BEACH CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 4th, 6 pm

City of Marco Island clean-up at South Beach, sponsored by Optimist Club

Saturday, October 15th, 8 am

City of Marco Island clean-up at Residents' Beach, sponsored by MICA

Saturday, November 19th, 8 am

City of Marco Island clean-up at South Beach, sponsored by Marco Island Women's Club

Saturday, December 10th, 8 am

Tigertail Beach, Friends of Tigertail Quarterly Cleanup

Publix supplies gloves, water and trashbags;
MICA supplies the beach vehicle to haul trash to the dumpster.
Leadership Marco supplies buckets and picker-uppers.



From The Desk of the City Manager

by Roger T. Hernstadt, Marco Island City Manager



On July 18, 2016, I fulfilled one of the most important responsibilities I have as your City Manager - delivering the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017 of the City of Marco Island to City Council.

The budget components include the General Fund (primarily property tax supported operations), Building Services Recreation Enterprise Funds and the Utility (Water and Wastewater). As you may be aware, the City of Marco Island's fifteen year road agreement with Collier County is coming to a close. The budget assumes that the City will NOT receive the \$1 million revenue due for FY2016 and \$1 million due for FY2017 for use within the City and which created a challenging shortfall to be filled. Fortunately, by using expenditure control strategies and some unanticipated revenues, our management team was able to mitigate some of the impact.

The proposed draft budget submitted to you for Fiscal Year 2017 will provide a reduction in the operating millage rate from 2.0466 to 1.9966 which is a .05 millage reduction. For a homesteaded property valued at \$500,000 taxes will remain approximately \$1,000 or \$83 per month for government operations. To avoid future general fund debt, the pay as you go capital program also known as the "bucket list" is funded at \$4.3 million. This millage rate also supports and includes the "Add-On" list as has been provided in the past 2 years for the operating budgets.

Proposed Budget Changes

Beach Advisory Committee: (increased \$2,800 by Council)	\$ 5,000	
Beautification Committee:	\$36,800	
City Council: Lobbyist	\$30,000	
Code Compliance: Miscellaneous Operations funded through Code Revenues	\$15,795	
Council Chambers: Video Server/On-Demand	\$40,000	
	HD camera replacement	\$49,000
Fire: EMS/Inspections clerical assistance 16 hrs. per week	\$13,000	
	EMS contractual support for COPCN	\$10,000
	EMS – (COPCN)	\$125,000
Growth Management: Comprehensive Plan Update	\$54,000	
	CRS/FEMA Consultant	\$10,000
Information Technology: Microsoft Enterprise License (3 year term agreement)	\$62,000	
Parks & Recreation Committee: Site/Development plans for Veterans Community Park	\$250,000	
Pension Unfunded Liability Payment Payoff:		
	(Paid \$1,600,834 FY2015 & \$1,602,000 FY2016)	\$1,274,990
Police: Miscellaneous Operating	\$13,915	
Public Works: Navigation light repair & maintenance	\$12,000	
Recreation: Improvements to Racquet Center	\$84,000	
	Bocce ball turf replacement	\$16,000
Waterways Committee:	\$ 7,500	



This list provides information on the proposed changes in the budget from 2016 to 2017 as well as additional items requested to complete the needs of each department and committee for Fiscal Year 2017. Listed in the chart to the left are some examples of the new items included in Fiscal Year 2017.

The principles incorporated in the City's budget include continuing our plan to enhance the City's financial stability, having a structurally balanced budget, maintaining appropriate reserves and continuing to gain the confidence of the elected officials and the citizens while making targeted investments to protect and improve the quality of life and the physical beauty of Marco Island. For example, since 2014, more than \$14.7 million has been invested in capital improvements not including the upcoming \$3 million for the new Mackle Park Community Center construction and more than \$4.4 million in previously unfunded pension liability will be paid off.

Public hearings took place on September 6th and 19th, 2016, where the City Council cast its final vote on the budget. All agendas and minutes from City Council meetings are available on the City website - www.cityofmarcoisland.com.

In closing, I hope you are all aware that Marco Island has one of the lowest municipal operations property tax rates in South Florida. We will continue to recommend targeted improvements such as upgrading our Fire Stations without incurring new debt and while paying off our existing general fund loans and liabilities.

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Marco Island City Council



Jared Grifoni

Jared is a full-time resident and homeowner in Marco Island. He lives with his wife, Elsa, and their two children, Calvin and Tosca. Jared currently serves on the Greater Marco Family YMCA Community Relations Committee. Jared is also an accomplished attorney and businessman. Jared is a leader in one of Naples' newest business operations, Oasis 41, located just off Marco Island on the East Trail. Jared formerly hosted a live FM political talk show from 2013 through 2016 in Collier County called "Resistance Radio".



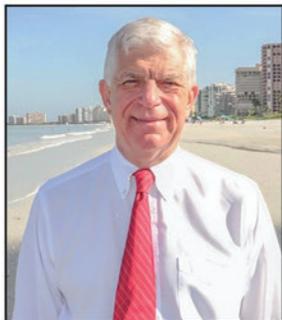
Kenneth Honecker

Ken grew up in Northern New Jersey and graduated in 1985, from Stevens Institute of Technology with a Bachelors of Engineering degree. He moved to the Washington DC area after graduation and worked for the US Navy. In 1990, Ken returned to New Jersey to work as the controller of the family's commercial refrigeration business. Ken helped his father grow the company from 30 to over 100 employees with a service region from Connecticut to Delaware. In 2000, Ken negotiated the sale of the business to a DJIA 30 company. Ken was a regular attendant at Marco Island City Council meetings from 2001 until his election to Council in 2012. Prior to his election, Ken volunteered hundreds of hours to Marco Island serving on various City committees.



Larry Honig

Larry is a consultant specializing in the retail industry, evaluating competitive positions in the U.S., Europe and Asia to provide actionable advice to institutional investors. His focus is the teen fashion apparel industry. He and his wife, Lisa, are homeowners and full-time residents since moving from South Carolina in 2007. They have four children and two grandchildren. Larry is a member of the Marco Men's Club and the Caxambas Republican Club. His career has been in upper management in mainly the retail industry. Prior to beginning his corporate career, he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army. Larry received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School, an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, and B.A. and B.S. degrees in American History and Commerce from Washington & Lee University.



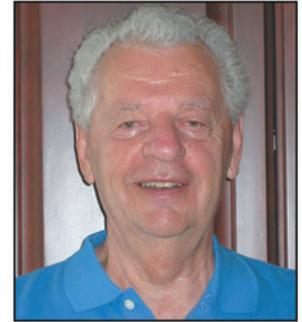
Fred Kramer

Fred Kramer grew up on Eastern Long Island, attended Colgate University on an Alumni Memorial Scholarship and later the University of Miami School of Law. He has practiced law on Marco Island for over 30 years. In the community he has served as Director of the Marco Island chapter of the American Cancer Society, and over the years has been a youth coach for the Naples and Marco Island Optimist Clubs and the Greater Marco Family YMCA.

2016 Candidates

Amadeo Petricca

Amadeo and his wife Joan purchased property on Marco in 1999 and built their home in 2002, when they moved to Marco permanently. They had two sons, one lives in New Jersey and one is deceased. Amadeo's career started in accounting and rose to the level of a controller for a plastics manufacturing company. For the last 16 years of his career he worked for a privately held major corporation in the printing and laminating industries as COO. Amadeo attended Kansas University for three years majoring in accounting. He was drafted into the Army, interrupting his studies. After serving two years in the Army, he married Joan and started his career in accounting. After working for 24 years he returned to college during the evening and received his degree from William Paterson University. In 2005 he began volunteering on numerous City committees and was later elected to City Council.



Howard Reed

Howard attended Grace College and Seminary in Indiana where he majored in Greek, minored in music and graduated with honors and went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling degree. While in grad school he started a medical electronic design company, which grew over the next 30 years into the third largest provider of hospital operating room integration in the world. Howard sold his business to a global medical conglomerate, where he directed a multinational staff spread over four continents. This success in business enabled him ultimately to settle in Marco Island. He and wife, Debra, have been married for 39 years and bought their first house on Marco in 2005. They have two children and nine grandchildren who love to spend time with them on Marco. He has been involved with young people and families through service to Bikes for Tikes and Pickleball for All as well as Meals of Hope.



Charlette Roman

In 2002, after a successful 26-year career as an Army officer serving her country, Charlette Roman retired to Marco Island and began service to her new community. As a Marco citizen, she has devoted thousands of volunteer hours to community service, environmental protection, and nature education. She has spent over a decade volunteering with Rookery Bay Reserve, four years with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, and has also served on many other community organizations and projects. She was the first appointment to the At-Large Environmental seat on the Collier County Planning Commission in 2013. Charlette is a graduate of Leadership Marco and serves as Marco's representative on the Collier Citizens Council. She served on the Planning Board in 2004-2006 and 2013-2016, and Chair during 2015.



Jerry Swiacki

Jerry first set foot on Marco Island in 1960 as a teenager on a visit to the island's beautiful beach. He and his wife purchased a condo in 1982 and a house in 2002. After practicing medicine for almost 40 years in Michigan, Jerry began his Florida medical career in 2007 until retirement in 2014. His wife of 39 years, Linda, and he have five children and ten grandchildren. He is active in numerous groups and activities on the island. Jerry became a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) in 2012, and they were able to gain public and City Council support to build a much-needed new Mackle Park Community Center. He was elected chairman of PRAC approximately one and a half years ago.



MICA posed eleven questions to all eight candidates for City Council. Their responses are on the following pages....

1. **What role do you view Deltona Deed Restrictions play in maintaining the vision in the development of Marco Island?**

Grifoni:

The Deltona Deed restrictions play a significant and important role. The reality is that these deed restrictions, from the moment they were initially applied, have set the foundation for the vision of Marco Island which many have witnessed grow and develop into the home we know today. Deed restrictions can be a win-win for both the community as a whole and individual property owners by providing peace of mind. If a developer/builder chooses to place deed restrictions on property then prospective owners would be purchasing property and accepting the conditions that are attached to it. The community benefits because the public knows what can or cannot be done on property in an area while those who choose not to be restricted are free to purchase property in another area without the restrictions. Deed restrictions also can play a role in the overall monetary value of property. As Marco Island continues to grow and develop from generation to generation, it is extremely important that the community doesn't stagnate. We must ensure that when individuals look to Marco Island as a place to raise their family, to retire, or to start and grow a business that they see a functional, balanced, and environmentally unique community that will maintain its appeal and overall integrity over the long-term while seeing the value of welcoming new opportunities to keep the island strong, competitive, and attractive.

