



# SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

[www.sicasingerisland.com](http://www.sicasingerisland.com)

## **President's Message**

*Robert Gonstead*

The holiday season has come and gone and with its passing, SICA hopes everyone had a joyous one and wishes a prosperous New Year to all. SICA would like to welcome all our seasonal residents back and we look forward to seeing many of you at our monthly meetings at the Palm Beach Shores Town Hall.



*Robert Gonstead & Allen West*

Since our last newsletter SICA has been actively involved in community affairs and local events. On November 9th SICA co-hosted, with the Town of Palm Beach Shores, a town hall meeting featuring our U.S. Representative Allen West. Colonel West gave a brief summary on the state of affairs in Washington and his vision for the future. The address was followed by a very active question and answer session from the approximately 200 in attendance.

Roadwork on Blue Heron and Ocean Drive continues to move along. The current target date for completion is July 2012 pending any future delays. Original completion was the spring of 2011, however, the City of Riviera Beach experienced delays caused by the underground infrastructure, which was much worse than anticipated.

SICA continues to be actively involved in the progress of the development at the Riviera Beach Marina. Our past concerns centered on what financial obligations the City would be exposed to regarding the development and leasing of retail space at the marina. The Riviera Beach CRA hosted an open workshop on November 15 to update local residents on the progress at the marina. The results of the meeting were very positive. The master developer at the marina, Viking Yachts, introduced their potential joint venture partner, Live Work Learn Play. The Canadian based development company gave residents an overview of past developments they participated in and their potential vision for the marina. The company, which has developed projects internationally and closer to

*President's Message continued on Page 2*

## **City Officials Meet with Citizens to Discuss Singer Island Crime Issues**

The Mayor, City Manager, Chief of Police, Commander of the District, Council Persons Dawn Pardo and Cedrick Thomas, the Special Forces Commander and a representative from the CRA were all present at a meeting organized and chaired by Dawn Pardo on December 15th. There is more going on in both crime and prevention than most of us are aware.

The meeting in Palm Beach Shores Town Hall was packed. Concerned citizens were unified on one obvious theme. There is no consistent police presence. There is no visual deterrent. The recent homicide investigation is continuing, however Commander Freeman did mention that they feel that the man that was killed was in fact targeted, and not randomly chosen. He stated that the police have two officers on the Island from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. each evening, along with beach patrol. This did not impress anyone at the meeting because many residents stated that they don't see enough evidence of a squad car.

Several muggings near the Ocean Mall parking lot and at the Sands Hotel were discussed, and the police discovered that possibly three or four of these incidents were never reported. This most likely was attributed to the fact that the individuals involved were transient, or individuals having drug problems so no phone call was officially made to police. The drug dealing and addiction problems are a source for the crime element that thrives on this type of individual. Discussions regarding code enforcement violations and lack of resolution by absentee landlords to various property violations will be handled much more aggressively by the City. Again this hopefully will discourage undesirables from congregating in such properties.

City Manager, Ruth Jones, discussed the difficulty in enforcing panhandling and loitering regulations due to laws in place at the Florida State level.

The negative impact on safety due to the low level lighting requirements for turtle season and cameras were also discussed. It was pointed out that the cameras do not record, but are only for traffic

*Crime continued on Page 2*

home, developed the marina at Destin, Florida. I would encourage you to visit their website at [www.LWLP.com](http://www.LWLP.com). LWLP looked at the marina five years ago and believed the political climate at the CRA and City was not conducive to ensure success. At the workshop they cited the attitude and cooperation from the current CRA, led by its executive director, Tony Brown, and members of the City Council and our Mayor.

A great concern for island residents is the ongoing issue of beach erosion. SICA continues to address this important issue with the help of Councilwoman Pardo.

At the December 10th COASI meeting, CRA director Tony Brown updated the members on what was transpiring in the CRA districts. He expressed sincere interest in potential future development of CRA property located west of the Ocean Mall and behind the Sands Hotel. In addition he informed members that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was planning improvements for Broadway south of Blue Heron. Some of the improvements would include new sidewalks, lighting and additional plantings. The CRA has also encouraged business owners in the Broadway corridor to update their storefronts by making funds available for the renovations.

