



# ON THE *Move*

A Quarterly Update From Your City Hall

## Council Member Jim Jeffers Passes Away

Council Member Jim Jeffers passed away at his home on Tuesday, September 5. Mr. Jeffers had been battling health issues for the past several months, and resigned his Council seat on August 31. He was elected to Council in April 2005 and served as the Council liaison to the Charter School Governing Board, Community Redevelopment Agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization and Transportation Advisory Commission.

“To say this is a loss to the community is an understatement,” said City Manager Terry Stewart. “Finding a leader who puts policy and principle above politics is rare these days; however, Cape Coral had



that leader in Council Member Jeffers. He will be missed.”

Jim Jeffers was a native of West Virginia and relocated to Cape Coral in 2003. Prior to being elected to the Council, Jim was a member of the Cape Coral Budget Review Committee, and served on the citizens advisory committees of the Community Development Block Grant Program and Metropolitan Planning Organization. Jim had more than 30 years of service in the public sector in local, state

and the federal government. He retired in 2001 and resided in the Yacht Club area. His two best friends were his dogs, Shirley and Tyler.

Jeffers had a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration from Southern Illinois University. He was named Handicapped American of the Year in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter; Outstanding Young Citizen of Chicago in 1979 by Chicago Jaycees; and, Administrator of the Year in 1993 by Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Page 4..... Water Conservation Season
- Page 6..... Spreader Breaches Cause Concern
- Page 8..... “Code Red” Emergency Service
- Page 9..... Jim Jeffers Park
- Page 10..... Interview with Chuck Pavlos on Utilities Expansion
- Page 12..... Utility Rates to Increase
- Page 14..... Drug Busts Haul in Pot and Cocaine
- Page 15..... Starbucks on the Way

## Cape Coral Fire Department Wins National Award

The City of Cape Coral has won a “Voice of the People Award” for Excellence in Fire Services. The Voice of the People Awards are announced each year by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to the jurisdictions with the highest rated services according

Continued on Page 5

## CITY OF CAPE CORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

### District 2



**Richard Stevens**  
239-574-0447  
rstevens@capecoral.net

### District 3



**AJ Boyd**  
239-574-0447  
aboyn@capecoral.net

### District 4



**Dolores Bertolini**  
239-574-0447  
dbertolini@capecoral.net

### District 5



**Alex LePera**  
239-574-0447  
alepera@capecoral.net

### District 6



**Tim Day**  
239-574-0447  
tday@capecoral.net

### District 7



**Mickey Rosado**  
239-574-0447  
mrosado@capecoral.net

## CITY OF CAPE CORAL ADMINISTRATION

**City Attorney**  
Dolores Menendez

**Assistant City Manager**  
Carl Schwing

**Economic Development**  
Mike Jackson, Director

**Human Resources**  
Wayne Howard, Director

**Police Department**  
Dan Alexander, Chief

**City Auditor**  
Dona J. Newman

**City Clerk**  
Bonnie Vent

**Financial Services**  
Mark Mason, Director

**Information Technology Services**  
John MacLean, Director

**Public Works**  
Chuck Pavlos, Director

**City Manager**  
Terry Stewart

**Community Development**  
Norm Standerfer, Director

**Fire Services**  
Bill Van Helden, Chief

**Parks and Recreation**  
Steve Pohlman, Director

**Editor/Public Information Director**  
Connie Barron

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 e-mail to [cmo@capecoral.net](mailto:cmo@capecoral.net).

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The City of Cape Coral is nearing autumn, which means it is our annual budget time! The City Council and I have tentatively adopted a millage rate below 5 mils. This is the lowest tax rate in 17 years. We have provided many improvements to the city through this budget, including the addition of dozens of police officers and fire personnel. We have improved the road paving budget so we can eliminate those potholes as quickly as possible. The budget also includes dedicated funds for the expansion of our park system, as well as beautification. We strive daily to provide tangible benefits to our city's residents and families.

Council recently adopted my proposal to allow for trees and other beautification of the right of way. This is the area of your property that typically is 15 feet from the edge of the road. Previously, absolutely no trees or plantings were allowed in this area. In fact, the only allowable item was a mailbox. With this new ordinance in place, residents have the ability to plant most types of trees in the right of way where no power lines are present, and some trees where power lines exist. Trees must be planted at least three feet from the bottom of your swale to ensure proper drainage of your property. As a result of these new beautification options, I look forward to a greener Cape Coral.