Honecker:

The Deltona Deed Restrictions are the building blocks of the City's Land Development Code (LDC). Some people say that they are old and out dated and take away one's property rights. I do not hold this position. We all knew when we moved here that deed restrictions existed. Today anyone can easily see the actual recorded deed restriction on the City website. This database was made possible by the hard work of my planning board member. The LDC is now up for review (FL law mandates this). The next Council will approve the new LDC. If I am re-elected, I will not accept any changes that are in conflict with the Deltona Deed Restriction.

Honig:

The Deltona Deed Restrictions have been critical to the careful development of Marco Island as envisioned by the Mackle brothers, and they have prevented our becoming "just another Florida development." We must rely on a strong MICA board to preserve and protect the restrictions.

Kramer:

MICA was contributing to our island community for almost 15 years before it agreed to accept the assignment of the enforcement rights to the various Declarations of Restrictions (the Deltona Restrictions). Most of these restrictions were recorded in 1965, over 50 years ago. Far superior to the 1965 limited Collier County zoning code, the restrictions were most important for protecting the quality of the development of Deltona's Marco Beach Subdivision. Now, having been a City for almost 20 years, we have had the full right to create our own City land development code, one including the opportunity



to incorporate any and all desired provisions from the Deltona restrictions. Clearly, the old Deltona residential restrictions include provisions which no longer make sense and are no longer enforced (such as limiting homes to only one or two car garages). As to the Deltona commercial restrictions, what have they done to control new large projects such as the Rose Marina project, a project allowing storage and staging on residential property? Over time, the role of the Deltona Restrictions has become limited.

Petricca:

I am a supporter of Deltona Deed Restrictions. Their vision was ignored based on what has transpired; based on the height of building on the west side of Collier Blvd. Commercialization has taken over the Island.

Reed:

Our island community is almost unique among the cities of this country. Unlike most cities which can grow as long as there is additional land to acquire, our island has fixed borders. Therefore, if we do not control the growth of our City, we will diminish the quality of life which attracted most of us to Marco in the first place. The small-town atmosphere, the freedom from crime and our ability to enjoy our island depend on controlling growth. I believe that the Deltona Deed Restrictions have served us well in guiding our growth and ensuring that every development project is approved based on its impact on the quality of life of our citizens, and not just on the profits or other benefits to a few individuals or a corporation.

Roman:

I have served on the MICA Board of Directors and also on the Architectural Review Committee, which is responsible for the deed restriction review process. The Deltona Corporation, developer of Marco Island, recorded deed restrictions against their properties in order to protect the integrity of its vision for the island. These restrictions apply to most, but not all, of Marco and were designed to assure conformity by new structures. While today's society is more about the individual and less about being the same, the deed restrictions provide basic standards that contribute to maintaining property values on the island.

Swiacki:

The Deltona Deed Restrictions became the responsibility of the Marco Island Civic Association for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the island, and to assure conformity for all new construction. This was designed to be a tool to protect the property values of Marco Island. Homeowners, condo owners, and businesses need to be aware of these regulations when they purchase property or set up a business. The island has evolved and some of the Deed Restrictions are in conflict with City Codes. I would like to see the City and MICA continue to work together more closely in order to resolve these issues so that there is no ambiguity.

2. Are the annual survey results of the MICA membership of value to you in developing your position on community issues?

Grifoni:

Absolutely. Public input into the political process is extremely important and should always be taken into consideration and valued. That doesn't necessarily mean that a City Councilor should use only polling data to determine how to vote if that would violate their principles. If I'm elected by Marco Island voters, my decision making process will always be based on my principles, the merits, the objective facts

continued on page 14

City Council Candidate's Questions... Continued from page 13

laid out in public and in the Sunshine during City Council meetings, and in consideration of our entire island community. Too often our current City Council has disregarded the public by not listening to their concerns and often times pitting neighbor against neighbor for short-term political gain. Our community should not be a pawn in the process of those who have divided up the island with feuds and negativity. When I announced my campaign (I've never run for office before), my main goal was to bring this island back together by listening to our entire community, welcoming the public back into the process by making our City Council meetings more accessible (more public comment, professionalism and productive debate, and restructuring the order of the meeting agenda to put the most important matters first for example) and ultimately, restoring public trust in our local governing body. As many of you have seen my website, signs, campaign materials, and have come out to my events to hear my positions, you know that my slogan, "For a united Marco Island," is what I'm truly fighting for.

Honecker:

The MICA annual survey results are valuable in developing my positions.

Honig:

Yes. MICA membership surveys are like super-polls: They tell you what the vast majority of people who have a vested, financial stake in the community are thinking.

Kramer:

The survey results are very valuable. Further, the annual survey is a small example of the many important contributions that MICA makes for the civic improvement and benefit of our island.

Petricca:

Yes, but a majority of council tends to ignore the results for whatever reason.

Reed:

Yes, of great value. The MICA membership survey represents the largest and most broadly based survey of the views of Marco citizens regarding current issues on our island. If I am elected to City Council, I will seek to incorporate the views of our citizens into every position I take on these issues.

Roman:

Yes. The MICA survey is a positive tool to check the pulse of a large segment of the community on important issues. Having served on the MICA Board of Directors, I experienced how much time and care goes into developing the questions. While not technically from a survey instrument, the responses are helpful in seeing what the members of the community are thinking about the issues at a given time. In previous surveys, City Councilors were offered the opportunity to submit a few of their own questions for the survey. I hope this invitation will continue to be extended in the future.

Swiacki:

Yes. I find the surveys informative. However, I would like to see more specificity of the survey questions as I think this would provide more clarity to the reader resulting in a more accurate survey answer. Although a simple "Yes" or "No" may be appropriate for some questions, others may require more detailed explanations or options.



3. Are you in favor of moving forward with the City's petition for a COPCN (Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity) to provide ambulance service at Marco Island's expense?

Grifoni:

Yes, but this cannot be the only action taken. The public must understand the potential fiscal and political impacts. We need to be fighting on multiple fronts to ensure that our citizens' interests are well-represented. 1) We need to rebuild effective working relationships with our County and our state legislative delegation. Since the end of 2014, our current City Council and County Commission have only met once. This is unacceptable and evidences a significant communication breakdown that needs to be repaired so that Marco Island interests are effectively presented and considered across the Jolley Bridge. Florida law requires the County "consider the recommendations of municipalities within its jurisdiction" and "protect and enhance the public health, welfare, and safety..." and 2) We need to expand home rule powers. This should be an area where the League of Cities and individual municipalities can come together to work with our legislators to update the state statute that prevents us from issuing our own COPCN. Municipalities should be able to ensure protection of their citizens' lives in emergency situations. This is a significant point - changing the law to allow municipalities the right to issue their own COPCN doesn't mean that we have to issue our own if we can work out a good deal with our County. It'll provide an option in the event that a mutually beneficial agreement cannot be worked out or if a municipality determines that having their own COPCN would be in their citizens' best interest financially and otherwise.

Honecker:

Yes, I made the motion at Council to start the process.

Honig:

No. This is premature, and the receipt of a COPCN may in fact force us to establish – at additional expense to Marco Island citizens – a brand new ambulance service. We have extraordinary ambulance service now, provided by our joint City and County firefighter-paramedics and paid for by our tax dollars to Collier County. We must argue, forcefully and convincingly, to ensure that Marco Island continues to receive the current quality of service – or better – as we have successfully done for our entire cityhood. There is no reason to go running off looking for ways to spend another \$3 million a year when a potential disruption has not occurred and has not been threatened.

Kramer:

No, not at present. The City has done an excellent job in being proactive in identifying the concern and laying the framework to possibly develop our own City ambulance service. Further action now, however, is premature. Let's consider the two primary issues, the quality of service and the cost of service. We have clear concerns that Collier County might attempt to change the current County EMS (ambulance) system. First and foremost, we need to ensure that our current quality of service is never diminished. If a new proposed ambulance system would risk reducing our services, we would need to immediately seek the COPCN from Collier County to operate our own EMS system. This brings us to cost. The County could easily grant us the COPCN allowing a new City EMS service to combine with our City Fire Rescue. Yet in this case, we need to ensure that we were not caught also paying taxes into the new County system. The one thing that I suggest we immediately do is communicate with the City of Naples on this issue; if the County does proceed, our cities would be stronger working together.

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Petricca:

YES!!! Based on the position that Collier County Commissioners have taken we have no choice, but to move forward to ensure that our citizens have transport ambulances in place.

Reed:

Yes, I strongly support the action of the City Council in allocating funds to study the issue of the City's petition for a COPCN. Marco citizens have been well served by the current agreement with Collier County for Basic and Advanced Life Support. However, due to consolidation or other changes in the manner in which the County provides these services, there may come a time when our citizens will be better served by having these life support services under local control. Marco citizens should be aware of the very real possibility that if the Island has its own COPCN, the cost to provide the services will be born by the citizens of the island and the amount that they are currently paying to the County may not be diminished. This would result in the citizens paying twice for the same services. Therefore, any change should be made only if it can be demonstrated that the change will improve the quality of services provided to the island at an acceptable increase in cost.

Roman:

Yes – but only if it becomes necessary to pay for and run our own independent service. Emergency Medical Services are vital to Marco Island. If the new Board of County Commissioners moves toward greater consolidation of county resources that could negatively impact service and response times for our citizens, then Marco Islanders will need to evaluate all options and decide how to provide this critical service to ensure the best life-saving measures are in place for our community.

Swiacki:

Yes. Please refer to my answer to question #11.

4. How will you address more equitable water-sewer rates across the island?

Grifoni:

Politicians will tell you that they have all the answers and will be able to wave a magic wand over any problem. I've never run for public office before. I'm a private sector small businessman, attorney, and grassroots leader who wants real answers because residents deserve it. This issue has been unresolved for a long time. Council has lost the public trust. Rate proposals are dead on arrival because the public feels Councilors are only looking out for themselves, friends, or associates. Removing the perception of cronyism and rebuilding the public trust is imperative. Debt repayment takes up a huge chunk of revenue but we can't forget that utilities are a government monopoly preventing market-based competition. Competition drives down costs, spurs innovation, efficient management, and better service. We can't (unfortunately) open up utility competition on Marco Island, but we can take lessons from private sector experience and apply them. Bring in private sector experts (not another rate consultant) for a top-down review of the budget, facilities, and management to identify problems and pass savings to residents. Evaluate the market value of the utility and determine if Marco Island's government should be in the water business. LCEC has reduced rates for the fourth time in two years with rates among the lowest in Florida, it can be done. We need honest evaluation of all options. This isn't an overnight fix but with independent thinkers working for the lowest, most equitable, and balanced rates for our entire community we can get there.



