2019 Hurricane Season Begins
It's time to prepare emergency plans and supplies now

The 2019 Hurricane Season started June 1. Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center is predicting a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season.

This outlook forecasts a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, a 30 percent chance of an above-normal season and a 30 percent chance of an above-normal season and a 30 percent chance of a below-normal season. The hurricane season officially extends from June 1 to November 30.

NOAA predicts nine to 15 named storms and four to eight to become hurricanes.

NOAA also predicts two to four major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5) this season. Hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property however, tropical storms and depressions can also be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical storms, tropical depressions, and hurricanes, are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast. Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.

2019 Hurricane Season Begins
It's time to prepare emergency plans and supplies now

Plans for 6.5 Mile Paved Path in North Cape Moves Forward
SUN Trail Design Complete

Design is complete for Cape Coral’s section of the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail. A $1.8 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation funded the design.

The paved 12-foot-wide trail will span about 6.5 miles. The SUN Trail will extend from Burnt Store Road to Del Prado Boulevard and will be constructed along the north side of Van Buren Parkway, the east side of El Dorado Boulevard, and the north side of Kismet Parkway. The $12 million path will be funded through state grants.

The city plans to install concrete side pads to some of the existing driveways that will be impacted by the trail to allow for additional maneuvering and parking space. Additionally, the rear setbacks of these properties may be reduced to allow for longer driveways.

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On The Move is a quarterly newsletter produced by the City of Cape Coral for the citizens of the city. The publication is mailed as a courtesy to every household and business in the city. Comments or questions can be directed to the City Manager’s Office, P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027 or by email to newsletter@capecoral.net.
Welcome to the summer issue of On The Move. The 2019 Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1 and experts predict a normal season. The best way to protect your family and your home is to be prepared. Please don’t wait until a storm is headed this way. This newsletter includes important emergency preparedness information to help keep you and your families safe this summer.

We are hoping to avoid a repeat of last year’s blue-green algae crisis. Staff is working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to obtain preapproval for mitigation options if a toxic bloom infects our saltwater canal system this summer. Cape Coral is now the 8th largest city in Florida and people are attracted to our city by the sunshine and abundance of water. We have more than 400 miles of freshwater and saltwater canals that provide fishing and recreation opportunities. Improving the quality of this valuable resource is critical to our environment, our residents and our local economy. This is an important issue for Cape Coral and I will continue to work with our Southwest Florida Mayors and encourage our state and federal officials to implement solutions. We cannot allow toxic water to disrupt our quality of life and the environment.

City Manager John Szerlag is working to negotiate the purchase of the abandoned golf course property with Ryan Company. These ongoing negotiations surround environmental concerns related to its use as a former golf course. This 175-acre parcel is one of the few large parcels available for parks and recreation development and will be a valuable asset to our community.

Your City Council will begin to work on the upcoming FY 2020 Operating Budget in August. Based on preliminary figures, we expect to see property values increase this year, which will provide some additional tax revenue.

We also expect to receive results from the Citizen Survey that was recently conducted. The City conducts this survey every two years using the National Research center, which provides benchmarks that will be used to compare Cape Coral to other cities across the country.

Cape Coral is moving forward with plans for a Sister-City relationship with Baise, China. I traveled to China with other city officials following a visit from Baise delegates. The purpose of our partnership is for cultural, educational and economic development opportunities in both countries. These visits are already starting to pay off. Baise will embark on an exchange program and will be sending doctors and nurses to the Lee Health System. The doctors and nurses will be staying here in our hotels and will be eating in our local restaurants.

By the time the school year begins, there will be 200 school bus benches installed throughout the city in an effort to protect children at school bus stops. We will continue to have a school resource officer at each school in the city. As a reminder, when children head back to school please watch for students walking to and from school and school bus stops and be careful around school bus stops.

Your City Council will reconvene in July, after a brief summer break. On behalf of our great City, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Best regards,

Welcome to the summer issue of On The Move, our community newsletter. This issue features our annual focus on hurricane preparation. As you read through the publication, you will find valuable information on how you and your family can be ready for any storm that impacts our area. The experts predict a near-normal hurricane season with nine to 15 named storms this year.

Our summer issue serves as an information tool for our citizens providing details about flooding risk, storm surge and hurricane preparation plans and kits. By distributing this important information to all residents and businesses in Cape Coral, the City earns valuable information points toward our Community Rating System score. Our CRS score provides discounts on flood insurance premiums for our residents. Please take time to organize and prepare for the hurricane season before a storm is headed this way.

I am working with City staff on my proposed FY 2020 - FY 2022 budget for the City of Cape Coral. Although Mayor and Council only will be adopting a budget for FY 2020, the three-year rolling budget format allows City Council and the community to consider future financial impacts of policy-related decisions and to chart the future course for the level of service we want to provide. Essentially, a multi-year budget is the foundation for economic sustainability.

We received our preliminary taxable property value estimates from the Lee County Property Appraiser, and Cape Coral’s values increased 6.48 percent, which is higher than the 5 percent the City projected. If the millage rate is unchanged, this increased value equates to about $3 million in additional property tax revenue. This additional property tax revenue will be included in my proposed operating budget released in mid-July. It is good to see Cape Coral property values have continued to move in a positive, sustainable direction.

We have some positive news on the City’s efforts to address the supply and demand issues connected with our irrigation system. A Cape Coral/Florida Governmental Utilities Authority (FGUA) interconnect pipeline project is complete. Cape Coral will receive up to 6 million gallons of treated irrigation water per day from FGUA’s North Fort Myers treatment facility. This project is a good example of intergovernmental cooperation that benefits all parties. The pipeline also benefits the environment as it avoids the requirement for FGUA to dig a shallow injection well near the city’s water supply. There is an article in the newsletter about another water resource project, the Cape Coral/Fort Myers Caloosahatchee River crossing project that will provide reclaimed water during the dry season. This project will also allow Fort Myers to reduce their treated water discharges to the River. All around, this project is good for Cape Coral, Fort Myers, and the environment.

You will start to see school bus benches being installed throughout the city as part of a pilot program. I would like to thank the Cape Coral Rotary and Kiwanis clubs for their generous donation of 200 benches at no cost to the City. These benches will be installed before the beginning of the upcoming school year. There is more information in the newsletter about the program that was approved by City Council.

Have a good summer and be safe, especially during hurricane season.

Best regards,
Hurricane Season

Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.

Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can pose safety risks during hurricanes.

Tornadoes can accompany landfalling tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.

Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone’s strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than 1,000 miles offshore.

Without knowing when or where storms may occur, the City of Cape Coral takes every precaution and applies the lessons learned from Hurricane Irma and other previous storms. City departments work year-round to prepare the community for all hazards. Cape Coral Fire Department’s Emergency Management Division coordinates many of these activities including the development of emergency plans, conducting trainings and exercises, and utilizing innovative technologies such as weather monitoring devices.

One of the greatest assets that Emergency Management has at its disposal is a dedicated group of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. These volunteers have completed various trainings and certifications to assist the community during preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

What to Do Before a Tropical Storm or Hurricane:

The best time to prepare for a hurricane is before hurricane season begins. It is vital to understand your home’s vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Here is your checklist of things to do before a hurricane develops.

- **Know Your Zone:** Hurricane Evacuation Zones are no longer referenced by storm category, but are now named by Hurricane Surge Evacuation Zones A/B/C/D/E. (To find your zone visit, visit, www.leegov.com/hurricane.)
- **Put Together an Emergency Kit:** Put together a basic emergency kit. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters.
- **Write or Review Your Family Emergency Plan:** Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Make your written Emergency Plan.
- **Review Your Insurance Policies:** Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.
- **Understand the meaning** of National Weather Service Forecast watches and warnings.

**Actions to Take When a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Threatens:**

When a hurricane threatens your community, be prepared to evacuate if you live in a storm surge risk area. Allow enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home.

- **Secure your home:** Cover all of your home’s windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8-inch exterior grade or marine plywood, built to fit, and ready to install. Buy supplies before the hurricane season rather than waiting for the pre-storm rush.
- **Stayed tuned in:** Check the websites of your local National Weather Service office, National Hurricane Center, Lee County Emergency Management office, and the Cape Coral Emergency Management Division. Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest storm news.
- **Follow instructions** issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered.
- **If NOT ordered to evacuate:**
  - **Take refuge** in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level during the storm. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
  - **Stay away** from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
  - **If the eye** of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force winds coming from the opposite direction.

