



# 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*



By the time you read this message, 2012 will have come and gone and SICA is busy focusing on issues that will have an impact on island residents.

Seasonal residents returned to the completed beautification of the Blue Heron Bridge and North Ocean Drive. Comments from our residents have been very positive. Without SICA's efforts the scope of the project would

have been substantially reduced. Some residents advocated for just resurfacing AIA to reduce the cost of the project. SICA supported a more comprehensive plan and worked with governmental agencies and elected officials to produce the best possible results.

Some of the comments from residents that needed further attention were the cutting of grass and maintenance of the islands in the center of AIA. Also the north end of the island has fewer sitting benches and trash receptacles. Dawn Pardo, Council Chair Pro-Tem for the City of Riviera Beach informed us that the city will outsource the maintenance to a private third party once the contractor has completed the construction to the city's satisfaction. Dawn has also asked Mary McKinney, Director of Community Development, to address the bench and receptacle issue.

In February, 2012, the Palm Beach County Commissioners voted 4-3 to not endorse a permanent solution to beach erosion on Singer Island. After that vote Singer Island residents reached out to SICA to help start a "Protect Our Beaches Coalition." This issue is discussed in more detail in our newsletter by Sonny Nardulli, President of Protect Our Beaches Coalition and SICA committee chair for beaches and dunes. Visit Protect Our Beaches website at [www.beachescoalition.com](http://www.beachescoalition.com).

Crime and island safety is another area in which SICA has been actively involved. Exciting developments are in the works that will benefit island residents.

SICA has worked very closely with the Riviera Beach Police Department and the Riviera Beach CRA. Please refer to the article by Draga Lindblom on this subject. As a result of the recent deaths of two teenagers at Newcomb Hall, City Manager, Ruth Jones and Police Chief Clarence Williams created the Commission on Social Justice. The focus of the commission is to identify those factors in the Riviera Beach Community that cause

such tragic events. The commission is co-chaired by Michael Sloser, president of COASI, and Dr. Tony Drayton, a prominent pastor in the community. Mike and Dr. Drayton are looking for volunteers to serve on one of the five committees. If you have an interest in finding out more about the commission please contact Mike at [michaelsloser@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsloser@gmail.com).

Progress regarding the future development of the Riviera Beach Marina continues to move along. The city's master developer, Viking Yachts, is scheduled to present their comprehensive plan to the Riviera Beach CRA and City Council on January 30. The council vote to approve will be February 27. Viking has engaged the services of Live, Work, Learn and Play, an international development company from Montreal, Canada and Elkus Manfredi, a national architectural and design firm from Boston, MA who helped the City of West Palm Beach develop CityPlace. The comprehensive plan will detail the development of the marina area and the Broadway corridor. The current road construction on Broadway is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2014.

Lastly, Riviera Beach will have a general election on March 12. There will be races involving two council seats and the mayoral position. SICA will be holding the January 29 meeting at the Palm Beach Shores Town Hall. The format will be a candidates forum involving all those running for office. The SICA PAC will be making its endorsements shortly after that meeting so voters receiving their absentee ballots on or around February will know who the SICA PAC supports.

## Real Estate Update for Singer Island

*Sherry Temple*

The Real Estate market has turned the corner with lower inventory, increased prices and very few available short sales on all of Singer Island. According to the MLS (Multiple Listing Service) there are currently 31 single family homes listed on the market for sale from \$339K to \$849K for non-waterfront and from \$649K to \$2.99M for waterfront - **none** are short sales.

There are 10 homes under contract from \$210K to \$649K for non-waterfront and from \$689K to \$1.079M for waterfront - 4 are short sales and expected to close in 30 to 60 days. There were 41 homes sold and closed in 2012 from \$212K to \$533K for non-waterfront and from \$535K to \$2.2M for waterfront - 8 of these were short sales.