Honecker:

I have worked on Marco Island water and sewer issues for over a decade both on committees and on Council. The current rate structure was designed by Florida Water and approved by the state of Florida in 1998. The City has kept this rate structure and just adds percent increase, as it needs money. In the fall of 2015 Council failed to pass a new rate structure that would have charged everyone the same amount for their inside water/sewer consumption and the utility would never have to borrow money again. This was the best shot Marco Island had on an equitable rate structure. The good news is that I successfully got Council to approve irrigation meters. Once installed, single-family homes do not pay the sewer charge on water used on their lawns. This means a seasonal resident saves over \$33/month while he or she is away.

Honig:

City Council should appoint a 3- or 5-person committee of retired water utility executives – there are several on the Island – to study the issue and make recommendations. This committee must not be one-for-one appointed by City Councilors, because it will become political. The committee should be given a broad remit to examine all the alternatives, which I would suggest include a full range from adjusting our current rates, to selling the utility, and everything in between.

Kramer:

No matter what rate structure is in place, it has to generate the income necessary to operate the facility. With that, this question does not address either reducing operating expenses or best maintaining the physical system. Rather, the question merely goes to reallocating the current rates between its users, benefitting some community members at the expense of others. While I do not favor paying for more consultants to review our rate structure, I am very open to consider public suggestions on the issue.

Petricca:

I have written four articles in the newspapers explaining the in-equitability of our current rate schedule, between class of customers and also within a class of customer. I presented to Council, a modified version of the Consultant's proposal, which is the most equitable rate schedule where all class of customers are treated equally and it was voted down 5 NO, 2 Yes. In this instance, Council has a problem dealing with a highly controversial item and prefers to "kick the can" down the road.

Reed:

Our municipal water utility, like every other business, divides its total costs of operation into fixed costs and variable costs. Fixed costs represent the cost of the infrastructure, the physical plant, and service on the debt obligations. Variable costs include the cost of acquiring, purifying, and delivering the water and sewer services. There are at least three major (and several minor) stakeholders in the water and sewer rate structure, our single-family residences, our condos, and our commercial businesses. I believe that it is possible to develop a rate structure that is both simple and fair. I will support a program which determines the fixed costs of operating our utility and distributes those costs equitably in the base charge that each customer pays every month. The variable costs of actually delivering the water and sewer services should then be evenly divided and applied to the per thousand gallon rate. I support, and I believe our citizens support, a rate structure that is based on the actual cost of service.

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Roman:

Establishing a Water Utility Board, made up of retired professionals with a broad range of skills, would be a positive first step in assessing the best way forward for the utility. Reducing the utility's debt will be necessary for reducing the rates.

Swiacki:

A \$100 million debt was incurred by the City when the 2003 Council agreed to purchase the Florida Water Utility. The system required major updating, repairs and replacement. There are costs to maintain the system. The present rate structure is insufficient to maintain the system and pay down debt. The shortfall is covered by taking money from the reserves. Once the reserves are exhausted and if a new rate structure is not adopted, then there will be a need to markedly increase utility rates. What is fair and equitable? When the City Council wishes to address the issue, I will evaluate it to the best of my ability and vote accordingly.

5. Do you support the City Manager? YES or NO, please explain.

Grifoni:

This election isn't about supporting or opposing anyone except members of City Council and replacing them with those who want to unite Marco Island rather than continue dividing and reigniting tired, old feuds. Council hasn't demonstrated the ability to work with one another so is it proper to evaluate a City Manager based on performance with a Council that shuns debate and public participation? I don't believe it's proper or fair. In the private sector I know you can't judge an employee in a bad environment without a fair shake under improved leadership. In light of the above, yes, I support the CM and want to evaluate his performance in a better environment. Citizens deserve to know the standards and the evaluation must take place in the Sunshine like: 1) Self-evaluation – How does the CM feel he's doing? What areas need improvement/have the most success? 2) Anonymous staff evaluation – The CM carries out Council's vision through staff. How does staff feel about its working relationship with the CM? Energized? Demoralized? Indifferent? and 3) Objective goals – Set vision, policies, and specific goals (in the sunshine) for the CM and over a reasonable timeframe determine if the CM met or exceeded those goals. An effective and professional Council will bring out the best in our City, staff, and City Manager. As a grassroots leader, I've been able to work with many elected or appointed individuals with different perspectives by staying true to principles and identifying common ground upon which to move forward.

Honecker:

Yes I strongly support the City Manager. He has brought back professionalism to City Hall. Space does not allow me to go into all he has accomplished in just over two years. Here is just a small sample: he eliminated director position; he negotiated a new police and fire contract that caps City pension liabilities; he reinstated annual employee performance evaluations; he created the City's first real budget; he provides regular manager reports; he reorganized the planning/zoning/building department; he created code enforcement department under the police; and the list goes on.

Honig:

Yes. I was instrumental in bringing him to Marco Island. However – and I have said this to him – no manager is perfect, ever, and no manager can ever satisfy all 7 City Councilors all the time. I believe I was elected in part to apply my expertise in managing the City Manager, as I've successfully managed CEOs on several national boards of directors. The community should see my disagreements and arguments with the City Manager as my doing my job of careful oversight.

Kramer:

Yes. Having said that, I also believe that the operation of our City can be further improved. I am disappointed that the City Council has apparently not worked together to sufficiently provide the City Manager with specific and objective performance criteria and has not periodically evaluated his performance against that criteria. Simply, I am not aware of the Manager failing to perform in accordance with the tasks imposed on him by our City Council.

Petricca:

Yes! He has done a creditable job. I don't approve of everything he has done and on those items I express my disapproval at a Council meeting and/or one on one.

Reed:

Yes. Under our current City Manager, Marco Island has been extraordinarily successful in applying the rising tax revenues toward paying off our debt and paying off the previously unfunded pension obligations to our City's excellent first responders.

Roman:

Yes. I support the City Council—City Manager or “weak mayor” form of government that we have on Marco Island. As Chair of the Marco Island Planning Board, I met regularly with the current City Manager before each meeting to finalize the agenda. We met several times a month depending on the schedule and as a result have developed a working relationship.

Swiacki:

Yes. In my opinion, I think Mr. Hernstadt has served the City in a professional manner as Marco Island's City Manager. He has had a wealth of City Government experience, 36 years, having served as City Manager for Marathon, Assistant City Manager for the City of Miami, and multiple City government positions for Miami Dade County. This experience has helped him streamline and upgrade some of our City departments. Because of his suggestion that the City of Marco Island hire a lobbyist, we have had the benefit of obtaining over \$2 million from the State of Florida for various City projects that we would not have had. This has returned tax money to the City that the citizens had already paid to the State. In addition, due to his “Bucket Plan”, the City has been able to pay down debt, procure necessary capital replacements and fund pension liabilities under a balanced budget with no increase in City taxes. Although I may not agree with him on some issues, I respect his opinion, knowledge and experience. I have been informed that much of the business community respects Mr. Hernstadt because he has worked fairly and honestly with them. For these reasons, I feel that the City Manager has been an asset to our community.

6. Would you support a rental ordinance?

Grifoni:

I was against the comprehensive rental ordinance because it had morphed from an effort to find an appropriate solution to the problems surrounding some short-term rentals into a large and unnecessary City bureaucracy that wouldn't have accomplished its intended goal. This became clear once condo associations, that were already effective at handling any problems internally, were pushed aside in favor of a government-first solution. While the comprehensive rental ordinance proposal would never have had the desired effect it likely would have created many unintended negative consequences. I'm for protecting the property rights of each of our citizens which includes the right to rent what you own but it also includes a responsibility to protect our citizens from violations of their right against nuisance.

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This would bring common-sense balance to the issue. The best way to deal with nuisance issues (whether for short-term rentals or full-time residents) is to correct weak spots in our existing ordinances and then to provide consistent, uniform enforcement without creating unnecessary costs (taxes) and additional bureaucracy. Both property owners and renters should be held equally accountable for any problems. Property owners should inform their potential tenants about Marco Island's ordinances by having a written copy delivered and signed as part of any rental agreement. We should put aside the "us against them" mentality and find a way to work together to find the right solutions for our entire community with the least amount of government interference so long as all of our rights are protected.

Honecker:

No, I do not support a rental ordinance. The new noise ordinance that I proposed and Council passed should take care of "out of control" rental properties.

Honig:

I fully support our figuring out how to protect Marco Island residents in single-family homes whose quiet quality of life is spoiled by thoughtless renters. I want to think about a "rental ordinance," and discuss it with the community, but we definitely need better enforcement of the new noise ordinance, swifter justice, and an occupancy ordinance of some sort. I would consider supporting a broader approach – such as documenting who is temporarily occupying single-family homes and ensuring their safety in the event of a fire – if we can accomplish that without establishing another cumbersome bureaucracy at City hall.

Kramer:

No. While issues may remain as to the fair and uniform enforcement of the City ordinances which govern occupancies, and while there may be more refinements required to our ordinances, when properly enforced, our City ordinances should be sufficient to fairly address the problem and avoid any new rental bureaucracy within our City government.

Petricca:

YES! YES! & YES!

Reed:

I believe that there are homes on this island that are being used for short-term rentals that have significantly and unacceptably diminished the quality of life for their neighbors. If I am elected to our City Council, I will aggressively pursue an end to the problem of short-term rentals in areas that are zoned residential. I did not support the rental ordinance which was passed and then repealed last year. I believe that that ordinance was legally flawed, created an unnecessary and expensive bureaucracy, and in the end would have been largely ineffective in dealing with the neighbors' quality-of-life issues. I strongly support aggressive enforcement of our current noise, parking, and trash ordinances. In addition, I believe the island would benefit from the passage of an enforceable occupancy ordinance. I believe that the problem of short-term rentals and their negative impact on their neighbors can be solved without government overreach and without destroying property rights. Our current system places the burden of enforcement on the neighbors of rental properties by requiring that they make frequent, inconvenient calls for code enforcement. We need to shift the burden of control of these rental tenants off of the shoulders of the neighbors and onto the owners who are benefiting financially from the rental of their properties. I believe this is the only effective solution to the short-term rental problem.