After a Hurricane:

- **Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news** for the latest updates.
- **If you evacuated,** return home only when officials say it is safe.
- **Once home,** drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Watch for fallen objects in the road, downed electrical wires, and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks that might collapse.
- **Walk carefully around** the outside of your home to check for loose power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage.
- **Stay out of any building** if you smell gas, if floodwaters remain around the building, if the building or home was damaged by fire, or if the authorities have not declared it safe.
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning** is one of the leading causes of death after storms in areas dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage.
- **Use battery-powered flashlights. Do NOT use candles.** Turn on your flashlight before entering a vacated building. The battery could produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.

Remember, no matter the forecast, it only takes one event to devastate a community, so now is the time to prepare.
Cape Coral/Fort Myers Reclaimed Water Caloosahatchee River Crossing Project Update

Plans are moving forward for a reclaimed water pipeline between Cape Coral and Fort Myers. The “River Crossing Project” is a joint project between the two cities.

Fort Myers will be responsible for constructing upgrades to their South wastewater treatment plant. Fort Myers also will construct a supply line from the plant to the pipeline connection point just east of the Caloosahatchee River. Cape Coral will be responsible for constructing the supply line across the Caloosahatchee River to the City’s Everest Water Reclamation Facility.

Once completed in early 2023, the reclaimed water transmission main will provide Cape Coral with an alternate source of reclaimed water for use in our irrigation system. This reclaimed water will be especially beneficial during the dry season. More importantly, this project will allow Fort Myers to reduce their permitted treated water discharges to the Caloosahatchee River. This project will provide a great benefit to both cities and the downstream quality of the Caloosahatchee River and its associated estuary environment.

The City has solicited proposals from engineering firms for the design of the project, regulatory permitting and construction and is presently in contract negotiations with the selected engineering firm that was approved by City Council. Once the contract is awarded, the engineering firm will begin the design and permitting process of the pipeline. The design and permitting is estimated to take approximately 12-18 months to complete. An early task in the design process will be to evaluate all feasible options for crossing the Caloosahatchee River in an environmentally safe manner. The river crossing options may include: 1) attaching the pipeline to the existing Mid-Point Bridge; 2) constructing a dedicated bridge system to support the transmission main; or, 3) performing a record setting horizontal directional drill (HDD) underneath the Caloosahatchee River. The final decision on how best to cross the river will be based on the findings of the evaluation. In the meantime, design activities will begin on the overland route from the river’s edge to the tie-in point at the Everest Water Reclamation Facility.

Governor DeSantis recently signed the state budget, which includes $3 million for the pipeline. The City of Cape Coral also secured a grant from the State for almost $800,000 to assist with the cost of designing and permitting the proposed Reclaimed Water Transmission Main.

Cape Coral Fire Department Welcomes New Fire Emergency Management Division Manager

The Cape Coral Fire Department recently welcomed Alvin Henderson Jr. to the position of Fire Emergency Management Division Manager.

The Emergency Management Manager is an executive officer of the Fire Department. The Manager establishes policies, sets goals and objectives. The Emergency Management Manager also manages the Division’s budget and serves as a liaison between the Fire Department and local, state, and federal public safety partners. Henderson directs the City’s emergency management activities to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural, man-made and technological hazards.

Emergency Management serves a critical function in coordinating activities to enhance readiness and resilience to emergencies and disasters.

Henderson has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University and attended the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy at the Emergency Management Institute. He is a Certified Emergency Manager and a Certified Fire Protection Specialist. Prior to joining the Cape Coral Fire Department, Alvin worked at the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services as Director of Emergency Services where he had leadership responsibility of 911 Communications, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Academy, and the Fire Marshals’ Office.

Henderson is excited to join the Cape Coral Fire Department and help the Department, City, and the community prepare for All-Hazards. “The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers are one of the greatest assets that Emergency Management has at its disposal,” said Henderson. He looks forward to working with the CERT team, City departments, and the community.

Horticultural Debris and Hurricane Season

It’s hurricane season again. The time to trim trees and bushes is now, before a storm forms.

As a reminder, when a storm is close it is not the time to trim/cut trees and/or do major yard work. Horticulture waste collection services may be canceled days before a storm is expected to arrive in Cape Coral. Trimming vegetation as a storm is headed our way can also place a burden on the collection and disposal processes and there is not enough equipment or manpower to handle the debris just before a storm makes landfall. Piles of yard waste that are left uncollected could put you and your neighbors at risk and could also end up in local waterways.
School Bus Bench Pilot Program Begins

Cape Coral Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs Donate 200 Benches

The installation of 200 school bus benches throughout the city is underway. The Rotary Club of Cape Coral and the Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral are donating 200 benches at no cost to the city in hopes that students will use them instead of sitting in the road. City Council approved the project to install these benches at school bus stops across the city.

The City is working with the Lee County School District to identify the locations of the donated benches. All benches will be installed in the City’s right-of-way. The City is working to prep locations for these benches, which should be installed before the start of the upcoming school year.

The 6-foot benches are made of recycled plastic and will be attached to concrete bases, which can be moved if the bus stop location changes. Reflectors will be added to each bench. Advertising will not be allowed on the benches but plaques acknowledging a donation from a family and/or individual will be permitted.

The pilot program will be evaluated between August and December to determine if the benches are effective. For more information, visit www.capecoralrotary.com.

Lee County Clerk’s Cape Coral Office Hours Restored to Five Days a Week

Changes effective July 1

Lee County Clerk Linda Doggett has announced her Cape Coral Branch office is restoring hours to five days a week starting Monday, July 1. The government center branch location, which has limited Clerk services, will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Customers may visit the office to pay traffic fines, court case fees, probation, and other municipal and county infractions. These payment services are also available online via the Clerk’s website. Official records, such as mortgages, deeds, liens, and notices of commencement, may also be recorded at the office.

“The restored service hours will provide added convenience to our customers in Cape Coral,” Doggett said. “This is a result of an increase in court-related revenues and the long-awaited approval from our legislature to allow us to use some of those revenues to fund critical operations.”

Customers may also apply for marriage licenses and get married at the Cape Coral office. Evictions, small claims, probate, and simplified dissolution of marriage matters. Notary services are also provided for a $10 fee, and a free computer station is also available to search and view court and official records.

While passport services are not provided at the Clerk’s Cape Coral office, customers may apply for them across the street at the Cape Coral City Clerk’s Office at 1015 Cultural Park Blvd. or downtown Fort Myers at the County Administration Building.

The Cape Coral branch office is located on the second floor of the Lee County Government Center, 1039 SE 9th Place. For more information on services offered, visit leeclerk.org or call 239-533-5000.

About the Lee County Clerk of the Circuit Court Office:

The Florida Constitution established the Clerk of the Circuit Court as a public trustee, responsible for safeguarding public records and public funds. Clerk Linda Doggett is directly elected by and accountable to Lee County residents. In addition to the role of Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Clerk is the County Recorder and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, and the Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor for Lee County.

SUN Trail

The SUN Trail is part of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail System that runs through Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. This Trail will provide for outdoor recreation activity in the North Cape. Eventually, the trail will connect to a larger network of statewide SUN Trails.

A construction contract for Phase 1 of the project is expected to be awarded by the end of the year. Phase 2 is anticipated to be awarded after the completion of the North 1 Utilities Extension Project.
Cape Coral CERT Program Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The Cape Coral CERT Program was created to help citizens become more informed and better prepared to cope with a major disaster. The Program works to educate individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using lessons learned from the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their community following a disaster when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to stay involved by volunteering to take an active role in Fire Department and emergency preparedness projects.

In 2018, as in past years, Cape Coral CERT’s 217 members continued to be pillars of the volunteer community providing over 7,000 hours of service through outreach, trainings, administrative support, and deployments to assist with Hurricane Michael. CERT Program Manager Riley Tuff was honored to accept the Outstanding Achievement Award in Emergency Management on behalf of his Team.

If you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, please email capecert@capecoral.net or call (239) 579-3022.