*Real Estate Update continued on Page 2*

As for condos, there are currently 207 on the market for sale from a 1 bedroom Palm Beach Shores listed at \$84.5K to a 4 bedroom Ritz Carlton at \$12M - only 6 are short sales. There are 44 under contract from \$45K for a 2 bedroom short sale on Lake Drive to \$2.799M for a 3 bedroom Ocean's Edge - 14 of these are short sales. There were 225 condos sold and closed in 2012 from a 1 bedroom across from the beach at \$750 per month to a 3 bedroom Ritz Carlton at \$12K per month.

The rental market remains strong with 180 active listings from a 1 bedroom at \$650 per month to a 3 Bedroom Ritz Carlton at \$15K per month. There are 15 in the process of being rented and there were 220 rentals completed in 2012 from a 1 bedroom across from the beach at \$750 per month to a 3 bedroom Ritz Carlton at \$12K per month.

## **“Protect Our Beaches Coalition” Need for a Permanent Beach & Dune Erosion Solution**

*Sonny Nardulli, President,  
“Protect Our Beaches” Coalition*

In life, timing is everything. We have been warning the Palm Beach County Commissioners that it was only a matter of time until a Nor'easter, Tropical Storm or even a Storm like Sandy would hit us with the capability to destroy Singer Island's remaining Beach & Dune. It didn't have to be a full blowing hurricane but something with enough steady wind to destroy the little beach and dunes we had left. As devastating as Sandy was to Palm Beach County's Beaches and Dunes she was actually very kind to us. I say this knowing there are some buildings on the Island that are in a very critical situation because of the increased loss of their dunes and the positioning of their building to the ocean's edge. Even devastation comes in degrees, just look at the damage up north caused by Sandy to see that we were very lucky to have survived the way we did. Sandy was not only a terrible storm but she was also a wakeup call to anyone who wanted to listen. We might not have known Sandy's name but we did know she was eventually coming. She, or storms like her, is the reason we started “Protect Our Beaches” Coalition of Palm Beach County, for the creation of a Permanent Solution for Beach & Dune Erosion and why we need you to JOIN US NOW!

Although the County is currently re-nourishing our beach with sand, which we were originally scheduled to get by the beginning of January in 2013 at a cost of \$1.7 Million, it is only a band aid for protecting our Beach and Dune. The four zones being re-nourished go from the Water Glades to our north to the north side of the Condado to our south. This project has a completion date of the end of January, 2013. The problem with not having a Permanent Solution for

Beach & Dune Erosion in place, the sand can still be taken away from us in just a few days like with Sandy. Over the years, we have seen this happen way too many times and we know it can happen again. When Sandy hit we had a decent amount of sand left on our beach from the county's January, 2012 sand re-nourishment. Remember timing is everything and if the sand they are currently putting down on our beach now gets washed away because of another storm In 2013, the county does not have money in their budget to replace it with more sand. We are now receiving 2013 budgeted sand not 2012 sand which was already washed away by Sandy. Just on Singer Island, it is documented that by the Condado Condominiums, we have lost 215 feet of beach since 1957. That is an unbelievable amount of beach to have lost, which included sizable dunes. Putting down sand every year is not going to grow our beach and dune back to where it once was. We need to stop our Beach and Dune erosion now with a Permanent Solution preferably with a Break Water.

Protect Our Beaches is a 501 C4, not-for-profit Florida corporation started in August of 2012 by very concerned and caring shore line property owners living in Palm Beach County including Bob Gonstead the

*“Protect Our Beaches” continued on Page 3*



*Too Close for comfort! Tropical Storm Sandy spent an inordinate amount of time pounding the shores of Palm Beach County particularly our Island oceanfront.*



President of SICA. The Coalition simply wants to do the right thing for the environment, our neighbors, the county and state. Our county is not the only one suffering from beach and dune erosion. If the beaches disappear in Florida, so will the vacationers, residents and the money.

Because of both a history of erosion and our recent visit by Sandy, our Coalition is catching on, and by the way we have only been around for 4 months and we just recently met with U.S. Congressman, Patrick Murphy and State Senator Joseph Abruzzo who will support our Coalition in a big way. This is the type of support we need from our Federal Government, besides the political leaders from the State and County to help push for a permanent beach and dune erosion solution. There is more of this type of support soon to come.

