



SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

www.sicasingerisland.com

President's Corner

Robert Gonstead

This issue of SICA's newsletter is to inform members of what has transpired over the summer in the City of Riviera Beach. The progress on the A1A beatification project is moving along quite nicely. The construction on the small bridge east of the Blue Heron bridge has been completed. Final completion of the total A1A improvement is now scheduled for the fall of 2012. The new Publix store, immediately west of the Blue Heron Bridge is scheduled to open in October. Due to the economy, the lease up of the Ocean Mall is moving along slowly. Subway has moved into its new location in the Mall and the New York Style Deli has opened. The Mall and the beach improvements are outstanding and add to the quality of life on the island.

There are several issues confronting the City of Riviera Beach, all of which will have an enormous impact on the residents of the island. They are:

- *Beach and dunes restoration*
- *Proliferation of substance abuse facilities on the island in residential areas*
- *Reduction of personnel at the Singer Island fire station*
- *Increased property taxes as values continue to fall*
- *The proposed development of the Riviera Beach Marina*

Various board members will address these issues in this newsletter.

The board has been very active over the summer meeting with city council members to express our position on key issues. We have also had discussions with Tony Brown, the CRA director, about the development of the municipal marina. We have continued to meet with other civic organizations on the island and the mainland. Those organizations are: The Citizens for Responsible Growth, the Community Officers Association of Singer Island (COASI) and the Committee for a Better Riviera Beach (CFBRB). Although members of CFBRB have spoken at our monthly meetings in the past, I would like to inform our

members of their mission. Citizens living west of the Blue Heron Bridge started the committee. They share the same visions for Riviera Beach that benefit the residents of Singer Island that SICA supports. Most importantly, they believe in economic development that will provide jobs for our citizens, lower taxes and change the image of Riviera Beach. They supported the Rybovich development at the marina, helped change the language in the city charter allowing for private enterprise on marina property, and backed the same candidates for city council endorsed by SICA in the last election

Next, I would like to pass out kudos to citizens and elected officials. First, a special thanks to Sonny Nardulli at Eastpointe I and to Don Gaertner at the Corniche for their great effort regarding the beach erosion issue. Although the breakwater project has been shelved temporarily due to disagreements between governmental agencies, the question has not died. Thanks always to Councilwoman Dawn Pardo for her tireless effort in representing the best interest of all Riviera Beach citizens. Even though SICA has not always seen eye-to-eye with our mayor, Bishop Thomas Masters, we would like to express our appreciation for his support regarding substance abuse facilities, the reduction in personnel at the Singer Island Fire Station and his promise to make the city more user friendly to new business applications.

By the time you read this newsletter, Singer Island will have barely averted its second hurricane threat of the season - Hurricane Irene. Cooler temperatures will not be far away and our seasonal residents will be coming back. SICA's first monthly meeting is October 18th. We will have interesting and informative local, state and national officials addressing our members. The board looks forward to seeing everyone again.

Please note that SICA will make a financial donation to the Town of Palm Beach Shores thanking them for support of our organization and for the use of their town hall for our monthly meetings. The presentation will take place at their September Commission Meeting.

Summer On Singer Island...

By Susan Bennett

We have had a busier than usual beach summer given the high temperatures and lack of rain up until mid August. Guess we can't complain since the weather map across the country has actually shown Florida as cooler than many of our northern and mid-western neighbors.

The traditional afternoon showers have begun and provide a welcome relief to the heat of the day. The storm season has been quiet . . . Hurricane Emily skipped right past us thankfully, as has Irene.

Work on A1A has been progressing . . . lights are in on the west side past Pine Point, planting areas are being readied for the new palms and the east side has been progressing well. Next season should show great improvement over last season as far as traffic flow.

Marina Update

The architects for the Marina project made a presentation on the Project late July to get resident input. Three meetings were held . . . one of them on the Island. Tony Brown, CRA Director, Dawn Pardo and Mayor Masters were also present. The current plan exceeds the budgeted number. There were many comments regarding style, input, parking, and projected utilization of the town center concept. The purpose of the meetings was to get feedback from the public before going to the Council. Everyone is anxious to get something going but also concerned about being prudent about design and funding.

Ocean Mall

Johnny Longboats and Two Drunken Goats are doing a great business keeping the Islanders fed and entertained. Good reviews on both counts. New York Bagel Cafe and Deli is newly opened and proving to be a good beachfront breakfast and lunch spot. Stop by and introduce yourself to the owners!

Wingflyer . . . a great scooter shop is also open for business. Lot's of fun for young and those who want to be young! Pops Costa Rica ice cream shop has been unbelievably busy as you would imagine in this HOT summer. Ice cream creations are getting rave reviews . . . don't worry about the lines . . . they move quickly!