City’s Fleet Management Division Ranks #15 for Best Fleets in North America

The City of Cape Coral’s Fleet Management Division was ranked No. 15 by the “100 Best Fleets in North America” program and Governing Magazine for 2019. The 100 Best Fleets program recognizes and rewards peak performing fleet operations throughout the country, identifying and encouraging ever-increasing levels of performance improvement within the fleet industry. This is the third consecutive year the City of Cape Coral is among the top 100 fleets in the nation. The Fleet Management Division was ranked No. 42 in 2018 and No. 76 in 2017.

The rankings were recently announced at the annual NAFA Institute and Expo. “I am extremely proud of Fleet Manager Marilyn Rawlings and her team of hardworking employees who ensure the City’s fleet is operating efficiently,” said City Manager John Szerlag. “They have made phenomenal progress in the past few years to earn this recognition.”

The “100 Best Fleets in North America” program utilizes 12 different “criteria of excellence,” including accountability, use of technology and information, collaboration, creativity, celebration, evidence of a high trust culture, performance recognition, doing it right the first time, quick and efficient turnaround, competitive pricing, staff development, and resources stewardship.

Earlier this month, the City’s fleet received another top award. The Fleet Management Division was recognized by Government Fleet magazine for earning a spot on the list of “Leading Fleets” for 2019. This awards program recognizes government fleet operations that are performing at a high level, particularly in fleet leadership, competitiveness, efficiency, planning for the future and overcoming challenges. The 50 “Leading Fleets” represent the best in the industry. This is the second time Cape Coral has been recognized as a “Leading Fleet”. The City will be recognized in New Orleans at the Government Fleet Expo and Conference in June.

Fleet Management is a division of the Public Works Department. Fleet Management is responsible for equipment services including; vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, governmental and environmental compliance, specification development, acquisition, disposal, and the purchase of fuel for City vehicles and equipment. The City’s fleet is comprised of 1,672 vehicles and equipment.
Jaycee Acoustic Jam at Jaycee Park

Come check out the Jaycee Acoustic Jam sessions at Jaycee Park and enjoy an evening of music along the Caloosahatchee River. Attendees can participate by playing or simply listening to music. All levels of talent are encouraged to join in the round robin play format. Enhance your skills by playing with others in a friendly atmosphere.

These sessions are for acoustic instruments only. Sorry, there are no amps allowed. Jaycee Acoustic Jam takes place at Jaycee Park, which is located at Beach Parkway and 4125 SE 20th Place. The event takes place every Thursday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., weather permitting. Follow the Jaycee Acoustic Jam Facebook page for more details.

North 2 UEP Construction Activities Continue

As anyone who has ventured north of Pine Island Road can tell you, construction of the North 2 Utilities Extension Project (commonly referred to as “UEP”) is in full swing.

The project includes 13 construction contracts totaling $226 million in value. Construction activities are expected to continue through the end of 2019.

Current Progress: North 2 UEP contractors have installed over 1.1 million linear feet (LF) of potable water, gravity sewer, irrigation water, and wastewater force main. Contractors also have replaced approximately 47,000 LF of storm drain piping. This equates to approximately 71 percent of the total project completed. In addition to the pipeline construction, contractors have made significant progress on the neighborhood lift stations and the two new master pump stations that are nearing completion. Construction of Canal Pump Station 10, which will provide additional irrigation withdrawal and pumping capability, is also in progress.

Repaving of streets continues to follow utility installation. Through March, approximately 60 lane-miles of streets have been repaved with the first 1-inch thick lift of asphalt, which equates to approximately 30 percent of the total project. Paving of the first lift is being followed by driveway and swale restoration activities.

Traffic Conditions: Several major roads continue to be partially or fully closed due to construction activities. However, some repaving has been completed on portions of El Dorado Parkway, Tropicana Parkway, Nelson Road, and Chiquita Boulevard. Specific information on the extent of the closures is provided on the North 2 UEP Traffic Advisory webpage. Residents are asked to exercise caution while driving through construction areas.

Police Department Offers Free Home & Business Security Evaluations

The Cape Coral Police Department is an active participant in the “Lock Crime Out of Your Home” program, in partnership with the National Crime Prevention Council. This program offers a free evaluation of a home or business owner’s property with a focus on the security that is in place to deter crime.

The free evaluations are conducted by the Police Department’s District Resource Coordinators (DRCs), who are certified in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The DRCs evaluate the property’s exterior doors, locks, lighting, shrubs and landscaping, sliding glass doors, and windows. The DRCs will provide suggestions on how to make these areas more secure.

This evaluation is available by appointment for all Cape Coral home or business owners. To request an evaluation, please visit the Cape Coral Police Department’s website at capecops.com and select “Lock Crime Out of Your Home” under the “Services” menu.

Design Services to Begin for NEW PARKS in Citywide Parks GO Bond Project

Cape Coral voters approved a $60 million expansion of the city’s parks and recreation amenities in 2018. A 15-year bond will fund parks and recreation improvements throughout the city and seven new neighborhood parks, three new community parks, and one new environmental park.

Planning is well underway and staff has finalized negotiations with a firm for design services of the new neighborhood parks. Staff continues negotiations with a firm for the design services of the new community parks. Council is expected to approve these agreements soon. These firms will conduct public input meetings beginning in the Fall on the new parks and the drafting of master plans as part of the design process.

Public input meetings will be announced later this year, please visit the Parks GO Bond webpage at www.capecoral.net/GOBond for more information or follow the City of Cape Coral Government page on Facebook.

Recent activities related to the Parks GO Bond include:

★ A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued seeking qualified firms to provide Design of neighborhood and community parks. Five firms responded to the RFP and were evaluated based on the appropriate regulations. The RFP is expected to be awarded to two separate firms. The selection advisory committee recommended Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the community parks and AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the neighborhood parks.

★ RFPs also have been issued for new playgrounds at NW Softball Complex, Koza-Saladino Baseball Complex, and Pelican Baseball Complex.

★ RFPs have been issued for new park shelters at Horton Park and NW Softball Complex.

For more information on the Parks GO Bond project status, please visit www.capecoral.net/GOBond.
SOUTH CAPE CRA Approves 5 Year Work Plan

The South Cape Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) approved its five-year capital work plan earlier this month.

The highlights of the plan include a study for a proposed 400-space parking garage and pedestrian bridge over Cape Coral Parkway. The location of these structures would be determined by the studies and would likely be built on existing City-controlled property.

The garage is expected to cost about $10 million and the pedestrian bridge is estimated to cost about $4.5 million, to be paid for by existing CRA funds and a 10-year loan. The parking garage would address parking issues in the South Cape and free up other parking areas for development. The bridge would help improve connectivity to other areas of the South Cape and improve pedestrian safety while crossing Cape Coral Parkway. Design work is expected to begin in 2020 and construction activities would take place in 2021.

There are also plans to relocate three fire hydrants along SE 47th Terrace to Club Square. The relocation of these fire hydrants will allow parades and other special events to take place on SE 47th Terrace while maintaining emergency access for fire protection services.

What is a CRA and how is it funded?
A CRA is a dependent special district (area) established pursuant to state law by a local government. The primary revenue source for the CRA is tax increment financing (TIF). When a CRA district is created, the taxable assessed values of the properties within the district are frozen to create a base year value for the district. Thereafter, the district receives the ad valorem taxes that result from any increment increases in taxable value. The mission of the CRA is to enhance the South Cape and create a vibrant urban city.

Cape Coral and Waste Pro Bulk Item Drop Off Events

Next event set for August 17

The City’s Public Works Department and Waste Pro had another successful “Bulk Item Drop Off Event” in May. More than 150 loads and 23,020 pounds of bulk trash was collected during this event. Six similar events have been held in Cape Coral and a total of 139,080 pounds of bulk trash has been collected.

While Waste Pro picks up bulk items curbside at no charge, this is another opportunity for residents to dispose of items. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, August 17 in the parking lot at 1020 Cultural Park Boulevard, which is located directly across the street from City Hall.

Acceptable items for drop off include:
- Construction Debris (less than 2 yards)
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Electronics
- Proof of residency is required to drop off items.
- Proof of residency may include photo identification with a Cape Coral address or photo identification and a utility bill with an active Cape Coral utility account.
- Household chemical waste (fuel, paint, solvents, propane tanks) will not be accepted and should be taken to the Lee County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 6441 Topaz Court, Fort Myers.
- Waste Pro will have staff available during each event if any resident needs assistance unloading items.

