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GAZETTE™ **FREE TAKE ONE**

Marco Island

The Gazette is a Free Paper Direct Mailed to Homes, Condos, P.O. Boxes & Businesses on Marco Island, Goodland & Isles of Capri • May 2023

AMY'S BLINDS

Beauty and function with a personal touch

If you're considering window treatments for home, office or condo, blinds are a breeze when you choose Amy's Blinds. That's because owner Amy Poss will personally come to your location with samples of her wide array of Hunter Douglas products, and will help you settle on the most functional and beautiful choices.

And, with summer coming, Amy's Blinds is offering a special "energy smart" savings event through June 20 on select Hunter Douglas Duette Honeycomb Shades, Sonnette Cellular Roller Shades and Vignette Modern Roman blinds.

"These styles are great for energy efficiency," says Amy, who founded her own business after gaining years of experience with a related company specializing in Hunter Douglas products. Besides her "concierge" personal service, Amy has made the process even smoother offering a "virtual" advisory and selection process on her website, amysblinds.com.

Window treatments can be as simple as roller versions, all the way through to motorized honeycomb, roller and screen shades that can be controlled via hand-held remotes and indeed phone or tablet apps that contribute to ever-evolving "smart home" convenience.

Materials include woven wood, wood and metal, assorted fabrics, and also durable plastic/aluminum that are ideal for rental properties, so the options are virtually limitless, says Amy.

She also advises and encourages choosing styles early in the planning stages of renovations or new construction, which is, of course, booming in Southwest Florida.



See Our Ad On Page 14

YOUR HunterDouglas SPECIALIST

AMY'S BLINDS
ON MARCO ISLAND
Servicing Marco Island and Surrounding Communities

By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer



- Advertorial -

Clockwise: Amy's Blinds offers limit less combinations for homes, condos and offices. Sonnette® Cellular Roller Shades. Heritage Hardwood Shutters. Owner, Amy Poss holds a Pirouette shade with Power View motorization.

Call/text Amy at Amy's Blinds on Marco personal service and satisfaction at (239) 970-8588, or e-mail her at Amy@amysblinds.com. The virtual options, as well as other info is at her website.com.

"It's never too early to think about treatments and how they'll look and fit, even though they're the final touches to homes, condos and offices," Amy says.

An additional priority, Amy says, is to keep clients constantly informed about orders (which are custom built by Hunter Douglas) and expected times of delivery and installation. Communication is by calling, texting or e-mail, which customers say they appreciate.

Prices vary according to material and style choices, while simple and purely functional blinds come in at budget level.

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Marco Island Beaches

South Marco Beach Access

The South Marco Beach Access is one of two public beach access points on Marco Island. The location makes it perfect for families who want to go shelling, fishing or watch dolphins playing in the surf. The firmer sand near the water makes it ideal for a walk, jog, or bike ride. Sunsets are spectacular, and it's the perfect place to relax with lots of room to spread out.

There are plenty of opportunities to rent watercraft, including wave runners and kayaks. If you're looking to take the fun to new heights, try parasailing. Beach access points are well-maintained and have foot washing stations at the entrances, along with children's life jackets you can borrow.

Parking and restroom facilities are located on Swallow Avenue. They are a short walk across South Collier Blvd. to the beach. Parking is \$8 per vehicle.

Tigertail Beach Park

Tigertail Beach Park is a must-see for bird lovers and those looking to take in some breathtaking sunsets. The 32-acre barrier island is one of the world's most important habitats for wintering and nesting shorebirds, making it an ideal destination for spotting wildlife. In fact, the Great Florida Birding Trail Guide lists this area as one of the best all-around locations for birdwatchers in Southwest Florida. A tidal lagoon separates this beach from Big Marco Pass Critical Wildlife Area, known as Sand Dollar Spit. The lagoon is a haven for wildlife, and is home to horseshoe crabs, needlefish, Florida fighting conchs, and more.