Another positive event took place when the City Council approved the partial abandonment of 20th Street. This will allow Rybovich Corporation to proceed with the construction of their mega yacht facility on land they own on both sides of 20th Street. In consideration of the approval their right to lease property at the city marina was withdrawn by Rybovich. The canceling of the intent to lease will greatly facilitate private development at the city marina. Kudos to Councilwoman Dawn Pardo for actively supporting the Rybovich project.

The upcoming March 2012 election is just around the corner. Council Persons Judy Davis and Dawn Pardo will be running for re-election. SICA will be hosting a candidate forum at our February meeting.

SICA is not all about politics. Our board members are actively involved in community events that help local residents. We participated in the "Mingle and Jingle" event at Johnny Longboats sponsored by Councilwoman Dawn Pardo. The purpose of the event was to collect toys for children in the Riviera Beach Community. We also distributed toy collection boxes at many of the island condominiums. On Saturday, December 10, we attended a fund-raiser for Youth Build at Two Drunken Goats. This non-profit organization helps our young residents 18-24 complete their education and chart a career path. Two of our local residents who support this organization are Council Chairperson, Judy Davis and Singer Island neighbor Diana DiMeo.

monitoring. The City does not view these screens. It was also pointed out that the various activities being reported taking place in the mostly empty garage of a building on North Ocean Drive are difficult to prosecute, because technically these activities are taking place on private property.

Thanks to Jeff Schlotterbeck, head of security at the Tiara condominium for the excellent summary. Security personnel from the Ritz Carlton Residences also attended the meeting.

Efforts are underway to have a police sub-station reinstated on the Island, a stronger and more visible police patrol, cameras installed at strategic locations, a possible private security company to patrol the Ocean Mall and surrounding streets, and improved code enforcement results. Each citizen is encouraged to report any suspicious activity immediately, and not rely on someone else to do it.

## **Publix Opens In Riviera Beach**

The new urban Publix grocery store opened its doors on November 10, 2011 and is located at 252 E. Blue Heron Boulevard and Lake Shore Drive, west end of the Blue Heron Bridge.

The three-story 84,600 square-foot building, with a two-deck parking garage atop the 28,800 sq. ft. store, will serve as a cornerstone to redevelopment for the city. The store is expected to employ about 100 full-time and part-time associates.

A convenient shopping location for island residents, there has been favorable feedback with the exception of the parking garage. Publix is addressing the issues and concerns of its patrons by implementing the necessary safety improvements as soon as possible.

The store is open daily from 7:00 a.m thru 10:00 p.m. Phone (561) 841-3058

## **Meet The Candidates**

The February meeting of SICA will include an opportunity to meet the candidates running for election or re-election for City Council in March. More details to follow. We encourage you to come and get involved in understanding the candidates' views on the critical issues the city will be addressing over the next few years. We are targeting February 21st for that meeting. Watch for further details on your "reminder" postcard.

## **New Commander Walks The Beat**

At the first SICA meeting of the season, October 18, 2011, Chief Williams, Riviera Beach Police Department, introduced the new District One Commander, Alex Freeman. Commander Freeman replaced former Commander, Leonard Mitchell.

On November 2, 2011, Commander Freeman attended a breakfast meeting with SICA Board Members. He shared his commitment to providing the highest level of police service for our area and the City. His goal is engaging his officers with neighborhood residents in the old practice of walking the beat. The Commander feels police presence helps with crime prevention and gains trust among the residents.

Commander Freeman accompanied Officer Randy Edwards in November by walking the beat through several areas on Singer Island. Residents have commented on seeing Commander Freeman as early as 5.30 in the morning walking on Park Avenue.

Commander Freeman is a lifelong resident of Riviera Beach and has been with the department for 18 1/2 years.

## **Peanut Island and Phil Foster Park Redistricting**

### **Letter to Commissioners:**

*PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, My name is Robert Gonstead. I am a resident of Riviera Beach on Singer Island and the president of the Singer Island Civic Association. I implore the county commissioners to leave Peanut Island and Phil Foster Park in District 1. I am sure Commissioner Taylor wants the best for all county residents, however, citizens in District 1 are affected daily by traffic and other issues associated with these parks. Voters like to make their elected representatives accountable for their actions. Since Commissioner Taylor is not elected by our residents in District 1 there is potential for lack of representation. In addition the District 1 Commissioner will still get calls about issues. Please do the right thing and vote as if you lived in our district. Thank you for your consideration.*

**Note:** At a meeting on December 2nd, the County Commission voted to split the representation between District 1 (Karen Marcus) and District 7 (Priscilla Taylor) Commissioners.

