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An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fort Myers Beach

September 2024

# FORT MYERS BEACH



Living



- Fort Myers Beach -  
Where **HOPE** Lives!

Cover by Lacy McClary



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# FORT MYERS BEACH *LIVING*

A Best Version Media Magazine  
An independently owned community magazine.

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**FEEDBACK / IDEAS / SUBMISSIONS**

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 20th of each month, 6 weeks in advance of publication. Email your thoughts, ideas and photographs to [gmooney@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:gmooney@bestversionmedia.com). Submissions must be original and exclusive to *Fort Myers Beach LIVING*, at a maximum of 500 words. *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, space limitations and spelling.

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- FMB Fire Department: 239-590-4200
- FMB Town Hall: 239-765-0202
- FMB Public Library: 239-765-8162
- Lee County Parks & Recreation: 239-533-7275
- Beach Elementary School: 239-463-6356
- FMB Water Department: 239-463-9914
- Trash Collection: 239-334-1224
- Florida Power & Light (FPL): 1-800-226-5885
- CenturyLink: 239-335-3111
- Comcast Cable Company: 239-432-9277
- FMB Chamber of Commerce: 239-454-7500

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# SUDOKU

- By Gary Mooney -

**SUDOKU RULES:**

Each row must contain the digits 1-9.

Each column must contain the digits 1-9.

Each box must contain the digits 1-9.

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		<b>1</b>			<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>	

Answers on page 10

## Cover Artist Lacy McClary



Lacy McClary has created her beautiful artwork out of two local studios over the last 15 years. Recently losing both her Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach studios in Hurricane Ian has not deterred her from touching the community with her color and inspiration. She recently donated her talent in the painting of the Legacy Tower located in Times Square on FMB with the aspiration of bringing color, hope and life back to the beach she loves so much. She is currently accepting commission work as she transitions into her future studio. Lacy has a fierce love of the islands, the water and our local community. She loves to give back and help whenever possible. Let Lacy's vision guide you to look past the broken and see the beautiful. Lacy's hope is that her work inspires joy and a fresh perspective on the beauty that surrounds us.



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# Hello Friends & Neighbors!

Ordinarily it is a joy for me to choose our front cover feature person or family but this month put me in a quandary due to the second anniversary of Hurricane Ian. Are we ready to move on or is it too soon? Is Ian's memory still an open wound or are we healing? Should this issue feature one of our marvelous FMB residents or families or do we commemorate Ian?

I finally decided that we would do something to remember that infamous day that devastated so many of us and radically changed our daily lives, but with a positive twist. It seemed like during the first year after Ian, all we did was clean up and watch our lives hauled away by monster trucks, wrangle with insurance company representatives, and work with contractors, roofers, electricians and on and on. But the past year was different. People are rebuilding and, in many cases, already returned to their beloved and renovated homes. The Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB grand opening was a morale shot-in-the-arm to the entire beach community. Returning businesses like The Whale held ground-breaking ceremonies, with more following on a regular basis. While we still have years to go before our island metamorphosis is complete, we no longer concentrate on the past but look forward to our bright and happy future!

I am living proof of this, as I moved back into my adorable and colorful Shell Mound neighborhood abode last Fall! While I still have much work to do to make my house Home Sweet Home again, I cannot tell you how

marvelous it is to no longer be living in my driveway in the camper loaned to me by family. And I am far from alone.

To illustrate this, I contacted our previous cover feature story families and friends, as you will read in this issue. Many responded and almost all of those are either back in their rebuilt homes or well on their way to doing so. I promise you that in September 2025, we will have one of our usual feel-good cover story profiles, but I thought it important this year to take one last look back at our murky yesterday to better appreciate our sunny new tomorrow and to know that Fort Myers Beach is where HOPE lives!

Speaking of sunny new tomorrows, please support our advertisers because without them, we cannot deliver *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* to you free of charge. When you do visit them, let them know you saw their ad in our magazine so we can continue to provide you with this original entertainment each month!

Have An Awesome Beach Day!



