



SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

www.sicasingerisland.com

President's Message

Robert Gonstead



The March 2012 elections for the City of Riviera Beach are now history. Its citizens endorsed the SICA PAC candidate, Judy Davis, and the referendum on extending city council and mayoral positions from two years to three years. More on the election results later on in this newsletter.

With the election over, it is now time to turn our attention to other important issues facing our City. The focus of my message will be to update our members on the status of the Riviera Beach Marina. The following summary is the result of a conversation I had with Riviera Beach CRA Executive Director Tony Brown. The Riviera Beach CRA and the City of Riviera Beach made great strides in 2011 towards the redevelopment of the marina and the creation of a unique waterfront marketplace. On March 5, 2012 Viking Corporation, the master developer at the marina, introduced the Montreal, Canada based firm, Live Work Learn Play as a development partner. Together they presented their strategic assessment for the marina district's redevelopment and it received rave reviews from the public and members of the City Council who also serve as the CRA's Board of Commissioners.

The strategic assessment plan and the powerpoint presentation is available at the CRA's website, www.rbcra.com. The marina district will be developed into five distinct programming elements:

- 1. Marina/boardwalk:** Boater friendly with an authentic mix of restaurants.
- 2. Civic Neighborhood:** Newcomb Hall and public market.
- 3. Hotel Wharf:** Attract a moderately priced business hotel.
- 4. Mixed-use Neighborhood:** Retail, office and residential to connect the marina and Broadway corridor.
- 5. Broadway Corridor:** View as a regional connection and gateway that tie our working waterfront to healthcare and life sciences and attract research and educational institutions wanting the advantages of our strategic location.

Presidents Message continued on Page 2

Securing Singer Island

Draga Lindblom

Following the community meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011, addressing crime issues on the Island, weekly Crime Watch meetings were held at Trio Realty and Dolce Vita Cafe through January 26, 2012. A final meeting was held on February 23, 2012.

To date, safety and security implementation are in place for:

- Three police cars patrolling the Island 24/7,
- If you see something, say something. Call the new Island hotline phone number: 561-840-1111,
- Twelve Island residents signed up to attend the 11 week COP (Citizens on Patrol) program. Classes will be held at Tiara condominium. Schedule to be announced. Mayor Masters donated cameras and they were installed at Bellatrix Resort on 1000 East Blue Heron Boulevard.

Ongoing efforts are in the works for:

- An Island police sub-station,
- Surveillance cameras: license plate readers and pan/tilt/zoom located in the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) district on the Island, and
- SICA has agreed to be the repository for the funds until the completion of the contract for a future security cameras fundraiser which will secure the Island's northern entrance and exit corridor, placement at N. Ocean Drive and Water Glades condominium.
- SICA Board of Directors, Draga Lindblom and Marie Davis, have been working with the Riviera Beach Police Department. After four vendor request for proposal (RFP) estimates have been researched and reviewed, fundraising for security cameras on the north end will begin.

Thank you to the City and Island residents for working together to support and enhance the safety and security for all citizens.

The City/CRA and Viking are working towards a comprehensive investment plan to first implement the marina/boardwalk and civic neighborhood components. Construction began at the marina in 2011 and construction for Newcomb Hall is expected to begin in September 2013 with a July 2014 opening. Viking and Live Work Learn Play will begin the private development phases in 2014 after completion of the comprehensive investment plan. Construction could start sooner if pre-leasing strategies take less time than anticipated.

SICA applauds and supports the efforts of the City/CRA to move the City of Riviera Beach forward and change its image. Mr. Brown has also assured SICA that it has plans for Singer Island. Hopefully this would result in the development of the properties behind the Grator Gator and the Sands Hotel that continue to prove troublesome for residents and law enforcement officials.

To enhance the focus on neighborhood development, the Riviera Beach CRA created the Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation (RBCDC). This not-for-profit entity hopes to qualify for government-funded grants to improve blighted neighborhoods such as Riviera Beach Heights. The CRA has asked SICA to be one of the charter members under the designation of Community Based Organization (CBO). This means SICA can appoint an individual to serve on the RBCDC board of directors. SICA board member Ann Rettie has agreed to serve in that capacity.