As I write to you today, we are over halfway through hurricane season. Thankfully, we have avoided direct impact from any named storm, and I hope that trend will continue. As with any hurricane season, please be prepared well in advance of the storm.

We are nearing the completion of the voluntary annexation of the "Zemel Property," which is about 2,500 acres to the north of our city. I was pleased to negotiate with this landowner to obtain substantial benefits for our residents, most notably the donation of 160 acres of parkland adjacent to Festival Park, and other lands for fire stations and a police training facility. I thank the Zemel Trust for being an excellent community partner and providing over \$20 million in property for the benefit of our residents.

Finally, the City Council was very saddened by the passing of Councilman Jim Jeffers after a battle with a long-term illness on September 5. His passion for serving Cape Coral will be truly missed.

Thank you.



## CM'S MESSAGE

The City of Cape Coral's financial calendar (fiscal year) is October 1 through September 30. As city manager, one of my main responsibilities is to craft and deliver a proposed operating budget to Council for their consideration. By law, this budget must be a balanced budget. Municipalities are prohibited by state statute from operating in the "red."

By the time you receive this newsletter, City Council may have adopted the budget for FY 2007. While I cannot predict the final outcome, I can assure the citizens that your City Council will adopt a budget that reflects a decrease in the ad valorem millage rate. As proposed, the General Fund budget already provides for a 0.4 mil reduction, dropping the total ad valorem tax rate to 4.9414 mils. This is the lowest millage since 1989.

Even with this reduction in the millage rate, the City's General Fund is able to support new programs and expand needed services. This is possible due to the unprecedented increases in the city's taxable property values. This past year, values increased almost 53 percent, which was the second consecutive year of 50 percent increases. These increased values are the result of new construction and increases in market value of existing property. This generates more revenues, which help pay for the additional services required to meet the demands of our citizens.

What are these additional services and demands? More people mean more homes, which mean more police and fire services are needed. More homes bring more vehicles, which generate wear and tear on our roadways. More homes also add more families, which drive the need for more parks and recreation programs.

How does this budget address those demands? The City budget for FY 2007 includes about 70 additional police officers and firefighters. About \$5 million is designated for road resurfacing and street lighting. More than \$5 million is set aside for capital projects relating to development of neighborhood and community parks and sports facilities.

The increase in tax revenues is one way "growth pays for growth." This catchphrase often is bandied about by those who insist new residents should pick up any additional costs for municipal services that result from new development. To a good extent, they do. Their homes are taxed at the current market value and not protected initially by Save Our Homes. They pay higher impact fees when they build. However, in reality, the community as a whole has to address the challenges and needs of a growing city. Using additional tax revenues generated by city-wide growth is one way to do so.

We have experienced a period of great prosperity these past four years. This has allowed the City to provide services required for our residents and decrease the tax rate. However, double-digit increases in taxable value are probably behind us. City Council will be keeping this in mind as they finalize the FY 2007 budget. They will be looking at today's needs with an eye on the future.

Thank you for your time.

## Dry Season Requires Conservation of Water Resources

*Lawn Irrigation Limited to Two Days per Week*

Cape Coral's dry season begins in October and lasts through May. During this period, the city receives very limited rainfall, which results in an increase in the demand for irrigation water for lawns.

Irrigation usage often can exceed 40 million gallons per day, which is far more water than necessary to keep grass green. Last year, overuse of irrigation water resulted in record low levels in the city's main groundwater aquifers. The lowering of the groundwater levels threatened the potable water supply in areas served by private wells.

Even with serious water issues, some city residents continued to place green grass ahead of the drinking water needs of many homeowners in the community. At one point, the City contemplated moving to one-day-a-week watering.

While that step was not taken, the City Council did approve a resolution in June that increases the fines for watering violations. The resolution removes the mandatory fine for the first violation, which previously had been \$25. However, the second violation is \$50, the third is \$200 and the fourth and subsequent violations are \$400.

Cape Coral is experiencing rapid growth, and this growth will continue to put significant stress on the water resources available for both irrigation and domestic use. The City is developing and implementing long-range plans to address the growing demand for water. However, the benefits from these improvements may be 3-5 years away.

Please be a responsible and wise steward of our water resources and follow the watering schedule. Remember that during the dry season, your lawn does not require as much water as it receives during the rainy season.