*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

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# - Fort Myers Beach -

## Where **HOPE** Lives!

### Former Cover Story Families Reflect

- By Gary Mooney -

Hurricane Ian devastated Fort Myers Beach on September 28, 2022, tossing the lives of almost every island resident into utter disarray and taking the lives of too many of our friends and neighbors.. With Ian's upcoming 2nd anniversary, *FMB LIVING Magazine* contacted our previous Cover Story Feature folks and families to see what life is like for them today. We asked the same six questions: where did you live prior to Ian; have you yet moved into your new or renovated home; when did you move in; what do you like best about your new home; what do you miss the most about your pre-Ian residence; and what will FMB look like in five years?

#### Jan & Ron Fleming

We lived at the North End of FMB and still do, as we moved back into our renovated home in May 2023. We enjoy everything about our home today, as it is all new, but the best thing is our kitchen. Sadly, we miss our former spruced-up backyard! Most of us have come so far in two short years, even though some may disagree, and in five years, FMB should be a newer, better and safer island for years to come.

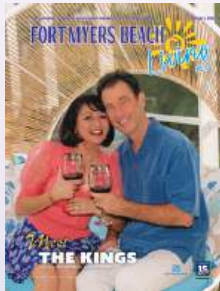


#### Nina & Alex King

We live in the Laguna Shores neighborhood at the island's south end and actually returned home pretty quickly, in January 2023, though with just a toilet and sink back then, without any

drywall! Now that things are much better inside our home, we love our water views and our quiet and peaceful neighborhood, with many full-time residents.

We miss our former front-of-the-house tree where an eagle nested, though fortunately the eagle's next relocated to Bay Beach Lane. In 2029, FMB will be Clean, Refreshed, Energetic & Lively! The price points due to construction costs and insurance will bring in more folks with disposable income. Naturally we will all eat out more often and spend more money on beach activities.



#### Betty Simpson

Before Ian, I lived at 180 Curlew Street for 42 years. On June 29, however, I became an FMB resident again when I moved to the 7th floor of the Ocean Harbor Condominiums and I love it! It has outstanding closet space and I eliminated the wall separating the dining room from the kitchen to make it wide-open. Best of all is my 180-degree view where I watch sunrises and sunsets! I however miss my 42-year home, as my yard was beautiful, the pool outstanding and my friendly neighbors terrific. Sadly, FMB will never be the unique little fishing village where my children grew up. With the high cost of land, major



developers will try to build large-scale projects, so I plead with our Councilmembers to stand strong for us locals by showing the backbone necessary to help FMB remain the paradise we all know and love!

#### Debbie Salyers

I live in the McPhie Park neighborhood and was able to move back into my home late summer 2023. I love that everything is new but miss my old pool and deck. I hope that in five years, FMB still feels like a community as more things open up.



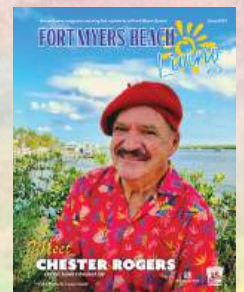
#### Monica & Dustin Schmucker, with Tessa Moon & Silas

Our family lives on San Carlos Island and we moved back into our home in February 2024 but there is still much to be done. We love our new kitchen that we finally finished in July; we added a walk-in pantry with Medieval-looking castle doors – Dustin's amazing creation! We miss our "Mother Schmucker Tiki Bar" the most, where we spent our time grilling, chilling and watching sports. By 2029, we see our local businesses fully returned to FMB, residents who stuck around will all be home again, and the Beach School will be filled with kids!



#### Chester Rogers

I rent and my upstairs unit had minor damage, so all is good before and after; I never left for Ian except for recuperating after surgery. I have a good feeling about FMB in five years, other than everything being more expensive. I Love Paradise!



**Barbara Hill**

I live in Shell Mound Park, being a permanent resident since 2005 and an FMB resident from 1954 through 1963.

I evacuated on September 27, 2022 and moved back into my home on May 9, 2023. While I adore my new Euro-style white kitchen cabinets, I miss my family memorabilia, photographs and rare book collection. Five years from now, I envision smart growth that will keep the island casual, fun and funky. We will protect and nurture our natural environment and its wildlife and that native and Florida-friendly landscaping will grace residential, commercial and public lands.



ture of my home is exactly the same! I miss a lot of my personal items and some artwork I bought in Spain... books and photo albums. And, I miss my trees!