To get to the beach, you have two options: Wade through shallow lagoon water or walk around the south side.

Tigertail Beach Café offers a full-service menu including breakfast and lunch; beer and wine are available. The amenities at this park are unparalleled. You'll find restrooms, a picnic area with tables and grills, a children's playground, and even a butterfly garden.

Parking is \$8 for those without a beach parking permit. For more information, visit www.paradisecoast.com.



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SEAWALL SMARTS

Multi-faceted Imperial Marine Construction Leads The Way

By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

Waterfront property owners who need seawall repairs or replacement needn't look further than Marco Island's own Imperial Marine Construction with over 100 years staff combined experience in the field.

The same goes for docks, decks, boatlifts, rip-rap, tie backs, pile wraps, repairs and maintenance - all of which carry free estimates as well.

The company, just approaching its 12th anniversary of

"My wife and I are new to Marco Island and we could not have had a better experience with our dock being built and we're so happy with our decision to go with Imperial Marine Construction. The cost for our dock was very reasonable and it's rare to say but we feel we got our money's worth and a beautiful dock."

— Thomas R.
Marco Island

quality work on the island, concentrates almost exclusively on durable, virtually indestructible vinyl as its material of choice for seawall jobs.

Why vinyl?

"Because vinyl is final," says Bernice Clark, who handles all the permitting for the company as well as managing the office for the hands-on father-and-son team of Rafael and Carlos Montanez.

Bernice points out that concrete vs. vinyl costs are about the same on a vacant lot, but that concrete construction costs way more when there are houses present.



This is because construction must be done from the waterside, and because of staging issues caused by fewer and fewer vacant lots being available for this purpose on the island.

A vinyl seawall has a warranty of between 35 and 50 years (concrete typically has no warranty other than a year on workmanship); vinyl will not warp or fade over time; it handles hurricanes and storm surge well, especially when placed in front of the existing concrete (as is usual and typical), and installation time is about the same.

In an era of increasing environmental concern, says Bernice, vinyl is perfect because it doesn't decompose.

Vinyl is maintenance free, unlike concrete's seams that degrade, barnacles have a harder time clinging to the surface, and aesthetically vinyl is simply more pleasing.

When you call the company, point man is Bryan Russell - who has decades of experience in marine construction.

Bryan will explain the technicalities, such as how the tough vinyl sheets interlock and are sunk deeper than the concrete counterparts.

He's also an expert on all the other facets of Imperial Marine's services, and notes too that extended "land decks" are becoming increasingly popular with waterfront dwellers on Marco.

"They add more living space," Bryan says. "They tie everything in, and it looks really clean."

Vital to every construction company, of course, are reliable crews. Imperial has long-serving, specialist crews for docks and for seawalls, for example.

This, Bernice says, fits with the company's motto of "Where Great Price and Quality Work Meet."

For more information, visit their website at ImperialMarineConstruction.com or call Bernice at 239-272-3152. Bryan's e-mail is bwr.imc@gmail.com, and his contact number is (239) 272-6952

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The needs are evident and Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is working to wipe out hunger.

Launched in 2016, we began serving the needs of school children on weekends by providing backpacks stuffed with food on Fridays.

Since then, we have grown our services to include a Saturday drive-through food pantry on Winterberry Drive, 15 mobile outreaches, a monthly Senior luncheon (Lunch with Friends) in partnership with the YMCA of Collier County, a Backpack Program for Manatee Elementary and Middle School as well as Marco Island Charter Middle School and



a weekly Breakfast program for Marco Island Charter Middle School. Not to mention other strategic partnerships to provide for needs beyond nourishment.

In 2022 we fund raised to expand to a second location and continue to provide critical food assistance to the over 152,000 individuals we served in 2021.

Our Impact Since 2016

In 2016, our first year of operation, we served 3,600 individuals with critical food needs. In 2021, over 152,000 individuals received food assistance through our brick-and-mortar and mobile pantries.

