



do it in a nice way. The best answer comes from two people who disagree that can come together and share their disagreement and then figure out together the best possible answer.”

Rotundo added, “Not everyone agrees with everything when you’re writing laws for the whole country, but the important thing is to be respectful. Listen to each other. Always keep an open mind to what people say.”

LoCastro said, “It’s not that we all wanted this job, but when people you re-



Arabella asked the first question: “How do you all work together in government?”

ally respect and admire like your parents, friends, or neighbors, see something in you, and they would like you to serve our community, I think you have to think about it. Somebody has to do it, and if people want you to do it before you even raise your hand, that’s a pretty good start.”

For Carrasco, who grew up in Argentina before coming to the States and is finishing his education in public service, government isn’t always just the elected officials. “They need a lot of people to help them to do things well.” He went into detail on the important role of aides and



From left: Erin Conner, Maria Hayden, Mac Toth, Shavontae Dominique, Didi Love, Deb Henry, Mateo Carrasco, John Riley, Maria Gal, Cindy Love-Abounader, Rick LoCastro, Darrin Palumbo, and London Rotundo.

political staffers. After the children finished their questions, Henry posed one to the group, “If there was one rule on Marco Island that’s here that you’d want to change, what is it?”

One camper replied, “The speed, can you make it faster?” She was met with emphatic agreement and support from the rest of the campers.

Though she may not be able to increase the speed limits, Henry encouraged the kids that when they are adults, they can take things to their local and state rep-

resentatives, “If you have a question, or if there is something that you think needs to change, you reach out to them. Because your opinion matters.”

Another camper asked if they could make it a rule to ‘Always be kind and respectful of others’, garnering emotion from all in the room.

The policymakers nodded in agreement, “We should always be respectful; though we may not be able to make it a rule, it is common decency and we can do that at local, county, state, and national levels,” they all agreed.



When asked if there is one thing on Marco they would like changed, one camper replied, “The speed! Can you make it faster?”

Conversation from A/10



patronize many Marco Island businesses but also show them their support and give them due shout-out on social media. “It is another way we get to interact with the community,” said Davies.

As community members began to trickle in, order their coffee, peruse the table of MIPD goodies to take home, and talk with a cop, Davies could be seen busy at work documenting the event.

“It’s been really fun. I enjoy it. Joe became the boss like a week after I started. We sat down, talked, and were in agreement – we shared the same common goal. It has worked out very well and we have a great working relationship,” Davies said as he snapped pictures.

Office Ray Leshinger could also be seen mingling, known as the force’s ‘Community Guy’ and regularly seen at events and in the public eye. He touched on his positive collaborative work with Davies and also praised the Marco Island community, “I always tell people, ‘You have no idea what it’s like to work in a bad place’.” He continued with his appreciation for



Photos by Brittany Richards

the residents, “The support you get in this community is sick. It really makes you feel good.” He pointed to two children playing, “And it’s all about these guys. That’s why I became a cop, to make sure these guys were good.”

Keep an eye on the Marco Island Police Department’s Facebook page, along with other social media platforms, and their City of Marco Island website for information on the next Coffee with a Cop date and location.

Nesting from A/1

At its July 2026 meeting, the Hideaway Beach and Taxing District mentioned plans for the repair and maintenance of the berm post sea turtle season. This is part of the 15-year Sand Dollar Island restoration project, which started in 2022 – 2037.

Photo by J. Quinlan
Resident John Quinlan, a regular beach walker, stands next to the sea turtle nest at the edge of the escarpment.



Sea Turtle Activity August 4-10, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	247	299	257	280	114	121	8
Delnor Wiggins	61	65	63	99	35	42	0
Vanderbilt	203	174	228	205	89	128	11
Parkshore	240	215	184	272	96	112	17
City of Naples	315	267	289	224	110	118	11
Keewaydin Is.	627	546	835	719	180	202	0
Sea Oat Island	36	19	36	24	8	4	0
Marco Island	168	117	251	310	63	25	7
Kice and Cape Romano	181	188	305	217	65	16	0
10,000 Islands	138	154	165	171	61	50	0
Collier County Totals	2216	2044	2613	2521	821	818	54

To report dead, injured or disoriented sea turtles on Marco call 239-289-9736 or 239-289-9687