Five years from now FMB will be growing, changing and hopefully with a good balance of families and visitors. Dynamic.



is fantastic that there are no wheels on our new home, but we miss all of our family's old mementos. In 2029, FMB will be full of new businesses, homes and a paradise to many new faces.

**Ellen & Pat Vaughan**

We live in the suburban part of the island, at the South end and returned to our apartment in May 2024. We LOVE being back HOME on the beach! Our own apartment did not have much hurricane damage but we did sustain water damage when a pipe burst when our building turned our water back on, but Hey, it was clean water! We do miss all of our pre-Ian friends and neighbors who are not returning. In 2029, we see a community with added energy brought by new islanders who fall in love with the unique FMB vibe. The new bridge over San Carlos Pass to match the Matanzas Pass Bridge will be complete and we will have neighborhoods with tall colorful houses on stilts.

**Bobbi & Jerry Kemp**

We sadly still do not have a house. We have money down on a modular home but have had many setbacks so it is taking much longer than we anticipated. What we miss post-Ian is the loss of our adorable 1940 Beach Cottage that we called home. In five years, FMB will still be a charming beach town with a brand new, fresh & clean look!

**Kate & John Gauntt + 8**

We moved back into our Bay Mar Drive home in August 2023. We love our kitchen area that now better fits our large family! Our "Before Ian" home had a lot of special details like built-in bookshelves, antique doors and other features that we did not replace. Everything is super-simple and easy to replace now, in case it floods again, but our old home had lots of character and we miss that. In five years, we see FMB thriving! Every lot green and lush once again, with new homes and businesses popping up and people working and living together in the community we kept alive through hard work and endurance.

**Cindy & Steve Johnson**

Our house is mid-island and we hope to be back home as you read this! For the most part, everything is brand new. We love our tinted windows and all the benefits of optimizing the house to how we live. We however miss our old boat and boat lift. In 2029, FMB will experience a continual decline of our full-time residential community due to the reduction in our quality of life as a result of excessive congestion and commercial encroachment in residential neighborhoods caused by the overdevelopment of our barrier island.

**Julie & David Fite**

We live in the Venetian Gardens / Palermo Circle neighborhood and moved back into our remodeled home on April 16, 2023. All of our new upgrades are wonderful and we do not miss much from our pre-Ian home, everything is the same, with the upgrades only newer, so nothing is missing except for our photo albums and miscellaneous personal items. We hope that five years from now, building will still be ongoing throughout the island due to the nature of the devastation, but tourism and island life will flourish.

**Anita Cereceda**

I live in the Shell Mound Park neighborhood and thanks to great folks that worked hard to get me back in my home I was able to celebrate Thanksgiving there last year. What I like best is that the unique struc-

**Amy & Tre Gillette**

We live mid-island and moved back into our home in September 2023. It

**Kelly & Craig Smith**

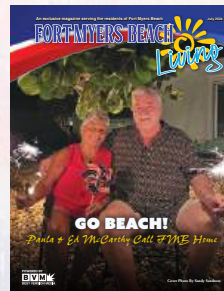
We have lived in the Shell Mound neighborhood for the past 16 years, returning in November 2023. What we like best about our new home is that Ian gave us the opportunity to start all over again from the studs on up, to make it exactly how we want it to look! Prior to Ian, we collected unique trinkets and memorabilia over the years and sadly the hurricane destroyed all that. In 2029, we foresee larger businesses and homes being built, though hopefully we will retain our small-town charm.



home is centrally located in Fort Myers and what I like best about it is that I do not have to deal with the infamous Beach traffic! What I miss most about my former FMB home is being on the water, where I could get right on a kayak or paddleboard from the backyard to go exploring. I also miss the many coconut trees that my late Grandfather Tom planted all throughout the backyard. As for what FMB will look like in 5 years, I hope that the Beach School remains open and FMB still maintains its sense of community.

**Paula & Ed McCarthy**

We live on Donora Boulevard and returned to our home on April 2, 2023. We like the "newness" of everything, especially our floor and appliances, but miss all of our family treasures, like photos and Christmas decorations among other things. By 2029, all the condos will be open and we foresee that line of traffic



from Santini Plaza to the bridge, full of people who are enjoying our beautiful island home.