Island Meeting on Beach Erosion Sponsored by SICA

Over 150 island residents attended a special meeting sponsored by SICA on March 20th at the Corniche Condominium and participated in a discussion period. In attendance as guest speakers were: Karen Marcus, County Commissioner, Dawn Pardo, Riviera Beach Councilwoman, Robert Weisman, County Administrator and Daniel Bates, Deputy Director, Environmental Enhancement and Restoration Division of PB County Environmental Resources Management.

Several of our residents have devoted countless hours researching and taking appropriate action to "Save the Beach" and to "Save the Buildings." (For further information see "Beach Erosion Solution" by Dawn Pardo in this newsletter and keep updated through our web site, www.sicasingerisland.com.)

Current Beach Erosion Solution

by Dawn Pardo

Beginning in November, the county will evaluate Singer Island's eroded beach and renourish where necessary. Commissioner Marcus and I are asking that the County will bring the beach to a healthy state. Funding is in place at the County, and after numerous conversations with DEP, the funds set aside for a 'permanent structure' can be used for dune restoration.

In the meantime, DEP is proposing a regional approach to Florida's eroding beaches. They would like to implement a Beach Management Agreement with all of the regulatory agencies which would allow cities hit by storms to build their beach back to a healthy state without going through the permitting process each time an adverse event occurs. The agreement would make the process more efficient.

DEP is going to use 15 miles of beach south of Singer Island - from The Town of Palm Beach to Boynton Beach - as the first test site. They will study the cause of the erosion and attempt to fix it or at the very least, bring the beach to a healthy state. If it works, Singer Island could be next. DEP is well aware of our coastal problem. In fact, Jeff Littlejohn, the deputy secretary at DEP said once they study Singer Island, and should they conclude the only real fix for our beach is a permanent structure, they would then take the lead instead of the County.

In the meantime, we wait and hope that a storm does not compromise our beach further.

Getting To Know Your New Board Members

Sherry Temple

Sherry relocated to South Florida in 1971 after 5 years with RCA in Cherry Hill, NJ and Marlboro, MA. She enjoyed the next 18 years traveling and teaching for Max Factor Cosmetics and Bali Bra.

When Sherry became a Realtor in 1999, she chose Singer Island and has worked for Illustrated Properties since 1995. She met her husband Ed in 1990 and they reside in Palm Beach Isles where Sherry has served on the Board for 15 years. She is a member of Citizens for Responsible Growth, COASI (Community Officers Association of Singer Island) and became a SICA Board member February 2012.

Sherry and Ed enjoy traveling, entertaining and fishing on their boat "Reel Tour". You can find Sherry walking the SI bridge most mornings and volunteering at the Kravis Center in her spare time.

Ann Rettie

Ann Rettie discovered the wonders of Singer Island in 2003 when visiting a good friend here. Shortly thereafter she and her husband, Mark Simonson, bought property on the island so they could enjoy it more frequently. Ann joined the SICA board in February 2012; she also serves on the Board of Governors of the Tiara Condominium and is a member of COASI. Ann has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation.

Ann and her husband currently own a private real estate investment firm and enjoy renovating local properties. Prior to that, Ann had a 22-year management consulting career with Accenture, where she most recently led their global Revenue and Customs practice.

When they are not enjoying the Florida sunshine, Ann and Mark reside in Virginia and enjoy adventure traveling, fitness walking, and spending time with family.

Riviera Beach Volunteers in Police Service (RBVIPS)

by Ann Rettie

Almost a dozen Singer Island residents have signed up to participate in an exciting program sponsored by the Riviera Beach Police Department to train citizen volunteers. Volunteers spend 8 hours or more a month working in areas of their choice such as crime prevention presentations, traffic monitoring, patrols, administration, senior citizen monitoring, support services (filing, reception, crime scene, evidence, victim assistance, etc.) and marine patrol.

Due to the level of interest in this program among Singer Island residents, the RBPd has offered to bring their 11-week training academy to the Island for our convenience. The Tiara condominium will host the weekly 2-hour sessions, which give people first-hand exposure to each of the different areas in which they can volunteer.