Your watering days are based on the address of your home. Here is the watering schedule, which is in effect year-round:

### Watering Schedule

- Even homes: Thursday and Sunday
- Odd homes: Wednesday and Saturday
- Non-residential: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

No Watering between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Maximum of 4 hours per day

## Driver Checkpoints Target Unlicensed Drivers

More and more law enforcement agencies are conducting Drivers License/Registration Checkpoints to apprehend drivers who either have no license or have a suspended or revoked license. Research shows that checkpoints are an effective tool in cutting down on vehicle injuries and fatalities. A driver without a license does not have insurance, which means being involved in a crash with these drivers can be a frustrating and costly experience.

On June 28, the Cape Coral Police Department teamed up with the Lee County Sheriff's Office to conduct a checkpoint within the city. Cape Coral Police arrested nine people and took them off the streets. The drivers either had suspended or revoked licenses, or they were never issued a license. Officers also wrote 62 traffic citations for violations such as running stop signs, speeding and reckless driving.

The operation took place in the early morning during the height of rush-hour traffic. From 7 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., traffic officers were stationed at 1600 Del Prado Blvd North. Signs were posted to advise drivers of the checkpoint, and basically all vehicles traveling in the southbound lanes were stopped. To keep the line moving, officers were staged along the route to notify drivers to have their license and registration handy.

The Police Department will continue to conduct these random checkpoints. The department will announce the date of a checkpoint; however, the exact location is not disclosed. Since the goal is to apprehend as many violators as possible, the checkpoint always is held during busier drive times, like rush hour. While this may not be a popular time with drivers, conducting the checkpoint during "rush hour" traffic produces the maximum benefit. While there may be some inconvenience, the department works diligently to avoid driver delays. During this specific operation, the wait times were between two and five minutes.

The next time you come across a Drivers License/Registration Checkpoint, please be patient and keep in mind that these operations are meant to help keep you, your family and your friends safe while traveling on our roadways.

## City Council Changes Charter School Governing Board

*City Manager's seat on the board is eliminated*

The City Council has changed the composition of the Charter School Governing Board, removing the city manager as a voting member of the board. Terry Stewart has served on the board since the inception of the City's municipal charter school system. Using his experience from Pembroke Pines, he has provided valuable input in helping Cape Coral create a municipal charter school system.

Council chose to make the change to the board to relieve Stewart of the responsibility of juggling two major administrative positions. In removing the city manager as a board member, the Council expressed its desire to have the city manager focus on other city-wide administrative issues. Council plans to redefine the requirements for the open seat and name a replacement to the board in the near future.

## Fire Department Wins National Award

*continued from page 1*

to a representative sample of their own residents. This year's winners are identified among all the jurisdictions that conducted The National Citizen Survey™ in 2005.

To win the Award for Excellence, the rating for service quality must be one of the top three among all eligible jurisdictions in 2005 and must reside in the top 10 percent among over 400 jurisdictions in the National Research Center database of citizen surveys, used to provide normative comparisons in citizen survey reports.

"This award is a reflection of the relationship that we have built between the fire department and the community," said Fire Chief Bill Van Helden. "We have received this award because our citizens have voiced their support for the work and efforts of our firefighters."

Ten jurisdictions won 26 Awards for Excellence in the following areas: Police services (3 winners), Fire services (3 winners), EMS (3 winners), Garbage collection services (3 winners), Library services (2 winners), Park services (3 winners), Recreation services (3 winners), Code Enforcement services (3 winners) and Overall services (3 winners).

ICMA strongly encourages local government managers to monitor their performance regularly and the performance of their community. To do that effectively, managers must understand resident opinion to guide staff and elected officials toward needed improvements. By conducting a citizen survey and by proving service quality in the eyes of its constituents, winners have demonstrated not only the successful process of measuring performance, but they have provided the empirical evidence of their effectiveness. The underpinning of government credibility is resident opinion and the essence of government transparency is the collection and publication of that opinion. The perspectives of residents provide critical management information like no other source, so it is important to acknowledge those who lead the way to listen to the voice of the people. ***Congratulations to the Fire Department!***

## Chris Mikell Promoted to Deputy Fire Chief

Chris Mikell has been promoted to the new position of Deputy Fire Chief for Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management Services. The appointment was announced in June.

Deputy Chief Mikell has been a member of the City's Fire Department since October 1987. He was promoted to Engineer in January 1992, Lieutenant in 1997 and Battalion Chief in 2004. As a Lieutenant in the Training Division, Mikell implemented the Advanced Life Support program. Mikell has been a Certified Paramedic since 1989. He has an associate degree in emergency medical services and bachelor's in public administration.