Roman:

During my second term on the planning board, which began in 2013, the rental ordinance came before us. As a starting point, the City Manager presented a 20-page rental ordinance from Marathon, Florida. Efforts to have a broad-based citizen's working group to provide Marco-specific input quickly collapsed when representatives from some organizations pulled out. After several sessions listening to members of our community, I proposed a "five-point plan" at the November 21, 2014, planning board meeting as a new starting point for the rental discussion. This plan found what I referred to as the "common ground" among stakeholders and was met with applause and expressions of support from the podium. You can view the entire video of this meeting in the media tab at my website www.ElectCharletteRoman.com. Unfortunately for our community, the planning board majority decided instead to review the original 20-page document line by line and added more burdensome requirements. Because of the ordinance's overreach, I voted no when the final version was reviewed at the December 5, 2014, planning board meeting; but it passed 4 – 2.

Swiacki:

The Declaration of Independence states that Government derives its power from "the consent of the governed", and the powers are to be used to affect the "Safety and Happiness" of the governed. In an attempt to address the issues of safety and happiness (quality of life), a Rental Ordinance was passed in 2015. However, because there was strong community opposition to this ordinance, it was repealed a few months later by Council. Presently, the noise, parking and trash complaints are being addressed by: a) an improved Noise Ordinance; b) an improved Code Enforcement Department by augmenting the Police Department with 10 Community Service Officers to address code complaints; and c) the MIPD installation of an electronic data tracking system (CAD) that is capable of tracking and recording all calls, repeat calls, violations, citations, and repeat offenders. MIPD provides monthly reports at City Council Meetings. IF the aforementioned measures are insufficient to control the problems as indicated by the Police Department, or IF there is a large contingent of citizens who are affected by these code violations and insist that a new, less complicated/restrictive rental ordinance that excludes condos be adopted, I would be willing to consider its merits and vote accordingly.

7. Do you support the City's Police Department, or should the City rely on the County Sheriff?

Grifoni:

I fully support the Marco Island Police Department and do not support ceding any of our local authority to the Collier County Sheriff. We should also find ways to make sure our police, fire, and City staff, who work tirelessly for our fellow citizens, have realistic options to live comfortably in Marco Island with their families instead of being priced out of the community they serve and dedicate their lives to. As a fiscal conservative, I will work to reduce our debt and stop spending on unnecessary projects that increase taxes and make it more financially difficult to live here. I believe in limited government with greater local control and I have consistently fought for my beliefs by advocating for greater home rule powers for municipalities to protect our children from Common Core, to protect our Second Amendment rights, and for additional control for our local boards. I believe that government is most responsive that is closest to the people. I want our island to be strong, secure, and to manage its own affairs while making sure we stop getting the short end of the stick off-island. Shutting down the local Marco Island PD in favor of the CCSO would be the polar opposite of my entire political philosophy. Marco Islanders deserve to control their own destiny and the best and most effective way to do that is to support our community and our local essential services like the Marco Island Police Department and Marco Island Fire Rescue Department.

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Honecker:

Yes I support the Marco Police Department. I do not want some bureaucrat in the County deciding how many patrol cars/beach patrols/marine patrols etc. should be assigned to the island.

Honig:

I fully support our Police Department (and our fire-rescue department as well), because it has enabled Marco Island to remain one of the safest communities in the nation. Our Police Department has done a remarkable job of blending the local touch with high-tech, state-of-the-art policing techniques (that we rarely see).

Kramer:

I fully support our City maintaining our independent police force. Following our City incorporation and the establishment of our City Police Force, this was a major topic of discussion. Further, it has occasionally resurfaced, usually in the context of a tax savings measure. With our own force, it is the job of our City to insure that our Police force operates professionally and efficiently on the level of service that our citizens demand.

Petricca:

I support the City Police Department, Period!!!

Reed:

I strongly support the Marco Island Police Department. I believe they do an excellent job of keeping our island safe. I believe that the relationship that they have with the County sheriff and the County law-enforcement system is effective and is a great benefit to our island citizens.

Roman:

Yes. The voters have already spoken, and I support the decision.

Swiacki:

I support our City's Police Department. I think the MIPD is a professional organization that, under the direction of Chief Schettino, provides an excellent service and protection that our community deserves. Because Marco Island is a City, we are entitled to "Home Rule", so we have the privilege to control the level of service that our citizens, businesses and visitors require and deserve.

- 8. Are you in favor of the Parks & Recreation Committee's recommendation for Veterans Community Park that the City move forward with plans to build a band shell and restrooms, eliminate the asphalt parking lot, and install angled parking on Park Avenue?**

Grifoni:

As a fiscal conservative, I believe that we should do everything we can to keep our debt at a minimum and our spending under control to not overburden the people of Marco Island. In the future, some minor development at Veterans Community Park, such as a band shell, would be a positive for the community. We must maintain adequate green space overall and take a fiscally responsible path towards any improvements that are in line with our community's ideals and vision. The rush to spend money we don't have is typical of bad government. There will be no increase in cost of living adjustment next year, two years in a row and the fourth time since 2010. Social Security

beneficiaries have lost 23% of their buying power over the last 16 years. This isn't the right time to take on additional debt to develop Veterans Community Park. The Mackle Park improvement project wasn't perfect but it was handled better than the runaway freight train push to develop at Veterans Community Park. Mackle took time and everyone didn't get everything that they wanted but that's the price of being responsible with taxpayer funds. Pause, take a breath, and finish Mackle Park first or this will lead to an expenditure of funds that the City doesn't have for a project the citizens don't immediately need, based on an economic gamble today that isn't worth the risk tomorrow. Economic uncertainty calls for greater fiscal responsibility by Council.

Honecker:

The only way to know for sure what the residents of Marco want on the former Glon property is to ask them in a binding referendum. I asked Council, at the November 2, 2015 meeting, to place a binding referendum on the March 2016 ballot (the cost of which was free and over 6,000 residents voted). However, no other Council member would support me. This issue needs to go to binding referendum as quickly as possible, so the community can move on.

Honig:

Not at the moment. I've called for – and City Council agreed with me – first an update to the master plan, to be completed by either a City planner or a landscape architect. I would like to see us consider a long-range view of exciting alternatives for this magnificent park and its very special setting. We need this so that (a) we can see what has changed since the master plan was completed in 2009 and (b) we can consider additional options that might not have been envisioned back then. Marco Island is one of the finest communities in the nation, and we should have the best thinking available before moving ahead with any plans. Just as important, we need to bring all the community along, not just plunge ahead based on a few hearings over the summer or, worse, based on secret negotiations.

Kramer:

Yes. I have a lot of respect for the work that the committee has done and for its concept of a limited footprint on our greenspace. Permanent restroom facilities are clearly necessary to foster greater usage of the park. Further, turning a portion of the current paved parking area into more greenspace and adding perimeter parking is clearly positive. My only personal comment follows with my desire to protect green space. I hope that we further consider alternatives to a typical permanent band shell structure (possibly a simple structure holding aerial shades; this would allow for temporary stages and further provide a shaded area of green space for daily park goers).

Petricca:

I am in favor of a majority of what they proposed. I presented a Position (White Paper) Paper to City Council to move the development of Veterans Community Park forward, which was approved by a majority of City Councilors. The Council has approved \$250,000 for the design of the park based on public input. There is a problem, with a current project that is before the Planning Board, A PUD to build a Hotel next to the Park. Let's see how that plays out??

Reed:

I strongly support the City developing and implementing a master plan for Veterans Community Park. I believe that the citizens have indicated that they support maintaining as much green space as possible while providing additional amenities. There is no question that the asphalt parking lot and the temporary

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restrooms are inadequate and need to be replaced with finished and more usable parking and sparkling restrooms of which our citizens and visitors can be justifiably proud. We, the citizens and taxpayers of Marco Island, paid almost \$10 million to purchase this property and we hold it in trust not only for our enjoyment, but for our children and our grandchildren. There is strong support for building either a band shell or a small performing arts center. Either structure would provide our citizens with more ways to enjoy our park. I do not support any attempt to take control of this wonderful park away from its owners, the people of Marco Island, or to diminish its value to them by converting it into an amenity for any commercial enterprise.

Roman:

No. This effort by the committee was a reaction to the failed attempt to build a government building on Veterans Community Park without the community's knowledge. We only learned of this behind-the-scenes project when Governor Scott vetoed the line item in the 2015 budget. The park is one of the most important community-owned assets. We should take as much time as needed to plan the park, with the help of a professional, and start budgeting for the facilities.

Swiacki:

Yes. I serve as the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). In order to seek citizen input if the City should move forward with the Park plan, Veterans Community Park has been a PRAC Agenda item since 2014. First, PRAC reviewed the almost \$30 million Master Plan approved by Council in 2009. PRAC then reached out to many community organizations and held public workshops. We reviewed multiple community organization surveys which revealed that the majority of today's citizens do not support the 2009 Master Plan. The survey results, supported by the majority of citizens who provided input were: maintain green space; remove the asphalt parking lot and create perimeter angled parking; build a facility containing a bandstand, restrooms and a concession stand; enhance the park with shade trees, improved landscaping, improved lighting and walkways; a promenade along the water to the Herbert Savage Bridge; and maintain the Farmer's Market. A report of these findings was presented to City Council. The first community meeting for local residents to discuss their vision of Veterans Community Park was held in November of 2008. The last community meeting for local residents to discuss the Park plan was in April of 2016, eight years later. As long as 95% of the existing space is maintained for green-space, I think it is time for the City to move forward with this plan.

- 9. How can we resolve our parking problems at the beaches and the remainder of the island? Would you support building a parking garage on City property at the north end of the island, assuming the City would fund the building?**

Grifoni:

One way to resolve some concerns in the short-term is temporarily allowing increased swale use during major community events and the busiest portion of the year when parking is most limited. Opening up some swales in commercial or mixed-use areas would have little to no fiscal impact but would release the pressure valve until a suitable long-term solution is identified with community support. It doesn't make sense that one can park outside a residential home for hours a day in the swale but one would be ticketed in the swale adjacent the Esplanade when attending an event. We need consistency and common sense in parking policies. Another option is securing additional public access points to the beach tailored

to our residential population. A more convenient walk to the beach for residents on the east side of Collier Blvd as well as a drop-off point for other residents and their families would decrease parking demand. Long-term solutions could include a garage or lot but locations would need to be heavily evaluated with significant public input to ensure that residential homes were not unduly impacted. Instead of Marco Island citizens bearing the brunt of costs I believe we should explore the possibility of County financial support. The impact of East Naples development on Marco Island beaches is a reasonable starting point for discussion but unless we repair our relationship with the County and engage we'll miss out. I won't let that happen and I'll watch out for Marco Island taxpayers.