**Bettina & John Koss**

We live in the Laguna Shores neighborhood and have built a new home that is close to completion. We love being back in our neighborhood, as we rebuilt on our same property, but our previous home was much smaller so it is taking us some time to adjust to our larger house. In 2029, we foresee plenty of new development, hopefully an Elementary School and potentially a Middle School, more improvements to the Town properties, and better traffic solutions for the Season.



**Bridgette Myers**

I resided at the island's South End, at Widgeon Terrace. I actually moved away from my childhood home before Ian, in 2021. My new



We are still saddened for the loss of our friends and neighbors but celebrate the life they brought to our community and honor them as we press forward with the hopes of an even better way of island life. ■

*- Fort Myers Beach -*  
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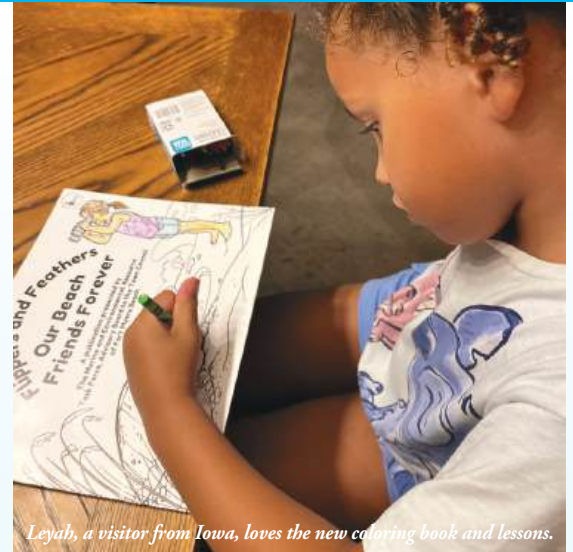
# Flippers & Feathers

## Town & MERTF Sponsor Children's Activities Book

- by Gary Mooney, photo by Jen Rusk -

"The Town of FMB in conjunction with its Marine & Environmental Resources Task Force (MERTF) began hosting its Pop-up Environmental Booth events roughly four years ago," explains MERTF member and Pop-up Booth coordinator Jen Rusk. The Pop-up Booth features information about the Town's environment and wildlife including its shorebirds, endangered sea turtles and other marine life. It offers activity books and brochures, stickers, guides for birds, butterflies and shells, shell bags, plants, coloring books for young children, family-focused literature and more.

"Over these past four years, we distributed tens of thousands of activity books from various organizations like the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Turtle Time, Save the Manatee Club and more from the Pop-up Booth," continues Jen. "Each activity book, however, was specific to only the group they represent. About three years ago, someone gave me the Anna Marie Island activity book that highlighted what makes that community unique and I thought, 'we are unique too; why don't we have something like this for FMB?' That was the start of 'Flippers & Feathers: Our Beach Friends Forever.'"



Leyah, a visitor from Iowa, loves the new coloring book and lessons.

Jen took her activities book concept to MERTF who unanimously thought it was terrific. Town Council soon agreed, allowing Jen to begin accepting contributions to make it happen. "Ms. Pattie Smith provided a generous contribution, along with the FMB Community Foundation," says Jen. "I began assembling educational material for the verbiage but I am not an Illustrator. I spoke with Dr. Charles Gunnels, the department

*continued on page 14*




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# September

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Bay Oaks Recreational Center**

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The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is open and back to full operation! Attend fitness classes, indoor pickleball, open gym, after-school care, weight room & more. Monday through Thursday 7am to 7pm; Friday 7am to 8pm. See [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Sun., September 1  
AND EVERY SUNDAY  
Bayside Park Concert Series**

@Bayside Park  
Relax while listening to fantastic tunes from local musicians at these FREE weekly outdoor concerts from 4 to 7pm! Sept. 1: Remedy; Sept. 8: Wayward Souls; Sept. 15: Jacob's Ladder; Sept. 22: Riverside; & Sept. 29: Guilty Pleasure Band. For details see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Tues., September 3  
FMB Local Planning Agency Meeting**