Wings of course continues to be the best source for all things beach-bound . . . not all things . . . just about EVERY thing. All kinds of souvenirs and lots of practical things for the ocean and sand as well.

Subway is moving to their new location in the South building. Looks very fresh and clean . . . and inviting.

Buddy's has moved from the old location into the Sands Hotel and expanded their business.

The Happy Fish Thai and Sushi restaurant seems to be doing well and gets good reviews.

Still lots of retail opportunity in the Ocean Mall . . . for anyone Interested.

City Breaks Ground for Dazzling New Riviera Beach Marina

By David Cross

Courtesy of "The Riviera" the
City of Riviera Beach Quarterly Newsletter

On July 14, the Municipal Marina Director Edwin C. Legue hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the demolition of the marina's sea wall as the first phase of a \$10-million-plus marina redevelopment planned to finish in late 2013.

The exciting goal: a world-class facility with every modern convenience.

Much effort has been made by the City and its Community Redevelopment Agency to solicit ideas for the new marina's design. Several public meetings were held prior to the selection of the final design firm for both the Marina District and the adjacent upland development. A second set of public meetings was held about a week after the groundbreaking.

But what will it look like? Rather than dry descriptions based on diagrams and stylized drawings, imagine instead a trip into the future.

Stretching ahead, after turning east on 13th Street from Broadway, the brick-paved roadway is lined with palm trees. To the right, a public market—a two-story structure fronted by boutique shops and restaurants. To the left, an open parking area which could, some day, become surrounded by luxury condominiums.

Continuing east, drive across a tree-lined Avenue C and park in the five-story garage, which would also serve the neighboring Port of Palm Beach. Ahead, from the exit, is a green market, flanked on the right by splashing fountains in the tastefully landscaped public plaza. Crossing this open space leads to what will be the newly refreshed Tiki Waterfront Sea Grill, still overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway and Peanut Island.

To the north is Newcomb Hall – a completely rebuilt, \$3 million, two-story structure with a 400-seat conference facility, meeting rooms, educational space and an ornamental rooftop garden. Next to it is a revitalized Bicentennial Park with new walkways, a shaded playground, picnic areas and an amphitheater.

The marina itself will feature floating docks with beautiful hardwood decking; submerged lighting will provide a nightly aquarium show. Each of the eventual

100 public slips will have all the amenities – including in-slip pump out, water, electric, Wi-Fi connection and cable TV. Alongside the water is a two-tiered, landscaped boardwalk which leads south towards the separate Tiki bar, with plenty of outdoor seating looking out towards the water.

Once complete, not only will the City have the best beach in Florida, it will also be able to boast the best marina.

For more information on the Marina, call Edwin Legue, director of the Municipal Marina, at 561-845-3408.

Keeping Our Waters Safe and Clean for Everyone's Enjoyment

By Greg Reynolds

LagoonKeepers.org, a non-profit group, continues to make the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach County Florida free of debris, sunken boats and other navigational hazards with their group of volunteers. So far this year Lagoon Keepers has removed 6 boats from the Intracoastal with 9 more in the process of law enforcement investigations. Of those 15 boats 11 are in the City of Riviera Beach. We continue to raise monies so we can raise boats.

LagoonKeepers.org is a membership based non-profit. As an annual member of LagoonKeepers.org you may go to any of six locations and use our double seated kayaks any time you would like. We ask that when you are kayaking and you see trash, pick it up and email us pictures of the trash you picked up and you are entered into our monthly drawing for different prizes. The Kayaks are located at Blue Water Power Boat Rentals at the City of Riviera Beach Marina 561-840-7470, Adventure Times Kayaks 561-881-7218, New Port Cove Marina 561-844-2504, Loggerhead at Frenchman's Creek 561-627-6358, Loggerhead at Jonathans Landing 561-747-8980 and Jupiter Point Marina 561-746-2600. Call for reservations and you may become a member at any of the six locations.

All funding has been provided by regional sponsors including the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County and local marine groups and businesses in the local communities, along with a growing number of individual and family members. LagoonKeepers.org thanks the entire community for the support in keeping our waters safe and clean for everyone's enjoyment.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or member contact Greg Reynolds at LagoonKeepers.org., P.O. Box 14932, North Palm Beach, FL 33408, 561-255-6974 or go to www.LagoonKeepers.org

Substance Abuse Facilities at Singer Island

By Draga Lindblom

As a resident of Yacht Harbor Estates Communities and SICA Board Member, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for supporting and engaging in a common goal: responding to substance abuse treatment and housing facilities operating in residential areas at Singer Island, Riviera Beach;

its residents, its neighboring residents, Singer Island Civic Association (SICA), Community Officers Association of Singer Island (COASI), Citizens for Responsible Growth for Riviera Beach (CRGRB), Citizens for a Better Riviera Beach (CBRB), and the City of Riviera Beach.