Honecker:

I think there are two things that the City could do to address the parking problem. The first would be to have a seasonal shuttle service. The second would be to issue one resident parking sticker per dwelling unit that would allow swale-parking 24/7. I hope to have more specifics shortly on my website: www.KenForMarco.com.

Honig:

Parking on the island is clearly one of our toughest problems, and frankly I do not have a solution. We are all working hard on the matter – for example, through the public-private partnerships pioneered by three civic-minded restaurant owners – and can make some incremental progress. I have advocated a long-range assessment of our city center, incorporating an update to the master plan for Veterans Community Park, which might yield some alternatives for the community to consider. But “no” on a parking garage (and “double no” to the City paying for it) until and unless we have a plan and community support for the plan.

Kramer:

I strongly support pedestrian beach access. I am, however, concerned that creation of substantial additional beach parking areas would simply create even greater demand, particularly from the exploding population on the 951 corridor. On the second point, I would not support any government funded parking garage anywhere on the island, until and unless it becomes clearly necessary for City residents and it has a realistic cost recovery.

Petricca:

As I see it, the Beach parking problem is a County problem. On the north end of the island is Tigertail Beach and on the south end of the island is South Beach access. The County has parking facilities for both, obviously not sufficient for the amount of people who come over the bridge. I am NOT in favor of building a Parking Garage on City property on the north end of the island (Veterans Community Park property) or anywhere else in the City at the City's expense. As for the remainder of the Island, the City has and is in the process of working with commercial property owners to develop parking spaces in alley swales and City street swales to develop parking spaces at their expense. Free standing restaurants created their own parking problems by increasing their seating capacity and not increasing their parking capacity. Residential property owners have various alternatives to enhance their parking needs. Depending on the size of their garage, residents can park one, two or more vehicles in their garage; park vehicles on apron of driveway; parallel or perpendicular to roadway, not extending over roadway or sidewalk. They can apply for permit to construct a gravel driveway extension on side of present driveway or apply for a permit to construct a circular driveway on the property.

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Reed:

I do not support building a parking garage on City property at the north end of the island at this time. I do support the creation of a comprehensive parking plan involving parking shuttles that would provide adequate parking for our residents, for the visitors to our hotels and time shares, and for the tourists who come to enjoy our beautiful beaches and island amenities.

Roman:

No - the City is in this situation because of a failure to plan for the future. Reacting to today's problem by constructing a parking garage on Veterans Community Park is not the solution, only the answer for today. While I support an island-wide comprehensive parking solution, I would like to see more innovation that moves our community away from the car-centric practices of the past. As a community, it's important that we are able to explore the future together, chart a course to address our needs, and follow that path to completion.

Swiacki:

How we arrived at a "parking problem" is a moot point. The reality is that we do have a parking problem that affects citizens, businesses and visitors. In my opinion, I think any attempt to solve the problem would require that the public and private sectors work together. All options should be on the table. Considerations could include: trolley service, shuttle/jitney service, street/alley/swale parking, "off island" parking and a parking garage.

- 10. Would Marco Island government be improved if there were five City Councilors instead of seven? Would you support a restructuring of the City Council to a six or four member Council, with a mayor retaining the City Manager position, City Manager reporting directly to the Mayor?**

Grifoni:

No, I don't believe that reducing or increasing the amount of City Councilors would result in a better or more effective City government. I also do not support changing the form of government in Marco Island from Council-Manager style to Mayor-Council style, especially one that retains a City Manager in addition to a Mayor. The Mayor/Manager/Council government puts too much authority into the hands of the Mayor and is a style of government typical of major, large American cities with almost nothing in common with the small town atmosphere and community of Marco Island. The best way to improve our City government is by electing the right individuals to do the job. Our City Councilors must be active, involved, prepared, and dedicated to the community. City Councilors shouldn't step into office for the purpose of benefiting themselves or their close friends. The City Manager in our form of government should also be impartial, follow the City Charter, and should effectively carry out the administrative side of the direction, policies, and vision set by Council through ordinances and resolutions. The job of City Councilor is one of public service and not of accolades or inflated egos. A Councilor must evaluate every issue on the merits, treat all citizens equally under the law, and be a voice for the entire community. Those will be my goals and that is what I will strive to perform as a City Councilor for Marco Island if elected by our voters.

Honecker:

Even though the citizens have rejected a mayor form of government twice in the past I think it should be looked at again. Marco Island is divided into three voting precincts. I think the City would be better served if each precinct was represented by two Councilors. Overseeing the Councilors would be a strong mayor, who would run at large. However, to do any of this would require a change to the City Charter.

Honig:

Two different issues. If our City Council were 5 members instead of 7, it would be easier to get along. It might also lead to more government, more regulations, and higher taxes, because everybody would “get along.” As for a mayor, about half the cities in Florida have a mayor, half do not. I would say we got it right. We do not need any more power concentrated in one person.

Kramer:

No. I cannot believe that our City government would be improved by reducing the number of representatives that we elect to serve us. Further, the history leading up to our incorporation included a long debate concerning a mayor controlled government, and we chose against it. Nothing has since happened suggesting that we made a mistake or that we would now be better served with a mayor.

Petricca:

I personally am quite satisfied with our current system. If Councilors deal with facts, and not with emotions or special interest groups, and do the right thing for the benefit of the community, there would be no problem.

Reed:

I do not support changing the role of the City Manager or adding a mayor. I believe the seven member City Council, working together with the City Manager, serves our island well and I would not be in favor of a change.

Roman:

As in question # 5, I support the City Council-City Manager or “weak mayor” form of government with seven City Councilors that we have on Marco Island. I moved to Marco Island in 2002 and began attending City Council meetings. I was appointed to the Planning Board in 2004 - 2006 and worked closely with the City Council, staff, and the City Manager at the time. I saw up close a City government that was able to function effectively.

Swiacki:

The City Charter calls for seven (7) councilors. Any change would require a change to the Charter and a referendum supporting the change. I believe the present system of seven councilors is working well and that no restructuring is necessary.

11. What are the three most critical issues the community is facing and what would you do to remedy them?

Grifoni:

- 1) City Council is broken - We need a professional and prepared City Council that will debate the issues openly and constructively in the Sunshine. Our public is a vast, untapped resource that should be celebrated and utilized by our City rather than ignored. I'll always come prepared for our meetings, I won't spend your tax dollars recklessly, I won't support ordinances that unnecessarily burden our citizens, I won't strangle our local businesses with red tape, and I won't stop listening to you on Election Day.
- 2) Improve County/State relationship - We can no longer afford a City Council that cannot see beyond the Jolley Bridge. I'll develop better working relationships with our County Commission and state legislators so we don't continue to bear the brunt of missed opportunities. I'm active and involved. I'll work to advance a pro-Marco Island agenda wherever necessary so our citizens are always represented. These aren't empty campaign promises. I've done it for years as a grassroots leader and I'll continue to on City Council.

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City Council Candidate's Questions... Continued from page 27

3) Unite Marco Island - Condos versus single-family homeowners, renters versus residents, snowbirds versus full-timers: This must stop. I'll be an independent voice to unite Marco Island through common sense and common ground. We start by protecting property rights and keeping our City government small and unobtrusive so individuals and businesses can flourish. This can't be accomplished alone. This is a four-year commitment between me and the community. I ask for your support and your vote to achieve these goals together.

Honecker:

- 1) Parking - My two-step plan of allowing resident only swale parking and a shuttle service should help the problem.
- 2) The COPCN - The City needs to apply for and have a certificate on hand. We do not know what the County will do. Will they remove our one ambulance? Will they cancel our inter-local agreement that lets us provide Advanced Life Support (ALS)? Life and safety is the number one concern of a local government. Having the COPCN is like having your hurricane supplies on hand, so if a storm comes you are prepared.
- 3) Updating the Land Development Code (LDC) - The LDC needs to be updated. Very much like the utility rates, the City adopted the County LDC at incorporation and has added bits and pieces to it over the years. This approach has resulted in conflicts within the code, which has made interpretations of the code difficult for staff and citizens to understand. We must clean up the LDC and ensure that it stays consistent with the Deltona Deed Restrictions.

Honig:

- 1) Water-sewer utility rates and debt. I have outlined my recommendation in #4 above.
- 2) Parking. I have outlined a suggested approach in #9 above.
- 3) City-County relationships. Our relationship with the County probably could not be worse than it is. In the current, adversarial state, we are at a severe disadvantage. We have no leverage. It does no good to remind the County of our tax contributions. What we need to do is develop relationships the old-fashioned way, by meeting frequently with County Commissioners, as a group and one-on-one, so that we can forcefully and convincingly put forward our priorities and needs. What can we expect from a better City-County relationship? I do not know, but maybe:
 - (a) A joint approach to any potential ambulance service changes, so that Marco Island taxpayers do not have to pay more in taxes than we pay now to continue to receive excellent service.
 - (b) A resolution of the Goodland Road problem, which can only be solved in a joint manner.
 - (c) A stronger effort by the County to make Tigertail more accessible, such as by paving the parking lot and providing better pathways to the beach.

Kramer:

- 1) Stewardship - We need our City Council and staff to always recognize that they serve as stewards. The City must be responsible for the planning and management of resources both for all of us and for future generations. The City is and will always be responsible to protect our natural environment while serving the needs of our citizens, especially including the needs of our very most senior citizens. As part of this issue, our City must operate in the sunshine and seek greater public comment (I oppose City Resolution 15-43). Finally, stewardship includes fiscal responsibility with our citizens' tax dollars.
- 2) The Impact of the 951 Corridor - The current and coming growth along 951 will have a substantial impact on our island. While it may hopefully benefit our business community, it will clearly tax our recreational facilities and overall infrastructure. Our City needs to spend time further identifying and evaluating the likely impact on our island and how our City can best prepare for it.