@Town Hall, Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The FMB LPA, appointed by Town Council, continues its work to rebuild FMB at 9am; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Thurs., September 5  
FMB Chamber "Coffee Connection"**

@Access Title Agency  
Start your day with your FMB Chamber friends for networking with complimentary coffee and tasty breakfast items at the Access Title Agency at the 3rd Floor of 100 Lovers Lane. The FREE "Coffee Connection" is 8 to 9:30am; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Fri. & Sat., September 6 & 7  
AND EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
Fort Myers Beach Market**

@Times Square  
This Downtown FMB Market offers fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more EVERY Friday & Saturday from 9am to 1pm; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Mondays, September 9 & 23  
FMB Town Council Meeting**  
@Town Hall, Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The FMB Town Council continues its work to rebuild FMB at 9am; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Wed., September 11  
FMB Fire Department  
9/11 Wreath Ceremony**  
@Station #33, 121 Lenell Road  
The FMB Fire Department in a brief ceremony will place a wreath at the FMB 9/11 Memorial at 121 Lenell Road at 8 a.m. See [www.fmbfirefl.gov](http://www.fmbfirefl.gov).

**Wed., September 11  
US Coast Guard  
"Patriot Day" Commemoration**  
@FMB Coast Guard Station  
The FMB Coast Guard Station at 719 San Carlos Drive hosts a "Patriot Day" program to honor all those who lost their lives during and following the 9/11 attacks from 9 to 11 a.m.

**Thurs., September 12  
FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon**  
@Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina  
Join your FMB Chamber friends to savor a scrumptious luncheon from the Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina as the FMB Chamber introduces its newest members from 11:30am to 1pm. Nautical Tiki Cruises sponsors this month's luncheon. \$30 members & \$40 prospective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sat., September 14  
Revive The Vibe 2024**  
@Bayside Park  
Beginning at 11am live music on two stages featuring local musicians, a VIP tent with food and drinks, a vendor market, and a premier live theatre performance of The Wizard of Oz; Theatre Under the Sun. For more info visit FMB Revival on Facebook.

**Thurs., September 19  
FMB Chamber "Business After Hours"**  
@Nervous Nellie's Crazy Waterfront Eatery  
Join your FMB Chamber friends for a fun time at Nervous Nellie's while devouring delicious complimentary appetizers and enjoying a cash bar from 5:30 to 7pm. Members FREE & \$15 perspective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sat., September 21  
International Coastal Cleanup**  
@Fort Myers Beach  
Join your FMB Community Foundation & Keep Lee County Beautiful friends with the "International Coastal Cleanup" from 8 to 11am. KLCB provides the gloves, garbage bags, pickers, water and more while the FMB-BCF helps hand out the materials so volunteers have everything they need. Register in advance at [www.KLCB.org](http://www.KLCB.org) and see the Reservation System link.

**Wed., September 25  
FMB Community  
Foundation Happy Hour**  
@Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant  
The FMB Community Foundation is the island's leading philanthropic organization, so join in on the fun from 4-6pm; see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Fri.-Sun., September 27 to 29  
"Island Hopper Singer /  
Songwriter Festival"**  
@Various FMB Venues  
The annual "Island Hopper Singer / Songwriter Festival" returns to SW Florida from September 20 through 29, with the final three days on FMB and most of the shows FREE! Look for a special show at the Historic Mound House on Saturday, September 28. For the entire schedule, see [www.IslandHopperFest.com](http://www.IslandHopperFest.com).

**Fri., September 27  
"Music Row at Margaritaville"**  
@Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB  
This "Island Hopper Singer / Songwriter Festival" musical evening features Kristian Bush, Kassi Ashton & Shane Proffitt at 7:30pm. FREE with VIP Tickets available at [www.IslandHopperFest.com](http://www.IslandHopperFest.com).

**Sat., September 28  
BTR 2nd Anniversary  
"Hurricane Ian Luncheon"**  
@Pink Shell Resort & Marina  
Neighbors gather for lunch at 11:30a.m. and storytelling from survivors. RSVP required Beach Talk Radio.