Our Mission Statement will protect Palm Beach County's 47 mile coast line by:

- *Permanent solution (not sea walls) to stabilize and maintain the sand and dunes of our beaches from erosion.*
- *Protect coastal ecosystem and wildlife*
- *Protect homes and property values*
- *Enhance beach inspired tourism*
- *Provide community support and advocacy*

It is important to understand, that a permanent solution would be Breakwaters or Groins not Sea Walls which will protect your building but not grow and protect your beach or dune. We believe that the future of living on the coast will possibly be a combination of, Breakwaters in the ocean and sea walls on buildings property. The Coalition is pushing for permanent solution, preferably a Breakwater but if the homeowners want the added protection of a Sea Wall they will have to go through the permitting and engineering process to build one on their own. It is important to understand the difference between the two.

Today we are approximately 1438 members strong which include 21 condo buildings in Palm Beach County. It must be said, if it were not for the Founding Residents on Singer Island, the Coalition would have never gotten off the ground and for that we are truly thankful. They are today's Coalition Heroes.

Annual membership in the Coalition is just \$80 per household. The Coalition will also seek to grow members at this level as well as corporate and association levels. We recently met with a representative from the Marriott about them becoming a corporate sponsor of the Coalition. Because they are a big investor on the island, they are looking into it for us. Our conversation continues.

To learn more about the "Protect Our Beaches" Coalition please take a look at our website at [www.beachescoalition.com](http://www.beachescoalition.com)

PLEASE JOIN NOW! It is the right thing for you to do.

## **Making Riviera Beach A Better Place**

*Ann Rettie*

It's always nice to hear about a community organization that makes good things happen quickly, and the Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation (CDC) is just that kind of group. The CDC exists to foster economic development and improve the most blighted areas of Riviera Beach. Economic development and a broader tax base in Riviera Beach will benefit the whole community, including Singer Island. In the eight short months since it was chartered as a non-profit corporation, the CDC has already accomplished many things.

Under the CDC's "Riviera Beach Heights in Bloom" program, monthly workdays bring together local volunteers to do home repairs, property improvements and trash cleanup.

The focus of these efforts is to improve neighborhoods house by house, block by block. At the kick-off event in July, the CDC painted and/or repaired five houses and gathered 55 drum-sized bags of trash, helped by SICA Board members Bob Gonstead, Susan Bennett and Ann Rettie. Work is also underway to create a community garden, rebuild broken sidewalks and build neighborhood parks. Along with these improvements are corresponding safety and maintenance initiatives.

Under the CDC's leadership, a new Green Market recently opened for the season on Saturday afternoons at the Marina. The market is a precursor to a permanent Public Market to be built in the new Riviera Beach Marina. The CDC is also involved in assessing and implementing plans for over \$1Billion in economic development at the Riviera Beach Marina, Broadway corridor and Riviera Beach Heights neighborhoods.

The CDC's early accomplishments are getting attention. As the only finalist to be selected from the US, the CDC along with the CRA, received global recognition for our City in November at the international LivCom (Liveable Communities) Awards, where they received a first place £10,000 Bursary grant and a Bronze Whole City award from among dozens of contenders from around the world. The awards acknowledged the quality of the CDC's comprehensive plans as well as their early results. Locally, the CDC has received grants from Comerica Bank and BB&T, and welcomes community donations. Donations to the CDC directly support community development projects, as administrative costs are fully funded by the Community Redevelopment Agency.

If you are interested in contributing to the CDC or volunteering, please contact CDC Executive Director Annetta Jenkins at 561-844-3408 or her email, [ajenkins@rbcr.com](mailto:ajenkins@rbcr.com), or SICA Board Member Ann Rettie, who serves on the CDC Executive Committee. Ann can be reached at [arettie@sicasingerisland.com](mailto:arettie@sicasingerisland.com).

