



SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

1281 N. Ocean Drive, Box #114 • Singer Island, Florida 33404

www.sicasingerisland.com

President's Corner

Reflection on Elections

As in past years, 2010 to 2011 has been one of ups and downs for Singer Island residents and SICA. The 2010 November elections not only had a slate of national candidates but a Riviera Beach City Referendum addressing the city charter as it pertains to the use and development of the Riviera Beach Marina. At the heart of the issue was how to develop the Marina so that the city's income and tax base could be expanded. The language of the referendum was so confusing that a yes vote meant no private development would be allowed and a no vote meant the city could move forward with a lease arrangement between the City and a private developer. The yes votes carried the day and the city's charter now required that any business activity at the marina would have to be run and managed by the city.

This outcome was unacceptable to the majority of residents on Singer Island and a newly organized group of citizens residing on the mainland of Riviera Beach. A strong coalition was formed between SICA, Citizens for Responsible Growth, COASI and the Committee for a Better Riviera Beach. The sole purpose of the coalition was to back those candidates in the city's March 2011 election who were in favor of private development at the marina and to gather enough citizen signatures to place another referendum on the ballot that would allow private development in the future.

There were five pivotal votes in the March election, which included the election of three city council members, a mayor, and the marina referendum. SICA and its coalition partners were successful on 60% or three out of five of the votes. The referendum carried by a whopping 60 to 40% margin and two of the incumbent city council members backed by SICA and the coalition won handily. Those re-elected were councilpersons Billie Brooks and Cedrick Thomas. The other two candidates backed by SICA, Bruce Guyton for District 3 council position and George Carter for Mayor lost in a run off election on March 22. Mr. Carter lost by 300 votes and Mr. Guyton by 500 votes.

The outcome of the run-off could have been vastly different if the registered voters on Singer Island and the western communities of Turtle Cay and Woodbine would have turned out in larger numbers. Approximately 1400 out of 3300, or 42% voted on the island and only 12% IN THE WESTERN COMMUNITIES. The right to vote is a privilege in the United States and a right that does not exist in many areas of the world. It often seems those who do not vote complain the most about the current political climate.

Make no mistake about it, SICA does not feel defeated about the election results and the referendum. It helped solidify a great partnership with the other civic organizations on the island and the mainland and is a building block for tackling other issues as they arise.

PBC Commission Blow to Breakwaters

Talk about issues arising. The Breakwater Project that should have been permitted by January of this year was voted down by the Palm Beach County Commissioners on a 5-2 vote on March 22nd. A campaign to put pressure on the commissioners to rethink their vote was started by concerned citizens at Eastpointe I and the Corniche. This effort encompasses 19 condominium associations. SICA completely endorses their efforts and has been working with City Councilperson Dawn Pardo to see what can be done to change the Commissioners minds. Councilperson Dawn Pardo and Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus have been in contact with state and federal officials for assistance with this issue. After Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff convinced Governor Scott to meet with Councilperson Pardo and Commissioner Marcus, and he visited Singer Island to assess the beach erosion. Ms. Marcus and Ms. Pardo stressed to the Governor that it was imperative that he secure the \$9,000,000 State commitment for the project. After a conference between Congressman Allen West and Councilperson Pardo, Congressman West sent a letter to the County Commissioners supporting the project and encouraging the County Commission to reconsider the item and allow the permitting process to continue. It is encouraging to see that all of Singer Island's elected officials are hard at work trying to bring the breakwater project to fruition.

Rybovich Resolution

The redevelopment of the Riviera Beach Marina is back on the burner. Prior to the November election and marina referendum vote, the city council had agreed to allow the Rybovich Group to develop one third of the marina area. The mega yacht facility would have been similar to their development in West Palm Beach, which the City of Riviera Beach rejected back in 2004. The proposed marina development would have added both annual lease income and additional property tax collections. Rybovich was prepared to invest \$60,000,000 of their own funds. As opposition to the project mounted from a group of citizens on the mainland and the passage of the referendum in November not allowing private development, Rybovich was being courted by the City of Jacksonville to expand into North Florida. Councilwoman Pardo, Congressmen Allen West and Alcee Hastings, along with former Mayor Lois Frankel, then were successful with convincing Rybovich to expand in Riviera Beach and move the project to their own land on East 20th Street in Riviera Beach. Even though Rybovich's proposed development will have a positive impact on the City of Riviera Beach, it will not produce the same economic impact for the City's General Fund that would have been achieved at the marina.