Chris Mikell comes from a family dedicated to the fire and rescue service. His father, Tom, retired from the City of Hollywood's Fire Department, and his brother, Doug, retired from the City of Pembroke Pines' Fire Department. His brother, Jeff, is the Division Chief of Fire Prevention in Cape Coral's department, and sister, Tonja, is a paramedic with Mission Memorial Hospital Critical Care Team in Asheville, North Carolina.

Deputy Chief Mikell lives in Cape Coral with his wife, Leslie, daughters, Kayla and Christina and sons, Benjamin and Daniel.

## City Continues Contract Negotiations

The Human Resources Department currently is negotiating three collective bargaining agreements. The agreements between the Local Union 2301 of the Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO (representing the "Blue Collar," "White Collar" and "Supervisory" Units) expire September 30. Negotiations are currently in progress and are expected to reach a successful conclusion.

In June, the City successfully negotiated a three-year contract with the Cape Coral Professional Fire Fighters of the International Association of Fire Fighters (representing the Rank and File of Local 2424). Fire Fighters will receive a 6.5 percent salary increase each year during the term of this agreement.

## Breaches in North Spreader Canal Raising City's Concerns

The growing breaches in the north spreader canal are raising the concerns of the City administration. The breaches in the western berm of the canal system are allowing the infiltration of pollutants into the Charlotte Harbor estuary. The City has been working with and urging the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to correct the problems and find solutions before more damage occurs.

“The continued destabilization of the north spreader system is affecting the delicate environmental balance that must be maintained in that area,” said Chuck Pavlos, Public Works director. “We already have lost about two acres of protected mangroves as a result of the widening breaches in the spreader system, and the potential for greater loss is very real.”

The north spreader waterway was required by the state of Florida to limit the commingling of the city's canal waters with the more pristine waters of the Charlotte estuary. The city's canal systems have the potential to register higher levels of pollutants due to stormwater runoff and septic leaching. The north spreader, with its mangroves acting as a natural filtration and the boat lift blocking direct access, prevents the canal water from contaminating the estuary with pesticides, herbicides and other pollutants. Widening breaches in the mangroves is allowing for the free flow of waters between the canal system and the estuary. The free flow of waters is creating sedimentation and also damaging the flora and fauna in the area.

The state of Florida is tasked with the overall responsibility of maintaining the spreader and addressing any repairs or issues that directly impact the environment. While the City will look for solutions and make suggestions, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the agency in charge and must make the final determination of appropriate action. The City of Cape Coral will continue to urge the DEP that the time to take action is now.



## Fire Station No. 8 Opens

The City of Cape Coral dedicated a new Fire Station on May 19. Fire Station No. 8 is located at 707 SW 1st Street, just north of Pine Island Road on the Nicholas Parkway extension. The Station houses Squad 8 and the City's Special Operations Team members and their equipment. Lee County EMS also operates a medical unit out of that location. The new facility was built to survivable wind load standards, which will keep the station in full operation during major storm events. The facility also houses the Fire Department's Training Bureau and includes a large training room for training sessions in Advanced Life Support, Fire Sciences, Special Operations and Marine/Dive.

This new station will improve response times to the surrounding commercial and residential areas. This was evident as Fire Station No. 8 hit the ground running, answering 108 calls for service the first week of operation.



## Coral Oaks Season Passes Provide Great Golf Value

Coming off a busier than normal summer season, the staff at Coral Oaks Golf Course is gearing up for another full-capacity, peak winter season. For those golfers who like to play year-round, the best value is to purchase a season pass to the course. Coral Oaks offers a variety of season pass options, with the most popular one being the annual single season pass for both Cape Coral residents and non-residents. This annual pass allows golfers to play for cart fee only each time they

play. Dual season passes are valid for couples who reside in the same household. Dual passes provide a discount in comparison to purchasing two single passes.

One of the best values is the 9-month golf pass that allows players to play year-round at reduced rates. During the months of April through December, pass holders are required to pay only a cart fee to play. During the peak season of January through March, holders of the 9-month pass receive a 20 percent

discount on the daily play fee. There are also driving range season passes available that offer full use of the driving range, chipping green and putting green for as little as \$295. For those who purchase season passes and plan to play more than 90 times per year, Coral Oaks also offers a full-year cart fee for \$1,440 plus tax. For more information on season passes at Coral Oaks, call 573-3100.