## 2012 Year-End Review Planning and Zoning Board

Marie Hope Davis  
Riviera Beach Planning and Zoning Chair

Abandonment of a portion of 20th St., Avenue B and a portion of Avenue C in an effort to move forward on the redevelopment plan for that area of the City: the working waterfront, also known as the Marina project.

Landscape Ordinance was amended in its entirety to integrate Florida Friendly Landscape principles and design strategies.

There was much discussion about maintaining the beautification of the City (landscape upkeep and graffiti removal)

Staff updated us on the Moratorium progress made on Regulations regarding the alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities.

Over the course of the next several months we held a workshop meeting, reviewed Florida Statutes and drafted and reviewed drafts of the zoning ordinances as they related to the rehabilitation facilities and Internet Cafés. These are not the type of café that serve coffee and you work on your computer, but adult arcade facilities, and after many revisions both of these proposed ordinances were sent to Council for approval.

We reviewed several requests for large, licensed, child care homes.

We were provided with an exhaustive list of Capital Project Plans from 2012-2016.

We reviewed a site plan amendment for a new development called *Mediterranea*, a Planned Unit development just North of Blue Heron Blvd. - south of Leo Lane and on the east side of Military Trail.

In December we were updated on the Marina Project, also known as the "Working Waterfront" a very exciting 7-10 year project which will make Riviera Beach a "destination". This redevelopment will include, not only the Marina, the Tiki Bar, and Newcomb Hall, but other areas of the city. We expect conceptual plans to be presented within the next few months. Stay tuned.

Planning and Zoning is all important to the future of Singer Island-Riviera Beach.

Singer Island-Riviera Beach is uniquely situated: beautiful beach and parks, marina, close to the Gulfstream, minutes to I-95, Palm Beach International Airport, Port facilities, the tri-rail and more. We have it all.

**If you have an expertise in architecture, construction, city planning, landscaping, or you just want to have an impact on the future of our wonderful city, come join us and make a difference. There are vacancies on our Board. Let me know.**

## Safety and Security The Focus of December SICA Meeting

Draga Lindblom

Bob Gonstead presented an award to Randy Edwards for excellent service to the Island. "It was an adventure, and I loved coming to work every day", said Randy.

Randy's Island tour of duty ended when promoted to sergeant in August 2012. To-date, the Police Department has not assigned a new officer to replace Randy.

Recap of RB Police Department Presentation "Service is Job One": Investing in the lives of our citizens.

### **Assistant Chief Harris:**

- RB crime is down 9%. Six other bordering jurisdictions are all up, especially Lake Park and Mangonia; up 28%, together

- Exception in Riviera Beach is Burglary to Vehicles is way up; 39 to-date. The parks are now under the RBPB rather than the Sheriffs jurisdiction which brings an extra five thousand people on weekends into our stats. Phil Foster Park is open 24/7 and requires more patrolling. Ocean Reef Park is a big problem, especially on weekends. Thieves are in and out in 15 seconds. The RBPB has started placing bait cars in the park, but none have been hit yet.

- Four red light cameras are planned for Blue Heron Blvd.; at the intersections of Broadway, Old Dixie Hwy., Congress Ave. and Military Trail. Those sites have the most accidents. After installation there will be a 30-45 day grace period for residents to get used to them. The City is working with a vendor who installs, owns and maintains the equipment. In return, the City receives a percentage of the proceeds.

### **Major Coppin:**

- Singer Island December 2011 homicide update: Police are confident that the victim was targeted; he was known to carry large sums of cash. Two black males confronted him and there was a struggle. The police have DNA evidence and would like to show his wife some mug shots to identify but they have lost all contact with her. She seems to have disappeared. The Police Department is asking the public for help. If anyone knows of her whereabouts or may have been in the area and witnessed something, please call 845-4123.

### **Captain Snow:**

- The department has two license plate readers (LPR) today; both are mounted in patrol cars. The department would like more on fixed locations, i.e. poles, storefronts, etc. There are currently 25 city owned cameras throughout Riviera Beach. All are visible from the Sky One Center which citizens are welcome to tour. Tapes are kept for 30 days from each camera. There are over 100 other cameras on private property; condos, stores, etc.