Meeting Local Needs

Each month, we procure, process and stock over 100,000 pounds of food. We source fresh, frozen and protein-rich food from seventeen (17) food suppliers to meet local needs.

Our Unique Approach

We are unique in that we offer a "hand up" approach with guests while maintaining confidentiality and dignity. Our strength is meeting people in their need and walking alongside them.

More Than Just Food Assistance

In addition to food assistance, we provide nine (9) programs and two (2) partnerships for our guests, which include diaper assistance, job placement services and more.

Contact Our Daily Bread Pantry online at <https://ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org>, 1450 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145 or call 239-259-5188 for more information.



Photos courtesy of ourdailybreadfoodpantry.org



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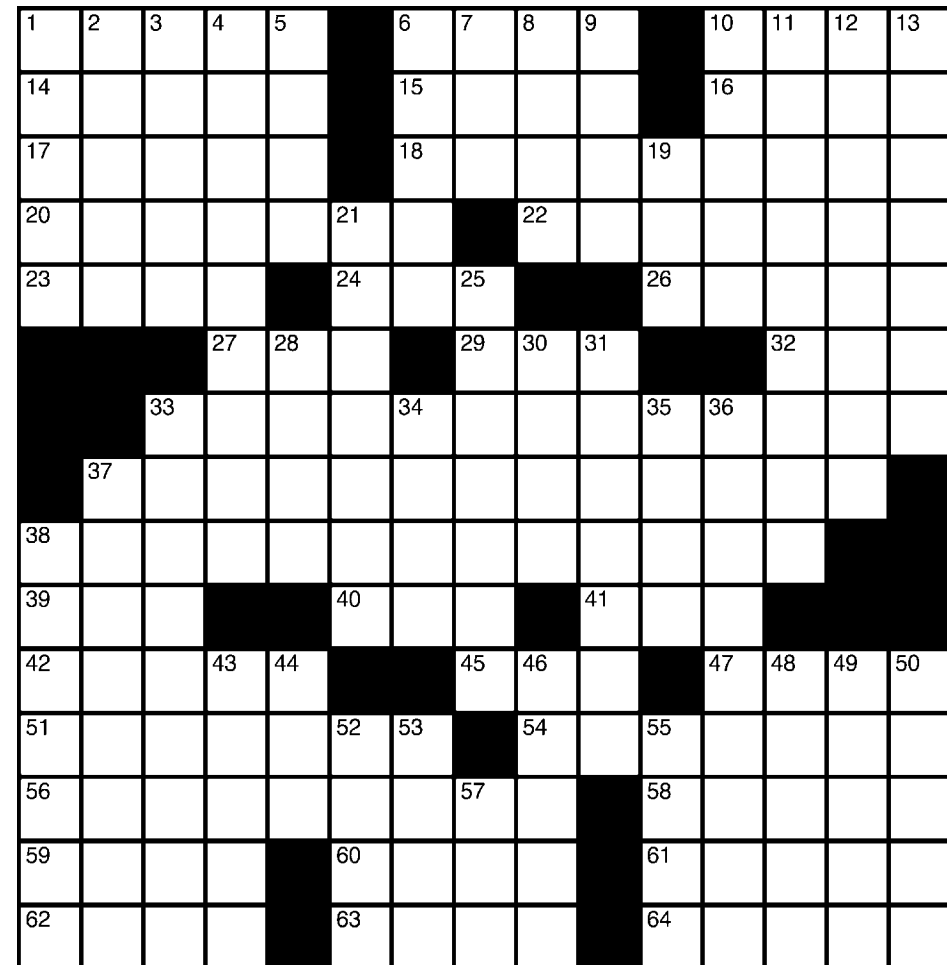
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CROSSWORD CLUES You'll find the answers in the June 2023 issue