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Process Update

The proposed budget to be presented to City Council by the City Manager will be a three-year rolling budget for FY 2020 – 2022. This is consistent with the format first introduced in July 2013. The rolling budget format supports the City’s Strategic Plan and allows for greater pre-planning. Potential financial issues can be identified and addressed before they reach a crisis point. As allowed by state statute, City Council will only adopt the first year.

The City’s budget consists of multiple funds; however, the General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. The cost of providing police and fire services, park and transportation maintenance as well as the basic administrative services of the City are budgeted in the General Fund.

The single largest revenue source to the General Fund is ad valorem taxes. Ad valorem taxes are directly tied to taxable property values and as a result can become an unreliable and volatile revenue source. As such, revenue diversification is the primary driver of the City’s strategic goal of achieving economic sustainability. The public service tax and fire service special assessment revenues have provided the necessary funds to support the infrastructure needs of the community and the City’s organization. This infusion of alternative revenues also has allowed the City Council to maintain, and in recent years, lower the operating millage rate.

Meetings between staff and City Council will continue through the final adoption of the budget. Listed below are some important dates in the FY 2020 Budget Adoption process:
- June 1 – Estimated Property Valuations released to City by Property Appraiser
- July 1 – Preliminary Certification of Tax Roll from Property Appraiser
- July 17 – Release of City Manager’s Proposed Budget
- July 22 – City Council Meeting - Setting of proposed millage rate
- August – Council Budget Workshops
  Two public hearings will be held in September to adopt the City’s FY 2020 Operating Budget. Those dates have not yet been determined.

Project Lifesaver Program Helps Police Department Find At-Risk People Who Wander

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies. The Cape Coral Police Department offers this program that is designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering to its residents.

The purpose of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition. The program uses a wristband transmitter that emits a unique radio signal that is used by law enforcement to locate wandering and lost adults and children. Paired with officers trained in the technology, the average location time using this system is less than 30 minutes.

For more information on this program, contact Cape Coral Police Department Project Lifesaver Coordinator Christine Seymour at (239) 574-0656.
2019 STORM SEASON
CAPE CORAL’s FLOODING THREAT

It is important for all citizens and business owners to understand the potential risks of flooding. In 2008, the federal government issued new flood hazard maps for Lee County based on updated engineering studies. Please familiarize yourself with the maps and review the actions you can take to minimize health and property risks associated with flooding.

Flooding in Cape Coral can occur from two causes—heavy rain and storm surge. Aside from localized street flooding, the Cape’s stormwater infrastructure has proven to perform well relative to preventing flood losses to homes and businesses during torrential rainstorms. However, it may not have adequate capacity if it rains hard enough for an extended period or if pipes get clogged. The other flood threat, storm surge, is a phenomenon usually associated with hurricanes. Amazingly, the storm surge can be as high as 25 feet in an intense hurricane. The areas most susceptible to storm surge are located near the coastline of Charlotte Harbor, the Caloosahatchee River and Matlacha Pass. Historically, high tides up to 12 feet above normal were reported at Fort Myers and Punta Rasa during the 1926 Miami hurricane. In 1960, Hurricane Donna caused high-water marks of 10 to 11 feet on Estero Island.

In 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall on the southwest coast of Florida, near Cayo Costa, with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots. Because the eye shrank considerably in the 12 hours before landfall, these extreme winds were confined to a very small area, reducing storm surge potential. During landfall, the local area received an average of 3.91 inches of rainfall. Other municipalities within Florida reported storm surge of more than 7 feet and North Naples reported rainfall of 7.48 inches. Most recently, Hurricane Irma struck Marco Island in September 2017 as a Category 3 hurricane. While wind and flood damage was less destructive than initially feared, wave damage to seawalls within Cape Coral was extensive.

As you can see from the history above, if a hurricane watch is issued, please keep in mind that every hurricane is different. Base an action plan on information specifically pertaining to the incoming storm.

The flood map in this publication is transcribed from large-scale flood maps and shows the “Special Flood Hazard Area” (SFHA) within the City of Cape Coral. The SFHA is the area where floodplain management regulations must be enforced and mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. The SFHA includes Zones AE and VE. These large-scale flood maps and other flood protection references are available at City Hall and the Cape Coral Public Library. If you would like assistance with reading the map, please call (239) 5740553 to ask for help from the Planning Division staff.

The following information provides suggestions of actions you can take to protect yourself and your property.

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This map is not a survey and should not be used in place of a survey. While every effort is made to accurately depict the mapped area, errors and omissions may occur. Therefore, the City of Cape Coral cannot be held liable for incidents that may result due to the improper use of the information presented on this map. This map is not intended for construction, navigation or engineering calculations. Please contact the Department of Community Development with any questions regarding this map product.
Flooding

**What You Can Do**
Several of the City’s efforts to prevent flooding depend on your cooperation and assistance. This is how you can help:

- **DO NOT dump or throw anything** into the swales, drainage inlets, canals, basins or river. Dumping into these waters is a violation of City of Cape Coral Code of Ordinances, Section 9-15. Further, Section 9-107 prohibits the sweeping or blowing of vegetative material into stormwater drainage systems, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, sidewalks, or roadways. This includes lawn clippings, horticultural trimmings, dirt and fill material, and other debris. Any dirt or lawn clippings blown into the street eventually will be washed into the drainage system. Also, all construction sites are required to have erosion protection devices, as silt and sand can reduce the capacity of the drainage system. If this occurs, the drainage system cannot carry the water away as the system was engineered to do. If you see violations, please notify Code Compliance at (239) 574-0613.

- **IF YOUR PROPERTY is next to** a drainage inlet, canal, or river, please keep inlets open and the banks clear of brush and debris.

- **ALWAYS CHECK with the Building Division** at (239) 574-0546 before you build on, alter, regrade, or deposit fill on your property. You may need a permit to ensure that your project does not cause drainage problems on other properties nearby. If you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted, please notify Code Compliance at (239) 574-0613.

**Property Protection Measures**
If flooding is predicted, one protection measure that costs nothing is to elevate valuables. This involves putting them on counters, upper cabinets, attics, or upper floors. As Cape Coral is located within a region subject to high winds during hurricanes, consider installing storm shutters and reinforcing your garage door.

Measures to protect a property from flood damage include retrofitting, re-grading your yard, and correcting local drainage problems. If your property has a low finished floor elevation, you may consider retrofitting your structure. If you don’t know your property’s current floor elevation, you can obtain copies of elevation certificates for buildings that were built since 1993 on the City’s website, www.capecoral.net or by calling (239) 574-0411.

Retrofitting can include elevating the structure, flood-proofing doors and walls, re-grading, or installing earthen berms and/or concrete walls. Although these remedies may require a considerable investment, these measures may help protect your property during flooding.

City staff is available for site visits to review flooding, drainage, and sewer problems and to provide one-on-one advice to the property owner about property protection (such as retrofitting techniques and drainage improvements). Staff can also offer assistance with your selection process if you need to hire a qualified contractor or consultant to help you solve and/or prevent a particular flooding problem. Please contact the Planning Division at (239) 573-3160, if you need such technical assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about these options, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have publications available on these topics. Many publications are available, free of charge, at the Department of Community Development, the Lee County library or the internet. All development within a floodplain requires a permit. For information on obtaining a permit, please contact the Building Division, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990, (239) 574-0546.

**Flood Insurance**
Most homeowner’s and renter’s insurance policies exclude protection from damage caused by flooding. If you don’t have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Structures under construction are also insurable. Almost any building with at least two walls and a roof is insurable against flooding through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which offers affordable, federally-backed insurance. Contents of insurable buildings can be covered by a separate policy, also making flood insurance available to renters. Unless you requested that your flood insurance policy cover the contents, it may only cover the structure. It is possible that flooding waters could cause more damage to the contents than to the structure. If you are in a V-Zone or an A-Zone, you are four times more likely to experience a flood than a fire. Don’t wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection.

**Substantial Improvement Requirements**
The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement to a building equals or exceeds 50 percent of the building’s market value, then the building must meet current flood zone construction requirements. Substantially damaged buildings also must be brought up to the same standards. Article VI of the City of Cape Coral Land Use and Development Regulations specifies details on flood damage prevention. This information is available at the City Clerk’s office and on the City website at www.capecoral.net.