**Sat., September 28  
Music on the Mound**  
@The Mound House  
Island Hopper concert featuring Jeff Cohen and book signing with Tim James author of Going Crazy. 2:00 p.m. FREE with VIP Tickets available at [www.IslandHopperFest.com](http://www.IslandHopperFest.com).

**Sun., September 29  
Bayside Park Concert Series**  
@Bayside Park  
This "Bayside Park Concert" is at a special time, 5 to 8pm, due to the conclusion of the "Island Hopper Singer / Songwriter Festival." Enjoy the music of the "Guilty Pleasure Band"; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sat., October 26  
"Monofilament Madness"**  
@Salty Sam's Marina  
Grab your gloves and kayak if you have one and meet at Salty Sam's Marina to help remove monofilament fishing lines and other debris from the water and shoreline from 8am to 2pm. To register and for more details, see [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com); the first 200 registrants received a complimentary t-shirt with a FREE Parrot Key luncheon following the cleanup!

Answers from page 3

3	2	6	9	5	1	7	4	8
9	8	5	3	4	7	2	1	6
4	1	7	8	2	6	5	9	3
5	4	8	7	6	2	9	3	1
1	7	3	5	9	4	6	8	2
6	9	2	1	3	8	4	5	7
2	5	9	6	1	3	8	7	4
8	3	4	2	7	9	1	6	5
7	6	1	4	8	5	3	2	9

# FMB Community Foundation Hosts Beach Cleanups

- by Gary Mooney, photo by Jane McCloskey & Sandy Sandness -

## International Coastal Cleanup is September 21

"The Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation (FMBCF) and Keep Lee County Beautiful (KLCB) enjoy a longtime beach cleanups partnership," offers Jane McCloskey, who received the KLCB's "Outstanding Site Captain Award" earlier this year. "I am a FMBCF Director and each Director has a specific responsibility, with mine being the environment, which basically means the beach cleanups as well as our 'Adopt-A-Shore' segment from the old Wyndham Hotel to Dakota Avenue." FMB had another 2023 KLCB Award Winner, with FMB Chamber President Jacki Liszak receiving the "Community Champion Award."

Jane explains that the Site Captain "coordinates the work between the FMBCF and KLCB. While KLCB handles the reservations, obtains the gloves, garbage bags, pickers, and water through donations, I arrange for members of the FMBCF to help hand out the materials so volunteers have everything they need once we begin the beach cleanup. We keep track of any unusual items the volunteers find and weigh the bags to determine exactly how much trash we collect during the 'International Coastal Cleanup.' We also help the Marine & Environmental Resources Task Force (MERTF) with their Pop-up Booth to hand out educational materials and answer questions from beach visitors on how to help the marine environment on our beach."

The FMBCF partners with KLCB on at least four major beach cleanups each year. "'The International Coastal Cleanup' is Saturday, September 21, from 8 to 11 a.m. Our next event is January 1 to clean up following the New Year's Eve fireworks. 'The Great American Cleanup' is in the spring, then we clean the beach again on July 5, following the Fourth of July fireworks. We normally host at least two annual cleanups of our 'Adopt-A-Shore' segment but since Ian, with the lack of a staging area, parking and beach access, we have had just



FMBCF members, with Jane McCloskey receiving the award.

two. Occasionally we do other events as well, like the 'Monofilament Madness' on October 26 from Salty Sam's Marina and hopefully the historic Mound House where volunteers kayak the Back Bay to remove monofilament fishing lines and other harmful debris."

To sign up, "go to [www.KLCB.org](http://www.KLCB.org) and see the Reservation System link on their calendar," explains Jane. "You do not need to be a FMBCF member to participate. We usually get 50 to 60 people for each one and many of those are school groups and families. I enjoy speaking with everyone as the volunteers are so excited, asking each other how much they picked up or what unusual things they found!"

## The FMB Community Foundation

As much as Jane enjoys coordinating the beach cleanups, she loves being a FMBCF member! "I moved here from Zephyrhills in 2019 and reconnected with a longtime friend from Pennsylvania who belonged to the FMBCF, so I joined to meet people and make friends. FMB is such a great community where everybody knows everybody and we help each other out and that is why I love this little community! To learn more about the FMBCF including how to join, see [www.fmb-communityfoundation.com](http://www.fmb-communityfoundation.com)."