CRA Marina Plan

On Tuesday, April 19th several SICA board members along with other concerned Singer Island residents attended a town hall meeting at Newcomb Hall hosted by the Riviera Beach CRA. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from all city residents on what the future development should look like. In attendance were two competing architectural design firms who are bidding on the project. Tony Brown, the executive director of the CRA and his staff should be congratulated on a well-organized and professional presentation. The various citizen groups produced a common thread. The marina should be citizen friendly and easily accessible by the residents of Riviera Beach. The project should be a mixed use development with both privately owned retail space and a state of the art rebuilt Newcomb Hall. Existing docks would be replaced with modern floating docks and the addition of transient docks would encourage the use of the marina facilities by the boating public. Of great concern were the issues of security and who would be responsible for the running and maintenance of the facilities. One issue that was not addressed at the meeting was how this development will be paid for. It is SICA's understanding that the CRA has a commitment from a local financial institution to lend

the city \$25,000,000 for the project. There would most likely be additional funds available from other entities such as the county, state, and federal governments. So the big question is "Should the CRA go into debt when it is facing a \$5,000,000 short fall in its current budget?" There is no doubt that the city's greatest asset is the marina and its development is without question necessary. However, should the development come from private funds or public funds? The original Rybovich development would have solved part of the issue. SICA's position is that private development produces more jobs and increases the tax base more efficiently than government. The citizens of Riviera Beach are already facing declining property values, rising property taxes, and rising water rates that have no end in sight. Riviera Beach has one of the highest millage rates in the State of Florida. The state cap on the millage rate has almost been reached. If the tax base is not increased by private economic development, the only option is to cut city services. When that happens every line item is on the table such as education, fire, and police protection. SICA is not opposed to the development of the marina and the CRA must be given time to make its case.

There were important meetings on this subject. The CRA hosted a meeting on May 2 in city council chambers. The two competing architectural design firms presented their concepts of the redevelopment of the marina. On May 9th, the CRA met in the city council chambers and announced which firm had been chosen to lead the project. The proposed financing of the project will be an ongoing debate at future city council meetings.

Rest In Peace

The 2010-2011 year at SICA saw the passing of three board members. Henry DiBlasio, Martin Rosen and Merle Wolf. Their contributions and accomplishments were many and they are greatly missed.

Past President Retires

Bernard Rice resigned from the SICA Board. Bernie was honored and presented with an award at SICA's April 21 meeting at Palm Beach Shores Town Hall. In addition to the recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Rice received an Honorary Life Member status. Bernie joined SICA in 1989 and two years later became a director and president. He served on several committees, and was instrumental in starting the SICA PAC some 12 years ago. Bernie's passion for the Beaches and Dunes Committee was recognized by all. We like to think of Bernie's resignation as a "retirement" from active duty but we know we will continue to capitalize on his experience as needed.

In The Works

SICA is in the process of forming a new committee. The committee's goal is working with its neighbors to identify and document possible code violations on Singer Island. When applicable, the current City of Riviera Beach 'Citizen Request Form' will be submitted for review.

SICA Board of Director, Draga Lindblom, will be heading the committee. Draga is requesting SICA Member participation. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact Draga at 561-844-0304 for more information.

Municipal decisions made affect the quality of life of the citizens served. As residents, we all benefit from Code enforcement:

- **Fulfill a community obligation.** It is the duty of every municipality to maintain its laws in a comprehensive, up-to-date and understandable form that the average citizen can find and use.
- **Support enforcement.** A Code is a practical and efficient tool for our courts, police and other enforcement officials, enabling them to enforce our laws with confidence and consistency.
- **Plan for the future.** A Code provides a clear view of existing situations and makes it easier to determine the impact of proposed changes and amendments.

A Plan To Halt The Presses

This will potentially be the final printed and mailed Newsletter for SICA. In an effort to reach out to you with important information in a more timely and less costly manner, SICA will be using email and posting information on our web site. The current newsletter format will no longer be distributed unless we hear from you that you want the newsletter.