3) The Quality of Island Life - In addition to protecting our natural environment as best we can, and providing the best cost-efficient City services, our City needs to be fully committed to increasing recreational amenities to all of our citizens. Within fiscal restraints, our City government needs to proceed both to better develop recreational opportunities with green spaces and parks and to make our island even more friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Petricca:

- 1) COPCN - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The City, at Council direction, is presently pursuing obtaining that certificate.
- 2) Utility Rate Schedule - This is a hot button item which most councilors fear to address. That is our duty, to recognize a problem and to solve it, not avoid it.
- 3) Maintain and/or reduce City density as outlined in our Ordinance 15-10, to reduce current density by 3.2%.

Reed:

I believe the three most critical issues facing our community involve the future of Veterans Community Park, control of the problems associated with short-term rentals, and creating a water and sewer rate system that is simple, equitable and fair.

- 1) I believe that the development of the Veterans Community Park will test our citizens' will to choose what's best for the long term over what may be alluring in the near term. I believe that control over the development of the amenities at the park should never be taken away from our citizens and that no short-term enticement, no matter how attractive, justifies giving up our control over the future of the park.
- 2) Next, we must provide relief to our citizens who are negatively impacted by neighboring short-term rentals. We must transfer the burden of controlling the behavior of short term rental tenants off of their neighbors and on to the property owners.
- 3) Finally, I believe that a water and sewer rate structure that is simple, equitable and fair can be developed with input from all of the stakeholders and can be implemented so that everyone on the island has reason to believe that they are being treated fairly.

If I am elected, I will work aggressively to address these and all other issues that this community is facing. I believe that Marco Island is the best place in America not only for my wife and me, but for our children and our nine grandchildren. I will do everything that I can to preserve the quality of this island for them.

Roman:

First and foremost is the ability of our elected officials to govern. Marco islanders deserve a professional and effective government that operates in the Sunshine, where insults are replaced with collaboration and constructive dialogue, and all members of the community are treated with respect. If decisions are made behind the scenes, out of public view, a citizen's voice does not matter. This way of operating creates distrust, rumors, and powerful special interests that destroy the fabric of a community. I believe we are at a turning point; however, I can't change the public dialogue alone. It will take all of us working together to put the community's interest above all others.

Next, preserving and maintaining a healthy, natural environment. Marco Island's prosperity is directly linked to the vitality of the rich natural environment that surrounds us. It is the reason people fall in love with Marco Island when they visit, and then decide to move here. Our natural environment is the #1 economic engine responsible for hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for our community. Protection of this environment is critical to our continued economic success!

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City Council Candidate's Questions... Continued from page 29

Third, protecting our quality of life. Our community is made up of young families, retirees, full-time residents, part-time residents, and visitors who come to Marco Island because it is a special place. If you would ask someone from each of these groups about what makes our island special, you'd get many different answers. However, most of these replies would be positive, highlighting what is great about our island. What becomes more challenging is working together when issues arise. The community must find a way to "bury the hatchet" and work together in an open and civil manner.

Swiacki:

The three most pressing issues are: Parking/Density, Utility Rates and the COPCN. I have already discussed the Parking and Utility Issues. I think the COPCN requires further elaboration. As a practicing physician and a board certified general surgeon for 47 years, I have had extensive experience in handling emergency medical care and making critical life and death decisions. I am also certified in Quality of Medical Care and Utilization of Medical Resources. There are three critical elements in a medical emergency: 1) Response time; 2) Quality and level of care by first responders; 3) Rapid transport to an appropriate facility. Presently, these are all controlled by Collier County. The City has a working agreement with the County that appears to be adequate at this time. However, this could change at any time at the discretion of the County. Because Marco Island is a City, we can request our own COPCN from the County. Should the County grant Marco Island its own COPCN, we would then have the ability to determine the level and quality of emergency medical care for our citizens. We could continue the present arrangement IF our needs are met. However, if Collier County is unwilling or unable to give us the appropriate service we require and deserve, by having our own COPCN, we could then manage our own emergency medical and transportation service.



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News from Across the Bridge

*by Donna Fiala,
Collier County Commissioner*

Next year's Pickle Ball event at East Naples Community Park on Thomasson Rd. will be held from April 25th to April 31st. Many changes are already being planned to make it an even better event, plus they'll also be able to accommodate a lot more people! And the exciting part of this story is that an extended contract has been working its way through the system to extend the games and CBS Sports till 2021! That shows you how POPULAR this sport is and how impressive the first-ever event was. If you ever want to play with a bunch of terrific people who love the sport, drive down to Thomasson Rd. opposite Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. to the East Naples Community Park, and you will be warmly welcomed. You'll love the courts with their soft surface that is kind to your feet and legs. People start arriving at 7 am and usually play till about noon. Yes, even in the summer! They welcome all levels of players. There are 54 newly constructed courts so there is plenty of room. Shortly they are planning on installing roofs over a few of the courts, as much as they can with grant money. There might be 2 or 3 to start off with, but that will grow as time goes by.

The Marco Island Airport will again expand to meet the needs of the flying public. The County owned airport will be building a new passenger terminal on vacant land just east of the existing terminal. The old terminal will be coming down to make way for new aircraft hangars. The airport authority will construct the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the hangar, including but not limited to, aircraft parking apron, drainage, and utilities. These infrastructure improvements are eligible for 80% FDOT financial participation, with 20% match from the County. The County will lease the improved vacant property to Image Air Charter (which was selected after bids were finalized). Staff will negotiate the details and bring them back to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. Image Air will then fund and construct a corporate aircraft hangar at the Marco Island Airport. Staff is now pursuing FDOT grant participation for the required infrastructure improvements and will begin lease negotiations with Image Air.

Very soon we should start seeing the installation of landscaping along the 951 median connecting Mainsail Dr. to Fiddler's Creek. No sooner will they finish that section than the County will apply to the FDOT for another grant to continue the process until they finish the project all the way to US 41 E. Landscaping seems to make all the difference in appearance to the roads. FDOT states that landscaping is also a safety factor because people speed less on landscaped roads, and there are fewer accidents as well. I think we just thought of the beauty but never the safety factor. That's why the FDOT will provide grant money to landscape the medians.

Did you know there is an organization named "Marco Island Writers" based at the Marco Center for the Arts, whose main focus is to network with other writers and authors of all skill levels, help one another improve their craft by sharing information, and support and encourage other writing endeavors? They meet on the second Wednesday of every month, year 'round from 6-8pm at the Center for the Arts located at 1010 Winterberry Dr. Doors open at 5:30pm to sign in. Contact Elisabeth Noyes, President at 239-394-5856 or marcoislandwritersinc@gmail.com.



*Donna Fiala,
Collier County Commissioner,
Marco Island Representative*

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Uncle Sam's Sand Jam, July 4th, 2016





See more pictures on pages 42 & 43



Habitat for Humanity Building Homes for Marco's Hard Workers

by Andrea McKenna, Habitat for Humanity, Donor Relations

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is so grateful to the Marco Island community for joining forces with us to build homes for those employed on the Island. Each year for the past few years, on average, eight families who work on the island complete the rigorous application process and are approved to become Habitat homeowners. Currently 25 island businesses employ 75 Habitat homeowners.

In June, we met Jose and Graciela who dream of giving their son, twelve-year-old Jose Jr., a chance to reach his full potential. In the gifted program at school, Jose Jr. has received many academic awards. At this young age, he is already looking forward to becoming a commercial airline pilot.

The family currently lives in a garage that has been divided into two rooms and a bathroom, for which they pay \$750 per month. Jose said, "Our dream is to have a house to give our son a place with a yard outside and a room of his own." The hard-working parents' number one priority is their son's education but they continually struggle to make ends meet. Graciela works at the Marriott on Marco Island in pool activities while Jose works for Florida Pool Services.

The affordable housing crisis in Collier County continues to worsen, especially for the service industry workers who support island life. Availability of affordable rental units on the island is nonexistent. They are scarce within the county with occupancy approaching 99%. If and when an apartment is available, the average rent is approaching \$1,400 per month. A minimum wage worker would need to work an impossible 144 hours per week just to afford such an exorbitant amount. Few are able to pay first and last month's rent plus a security deposit. The number of families inquiring about housing with Habitat has skyrocketed to 18 for every one family we are able to serve, up from 10 only two years ago.

With your help, Jose and Graciela and other families working on Marco Island will realize the strength, stability and independence that result from having an affordable mortgage and owning their own home.



Jose Jr., Graciela and Jose Dorado photographed during the application process at their current residence by Habitat for Humanity Volunteers.

Thank you for helping us reach three-quarters of our goal to raise \$1,000,000 this year from the generous Marco Island community. These funds will be used to build homes in Naples for eight families employed on the island. With just over three months left in the year, we ask for your continued help. Your financial support, your voice and your time will help bring independence and security to those in need. Thank you for offering a hand-up to families working hard to put a strong roof overhead and a solid foundation under their feet.

About Habitat for Humanity of Collier County

As one of the most productive Habitat affiliates in the nation, Habitat Collier has built approximately 100 homes each year for more than a decade. Nineteen hundred families are now living in the safety of their own home thanks to their hard work, the generosity of so many in our community and their partnership with Habitat. Families BUY their homes with an interest-free mortgage. Homeowners undergo an exhaustive application process prior to being approved for a Habitat home. Once approved, they invest 500 hours of "sweat equity" building their home and the homes of their future neighbors.

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Marco Island Center for the Arts Announces 2016-2017 Season

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

The Marco Island Center for the Arts has a dazzling array of art exhibitions, classes, workshops, events and programs scheduled for 2016-2017. We will be offering over 150 classes and workshops for adults and we hope you will consider starting your own artistic journey.

We will provide some unique and engaging exhibitions this fall of 2016. In October, Fiber as Art will be in the Main Galleries (Artists – Pat Kumicich, Jeannie Thomma, Allison Ouversen and Sharon and Bob Warner. Curator: Barbara Parisi) and in La Petite Galerie: Phyllis Pransky's Paintings. In November, we will partner with the National Association of Women Artists (Florida) and present their work in the Main Galleries and Marco Island Academy student work will be in La Petite Galerie.

We will kick off the holiday season with our Festival of Trees, which will run from November 29-December 1, 2016. The Galleries will transform into a Winter Wonderland with remarkable trees created by artists, individuals and community groups. Santa will come visit on November 30, 2016 from 4-6pm and there will be the chance for children to make mini gingerbread type houses. As soon as

the trees are down, the Art of the Clay Guild will be the December exhibition in the Main Galleries. Our popular Mini Masters exhibition will be in the La Petite Galerie and all the small paintings will be up for silent auction the evening of December 13 from 5:30-7pm.