## **Featured Sponsor Plastridge Insurance**

Plastridge Insurance Agency is proud to be associated with the Singer Island Civic Association. Our mission is to consistently exceed clients' expectations by providing comprehensive insurance and risk management solutions through empowering an outstanding team of employees, developing exceptional insurance company relationships, and building community trust and recognition. Many SICA members know Plastridge from working together either on their own individual insurance needs or as the agency handling the insurance for their condominium or homeowners association. Plastridge started in Delray Beach in 1919 and has grown to over 100 employees and 4 offices in South Florida. We are the oldest insurance agency in Palm Beach County with 92 years in business. We are a family owned agency with local expertise and hands on service with the resources of a large insurance agency. We can help with any type of insurance including homeowners, condominium/HOAs (unit owners' policies and association master policies), auto insurance, jewelry, umbrella, Life/Health insurance, etc.

Most importantly, Plastridge is in the position to provide you with a full review of your insurance needs and provide you with sound advice. After having a conversation and doing a careful review of your needs and current coverage we can then discuss whether it makes sense to work together.

All the best in 2012.

Brendan T. Lynch, AIP AAI MBA  
(561) 386-1703 • B Lynch@Plastridge.com

*SICA is grateful to Plastridge for providing treats with coffee before our meetings.*

## **SICA Board Seeks New Members**

There are several openings on the SICA Board and we would hope to identify potential candidates early in 2012. If you are interested in serving on the Board or know someone who would be willing to work with the existing Board on issues for Singer Island we welcome your participation. You do not have to be a year round resident to be involved. There are ways to stay involved even from afar. The Board has informal breakfast meetings on Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m. at the Martinique restaurant. If you would like to join us for a discussion or would like to inquire about Board membership please call Jim Williams at 561-670-7172. Jim chairs the nominating committee and is active in many Board responsibilities. He has been a Board member for several years and can answer your questions and get you into the process. We welcome your involvement... there is a "spot" for everyone willing to make the commitment.

## **Congratulations Marie Davis!**

Marie Davis, resident of Yacht Harbor Manor and SICA Board member, has been named to the Riviera Beach Planning and Zoning Board. We are happy to see Island representation back on the Board and thank Marie for her willingness to serve in this important capacity during a critical time for Riviera Beach redevelopment. These meetings are open to the public. We are also encouraging the proceedings to be put on Channel 18 with the other important meetings.

## **New Brochures for SICA**

Recent membership mailings distributed the new SICA brochures. Thanks to Draga Lindblom for developing and managing production of this document. If you would like additional copies to share with a neighbor to encourage membership please give Dorothy a call at 561-308-6406

## **Singer Island Citizens Watch**

*by Draga Lindblom*

Margaret Deeters, Trio Properties, hosted a neighborhood meeting to set up Citizens Watch Groups with the support of Mayor Thomas Masters. The Mayor has been very successful in organizing and reorganizing many Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the City. Mayor Masters feels his anti-crime initiatives will help create safe neighborhoods on the Island.

The majority of the attendees were from Yacht Harbor Estates subdivision, along with local businesses, Harbor Manor subdivision, and residents from unincorporated communities.

The Mayor complemented the group for its participation and for the ideas generated. He and Assistant Chief of Police, Danny Jones, noted that this serious citizen participation is required to enhance the safety and security of all residents on the Island.

The following is a synopsis of what Mayor Masters and Assistant Chief Jones plan to implement, which many feel will have an immediate impact.

- More police presence.
- Additional volunteers needed on the Island for the COP, Citizens on Patrol program.
- If you see something, say something. Call 911/ Riviera Beach Police immediately for any suspicious activities, vehicles or people who appear as though they do not belong in the area.
- Security cameras for the entire Island.

## **Road Progress**

We are hearing lots of compliments, complaints and concerns about the progress on A1A. For those of us who have survived major digging, water outages and general traffic disruption it is a pleasure to see as much progress as we do. There are many folks coming back to the Island who are bemoaning the fact it "isn't finished yet". Once it is complete however we are sure the pain of the process will be forgotten as we enjoy the beauty of the finished product.