**Natural and Beneficial Functions of Wetlands**
In Cape Coral, the areas most susceptible to tropical storm tidal surge are located near the coastline of Charlotte Harbor, Matlacha Pass and the Caloosahatchee River. These vast areas extend from Burnt Store Marina to just north of Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. Most of these areas with the highest susceptibility to flooding are preservation lands owned by the State of Florida. By preserving the native vegetation consisting of salt marshes and mangrove communities, residents of Cape Coral gain significant protection.

The mangroves, in particular, stabilize the shoreline during hurricanes. The mangroves have prop roots, leaves and branches that offer frictional resistance to flowing water. This effect reduces storm erosion and decreases the speed of the flow of tidal inundation and allows the settling of particulate matter. The mangroves use these sediments and the nutrients in the water for growth. Additionally, the mangrove environments provide areas for propagation of marine life, bird life, water quality enhancement for surrounding waters, and aesthetic benefits. It is in the best interest of Cape Coral to make sure that the functional integrity of these areas is not degraded.

**Emergency Warning System**
The Lee County Emergency Operations Center provides the Emergency Warning System for Cape Coral. A hurricane watch for Lee County will be announced if hurricane conditions are possible for our area within the next 36 hours. A Hurricane Watch means it is time to put the early stages of your hurricane plan into action. Tune in to local radio or television stations listed for the latest distribution of emergency information. Severe weather and flood warning threats are also continuously broadcast by the National Weather Service on special weather radios, on Channel 4, 162.475 MHz. Emergency vehicles also may broadcast emergency information over an amplified speaker.

Cape Coral uses a free smartphone app — Ping4alerts! — to instantly notify...
Flooding

Citizens of public safety concerns. Residents and visitors can download the app on their Apple or Android devices. Ping4alerts! delivers relevant, real-time emergency messages to mobile devices, including up-to-the-minute severe weather advisories and alerts from the National Weather Service. This app is a free iOS and Android app that uses the location-based technology inherent in today’s smartphones to deliver notifications within a highly localized area, which ensures accuracy.

In addition to Ping4alerts!, Lee County has the CodeRED high-speed telephone emergency notification service. The CodeRED system gives County officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone information to targeted areas or the entire county at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. Visit the Lee County website at www.LeeEOC.com or call (239) 477-1228 to enter your contact information in the CodeRED database.

If the County declares an evacuation advisory or evacuation order for your area, please heed the warning and give yourself plenty of time to leave the area.

Because any storm is likely to interrupt electric power, it is important that you have a radio or television that can operate on battery power and that you have a supply of fresh batteries. Be prepared for interruptions of service from cable television and telephone providers.

Flood Safety:

- **DO NOT walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the No. 1 cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive and 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there before you step further. Flood waters also can carry microorganisms capable of causing disease via skin contact.

- **DO NOT drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not attempt to drive around road barriers as the road or bridge may be washed out.

- **AVOID power lines and electrical wires.** The No. 2 cause of death is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to LCEC or City emergency management offices. Disconnect electricity and gas lines prior to flooding.

- **LOOK OUT for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals flooded out of their environment may seek shelter in homes. Use a pole or stick to poke to turn things over and scare away small animals.

- **LOOK before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors may be covered with debris, including broken glass and nails. Floors and stairs covered with mud can be very slippery.

- **NEVER use a generator indoors or in an attached garage.** A portable generator uses an internal combustion engine that emits deadly carbon monoxide. Place the generator outside where exhaust fumes will not enter the house. Only operate it outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain. After Hurricane Charley in 2004, the Cape Coral Fire Department conducted more than 400 safety inspections of households in the City using generators. One-fourth of the homes had potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in their houses, and 10 people required hospital treatment. If you own a generator, consider purchasing a carbon monoxide detector.

- **Hurricane Evacuation Safety Tips**

Experts who have studied the problem of storm damage and ways to mitigate the consequences formulated the recommendations provided herein. Additional information is available in the *Lee County All Hazards Guide*, prepared by Lee County Emergency Management. The guide is available at City Hall, Fire & Police Headquarters, the library, the post office, and online at www.LeeEOC.com. By considering this information, attending hurricane seminars, purchasing flood insurance, and tuning into media broadcasts and other sources of information, you may prevent loss of property and life.

For other information regarding flood protection information, please visit the City’s website www.capecoral.net/department/community_development/flood_protection.php or contact Planning Division staff at (239) 573-3160.
Cape Coral Fire Department's Annual Award Recipients

At the Cape Coral Fire Department's annual Ceremony of Recognition, new hires, promotions, and retirements are recognized. Four major awards are also given during this ceremony: Employee of the Year, Probationary Firefighter of the Year, Paramedic of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year.

The 2018 Employee of the Year is Fire Fleet Coordinator Mike Smith. When Smith began in his position, the CCFD's fleet was in disarray. He has been instrumental in shifting the Department's fleet from one where apparatus would breakdown en route to emergency calls to one of function and reliability. Smith is skilled at interdepartmental cooperation and takes great pride in his work. He goes above and beyond and always has a positive attitude no matter how challenging or stressful the situation.

Firefighter Matthew Anderson was selected as the 2018 Probationary Firefighter of the Year. He was recognized by his peers as being highly proactive in assisting the newer class of rookies through their probationary periods. Anderson takes the initiative to approach the newer firefighters and offer help in any way possible. He unselfishly took time to explain the daily routines, the expectations of the officers, and offer some tips he had picked up along the way. It was clear that his aim was to help them succeed through their own probationary periods while still being on probation himself. Firefighter Anderson provided the guidance to new firefighters to settle into a pattern of success that will follow them throughout their careers.

Fire Lieutenant Doug Caines received the 2018 Paramedic of the Year award. Lieutenant Caines displays a tremendous aptitude for the concepts of paramedicine. Away from the chaos that can be encountered during a medical emergency, Lieutenant Caines has been instrumental in maintaining a high level of professionalism within our EMS program. He consistently strives to educate members of the Department on the most current EMS topics all while reinforcing the routine basic ones. Additionally, he has assisted several firefighters with the paramedic credentialing process this year.

The 2018 Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Fire Engineer/Driver Todd Clark for his actions at a traffic crash in northwest Cape Coral. A vehicle was submerged in a swimming pool with three people trapped inside. There was excessive damage to the vehicle as it was traveling at a high rate of speed before striking a mailbox, colliding with a trailer boat and becoming airborne. The vehicle landed on the roof of a home and rolled through the screened lanai frame before coming to rest in the swimming pool. Engineer Clark, without hesitation, jumped into the pool to begin patient care and extraction of those trapped in the vehicle. This was a complex incident with numerous hazardous elements. The car was unstable and ongoing life-saving efforts could have resulted in the car submerging deeper in the water and further trapping the occupants and possibly Engineer Clark. The oil and gas from the car had leached into the pool water and was burning Engineer Clark's skin as he worked. Other firefighters supported Engineer Clark by positioning ladders across the pool to provide a platform for extraction, draining the water from the pool, and providing medical treatment to the patients once they were out of the vehicle and the pool. Clark also received the first ever Cape Coral Fire Department Award of Merit for his actions at this incident.

Cape Coral Utilities Annual Water Quality Report Available

Cape Coral Utilities’ customers continue to receive drinking water that meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The City of Cape Coral's “Annual Consumer Report on the Quality of Tap Water” for 2018 is available online. Consumers can view the report at www.capedrinkingwater.net. The report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, contains important information about the source and quality of the City’s drinking water.

The annual report is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the past, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency required public water systems to direct mail the report to all consumers. The EPA now allows public water systems to make the report available online in lieu of the more costly printing and mailing option.

If consumers prefer a paper copy of the report, please contact the City’s Utilities Department at (239) 242-3420.

City of Cape Coral Employees Win Top Spot in Lee County Million Mile Movement

City employees earned the number one spot for total miles in the 2019 Million Mile Movement competition, with 247 employees contributing to a total of 73,787 miles. Lee Health came in second place with roughly 17,701 miles. Cape Coral Police Officer Chris Lucas won the individual grand prize, winning a cruise for two.