We are working with the Police Department to schedule dates for the Volunteer Academy. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Draga Lindblom at 561-844-0304 or dlindblom@sicasingerisland.com

Singer Island Voting Overview

by Marie Davis

For the benefit of our new residents, Singer Island has two voting precincts. Our municipal election was held on Tuesday, March 13.

There were two important issues on the ballot:

1. The re-election of Judy Davis to the Riviera Beach City Council. SICA supported her for many reasons, among them her accessibility to the residents, her efforts to protect the residents from crime as she continues her hard work to move Riviera Beach forward, her persistence to control government spending and her appreciation of Singer Island's beach and erosion issues. Judy won her election because SICA and the Singer Island residents supported her.

2. A referendum to extend term limits of the City Council and Mayor from 2 to 3 years. SICA supported the extended terms to increase stability and continuity of the Council as it moves forward to attract new businesses, and the extended terms saves us, the taxpayers, thousands of dollars, the cost of a municipal election. The Referendum passed because SICA and the Singer island residents supported it.

Dawn Pardo the Council woman who represents Singer Island ran unopposed.

Compared to the hustle bustle of the 2011 election this election was as mild as our current weather.

Precinct #1192 (west side of Ocean Drive A-1-A) has 1430 registered voters, 302 votes were cast or 20.4% turnout. There are 34 fewer registered voters than in 2011 and the turnout for 2011 was 42.90%.

Precinct #1202 (east side of Ocean Drive A-1-A) condominiums has 1937 registered voters, 290 votes were cast or 18.17% turnout. There are 117 more registered voters than in 2011 and the turnout for 2011 was 45.77%.

Where did all the voters go???????

The Singer Island Civic Association's board of directors works closely with residents, businesses and city officials to maintain that delicate balance that is so important between the commercial interests and the residents. Maintaining the residential qualities of our closely knit community is a factor that cannot be ignored. MAKE A DIFFERENCE, MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT. VOTE!

If you are not registered to vote, PLEASE REGISTER!

The next election will be the Primary election August 14, 2012. The last day to register is July 16, 2012.

The Presidential election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The last day to register is Oct. 9, 2012.

If you vote in Palm Beach County as a homesteaded resident but are not down here during this time, please request an absentee ballot.

Riviera Beach Maritime Academy Continues to Grow

by Jim Williams

Riviera Beach Maritime Academy (RBMA) was founded in 2005 when Viking Yacht, Inc. made a \$3 million dollar commitment to the City of Riviera Beach to fund the establishment of an inner city maritime career based high school level academy. This year, after seven short years, the RBMA has become one of only eight Palm Beach County high schools to receive the State's coveted "A" rating, and was also designated "One of the Top Five Science High Schools" in Palm Beach County.

Every year since it's first session the Academy has continued to expand as the student body has grown from 37 students to today's count of 185 in grades 9-12. The Academy's curriculum has also expanded to include the following programs: Marine Biology, Environmental Science, Boat & Yacht Design/Building, Marine Mechanics, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Architecture, Journalism/Multimedia, and Information Technology. In addition, RBMA also offers Honors, Advanced Placement and College Dual Enrollment Courses for qualifying students.

RBMA has also become known for its innovative "hands on" projects in maritime science and technology. For example the IT students can earn college credits and up to \$10,000 worth of Microsoft Certifications at no cost. Students are also able to obtain their ship captain's certification. In national competition, the Academy's Underwater Robotics Team has received national recognition for it's projects.

Another example of this highly successful "hands on" methodology being employed by RBMA is evidenced in the following exciting project.

Peter Sollogub, Associate Principal of Cambridge Seven Associates, recently visited a journalism class



RBMA junior Curtis Hazell discusses his trip to Haiti with renowned architect Peter Sollogub, Jamie Aquino - RBMA English teacher and developer of the "Haiti Ocean Project" and Cassandra Miranda-lead developer for the dolphin conservatory concept model.

at RBMA to find that students there have implemented many of his ideas and put together a unique conceptual model for a dolphin conservatory that they hope will be built on the coast of Haiti in the near future.