- Singer Island Surveillance Cameras - funding through the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) 2013 budget from the Blue Heron Bridge to the Ocean Mall.

When asked about the north-end during the Q&A session, Chief Williams said, "No, the RBPB still requires the residents' help in funding the Island's northern entrance and exit corridor; placement at N. Ocean Drive and Water Glades condominium." Dawn Pardo stated she would allocate \$9,000, \$1500 now from her Waste Management Council funds and \$7500 when available in March 2013, toward the north-end cameras.

**Tony Brown. Executive Director. CRA**

• Police Sub-station - allocated in the CRA 2013 budget: Since the Ocean Mall is now under new management, Tony is negotiating with the new property manager for space to accommodate the sub-station.



Bob Gonstead made a presentation on behalf of Singer Island residents to Randy Edwards. Randy has been promoted to Sergeant and reassigned off the Island. Randy was recognized for his professional service and personable manner in serving the residents of the Island.



Karen Marcus received an award for her service to the Island at a recent joint meeting of SICA and COASI. SICA has initiated an award named for Karen to be given to those who make an outstanding contribution through their interest and actions on behalf of the Island residents.

**Please Patronize Our Sponsors**

**Have We Heard from You?  
2013 Membership Update**

*Susan Bennett*

The membership renewal letters went out in December and the response has been quite good to date.

**Renewals at**

**Champion level - 30 Supporter level - 208**

**Business Champion - 7 Business Supporter - 5**

If you would like to join the Membership Committee to assist with the contacting of local Singer Island businesses or individuals who have not yet responded please let me know. We have an "overworked" Board who would welcome some Committee assistance. Many hands make light work and we have lots of opportunities for participation on our Committees. We are also seeking additional Board Members and invite anyone interested to contact one of the current members and join us at a Wednesday morning breakfast meeting as our guest at the Martinique to explore the option of getting more involved as a Board Member. The meetings are held at 8 am in the Martinique dining room. The member list is on the back of the newsletter. Please check our website to sign up for renewal if you have not done so already: [www.sicasingerisland.com](http://www.sicasingerisland.com)

**SUSAN BENNETT, REALTOR, SINGER ISLAND**  
Cell 676-3376, Office 282-5270 Keyes Company

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**JAMES M. STEWART, ESQ. - ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
1211 Plaza Circle, Singer Island **561-842-2477**

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WINTER  
2013

www.sicasingerisland.com



**SICA Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 29, 2013**  
**CANDIDATES FORUM**  
**JOIN US!**

1281 N. Ocean Drive, Box #114  
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E-mail: Info@sicasingerisland.com

## SINGER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### SICA MEETING SCHEDULE

#### January 29

Candidate Forum for  
Riviera Beach Mayor and  
Council Seats

***“Be an Informed  
Voter on March 12”***

#### February 19

#### **SICA Annual Meeting**

Tony Brown Update on CRA  
Plans including Singer Island,  
Broadway and the  
Marina District

**March 19** To Be Announced

**April 16** To Be Announced

### S.I.C.A. OFFICERS

*President* ..... Robert Gonstead  
*Vice-President* ..... Andy Romero  
*Secretary* ..... Draga Lindblom  
*Treasurer* ..... Ann Rettie

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dan Calloway  
Herman McCray  
Bernard Rice  
David Schnyer

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>SICA Email Address</b>
Susan M. Bennett, PhD	Membership/Newsletter	sbennett@sicasingerisland.com
Marie Davis	City Planning & Zoning	mdavis@sicasingerisland.com
Robert Gonstead	Insurance Community Relations	rgonstead@sicasingerisland.com
Draga Lindblom	Marketing/Technology Codes/Zoning Enforcement	dlindblom@sicasingerisland.com
Ann Rettie	RBCDC Board of Directors Finance/SICA PAC	arettie@sicasingerisland.com
Andy Romero	By-Laws	aromero@sicasingerisland.com
Sherry Temple	Welcome/Real Estate	stemple@sicasingerisland.com

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