Exciting exhibitions that can be expected in 2017 include the work of internationally acclaimed artist, Betsy Ross Koller (January 2017), our Member Artists exhibition (February 2017) and a collaboration with ArtServe of Fort Lauderdale to present part of the award winning exhibition ArtBrazil (March 2017).

Some special upcoming events include What Have You Got? Special Art, Antique and Treasure Appraisal Event on November 3, 2016. The Art Center will be the Marco Island site for the launch of Randell Kenneth Jones' new book SHOW ME which features Jones's interviews with Pat Benatar, Barbara Corcoran, Janet Evanovich, Jack Hanna, Sonny Jurgensen, Suze Orman, Willard Scott and many more.

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Best Management Practices for Pressure Washing

by Kamila Diddle, Collier County Pollution Control

Whether you are pressure washing a house, roof, or driveway, it is important to consider where the wash water will go. Pollutants such as dirt, petroleum by-products, heavy metals and harmful cleaning chemicals are common constituents of the wash water resulting from pressure washing. Gutters, swales, ditches, culverts, and stormwater ponds are all part of the stormwater system; and clean stormwater is critical to our local environment. Stormwater systems function by carrying stormwater away from urban areas to regions that can hold and/or discharge water. If water levels allow, the stormwater is held in stormwater retention ponds that provide critical recharge of groundwater and nutrient uptake prior to releasing the water downstream, eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. Implementing best management practices (BMP's) when pressure washing can ensure that only clean stormwater flows to our waterways.

Even the use of low pressure washers can pollute the stormwater system. Contaminant levels are magnified when using chemicals to remove mold, mildew and staining. Compounds such as sodium hypochlorite (bleach), trisodium phosphate (TSP), sodium hydroxide and various acids are commonly used during pressure washing. It is imperative that product labels be closely followed because the label acts as the legal guide for proper use. For instance, if the label dictates "keep the product away from waterbodies or municipal sewers," then keeping the wash water out of the stormwater system is required by law.

Water quality in neighborhood stormwater ponds is a high priority in many communities. If deliberate contamination or contamination due to negligence occurs, the contractor can be held liable for all associated cleanup and disposal costs, along with fines and/or criminal charges. Implementing proper BMP's can relieve the "pressure" on our local waterways.

In the event that harmful chemicals cannot be avoided a) disconnect all roof drains, gutters and pipes that have direct connection to lakes; and b) all wash water should be redirected to a grassy area or contained and disposed offsite.

Protecting our waterways is simple. Having a plan is essential to staying in compliance. Below are a number of BMP's that can be implemented:

1. Obtain all necessary permits, licenses and disposal authorizations in advance.
2. Identify storm drains, discharge points and low areas before starting.
3. Review and adhere to all chemical labels.
4. Pre-clean the site by absorbing oil deposits, sweeping up dirt, removing organic debris such as leaves and pretreating problem areas as needed. Then properly dispose of all waste by-products without washing them into the stormwater system.
5. Protect or block storm drains. Let the water evaporate or be filtered by a grassy area.
6. Minimize the volume of water needed.
7. Use biodegradable and nontoxic cleaners whenever possible.

To obtain stormwater system drawings, call 239-252-5730 or visit the Growth Management Department Records Office at 2800 North Horseshoe Drive, Naples. Direct additional questions to Pollution Control & Prevention at 239-252-2502 or pollution_control@colliergov.net.

Habitat... Continued from page 34

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is a 10-time four-star rated Charity Navigator organization. In 2014, we were recognized by Charity Navigator as #1 in the nation for housing and community development. Habitat Collier was also among the 1% of charities to have earned a perfect 100 score from Charity Navigator.

For more information please contact Andrea McKenna at 239- 775-0036 or amckenna@habitatcollier.org or visit www.habitatcollier.org.



Marco Island Center for the Arts...
Continued from page 35

The Musical Interludes Series will bring back some of last year's favorites along with showcasing some exciting new talent. Returning artists include Gulfshore Opera Three Tenors (November 10, 2016), Peter and Will Anderson Jazz Trio (February 9, 2017) Rebecca Richardson and Dan Heck (March 16, 2017) and Bob Zottola's Jazz Cabaret (May 3, 2017). New musical performers joining the roster are Jebry (January 20, 2017), String Theory (February 15, 2017), Apollo's Phonograph (March 7, 2017) and Tango SVP (April 13, 2017). Tickets for all performances are just \$25.

Please check the Art Center's website www.marcoislandart.org for a full listing of all classes, workshops, programs and events. There is always an open invitation to stop by Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. You will certainly want to visit our fabulous gift shop that showcases the work of Southwest Florida artists. You can find paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery and many one of a kind gift items. There is certain to be something for everyone.

*Come be a pART of the center for the Arts!
Marco Island Center for the Arts is
located at 1010 Winterberry Dr,
and they can be reached at 239-394-4221.*

Donna Fiala...
Continued from page 31

You might not have heard yet, but the Naples Outlet Mall has been sold. I've talked to the new owners, and they want to keep it an Outlet Mall, but plan on beginning by upgrading and updating the façade of the building, bringing the landscaping up to par, keeping the great stores that remain in the mall, but actively pursuing new and sought-after retail stores and restaurants. The renovation won't happen overnight, but instead be phased in. I've passed along some of the suggestions I've heard from those who have written me. I'm looking for the first shovel full of dirt moved and the first improvement to the appearance of the mall. They have a few great stores, like Coach, Samsonite, etc., but many more are needed. They are looking for a nice restaurant to be the center of attention as you enter the driveway of the mall. Let's all keep our eyes on the improvements said to be coming.

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Butterfly Garden at Calusa Park

by Maria Lamb, Calusa Garden Club

Flowering mature trees line the winding shell pathway of the Calusa Park located on a ½ mile linear pathway on Winterberry Drive. It was deeded by the Mackle Brothers as a Green Belt and was referred to as Tract C & D. In July 2011, the name was changed to Calusa Park by the Beautification Advisory Committee (BAC.)

Today, you'll find a beautiful mature Royal Poinciana Tree on the east end of the park; a Butterfly Garden and a bench on the west end and a Calusa Park sign, all made possible by a public endowment from the Calusa Garden Club to the City of Marco Island in the sum of \$10,000.

In late 1998, Syd Mellinger, a Calusa Garden Club member, was visiting her daughter, Nancy Adams, in Colorado Springs. Nancy's club had done a publication similar to a garden guide for gardeners. Syd "borrowed" the idea and presented it to her garden club as a fundraiser for the club, thus giving birth to the Palms, Pineapples & Periwinkles Garden Guide. The Garden Guide books were sold for \$10 at various retailers on Marco.

The Garden Guide book was NOT a calendar but a monthly checklist. Regardless of the year, it reminded you what needs to be done or could be done for that month.



Kathy Lord, Doris Wentland and Syd Mellinger, of the Calusa Garden Club show off their Garden Guide, Palms, Pineapples & Periwinkles, which raised over \$12,000 (February, 2004)



Syd Mellinger and spouse Jim walking down the shell pathway at Calusa Park in 2013. Syd was a member of both the Calusa Garden Club and Beautification Advisory Committee.

*Sample of a Garden Guide for September:
Week 1: "Start vegetable seeds and plant for harvest in 90 days."
Week 3: "Prune roses and ornamental grasses should be cut back."*

Over \$12,000 was raised and the Garden Guide won The Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit award for excellence in a club publication, awarded by the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

When Syd joined the BAC in 2001, it was determined that funds be used to enhance Calusa Park. In December 1, 2003, Calusa Garden Club's President, Kathy Lord and Syd Mellinger presented the City of Marco Island with a check for \$10,000 for Calusa Park.

Syd once remarked that "quality of life in Marco is enhanced through beautification." For over 20 years, she advocated for a beautiful Marco, through the BAC and the Calusa Garden Club. On October 2, 2013, a yellow *Tabebuia* was planted at Calusa Park

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Safe Boating with Visual Distress Signals

by Keith Wohltman, US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Marco Island Flotilla 95

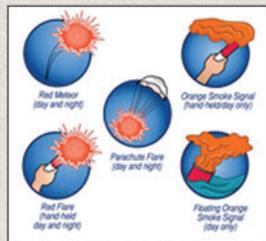
It is another beautiful sunny day on Marco Island and you're going fishing in the backwaters of the 10,000 Islands. Suddenly, your boat loses all power and neither your electronic devices work nor your cell phone. There are usually many boats out in the backwater, but how will they know you are in need of assistance and not just anchored up and fishing? This is why you are required to have Visual Distress Signals (VDS) on board.

VDS attract attention to you and your boat if you need assistance during search-and-rescue situations. Make sure you have the right type of VDS and know how to use them properly. Recreational boats over 16 feet in length must carry both day and night VDS, with some exceptions. Recreational boats less than 16 feet are only required to carry night VDS.

There are two types of VDS, pyrotechnic and non-pyrotechnic, and both must be US Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition and readily available. Any combination can be carried as long as they total at least three signals for day use and three signals for night use.

Pyrotechnic Devices:

- They are marked with an expiration date. Expired signals can be carried as extra equipment but do not count toward the VDS requirement.
- If you choose pyrotechnic devices, a minimum of three are required for day and three for night use. Three day/night devices meet both requirements.
- Pyrotechnic devices should be stored in a cool, dry location.
- A watertight container painted red or orange and prominently labelled "Distress Signals" or "Flares" is recommended.



US Coast Guard approved Pyrotechnic VDS

- Red Flares - hand-held or aerial
- Orange smoke - hand-held or floating
- Launchers - aerial red meteors or parachute flares

Non-Pyrotechnic Devices:

Orange distress flag

- This is a day signal only.
- Must be 3 x 3 feet with a black square and black ball on an orange background
- Must be marked that it meets US Coast Guard requirements
- Most distinctive when attached and waved on a paddle, boathook or flown from a mast



Electric distress light

- Accepted for night use only
- Automatically flashes international SOS distress signal
- Must be marked that it meets US Coast Guard requirements

A newly approved US Coast Guard approved VDS is the SOS Distress Light Electronic Flare. This newly approved VDS uses an LED light and does not have an expiration date or a hazardous disposal requirement.

Check the expiration date of your VDS and ensure the expired VDS are disposed of properly. The only facility that accepts expired pyrotechnic VDS on Marco Island is the recycle center on Bald Eagle. Please do not drop off expired VDS at any other facility.