Sixty-three teams throughout Lee County participated in a 90-day Million Mile Movement physical activity challenge from January 15 through April 15 that had people walking, running, biking and swimming to rack up miles toward the community challenge.
Coral Oaks
Summer Golf Programs

Coral Oaks Golf Course is in full "summer swing" and with that comes the return of the Thursday Night Points game, Tuesday Ladies' Night, Junior Golf and great rates all summer long.

The "Ladies' Night" golf program began in May and will be held every Tuesday during the summer through September 3. Ladies' Night is for players of all skill levels - even beginners. This program includes a free weekly clinic at 4 p.m. followed by a 9-hole fun scramble at 5 p.m. The $25 weekly fee includes help from the golf professionals, a beverage with snacks after your round and gift card drawings. The atmosphere is more fun than competitive and ladies get to make new friends while being out in a beautiful evening setting. The field is limited to the first 48 players each week with registration beginning at 7 a.m. one week in advance of each Ladies' Night.

The summer tradition of the Coral Oaks Junior Golf Association program also is in full swing. The Junior Golf Association program is a terrific opportunity for kids to learn, improve, and get all of the fun while playing golf. This program is coordinated by volunteers and Coral Oaks' PGA professionals as a way of giving back to the community.

Take advantage of Coral Oaks' lowest daily rates of the year. Play 18 holes with a cart for just $35 before noon, $30 after noon, or $25 after 2 p.m. plus tax through September 3. No coupon is required.

In addition to Junior Golf and daily play, Coral Oaks offers Men's and Ladies' Golf Associations and annual and 9-month membership opportunities for those who like to play more regularly. There are fantastic driving range discount passes for those who like to practice and numerous charity tournaments and group outings throughout the year.

Are you looking to improve your game? Coral Oaks offers the widest variety of golf instruction in Cape Coral at the best driving range in the City. Class-A PGA professionals with over 75 years of combined experience offer weekly clinics on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. There are comprehensive golf schools and personalized instruction to fit your needs and help improve your game.

For more information on Coral Oaks' golfing programs, private parties and group outings, or to book tee times up to seven days in advance, call (239) 573-3100 or visit www.CoralOaksGolf.com. Also, be sure to follow Coral Oaks Golf Course on Facebook for special deals.

Old Golf Course Property Negotiations Continue

Cape Coral City Council directed City Manager John Szerlag to begin negotiations with Ryan Companies on a purchase price for the abandoned golf course in 2018. Ryan Companies owns the property.

Staff continues to negotiate with regard to the potential purchase of the old golf course property. As with most golf courses, there are environmental concerns that must be addressed before moving forward with recommendations to City Council on a purchase price. Staff continues to have discussions with the owner of the property as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the cleanup of this property.

City Expands Water Resources to Stabilize Canal Levels During the Dry Season

The construction of the Cape Coral/Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) reclaimed water interconnect pipeline project is complete. Cape Coral is receiving reclaimed water from FGUA's North Fort Myers facility.

In February 2017, the City signed an agreement with FGUA to pump up to 6 million gallons of irrigation water per day into the Cape's water supply. This agreement allows Cape Coral to purchase irrigation water from FGUA at a competitive rate. The water will help to maintain canal levels and will be used for lawn watering purposes during the dry season. Treated water will be pumped into Cape Coral from FGUA’s wastewater treatment plant. The reuse water transmission pipeline connects to distribution systems in northeast Cape Coral.

While this project benefits all parties, it also benefits the environment. This pipeline agreement avoids FGUA drilling an injection well near the City’s water supply.

Police Citizen Commendable Action Coin Presented to Student Who Helps Classmate In Medical Emergency

Police Chief David Newlan introduced the Citizen Commendable Action Coin to recognize citizens that go above and beyond. A recipient of the coin is presented with a card explaining the following:

"Thank You For Your Commendable Action. On behalf of the Cape Coral Police Department, please accept this Challenge Coin in appreciation of your positive actions that make this community GREAT!"

The Citizen Commendable Action Challenge Coin is given by an Officer of the Cape Coral Police Department to a civilian that performs an extraordinary act(s) or in the recognition of exemplary behavior.

Just before 10 a.m. on May 10 a male student at Oasis Middle School had a seizure in class. School Principal Donnie Hopper alerted the Police Department about the incident and through great teamwork a student received care until Emergency Medical Services arrived.

Jake Castillo, a student at Oasis Middle School, was sitting in class when he noticed another boy in class acting "strange". He initially thought the boy was joking around but quickly noticed that the boy was having a seizure. Jake immediately notified the teacher and helped clear an area on the floor to keep his classmate safe.

"I believe that because of Jake's quick actions it helped the school personnel and myself to alert EMS in a timely manner so the boy could get the medical care he needed. Jake's positive action in this manner has led me to present him the Citizen Commendable Action Coin," said School Resource Officer Coby Palmer.
Sun Splash Season is in Full Swing

Sun Splash, make a dash – come and play with me. Sun Splash Family Waterpark – the coolest place to be!” If you’ve seen or heard the radio and television ads, you know that Sun Splash is open and the season is in full swing. There are more than 14 acres of pools, slides and fun activities taking place this summer.

Back by popular demand, the park is hosting “Saturday Slide Night” events again this summer. The first Saturday night event of the summer was June 8 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and every other Saturday during the summer months. These nights offer guests the chance to play at night at a discounted rate. The admission cost for “Saturday Slide Night” events is only $10.95 for children and $12.95 for adults plus tax. Many guests have voiced that they would love to “splash at night,” so these events give them an opportunity to enjoy the park. Visitors can also come early and pay regular admission, then stay for the night event for no additional fee.

Sun Splash is open seven days a week with daily hours of 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (weather permitting). The daily hours will be in effect through August 9, at which time the park will move to a weekend only schedule until closing for the season on Sunday, September 29.

To view the complete operating schedule, as well as admission rates, details on hosting your next birthday party or group outing at Sun Splash visit, SunSplashWaterpark.com. Follow Sun Splash on Facebook and Twitter to learn inside park details and for quick and easy access to special deals and events.

Human Resources Implements New Software To Improve Efficiency

Summer has arrived and so has some new technology for all newly-hired City of Cape Coral employees.

Earlier this year, the Human Resources Department implemented a software program allowing all newly-hired employees to complete their required paperwork electronically. This change has streamlined the task of processing paperwork and has improved the efficiency of the onboarding process.

The City continues to improve the overall job candidate experience. The Human Resources Department is in the process of creating job preview videos for key positions, which will provide applicants with a better idea of the tasks involved with these positions. The Human Resources Department is excited about these recent changes and look forward to even more changes coming soon.

City Auditor’s Office Hires Jessica Pautz as Internal Auditor

The Cape Coral City Auditor’s Office recently hired Jessica Pautz to fulfill an internal auditor position.

Pautz earned her MBA and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Hodges University. Prior to joining the City Auditor’s Office, Pautz was the Registrar at Hodges University. Pautz is working on obtaining her Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designations. She is affiliated with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA).

The responsibilities of an internal auditor include conducting audits and audit follow-ups, assessing audit services are performed in accordance with the appropriate professional standards, monitors compliance with established City policies and procedures, laws and regulations and assists in the development of goals and objectives for the City Auditor’s Office.

In 2003, a City Auditor’s Office was established following a referendum. The City Auditor’s Office reports directly to the City Council. It was the intent of this referendum to provide the City with an independent audit function to evaluate City policies, programs, and services to determine if those operations were conducted in accordance with state and federal law, City ordinances, policies and regulations, and financial and operational internal controls.

Skimmer Incidents Are Down

Cape Coral was plagued with credit card skimmers at gas pumps in 2017 and 2018 but a City Ordinance has changed that drastically in a positive manner.

A report showed that there were 81 skimmers located in SWFL in 2017 and Cape Coral had its fair share, unfortunately. There were 11 cases in each year of 2017 and 2018. So far in 2019 there has only been one.

In early 2018, the Cape Coral City Council passed a Retail Gas Pump Security Measures ordinance, which went into effect in May 2018. The ordinance was presented by Police Chief David Newlan who explained that the ordinance requires the businesses to implement more safeguards to deter the criminal element from placing skimmers on the gas pumps.