## City Will Present Conceptual Ideas for the Renovation of Yacht Club

The City of Cape Coral is having a public meeting to present three conceptual diagrams on the potential renovation of the Yacht Club Community Park. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

One of the gems of Cape Coral's park system, the Yacht Club provides residents and visitors a diversity of recreational and cultural opportunities. The diversity of uses in this park is what prompted the City to examine opportunities to make the park more user-friendly. Currently, the park includes a beach, fishing pier, swimming pool, community center, senior center, boat ramp, marina and tennis courts. This compression of diverse activities has led to park overcrowding and inefficient use of this facility. The City of Cape Coral hired a consultant firm to look at all options for the best utilization of this area.

The Yacht Club Master Plan is being developed with the input and opinions of city residents by Wade Trim, a professional planning firm. Two public meetings were held in January, and emails and letters also were submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department. Using this input, Wade Trim has compiled information and put together conceptual ideas. These ideas will be presented at the public meeting, and citizens are encouraged to attend and provide additional input.

The entire master planning process will take about a year to complete. Throughout the entire process, citizens can get updates by visiting the City of Cape Coral's Parks website at [www.capeparks.org](http://www.capeparks.org). Questions or comments can be provided via email to: [Yachtclubmasterplan@capecoral.net](mailto:Yachtclubmasterplan@capecoral.net)

## Building a Better Environment with Native Plants

An easy way to improve your neighborhood is to plant shrubs and trees that are indigenous to this area, and the Parks and Recreation Department can help. The department has native plants for sale at the City nursery at Rotary Park every Friday. Residents can purchase plants at the nursery from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Plants also can be purchased at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve on weekends from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. from October through May.

Do you want to create more privacy without installing a fence? Plant a row of native trees or flowering shrubs. Worried about trees growing into the power lines? There are small trees that are a good fit for those areas as well. The staff at the nursery and at Eco Preserve can help you choose the right plant for the right place. Native plants will save money as they do not require the pesticides and fertilizers to survive and flourish in our environment.

For people who prefer a more tropical look, Parks and Recreation will have a Tropical Plant Bazaar on November 18 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Eco Preserve. This event will provide an opportunity to purchase palms, orchids, fruit trees, bamboo, ginger, cactus, heliconias, etc. Anyone who has something tropical to offer and would like to be a vendor is welcome to sign up for this sale. Please call Rotary Park at 549-4606 for more details.

After all the gardening is done, take some time to enjoy the nature walks at either of these two parks. Beginning October 21, you can rent a kayak to paddle around the interior of Eco Preserve. Paddlers can see the park from a very different perspective – through the narrow mangrove tunnels, over the portage and out into the deeper waters of the park.

## Coral Oaks Offers Opportunities to Learn the Game

Coral Oaks Golf Course offers several opportunities to learn the game of golf from professionals. One of those opportunities is the Coral Oaks Golf School, which has been very popular. The Golf School is a 5-week program that meets once a week. Instruction covers Ball Flight Laws, Full Swing and all Short Game aspects. If you want to improve your game, this class is sure to help.

Coral Oaks offers Men's and Ladies' Golf Associations, junior golf programs, tournament play and special outings for group play. Prices for these activities are very reasonable, so call for more information.

Coral Oaks recently completed its summer Junior Golf Association program and had more than 200 participants. The program was great fun, and the kids enjoyed the experience. Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with the program.

If you have interest in any golfing programs, golf outings, group bookings or would like to hold a banquet or party at Coral Oaks, please call the course at 573-3100 or visit the new website at [www.coraloaksgolf.com](http://www.coraloaksgolf.com).



## City Championship Coming October 7-8

One of the exciting events on the fall schedule at Coral Oaks Golf Course is the Cape Coral City Championship, which will be held on October 7-8. Embarq is the major sponsor of the event, with additional sponsorship and support provided by other area businesses. This year's tournament has five men's flights and the entry fee is \$90, which includes two days of golf, food, beverages, practices balls, goodie bags for everyone and prizes for the winners. With a maximum of 144 spots available, this tournament is expected to sell out, so be sure to sign up soon. If you would like to receive information about the tournament or Coral Oaks via email, please send your email address to [amanguson@capecoral.net](mailto:amanguson@capecoral.net). You will receive regular updates on activities at Coral Oaks.