To learn more about safe boating attend a course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. For more information call Joe Riccio at 239-394.2389.

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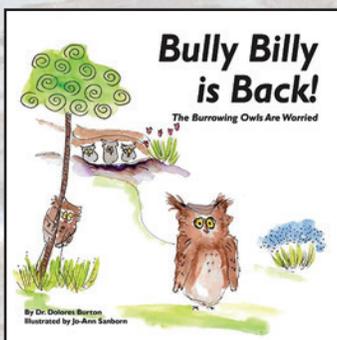
244 Palm Street, Olde Marco



Friends of the Marco Island Library - A Morning with Burrowing Owls

by Gwyn Goodman, President, Friends of the Marco Island Library

The Friends of the Marco Island Library are sponsoring a special presentation. Join us for a morning with burrowing owls. Jean Hall, Project Leader for the Audubon of the Western Everglades Owl Prowl Program, will share her many years experience with Marco's burrowing owls. Two local authors will do a reading of their children's books inspired by the owls.



Dr. Dolores Burton, educator, Fulbright scholar and author of her new book, *Bully Billy is Back! The Burrowing Owls Are Worried*, and Roseanne Pawelec, author of *Ollie Finds a New Home: The*

Story of a Burrowing Owl, will share how their books were inspired by the owls. Refreshments will be served to owl lovers of all ages. It is sure to be a hoot!

Space is limited. Registration is required by visiting www.collierlibrary.org, click on Register Online, or at the Marco Island Library.

The Friends of the Marco Library support the Marco Branch by funding programs, furniture, equipment and special projects that cannot be afforded by the Library budget. Please consider becoming a Friend!

Books And Brews:
Marco Gives A Hoot - A Celebration of the Island's Burrowing Owls, Saturday, November 12th, 10 a.m.

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*Butterfly Garden at Calusa Park...
Continued from page 38*



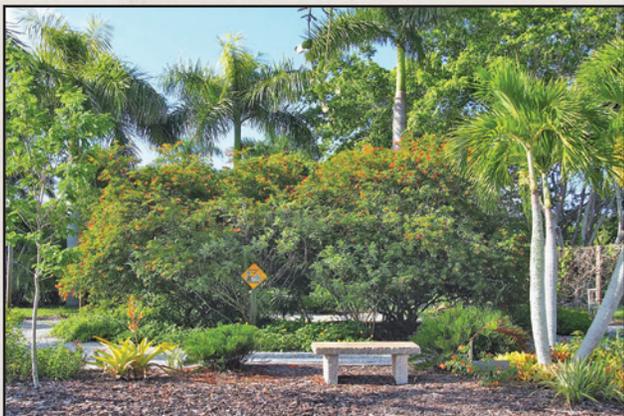
***Above:** Giant Swallowtails are plentiful at the Butterfly Garden.*

***Below:** Butterfly Garden, Calusa Park signage and the Royal Poinciana were made possible by a public endowment from the Calusa Garden Club.*

to honor this extraordinary woman. At Calusa Park's Butterfly Garden you'll experience Syd's influence as you observe the beautiful Monarchs and Swallowtails flutter by.

Volunteers from the Beautification Advisory Committee, Calusa Garden Club, City Staff and island residents continue to maintain the shrubs and vines at the Butterfly Garden.

*For more information on Calusa Garden Club, please visit their website at:
www.calusa.org and on
[www.Facebook.com/CalusaGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/CalusaGardenClub)*



Energy Tools to Help Tackle Your Electric Usage

Looking to save money on your electric bill? You are in luck! LCEC is proud to offer three energy tools which will empower you to take control of your energy consumption.

kiloWATCH

Track your household energy usage and approximate cost with the online energy tool, kiloWATCH. To get started, visit www.lcec.net, register for Account Access, sign in, and then click View Daily Energy Usage. Place your mouse over the dots on the chart to see kilowatt usage and anticipated cost for the day. You can also hover over the blue vertical bars for the day's temperature and to see how weather can affect daily usage.

Interactive Home

Understanding your electric usage is easy and fun with the online Interactive Home. By spending a few minutes clicking through the "virtual" home, you will learn many proven ways to save energy dollars year after year. Many of the energy-saving suggestions are low-cost or no-cost.

Calc-U-Saver

With the LCEC Calc-U-Savers, you can answer many of your energy questions by analyzing your usage and assessing ways to save through our energy tips. There is a home, appliance, lightning and pool/spa Calc-U-Saver. There is even a Calc-U-Saver en español!

*Visit www.lcec.net
for more information on
these tools and other ways
to save on your electric bill!*





Uncle Sam's Sand Jam, July 4th, 2016





See more pictures on pages 32 & 33



Marco Island Civic Association "Members Only" Discount Program

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Present discount card before ordering

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10% off bill with purchase of 1 entrée per person Sun thru Thurs. Complimentary valet parking. Other offers do not apply, no discount weekends & holidays.
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www.cjsonthebay.com
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Cold Stone Ice Cream,

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

Dolce Mare

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

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www.ginosoldemarco.com
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www.themarcoislandprincess.com
Rose Marina, 642-5415

Nacho Mama's Tex-Mex American

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

Ne Ne's Kitchen

Breakfast & Lunch (dine-in)
www.neneskitchen.com
297 N Collier Blvd, 394-3854

Sami's Pizza Grande

227 N Collier Blvd, 389-0404
10% off for food purchase of \$20 or more, pick up only
www.samispizzagrande.com

The Sand Bar

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www.sandbarmarco.com

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www.snookinn.com
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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

Nikken, Retail wellness products

651 S Collier Blvd, 394-1580

Personal Training & Pilates Studio

Above Subway on Collier Blvd
www.101fit.com
650 Bald Eagle Dr, 333-5771

Summer Day Organic Café

Marco Town Center Mall
Vitamins only. 394-8361
www.summerdaymarket.com

Xcel Fitness Spa

Shops of Marco, 394-EXCEL (9235)
10% off coffee & smoothie bar
www.xfspa.com

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APPAREL/JEWELRY

Alvin's Island – www.alvinsisland.com
Card should always be presented at point of sale, 581 S Collier Blvd, 389-0600

Beach Unlimited

1001 N Collier Blvd, 642-4888

Butterfly Beach, Esplanade

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

Georgie's & the Shoe Resort

www.georgiesshoeresort.com
Town Center Mall, 394-2621

JetSet Surf Shop, 394-5544

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Jewelry by Laura, Marriott Resort

394-2511

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Shops of Marco www.ggimarco.com

OMG That's Chic, 970-2102

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www.OMGthatschic.com, Town Center

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Sunshine Stitchers, 970-0200

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

Surf & Sand / Sweetwaters / Crosswinds

Marriott Resort, 389-6051

NON-APPAREL

China Rose Florist

Fresh flowers only, excludes out-of-town orders,
678 Bald Eagle Dr, 642-6663
www.chinaroseflorist.com

Critter Café, Excludes dog and cat food

www.crittercafemarcoisland.com
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First Pawn Jewelry & Loan

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

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Shops of Marco: North Barfield Drive & San Marco Road



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Town Center, 642-7366
www.yourislandhome.com

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www.tinytiketreasures.com

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www.dolphin-study.com

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642-5415
www.themarcoislandprincess.com

Marco Island Watersports
Marriott & Hilton Resorts 394-4344

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





What were your reasons for joining MICA's Residents' Beach?

- MICA protects your property value by enforcing the deed restrictions and keeping residential areas consistent with the ideas and vision of the Mackle Brothers. There won't be any commercial enterprises cropping up in your neighborhood.
- Membership gives access to Residents' Beach and all of its amenities.
- MICA provides access and parking at Sarazen Park at south beach.
- The Sarazen Park chickee hut and grills can be reserved for private cook outs.
- MICA provides free parking at the beach. Parking at the Turtle Lot is \$9 per day.
- The MICA discount program provides discounts at more than 90 local businesses.
- There are three free family friendly concerts at the beach.
- MICA periodically has special events at the beach such as the Holiday party and the 4th of July extravaganza.
- You can access the Paradise Grill for gulf side dining.
- Residents' Beach has a playground, picnic tables and grills for family gatherings.
- MICA members can buy weekly guest passes for visiting friends and family.
- Your voice and opinions gain strength when joined with those of other members.
- Flash emails about important community issues and information keep you informed.
- The MICAWAVE is chock full of articles of local interest.
- The annual survey results have been influential in local decisions.
- MICA is truly your Community Advocate.
- MICA's publications, particularly the "Hurricane Preparedness Guide," have helped earn Marco Island residents a discount on their flood insurance.

At 38 cents per family per day, MICA provides a huge host of benefits.



The ONLY Marco Island app for **RESIDENTS** and visitors

Complete Restaurant Listings

Every Marco Island restaurant categorized by location, type of fare, average cost and other specialties. Complete with descriptions, direct links to contact info, website and an interactive map. Find exactly the restaurant you are looking for, and arrive there quickly and easily.

Calendar of Events

Be in the know about all local events, shows and festivals in our **general calendar**, and see the **live entertainment** schedule for live music at local restaurants and bars. Even add events of interest to you, to your own google calendar with one click, so you won't miss out on the fun.

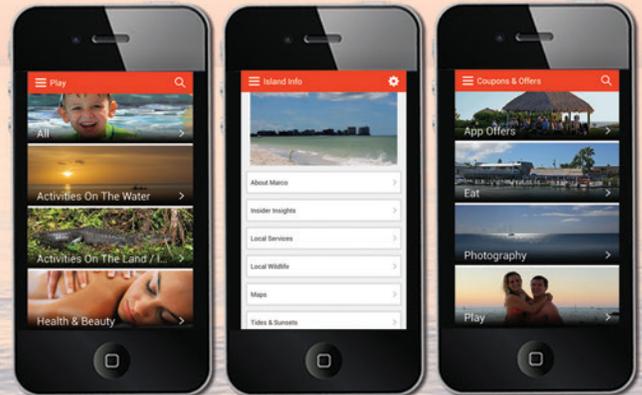
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Marco Island 2017 Calendar

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 - Marco Island Civic Association Office - 1770 San Marco Rd, #204
 - Marco Craft & Shell Company - Marco Town Center Mall, #424
 - Blue Mangrove Gallery - Marco Town Center Mall, #417
- or call 239.642.0251 / email: marcoreview@comcast.net

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