As part of the ordinance, the business has to install a device or system that will render the gas pump, or the scanning device in the gas pump, inoperable if there is an unauthorized opening of the gas pump panel. Or a device or system that encrypts the customer payment card information in the scanning device. It is up to the business to choose and purchase which option for the security measure they wished to use.

Cape Coral was the first municipality to put into place an ordinance of this type in Southwest Florida. The implementation of the ordinance and security measures had such a dramatic decline in skimming devices in Cape Coral that it drew the attention of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). This region, which encompasses nine counties, had a 50 percent reduction in skimming devices in Cape Coral because of these security measures. Some other local areas have created the same type of ordinance and FDLE is making a recommendation to Tallahassee for this to be put into effect statewide.

The only way to completely stop the use of technology to “steal” credit card information is to pay for everything in cash but this was a huge step in the right direction.
City Manager John Szerlag Promotes Kimberly Bruns to City Clerk

Cape Coral City Manager John Szerlag has promoted Kimberly Bruns to the position of City Clerk. Bruns has served as the "Interim" City Clerk since November 2018.

"Based on her performance as interim city clerk, I am confident Kimberly will succeed in her new position," said Szerlag.

Bruns began her career with the City in 2009. She worked in customer billing services and as a research specialist in the City Clerk's Office before being promoted to the assistant city clerk position. In 2018, Bruns earned the Certified Municipal Clerk Designation, which is awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Inc.

Kiwani Awards $291,000 in scholarships in 2019

Improving the world, one child and one community at a time is the mission of the Kiwanis Foundation and Club of Cape Coral. In addition to providing grants to other non-profit organizations that benefit the community and its children, Kiwanis has a very successful scholarship program. This program helps to make earning a college education possible for high school graduates who are residents of Cape Coral or who are very active in one of the Cape Coral Kiwanis-sponsored Key Clubs.

This year, the Kiwanis Foundation's scholarships include twenty-two four-year scholarships for high school graduates, a $2,500 Gold Level contribution to the Cape Coral Mayor's Scholarship, $5,000 for non-traditional scholarships to Florida Gulf Coast University students returning to college after interrupted academic studies, and $5,000 in scholarships to attendees of the Cape Coral Technical College.

Most of the money for these scholarships comes from sales in the Cape's two volunteer-run Kiwanis thrift stores – the South Kiwanis Thrift Store, located at 708 East 47th Terrace and the North Kiwanis Thrift Store, located at 652 Del Prado Boulevard North. Collecting and selling items donated by the Cape Coral community provides a way to accrue money and enables the Kiwanis Foundation to provide scholarships this year to Cape Coral's promising and talented young people.

Additional funds for the scholarships come from three privately-donated endowments including the David Hermann Scholarship, Holmes Scholarship, and Lubins Scholarship.

Two other scholarships were named in honor of former Kiwanians. The Ralph Ackermann Scholarship and the "Skip" Hawley Scholarship. This year the Gunterberg Charitable Foundation, which has contributed over $100,000 to Kiwanis in the past six years, added new scholarships.

Virtually all the scholarship recipients included as an essential part of their plans, the giving back to their community after college graduation. For most of these graduates, giving back through volunteering in community services began long before graduation.

Currently, the Cape Coral Kiwanis sponsors five high school Key Clubs, five middle school Builders Clubs, three elementary K-Kids Clubs, and two Aktion Clubs. Volunteering to perform community service is an essential part of each club membership. This year, the 22 scholarship recipients gave 5,974 hours of volunteer service to the Cape Coral community through their Key Club activities.

For scholarship application forms and for more information about the Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral, go to www.mycapecoralkiwanis.org.

Cape Coral Collection Gathers 30,700 Pounds Of Household Chemicals & Electronics

Cape Coral residents dropped off 24,272 pounds of household chemicals and 6,428 pounds of electronics at the recent household chemical waste collection hosted annually by Lee County Solid Waste.

The electronics will go to a licensed manufacturer for recycling. The chemicals that can be recycled will be filtered for reuse; the remainder will be properly disposed of by the county's contracted chemical waste contractor.

"Proper disposal of household chemicals is important for our soils and local water supply," said Pam Keyes, Lee County Public Utilities Director.

"Whether you wait for the annual collection or bring your leftover chemicals to the county's permanent facility in Fort Myers, taking the time to properly dispose of these chemicals protects our environment and the overall well-being of the community."

Follow Us On Social Media

City Clerk Kimberly Bruns

2018 Cape Coral Kiwanis Scholarship recipients.

The Household Chemical Waste Collection Facility at 6441 Topaz Court in Fort Myers is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon, excluding holidays. Residents can drop off items at the facility for no charge.
Stephen Poposki Appointed as Interim Building Official

City Manager John Szerlag appointed Building Inspector III Stephen Poposki as "Interim" Building Official.

Poposki will oversee the building division, which is responsible for inspections, permitting, plan reviews and enforcing the state laws and codes adopted by the City as they apply to the construction of buildings and other structures.

Poposki is a certified building code administrator and was most recently a Building Inspector III working for the City of Coral. He also is certified in several trades as a Plans Examiner and Building Inspector. Poposki's past experience includes private sector construction superintendent, president of a property maintenance company, and Chief Executive Manager of Historic Buildings, LLC.

Poposki has a bachelor's degree in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan.

Cape Coral Fire Department Develops Strategic Plan

Cape Coral is continually ranked as one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and this year it surpassed Tallahassee to become Florida's eighth largest city.

One of Cape Coral Fire Department's (CCFD) primary goals is to match its growth with that of the City. However, resources need to be allocated correctly to provide the community with the best service possible while being fiscally responsible.

Working with the emergency services consulting firm Fitch and Associates along with internal and external stakeholders, the CCFD developed a strategic plan that establishes prioritized goals and objectives.

While there are many measurable objectives that will be implemented, a couple of substantial improvements stood out. The first was optimized staffing. CCFD firefighters work in 24-hour shifts, and each of the three shifts requires a minimum staffing of 48 firefighters. The Fitch and Associates study showed that the CCFD needed 3.92 firefighters to fill each position, for a total of 189 firefighters. However, the CCFD only had 183 firefighters. Additionally, overtime costs exceeded $1 million annually. On May 13, City Council approved the hiring of six additional firefighters, bringing the number of firefighters to the recommended 189. These additional positions will cost $483,000 but will decrease overtime by $554,000 resulting in an annual savings of $71,000.

The second significant area of improvement was response standards. Currently, 90 percent of the time it takes 11 minutes and 45 seconds for the first CCFD truck to arrive on scene after someone dials 911. The new goal is for that time to be reduced to 10 minutes, 90 percent of the time. To accomplish this, the Fitch and Associates study recommended improving efficiency by adopting new standards and upgrading technology.

Technological enhancements such as digital boards that display incident information in the stations and cellphones that provide turn-by-turn directions are simple, inexpensive solutions that could have a considerable impact on improving response times. In fact, the study showed that decreasing dispatch and turnout time would result in the same system benefit as building a new fire station, with a much smaller financial impact.

Joint Project at Yellow Fever Creek To Provide Irrigation Water

The City of Cape Coral is working with Lee County to improve historical flows within Yellow Fever Creek. As part of this effort, Lee County and the City have entered into an interlocal agreement, which will allow Lee County to construct a pond system on the south side of the Gator Slough Canal (and south of Del Prado Boulevard). Surface water from the Canal will flow into the pond system and ultimately make its way through the historical headwaters of Yellow Fever Creek.

With this modification, the City will be able to replace the existing obstructed culvert near Skyview Drive and NE 24th Street with a new weir system (Weir 29) that will allow the City to retain water for its irrigation system. This project is a win for both Lee County and the City.

The City previously retained an engineering firm to perform surface water modeling for the proposed modifications and permitting is required to construct the weir modifications. The weir will allow staging of the canal to a minimum elevation of 9.83 feet during the dry season and 8.83 feet during the rainy season.

Fun-Mobile Teams Up with Summer BreakSpot

The Cape Coral Parks & Recreation Fun-Mobile has teamed up with the USDA, Summer BreakSpot, and the School District of Lee County Food Service for the second summer in a row to provide free nutritious lunches. This service is available to children ages 18 and younger on weekdays while school is out for the summer.