On May 12, 2011, a 4-1 vote by the city's Planning and Zoning Board denied a special exception request from Ambrosia of the Palm Beaches; operating a housing facility located at 2675 Lake Drive since March 2009.

As a society, helping those in need is the right thing to do. The objection is not to the substance abuse facilities but, to its site location. As residents, we believe these facilities should be in a commercially zoned location, such as, medical complexes with nearby hospitals and medical offices.

June 1 and June 15, 2011 City Council meetings approved a one year moratorium by a 3-2 vote at the 1st reading and a 4-1 vote at the 2nd reading. Staff and Council have up to one year to finalize zoning and code language for Substance Abuse Facilities operating at the City of Riviera Beach.

Again, thank you for supporting the new SICA Code and Zoning Committee throughout the process. I look forward to working with the City, its residents and SICA as we move forward.

For additional information, contact SICA Board of Director, Draga Lindblom, Committee Chair, at 561-844-0304 or email: sicacodecommittee@gmail.com

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 introduce Draga Lindblom:

Draga's family immigrated to the U.S. from former Yugoslavia when she was an infant. She enjoyed a financial career with AT&T beginning in Indianapolis where she met her husband, Bernard. Through the years, their careers moved them to New York City, St. Louis, and Atlanta.

In 2006, Draga volunteered as a Yacht Harbor Estates

subdivision committee member and has served as Chairperson. Later that year, she became an activist and volunteered to join the Public Beach Coalition as a committee member; gathering petition signatures for the Ocean Mall referendum on the March 2007 ballot. She is also a member of COASI (Community Officers Association of Singer Island) and became a SICA Board of Director in April 2011; chairing the new Code and Zoning Committee.

For nine years prior to retirement and relocating to Singer Island, Draga and her husband vacationed on the island. They enjoy traveling, entertaining and long walks on the beach.

While You Were Away

By Marie Davis

In July of this year the County Commissioners voted 4 - 3 to set the maximum millage at rollback, 4.8751%. However it still represents a 2.6% increase. Karen Marcus our representative voted against it, as did Steve Abrams and Paulette Burdick.

(In 2009 the County Commissioners voted a millage increase of nearly 15% and in 2010 a 9.4% increase).

The Taxpayer Action Board (TAB) a local watchdog group is taking action that would improve our county governance. Five proposals have been submitted. It appears that TAB favors "Smart Cap - Good for the State, Good for the County", which would have a direct affect on the county budget by limiting spending growth to a population growth and inflation formula.

Other proposals include a Periodic Mandatory Review of the Charter by an Independent Commission, a Debt Policy (as it relates to Transparency and Accountability), and a State of the County/Quarterly/Annual Report.

On the home front, Riviera Beach is holding the line at 8.998% millage rate, even though the property values have decreased 5% over last year which has resulted in a \$3.1 million dollar shortfall. The primary expenses are health insurance, pension contribution and general liability insurance.

The City Council has challenged each department head to make recommendations of reductions in their respective departments.

One of the proposals directly impacting Singer Island residents is the removal of two firefighters from the Island for approximately 1/3 (9 days) of the month. Since 1972 they have been protecting us. Both paramedics and firefighters are dual-trained. When removing a firefighter you are also removing a paramedic. You decide!

SICA Works to Protect the Interest of Singer Island Regarding our Fire Protection

This Letter was recently mailed to the City Council members, City Manager and Mayor.

"Regarding the proposal to remove the fire truck from Singer Island, Councilman Cedrick Thomas indicated that this is a "soft proposal" to reduce the staffing from 17 to 15 firefighters who serve Singer Island, which would result in about 9 days a month there would be two less firefighters on the island and that the fire truck **may or may not** be on the island.

When the fire department was contacted for further clarification, we were advised that due to the City's budget shortfall, the aforementioned plan is an alternate plan to reduce the expense of overtime, vacations and sick leave instead of terminating two employees.

Singer Island is a barrier island with an undivided two lane exit to the north and a west exit only.

Station #3, (Singer Island) was built in 1972.

If the City Council **in 1972** felt there was such a need to add a **fire truck, firefighters, paramedics and the fire house**, it doesn't make sense that with the addition of all the **new** high rise condominiums, hotels and private homes, not to mention the influx of tourists visiting the beach and the new Ocean Mall, and services provided to Palm Beach Shores, that you would reduce staffing by almost 30% from this location.