## **Riviera Beach Marina Construction Update**

*by Jim Williams,  
Maritime Concerns Committee*

The Marina Director Ed Legue reports that as of mid December the first part of Phase 1, the 752' of new bulkhead, has been completed. The Murphy Construction company did a great job and finished over a month ahead of schedule. The question now is what happens next?

About the same time Murphy finished the bulkhead the City went out for a bid to build the bulkhead dock and finger piers. The bid opening was delayed several weeks due to request for additional information from the bidders and several other delays. All of the bids, however, when opened, were found to be unacceptable by the City.

There have also been delays in obtaining final Florida Department of Environmental protection and U. S. Army Corp of Engineers permits for the project. Most of the agencies concerns have to do mainly with sea grass. In an effort to respond to these concerns and hopefully prevent more delays, the marina dock layout was changed for the third time. There is confidence that since this new layout, which actually impacts less grasses than the existing marina, will be accepted by all agencies.

In an effort to make up some schedule time on the back end of Phase 1, the City has modified its bidding strategy and will go out to bid for a single dock manufacturer for all of the project's fixed and floating docks. As soon as that dock manufacturer is determined, the City intends to then go out for a marine contractor to install all phases of docks, again both fixed and floating.

The demolition of the dry stack building began on December 12th, and will make way for a new parking area in the months to come. However, during this 45 day phase of the project it is anticipated that there will be some inconvenience imposed on parking and pedestrian traffic.

Per the Director, the project as it stands right now is approximately 90 days behind schedule. However, he is optimistic that with the implementation of the changes noted above, the project's time line will improve.

## Please Patronize Our Sponsors

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**CAMPBELL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** 954-427-8770  
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**Insurance for the Condo Association & Unit Owners**

### Riviera Beach Marina

#### Redevelopment District Update

In mid-November Riviera Beach's Master Developer, Viking Developers, LLC announced it's decision to seek a partnership with the international design firm of Live Work Learn Play (LWLP) in order to ensure the professional execution of a viable and sustainable vision for the Marina District redevelopment. On November 15th at a joint Riviera Beach City Council/CRA workshop, Viking introduced LWLP, which made a highly impressive and well received presentation detailing their extensive experience at developing similar destination projects and facilitating difficult urban community redevelopment. After the workshop Viking Chairman R.T. Healey and Viking Developers Vice President M.J. Clark issued the following open letter to the city's Mayor, City Council and CRA Board. -----> *letter*

## 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

2012  
WINTER



**SICA'S First Meeting  
Of The Season  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012  
Palm Beach Shores Town Hall  
Refreshments 7 pm  
Meeting 7:30 pm**

1281 N. Ocean Drive, Box #114  
Singer Island, Florida 33404  
www.sicasingerisland.com

# SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## January Meeting

The next meeting for SICA will be January 17, 2012. Speakers will be Wayne Richards, Port of Palm Beach Commissioner and Danny Jones, Assistant Chief, Riviera Beach Police Dept.

Wayne Richards, will speak to us about issues at the Port. In addition we will have an update on important topics from the City by our Council Person, Dawn Pardo. The meetings are held at Palm Beach Shores town hall on Edwards Lane in Palm Beach Shores. The doors open and coffee and cookies are available beginning at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm and is generally concluded by 9 pm. Please join us.

### 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 LIFE MEMBERS

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

## SICA Has Long Been The Voice Of The Island

Our Membership Committee, co-chaired by Larry Griffin and Matt Schaffer invites you to join us. We need your help increasing our membership for 2012. If you have not renewed your membership, please use the application on page 5.

### SICA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Budget/Finance/Insurance</b>	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
<b>By-Laws</b>	Andy Romero	androme41@aol.com
<b>Codes/Zoning Enforcement</b>	Draga Lindblom	sicacodecommittee@gmail.com
<b>Community Relations</b>	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
<b>Liaison to the West Side</b>	Robert Gonstead	rcgonstead@comcast.net
<b>Maritime Concerns</b>	James Williams	pelican2is@bellsouth.net
<b>Marketing/Technology</b>	JoAnn Terranova	terranovateam@gmail.com
<b>Membership</b>	Larry Griffin/Matt Schaffer	lgriffin706@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Susan Bennett	sbennett10h@msn.com
<b>Nominating</b>	James Williams	pelican2is@bellsouth.net
<b>Speakers</b>	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

**Check Out the SICA Website**  
**www.sicasingerisland.com**  
**E-mail: infor@sincasingerisland.com**