The “Summer Picnics” in the Park program will run from June 3 to July 26, with a free nutritious lunch offered Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Paul Sanborn Park, located at 2310 SE 3rd Street. There is no service available on July 4. After eating lunch, participants can take advantage of different activities being offered by the Cape Coral Fun-Mobile.

The Fun-Mobile is a recreation center on wheels that promotes outdoor play to the public for free. Cape Coral Parks & Recreation also offers the Summer BreakSpot feeding program to summer camp participants at select locations on non-travel days.

For more information about the Cape Coral Fun-Mobile and its upcoming travel schedule, visit www.CapeFunMobile.com.
SW Community Foundation Donation to Improve Bike-Ped Facilities in the South Cape

In May, the Cape Coral Community Foundation presented the City of Cape Coral Council and Mayor with a check for $8,200 to install bicycle racks in the South Cape. Mayor Joe Coviello accepted this donation, which will be used to acquire additional bike racks for the downtown area.

Working in partnership with Cape Coral Bike Ped organization, these bike racks will be installed in the newly renovated area of South Cape on SE 47th Terrace. The addition of these bike racks will encourage cyclists to visit the downtown area and enjoy its many establishments, unique retail stores and special events that take place in this area throughout the year.

The City would like to thank Carolyn Conant and Mike Swanson of Cape Coral Bike Ped and Diane and Mike Holm of Fort Myers Cyclery, for being instrumental in making this donation a reality.

These new bike racks along with the recently completed streetscape project will enhance the bicycle-pedestrian ambiance of the South Cape.

Next Citizens Academy Will Begin in September

Now your government, what we do, how we do it and why we do it. The City of Cape Coral Citizens Academy is a 12-week course that gives citizens the opportunity to learn more about their City government and the services delivered. The class is intended to provide participants with insight on how local governments work, promote open lines of communication and offer a clearer understanding of a municipal government.

Challenge yourself by committing to this course and find out what it takes to run one of the largest cities in the state of Florida. Enrollment is free and is open to Cape Coral residents. Class size is limited. Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at (239) 242-3685 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.

Incorporation of Cape Coral in 1970 50th Anniversary Approaches

In 2020, Cape Coral will honor the 50 years since its incorporation. Following its purchase by the Rosen brothers in 1957, Cape Coral grew and the need for a city government became increasingly apparent.

The crucial roles of police officers and firefighters, among others, were being fulfilled by volunteers. In 1969, the Cape Coral Committee on Incorporation, chaired by Chester Grunsten, began formal talks and cityhood was recommended. The next year, an incorporation bill was passed by the House and Senate and was subsequently approved by Cape Coral voters on August 18, 1970. The vote was 2,067 to 1,798 in favor. As a result, Cape Coral became an established city.

Elections quickly followed, with the city council and mayor decided by the end of 1970. Several other key positions were filled by April 1971. The first city council was comprised of Chandler Burton, Gordon Berndt, Casey Jablonski, Cleve Snead, Lyman Moore and Robert South. Additionally, Paul Fickinger, Charles Ryan, Clyde Killer, and James White were appointed as the first mayor, city manager, city attorney, and police chief respectively.

By the end of 1971, the Cape Coral Police Department was fully operational, consisting of 16 personnel, each equipped with a police car and radio. From 1972 to 1974, several city regulations had been put in place. For instance, the parking of boats in backyards and highway signs pointing to Cape Coral were both approved. Smoking also was banned from city council meetings. Budgets were made to allow for the construction of new city hall complexes and fire stations, along with the purchase of the Yacht Club. Through the incorporation of Cape Coral, the people were able to enjoy a greater degree of service and structure, from which we benefit even today – nearly six decades after a bill that won by less than 300 votes.

Cash Payment Boxes Eliminated at City Boat Ramps

Cash payment envelope boxes at the City’s five improved boat ramps were eliminated May 1. These boat ramps include the BMX Boat Ramp, Burnt Store Boat Ramp, Horton Park Boat Ramp, Rosen Park Boat Ramp, and the Yacht Club Boat Ramp.

Drivers can continue to use Passport, a mobile payment app that allows users to pay for boat trailer parking from their smartphones. In 2015, the City partnered with Passport, which is the leading provider of mobile payments in parking and transit. The Passport Parking app is free to download from the iOS App Store and/or Google Play. Boaters without a smartphone can call (239) 424-9459 to register with Passport. Users are reminded to enter the tow vehicle license plate number rather than the trailer plate number when entering payment information.

Passport requires users to enter the appropriate boat ramp zone number of the parking location. The zone numbers are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat Ramp Locations</th>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Boat Ramp Locations</th>
<th>Zone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMX</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Rosen Park</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt Store</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Yacht Club</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horton Park</td>
<td>1958</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The daily boat trailer parking fee remains $10. Cape Coral residents and businesses can purchase an annual parking pass for $50. Annual parking decals are valid for one year from the date of purchase. Annual parking passes may be purchased at the Parks and Recreation counter in City Hall. For more information please call, (239) 573-3128.
FERTILIZER RESTRICTIONS
Aim to Keep Harmful Nutrients from Waterways

The City’s fertilizer ordinance was adopted in 2010 and regulates the application of fertilizer. Beginning June 1, the use of fertilizers is restricted in the City. The fertilizer restrictions apply to citizens and commercial lawn services.

This regulation was enacted to keep harmful nutrients found in fertilizer from washing off from lawns into storm drains during the rainy months. These nutrients negatively impact the city’s canals and surrounding waters, leading to poor water quality and algal blooms.

Key points of the fertilizer ordinance:
- No fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus (the first 2 numbers on a fertilizer label) is permitted between June 1 and September 30.
- No fertilizer use is allowed of any kind if a storm watch or warning is in effect.
- No fertilizer can be used within 10 feet of any body of water – measured from the top of a seawall or edge of water.
- Fertilizer must include at least 50 percent of slow-release nitrogen during the remainder of the year (January-May and October-December).
- No grass clippings or vegetative debris may be swept or blown into stormwater drains, conveyances, bodies of waters, sidewalks or roadways.
- Violations of the ordinance may result in fines of $100-$500.

A free Florida-Friendly Landscaping class will be held on July 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Rotary Park. Call (239) 549-4606 to register. For more information send an email to FYN@LeeGov.com.

Red, White & Boom Set for Thursday, July 4

“Here comes the BOOM!” The City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department is proud to present “Red, White & Boom” on Thursday, July 4 from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the foot of the Cape Coral Bridge on Cape Coral Parkway.

For over 20 years, the best of Cape Coral’s business community has come together to celebrate the 4th of July with a day full of patriotic fun, entertainment, and a spectacular fireworks show. This free event has won a reputation as the best place to honor America on the 4th of July in Southwest Florida.

Cape Coral Historical Society Volunteers Needed

Do you love history and are looking for an outlet? Have extra time on your hands and are looking to make a difference in your community? If so, the Cape Coral Historical Museum is searching for volunteers.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available including docent training, research and writing, preservation projects, community events, fundraising, maintenance and more.

Become a part of our team today. Apply in person at the museum, online at http://www.capecoralhistoricalmuseum.org/Volunteer, or call Diane at (239) 772-7037. The Cape Coral Historical Museum is located at 544 Cultural Park Boulevard. The Museum is open to the public Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Museum is closed for the month of July.

By land or by sea, the experience is remarkable as over 40,000 people come together in the spirit of our country’s Independence Day.

This year’s “Red, White & Boom” will have something for the whole family including “Kids’ Patriot Park” with a rock climbing wall, games, face painting, obstacle courses and national entertainment on the City stage. More than as 40 vendors will be offering food, drinks, novelty items, jewelry, arts, crafts and drawings for free giveaways throughout the night.

The event’s headliner will be Country duo LOCASH. LOCASH will be performing at about 8 p.m., followed by the best fireworks display in Southwest Florida presented by the City of Cape Coral.

Thank you to several sponsors who help make this event happen including: Achieva Credit Union, The Westin, Cat Country 107.1 & iHeart Media, Rockstar Harley-Davidson, Holiday Inn Express, Jason’s Deli, Camping World, Brent’s Music and Sound, Lightning Wireless Solutions, Sea Tow, Global Security, Hampton Inn and Suites, Miloff Aubuchon, Waste Pro, and Dolphin Key Resort.

For more information about this event, visit www.capeboom.com or call (239) 573-3128.