WHAT WE NEED - - - Your email address
WHAT YOU NEED - - - Our website address

Website: www.sicasingerisland.com

To expedite getting your email address we ask you to send an email from the address you want us to use to sicasingerisland@gmail.com. We will confirm receipt of your email. We have over 500 members, but only about 150 email addresses at present. Please help us out!

If you are adamant that we continue the written, mailed letter you may call and leave a message with your name and address and desire for the written newsletter to continue at the following telephone number: 561-282-5269.

SICA Ends Summer On Positive Note

The final meeting of SICA until next fall was an upbeat recap of the season's activities by Bob Gonstead, President (See summary in this newsletter)

Bernard Rice, retiring 22-year Board member, was presented with an inscribed, contemporary Bulova clock in appreciation for his years of service.

The Keynote speaker for the evening, Lal Samadi, Consulting Engineer on the A1A project, presented a progress report. Mr. Samadi highlighted some of the challenges with the design, but assures everyone that the project is on track. Due to power lines on the east side of the road, the trees will have to be of a shorter variety. The larger trees will still be placed on the west side. Mr. Samadi displayed boards with pictorial representations of the lighting, benches, landscape and overall impression of the drive.

Welcome New Board Members

SICA is pleased to announce the following individuals have agreed to join the SICA Board of Directors:

Marie Davis	
Larry Griffin	Ocean Tree condominium
Draga Lindblom	Yacht Harbor Estates
Dawn Pardo	Yacht Harbor Manor
Matthew Schaffer	Yacht Harbor Manor

The new members were elected at the Annual Meeting in February and ratified at the April 21st meeting of SICA. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Jim Williams at 844-9157 or by email at pelican2is@bellsouth.net to discuss joining the Board. We are aggressively seeking to increase our Association membership, as well as expand our Board membership.

Getting To Know Your Board

In an effort to introduce to you the members of the SICA Board, we will feature board member's backgrounds. This issue, we asked Marie Davis, new member, to introduce herself:

"I was born in West Virginia and moved to Palm Beach County in 1960. Earlier in my life I was a legal secretary/paralegal.

I recognize the importance of being involved in my community and have enjoyed volunteering my time with the Salvation Army and the Animal Rescue League. I served as a board member, and later as Executive Director of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. I particularly enjoy snow skiing, cooking and politics.

I am married to Zell Davis, Jr., a retired attorney and a life long resident of Riviera Beach and we reside on Singer Island. (Many years ago my husband's uncle, Blakeman Fox Griffin, served as mayor of Riviera Beach.) We enjoy traveling, boating fishing and diving, both here and in the Bahamas.

Zell and I are members of the First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. I am a member of PEO, a philanthropic educational organization for women."



WHAT is the buzz all about, Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin, Active Rain, Utube and more?

There is so much to tell and share that '**Technology Corner**' will extend this article and much more on our website, www.SICA SingerIsland.com, which will provide interactive links that can't be done in print.

TODAY, we will introduce

Social Media

Social media is a phrase being tossed around alot these days, but it can sometimes be difficult to answer the question of what is social media.

The best way to define social media is to break it down. Media is an **instrument of communication**, like a **newspaper or a radio**, so social media would be a **social instrument of communication**.

In Web 2.0 terms, this would be a website that doesn't **just give** you information, but **interacts** with you while giving you that information. This interaction can be as simple as asking for your comment or letting you vote on an article, or it can be as complex as Flixster recommending movies to you based on the ratings of other people with similar interests.

Think of **regular media as a one-way street** where you can read a newspaper or listen to a report on television, but you have very limited ability to give your thoughts on the matter. Social media, on the other hand, is a **two-way street that gives you the ability to communicate too**.

Is Social Media and Social News The Same Thing? It is easy to confuse social media with social news because we often refer to members of the news as "the media." Adding to the confusion is the fact that a social news site is also a social media site because it falls into that broader category. But social news is not the same thing as social media any more than a banana is the same thing as fruit. A banana is a type of fruit, but fruit can also be grapes, strawberries, or lemons. And while social news is social media, social networking and wikis are also social media.