Jane encourages you to sign up for the "International Coastal Cleanup" on September 21 and all the following cleanups. "We want to keep the beach safe and clean for everyone to enjoy by removing any metal, glass, monofilaments and all else, as it is not only a great place to visit and walk, but crucial to our tourism economy." ■



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and family! Space is limited so register quick at [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

September marks two solemn occasions: 9/11 and the second anniversary of Hurricane Ian's devastation on September 28, 2022. To mark the former, the FMB Fire Department in a brief ceremony will place a wreath at the FMB 9/11 Memorial at 121 Lenell Road at 8 a.m. The FMB Coast Guard Station at 719 San Carlos Drive hosts a "Patriot Day" program to honor all those who lost their lives during and following the 9/11 attacks from 9 to 11 a.m.

As for the latter, Beach Talk Radio's 2nd Anniversary "Hurricane Ian Luncheon" for FMB residents and Ian survivors is at The Pink Shell Resort at 12:30 p.m. The program begins with several prayers from FMB clergy, then 10 local residents describe how they are rebuilding their homes and lives since Ian. For more information, see [www.beachtalkradionews.com](http://www.beachtalkradionews.com).

**Music, Music, Music!**

FMB welcomes back the "Island Hopper Singer / Songwriter Festival" that runs from September 20 through 29, with its final three days – September 27th to the 29th – on FMB! While the "Island Hopper" is always terrific, it is more important than ever this year to jumpstart our local

# Chamber Chatter!

## Commemorations & Songwriters!

September is a transition month on FMB, where we segue from the quiet of offseason to the first stirrings of tourism season.

For the FMB Chamber, transitional festivities begin at the end of August with the "Jolly Roger Mini-Masters Golf Tournament" on Friday, August 30, from 3 to 7 p.m. Register your team of five putt-putters for just \$200 that includes your round of Putt-Putt, finger foods, two drink tickets, giveaways and more! Meet at the Bayside Sports Bar & Grille, where Majestic Transportation will take us to Smuggler's Cove Adventure Golf, then back when you complete your round. We award prizes for the lowest and highest scores, best team score, best dressed team and the most holes-in-one. The pirate earning the lowest score will take home the legendary Green Jacket! The Mini-Masters is a great way to spend time with coworkers, friends

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business economy as the unofficial start of tourism season. The “Island Hopper” will provide a much-needed shot in the arm to everybody’s coffers. The upbeat nature of the Festival gives us all a community morale boost, with music pouring from every doorway and attendees walking from venue to venue with smiles on their faces!

Speaking of music, the FMB Chamber, in partnership with the Town of FMB, Nervous Nellie’s, Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant, Wahoo Willie’s and Alex King Realty Group, along with a rotating weekly sponsor, welcomes own little slice of musical heaven every Sunday with the “Bayfront Park Concert Series.” Each Sunday, from 4 to 7 p.m., attendees gather at the base of Old San Carlos Boulevard to enjoy a fantastic array of local musical talent. To be a weekly sponsor, contact the FMB Chamber. Sponsoring the concerts allows you to promote your products and services to the crowd as well as through the concert’s press release, the “Chamber Chatter” and all social media. To find out about upcoming “Bayfront Park Concert Series” entertainers, go to the FMB Chamber website at [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org) or the “*FMB LIVING*” Events Calendar.

In addition to the “Island Hopper’s” return, there is more great news on the horizon – for the first time since Jan, the “34th Annual American Sand Sculpting Championship” returns to FMB from November 21 through 24! We are still in the planning stages of this beloved FMB tradition so stay tuned for upcoming details at [www.fmbandsculpting.com](http://www.fmbandsculpting.com).

Remember that the FMB Chamber Office is open on the 3rd floor of 100 Lovers Lane, Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to our Lovers Lane location, the Chamber operates our Times Square visitor information satellite office from “The Roxie,” open daily from 10 a.m. to sunset.