- Across**
- 1 Yielding no interest?
 - 6 Fight stopper
 - 10 Beginning on
 - 14 Vonnegut literary device
 - 15 Old-fashioned leaves?
 - 16 Polynesian beverage
 - 17 Comic-Con attendees
 - 18 Happy
 - 20 Self-declared republic in Ukraine
 - 22 Breakfast on the go, perhaps
 - 23 No real friend
 - 24 Shop ___ you drop
 - 26 Lacked alternatives
 - 27 Blue Jays, in crawls
 - 29 Omega, to an electrician
 - 32 Bass appendage
 - 33 Residential cliché
 - 37 How a close race may go
 - 38 It gets last licks
 - 39 "___ dreaming?"
 - 40 Ad trailer?
 - 41 Rival sch. of Duke
 - 42 What closers often open, with "the"
 - 45 Cool
 - 47 Some fancy sheepskin boots
 - 51 Make an impression on?
 - 54 It helps a mouse communicate
 - 56 Candy in a roll
 - 58 Difficult high school sci. course
 - 59 Subj. for Janet Yellen
 - 60 Pixar clownfish
 - 61 Latin lover's declaration
 - 62 Pointed missile
 - 63 Fangorn Forest creatures
- Down**
- 64 Barely avoided tying
 - 1 Many an Indian
 - 2 Two-wafer snacks
 - 3 Mezzo Marilyn
 - 4 Sneaky currents
 - 5 Computer game title island
 - 6 Base shade?
 - 7 Afflict
 - 8 It acquired SeatMe in 2013
 - 9 Bone on a menu
 - 10 Husky relative
 - 11 Piece of silver
 - 12 Extended work period
 - 13 Bit of deceit
 - 19 Letters on a dashboard
 - 21 Period of time
 - 25 Like landlines, nowadays
 - 28 Official hotel of the PGA Tour
 - 30 Sneaky snickers
 - 31 Informal get-togethers
 - 33 Anticipating
 - 34 With no assistance
 - 35 ___ bed
 - 36 Slightly malfunctioned
 - 37 Caribbean island country
 - 38 Like some office walls
 - 43 16th-century council setting
 - 44 Attacks, with "at"
 - 46 Mark replacements
 - 48 Evacuee's emergency kit
 - 49 Tide target
 - 50 Got off one's rocker?
 - 52 Windmill part
 - 53 Tied up
 - 55 Lessen in intensity
 - 57 Home delivery asst., perhaps

SUDOKU

You'll find the Answers in the Next Issue. Last Issue's Answers are on the Next Left Hand Page.

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CONTEST RULES



Our current contest awards a \$50 Publix Gift Card to one lucky winner from Amy's Blinds. You can read their story on page 1 and see their ad on page 14.

CONTEST RULES: Double your chances of winning! You can enter by just emailing us at contest@marcoislandgazette.com with your name, address, and daytime phone number, one single entry per household. You can also enter a second time by correctly completing either of the two puzzles on page 24. Take a picture with your phone or scanner and email your entry to contest@marcoislandgazette.com. Please include your name, address, and daytime telephone number. The maximum number of entries allowed per household is two, one by regular entry and the second by correctly completing either of the two puzzles.

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER Is Sunday, May 28th, 2023. The contest drawing is to be held **Monday, May 29th, 2023**, by the age-old tradition of pulling names out of a hat. See the winner's name in the June edition of the Marco Island Gazette.

IMPORTANT: The winner is responsible for any applicable taxes. The prize awarded is between the prize sponsor and the winner, and in any event, Marco Island Gazette will not be held liable for issues arising from the award of said prize. By providing your email, you agree to receive further communications from the Marco Island Gazette and its partners. You can opt out by stating in your contest entry or entries you wish to do optout. If you do not opt out when entering our contest, you may do so at any time by clicking on the opt-out function in any email received from our partners.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY to enter and win. Thank you to everyone who entered our last issue's contest.

Congratulations to our Last Issue's Contest Winner: Mitchel L. Friedman, who won a \$50.00 credit from Classic Transportation.

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Answers from April 2023 Issue

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