What Are Some Social Media Websites? Now that we have answered the question of what is social media, we can move on to social media websites. Because social media is such a broad term, it covers a large range of websites. But the one common link between these websites is that you are able to interact with the website and interact with other visitors.

Here are some examples of social media websites:

- **Social Bookmarking.** (Del.icio.us, Blinklist, Simp.ly) Interact by tagging websites and searching through websites bookmarked by other people.
- **Social News.** (Digg, Propeller, Reddit) Interact by voting for articles and commenting on them.
- **Social Networking.** (Facebook, Hi5, Last.FM) Interact by adding friends, commenting on profiles, joining groups and having discussions.
- **Social Photo and Video Sharing.** (YouTube, Flickr) Interact by sharing photos or videos and commenting on user submissions.
- **Wikis.** (Wikipedia, wikia) Interact by adding articles and editing existing articles.

These websites are not the only social media websites. Any website that invites you to interact with the site and with other visitors falls into the definition of social media.

Familiarize yourself with these sites, go to www.google.com and type in a name and WOW... lots of information will come up on the internet on that subject matter.

SICA will be adding a '**Technology Corner**', at www.SICASingerIsland.com, where you will find more SOCIAL MEDIA information, articles with interactive links, 'TIPS & TRICKS' and comments from 'YOU'.

SICA is very excited to bring you todays means of communication and information to share with everyone.

SICA 'GOING GREEN' PAPERLESS

KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Sign up '**NOW**' and be in the '**KNOW**'

Our efforts in going **GREEN** is to capture the latest information, post it to our website: www.SICASingerIsland.com, & to email information & notices in 'real time' to you! What we need IS your email address..it's easy and quick, go to www.SICASingerIsland.com and sign up.. click SICA logo!

SIGN UP NOW!

SICA wants to keep you informed with the Latest updates...

- SICA NEWSLETTER
- TAXES - PREVENT INCREASES
- BREAKWATERS - WHAT ARE THE FACTS
- A1A ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
- OCEAN MALL PROJECT UPDATE
- WATERFRONT MARINA PROJECT

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P.O. Box 5948, Tallahassee, FL 32314

County Commission Workshop on Breakwaters

June 28th ~ 10:00 am

County Commission Chambers
*Visitors will not be allowed to speak
 but your presence is important . . .
 showing citizen concern.*

A Special Thanks To the Plastridge Agency

for setting up our monthly and special meeting refreshments. Brendan Lynch and his team are unfailingly there for us and this is appreciated by our Board and members. The Plastridge Agency is also a Sponsor member and you will find them on the Sponsor page. The oldest agency in Palm Beach County, they provide their expertise to several associations and individuals on Singer Island. Brendan and his team invite your questions and calls to 386-1703.

SICA - Join Us SICA makes certain that "THE VOICE OF THE ISLAND IS HEARD".

If you have not already done so, please join us for 2011.

YEAR 2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Singer Island Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Apt. # _____

Local Phone: _____ Condo/Community: _____

E-Mail: _____

Registered to vote in P.B. County?: Yes ___ No ___

Membership: **\$40 REGULAR** **\$75 SPONSOR** Benefits: Includes a
 one line sponsorship ad in our quarterly newsletter for one year.

\$6.00 of membership fee goes to SICA Political Action Committee.

Please make checks payable and mail to:

SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION
 1281 N. Ocean Drive, Box #114
 Singer Island, Florida 33404

CHECK OUT THE SICA WEBSITE

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By-Laws Andy Romero
Codes/Zoning Enforcement Draga Lindblom
Community Relations Robert Gonstead
Liaison to the West Side Robert Gonstead
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Nominating James Williams
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Save The Date - May 16th
Meet Your U.S. Congressman
Allen West will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on May 16th at 7 p.m. at the Inlet Grove Community High School. The school is located at 7071 Garden Road in Riviera Beach. There are many important issues being addressed by Congress. This is your opportunity to hear firsthand from your Congressman, to ask questions and express your opinion.

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**Contact County Commission
for Re-vote on Breakwater!**
<http://tinyurl.com/pbc-revote>
Sign Petition NOW. . .



**SPRING
2011**