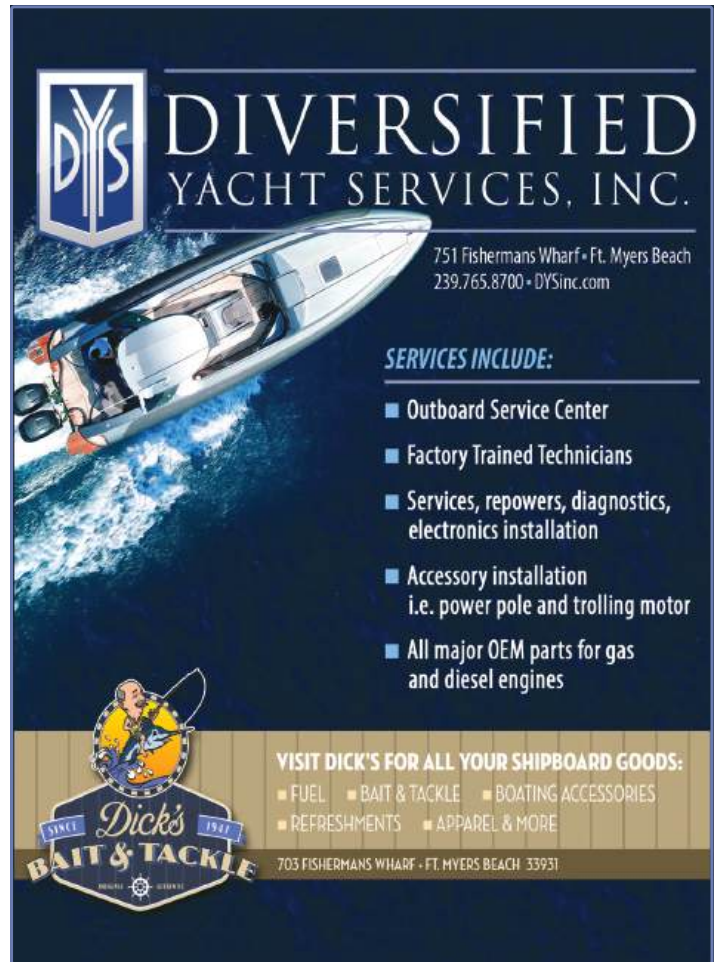
On behalf of our 400-plus FMB Chamber of Commerce members, Happy Labor Day and remember . . . “Island Life; It’s *Our* Business!” ■

*Jacki Liszak, President  
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce!*

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*continued from page 9*

chair of the Florida Gulf Coast University Biology Department and mentioned the activity book, wondering if he knew of any illustrators and he said he might. Macy Noll majored in Art and Biology; she sent me artwork samples and I immediately knew she was the one! We recently received our initial 10,000-copy print.”

**That Brought Tears to My Eyes!**

Macy was not the only “*Flippers & Feathers*” illustrator, however. “Mound House Summer Camp kids did several draw-

ings,” exclaims Jen! “My favorite graces the back cover that features a ‘key’ design with manatees and turtles. When I asked her, ‘why a key,’ she said, ‘because these are the key to a beautiful beach!’ That brought tears to my eyes!”

Jen will pass out the FREE “*Flippers & Feathers*” through various outlets. “We will distribute them through schools and libraries and not just the Beach Elementary School and FMB Public Library but those in adjacent communities. The Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB requested copies and now other beach resorts and rental properties are doing so. Of course, we will hand them out at our various Pop-up Booth, Lee County Tourist Development, and FMB Chamber of Commerce events. I anticipate ordering a second 10,000 in the near future. If you would like to become a Pop-up Booth volunteer, email me at [jruskfmb@gmail.com](mailto:jruskfmb@gmail.com). Pop-up events begin in September; to learn dates and locations, see [www.FMB.Gov](http://www.FMB.Gov).”

Now that “*Flippers & Feathers: Our Beach Friends Forever*” is out, Jen reflects on the project. “The best moment was when Town Council said, ‘take it to print!’ It was my passion that someday a publication like this would be available for all our residents and visitors and now here we are. Thanks to the Town and MERTF, our contributors and associated organizations who made ‘Flippers & Feathers’ a reality – this is one of the best things I ever did in my life!” ■



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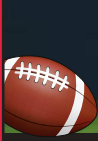




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