"I am really impressed with what the kids have come up with," said Sollogub, who taught for 18 years at Harvard University and is now working in conjunction with the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science to design their newest marine facility for them. **(See www.sicasingerisland.com, the SICA website - to read the entire story of this ensuing project.)**

LagoonKeepers.org

"Catch of the Day" ~ 3-11-2012



Thanks to Andrew at Palm Harbor Marina for corralling several pilings and assisting in their retrieval. (look close there is a piling being pulled by the inflatable dinghy) they are hard to see.



The pilings have been repurposed

www.LagoonKeepers.org

(561) 255-6974

501c3 nonprofit dedicated to
"Keeping our Waters Clean and Safe"

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Membership Update

by Larry Griffin and Matt Schaffer

Our 2012 Membership is positive and we are looking forward to growing our membership in the upcoming year. We would like to thank all members who have renewed their membership and extend a special welcome to all new members.

SICA is more than a political action organization supporting candidates and referendums. Most of our work is directed toward the concerns of the citizens of Singer Island. SICA was started back in 1967 by concerned citizens who opposed development of the current Sugar Sands Condominiums as a high rise Condominium. Recently we have supported the redevelopment of the Riviera Beach Marina, the Ocean Mall and the Ritz Carlton Residences, the largest taxpayer in the city.

In addition to the A1A pavement project, we fought to add curbs, palms, benches, lights, sidewalks, and landscaping to enhance the beautification project.

With the recent crime, we are in constant contact with the police department to push for a substation, increased patrols and eventually cameras at both our entryways to improve the safety of the island.

Membership is only \$40.00 a year. Application below:

Take another look . . . Visit us on the web at:

sicasingerisland.com

Summary of March 13 Election Results

The voting took place at Phil Foster Park and there was ample parking with no waiting. Results were:

Riviera Beach Council, District 2

Judy Davis (I)	1,545	59.6%
Terrence Davis	1,048	40.4%

Riviera Beach Council, District 4

Dawn Pardo ran unopposed
and will remain in office.

The referendum to change the term of office from 2 years to 3 years passed.

YEAR 2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Singer Island Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Apt. # _____

Local Phone: _____ *Condo/Community/Business:* _____

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

**SPRING
2012**



**SICA Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
7:30 pm (Refreshments 7 pm)
Speakers:
ELYN BOGDANOFF
State Senator
PAT ROONEY
State Representative
Palm Beach Shores Lane
247 Edwards Lane**

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SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION



A1A is coming into "bloom". Work is progressing well and the visible signs of enhanced vegetation are giving the road a spectacular new look. It will look great when finished in the fall--and even better as it matures. Repaving is a big plus too!

SICA DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board of Directors	Committee Chairs	SICA Email Address
Susan M. Bennett, PhD	Newsletter	sbennett@sicasingerisland.com
Marie Davis	City Planning & Zoning	mdavis@sicasingerisland.com
Anthony J. Gigliotti		agigliotti@sicasingerisland.com
Robert Gonstead	Budget/Finance/Insurance Community Relations Liason to the West Side	rgonstead@sicasingerisland.com
Larry Griffin	Membership	lgriffin@sicasingerisland.com
Draga Lindblom	Marketing/Technology	dlindblom@sicasingerisland.com
Dawn Pardo	Council Representative	dpardo@sicasingerisland.com
Lillian Pironti	Speakers	561-842-6223
Ann Rettie	RBDC Board of Directors	arettie@sicasingerisland.com
Andy Romero	By-Laws	aromero@sicasingerisland.com
Matthew Schaffer	Membership	mschaffer@sicasingerisland.com
Sherry Temple	Codes/Zoning Enforcement	stemple@sicasingerisland.com
James Williams	Maritime Concerns Nominating	jwilliams@sicasingerisland.com
Open	Beaches and Dunes	swells@sicasingerisland.com

S.I.C.A. OFFICERS

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 Vice-President Andy Romero
 Vice-President James Williams
 Secretary Draga Lindblom
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