Also, due to the close proximity of the fire station, the residents have a higher protection rating on our hurricane/homeowners insurance; that particular rating may be lowered as a result of not having a more immediate response time.

Since the firefighters are cross-trained; when you remove a firefighter you are also removing a paramedic and visa-versa

With approximately 900 fire/paramedic calls made from Singer Island each year, or between 2 and 3 a day, a quick response may mean the difference between life and death! I urge you to reconsider this proposal and perhaps consider a more prudent solution such as consolidation of duplicitous administrative services, police department or fire department, with other municipalities or the County."

Tidbit:

As a result of a 4th District Court of Appeal ruling upholding term limits in Broward County, our representative Karen Marcus (District One) will face term limits in 2012. To date, Palm Beach Gardens Councilman Hal Valeche says "he's in" and former state representative Carl Domino has expressed interest.

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

Plan To Participate

Riviera Beach Police Department is supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month by Sponsoring:

Cops for Healthy Ta-Tas

October 16th
at the Ocean Mall
2 pm - 6 pm

Riviera Beach police will be serving as waiters and waitresses at Johnny Longboats and Two Drunken Goats with all their tips going to the Susan G. Koman Foundation in support of breast cancer awareness.

*Fun ~ Food ~ Music
No Admission Charge
Eat...Drink...and TIP generously!*

Membership Committee

Our new membership committee consists of Larry Griffin and Matt Schaffer. Together we would like to invite you to join us in becoming members of SICA. **SICA HAS LONG BEEN THE VOICE OF THE ISLAND.**

We need your help increasing our membership in order to continue our representation of Singer Island in a positive way. To renew your membership for 2012, please use the application below.

SUSAN BENNETT, REALTOR, KEYES REAL ESTATE
Cell 676-3376, Office 282-5270

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MARTINIQUE II OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Presto Properties LC, Carl Presto Broker, 844-1915

PRIME MANAGEMENT GROUP 561-747-5505

RIVIERA BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY, 561-841-7600

PAIGE ROSE, Realtor - WEIGERT REALTY 561-842-6410

SCHAFFER MORTGAGE CORP. - 799-9954 - MATT

JAMES M. STEWART, ATTORNEY - 561-842-2477

SHERRY TEMPLE - Illustrated Properties 561-315-4490

JOANN TERRANOVA, SI-RE SPECIALIST - 561-577-5466

YEAR 2011-2012 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

FALL
2011



SAVE THE DATE!
U.S. Congressman
ALLEN WEST
will be speaking
November 9, 2011
6 - 8:30 p.m.

1281 N. Ocean Drive, Box #114
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SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Welcome Back!

SICA's first meeting of the season is being held on Tuesday, October 18th at 7:30 P.M. at the Palm Beach Shores Town Hall, 247 Edwards Lane. Refreshments will be served from 7 p.m.

Our Guest Speaker will be PB County Administrator, Robert Weisman and RB Councilwoman Dawn Pardo will bring us an update.

Hope you had a pleasant summer. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Check Out the SICA Website
www.sicasingerisland.com

S.I.C.A. OFFICERS

President Robert Gonstead
Vice-President Lillian Pironti
Vice-President Andy Romero
Vice-President James Williams
Secretary JoAnn Terranova
Treasurer James Williams

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Dan Calloway John S. Nevin
Herman McCray Bernard Rice
David Schnyer

Getting Involved....

SICA Committee Chairs would welcome your involvement in the issues we are working to address on a continuing basis. Please see the list below and contact the Committee Chair if you would like to help. There are all kinds of ways to contribute your time and talent... at your own discretion.

We especially welcome you spreading the word to your friends and neighbors to join SICA!

SICA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beaches and Dunes	(To be appointed)	
Budget/Finance/Insurance	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
By-Laws	Andy Romero	androme41@aol.com
Codes/Zoning Enforcement	Draga Lindblom	sicacodecommittee@gmail.com
Community Relations	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
Liaison to the West Side	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
Maritime Concerns	James Williams	pelican2is@bellsouth.net
Marketing/Technology	JoAnn Terranova	terrannoteam@gmail.com
Membership	Larry Griffin/Matt Schaffer	lgriffin706@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Susan Bennett	sbennett10h@msn.com
Nominating	James Williams	pelican2is@bellsouth.net
Speakers	Lillian Pironti	561-842-6223

S.I.C.A. DIRECTORS

Susan M. Bennett, PhD	Robert Gonstead	Lillian Pironti
Irving Booksin	Larry Griffin	Andy Romero
Marie Davis	Draga Lindblom	Matthew Schaffer
Anthony Gigliotti	Dawn Pardo	JoAnn Terranova
		James Williams