## New Gymnasium at Oasis Charter Middle School Offers Recreational Opportunities

The City of Cape Coral Athletic Division is looking forward to the opening of the new gymnasium at Oasis Charter Middle School. The Athletic Division will manage the facility and plans to offer many activities at this new facility. Some of the activities to be offered, and the days they will be offered are:

- Biddy Basketball: Monday and Thursday evenings  
(September – November and March – May)
- Youth Basketball: Monday – Thursday evenings  
(December – February and June – August)
- Adult Co-Rec Volleyball: Wednesday evenings  
(October – December and March – May)
- Open Gym: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

Future activities may include Men's Basketball, 3 vs. 3 soccer (women's, men's and co-rec), Junior Olympic Skills Competition, Florida Sports Foundation Senior Games, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, adult dodgeball and "pickelball."

For information on these leagues or any other programs, visit us on the web at [www.capeparks.net](http://www.capeparks.net). Click on "athletic programs." You also can call our office at 772-4232. The Athletic Office is located at the Strausser BMX Park, 1410 SW 6th Place, and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

## City Council Approves "Code Red" Notification System

Residents, business owners and employees of the City of Cape Coral soon will be able to receive notification of emergencies through the services of a high-speed telephone emergency notification service called Code Red.

The Code Red system gives City officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone notifications to the entire city or a geographically targeted area at up to 60,000 calls per hour. Officials from Emergency Management, Fire Department, and Police Department will be trained on the system. Code Red is a secondary means of notification – local media outlets still are the primary providers of communications.

Once the Code Red system is in place, an existing list of home and business phone numbers will be used; however, citizens will have the opportunity to register their current information via the City website.

Individuals who have unlisted phone numbers or have changed their phone numbers or addresses within the last year, and people who prefer to be notified by their cell phones will need to register online. Business owners also should consider registering their business numbers.

Additional information on Code Red will be provided on the City's website at [www.capegov.org](http://www.capegov.org).

## Search for Cape Coral Businesses with New Business Search Engine

A new website link is available – [www.connectcapecoral.com](http://www.connectcapecoral.com) – which allows users to search online for Cape Coral businesses by name, NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) or category of service. The business name, address and phone number appear with a link to MapQuest for directions. Home-based businesses (and there are thousands) also are listed with telephone numbers. The information appearing on [www.connectcapecoral.com](http://www.connectcapecoral.com) is direct from the City's business license records. For purposes of economic development, [www.connectcapecoral.com](http://www.connectcapecoral.com) will provide up-to-date exposure for local businesses in this fast-growing community. In addition, site selectors for expanding national and international businesses will be able to get an accurate snapshot of area businesses serving the Cape and determine whether our area is a good fit for their client.

## FY 2007 BUDGET UPDATE

The development of the annual operating budget is a dynamic process. While the final public hearing for the FY 2007 operating budget will not be held until the end of September, departments have been working on their budgets since December 2005.

The first step in developing the FY 2007 was updating the five-year asset improvements program for the period of FY 2007 - 2011. The asset improvements program is segmented into vehicle, equipment, maintenance, and capital improvements components. The updated program is submitted as part of the City Manager's proposed budget.

Next, each department prepared a proposed operating budget for the City Manager's consideration. The City Manager met with and reviewed each department's operational plan to meet the needs of the community in the upcoming year.

On July 1, the Property Appraiser released the City's taxable value. The taxable value of Cape Coral properties increased from \$14.2 billion to \$21.7 million or 52.93 percent. Within 35 days of the release of the taxable value, the City must set proposed millage rates for both general operations and debt service. To meet this requirement, the City Manager's proposed budget was formally presented to City Council on July 24.

The City Manager's total proposed operating budget is \$557.5 million with the General Fund budget of \$132 million representing 23.7 percent of the total. The General Fund supports the continuing and daily operations of the City. The proposed budget provides funding in support of the City's strategic plan. One of the focus areas is public safety. The

budget provides funding for 40 additional sworn police officers and identifies a potential need for 21 additional sworn police officers during the course of the fiscal year. Funding also is included for 34 certified firefighter positions with 23 of those positions assigned to Fire Station #9, which is scheduled to open late in FY 2007 or early FY 2008.

On July 31, City Council set tentative millage rates for general operations and debt service at 4.8787 mills and 0.0627 mills respectively for a combined total of 4.9414. These rates are 0.4492 mills or 8.3 percent lower than the FY 2006 combined rate of 5.3906 mills. This is the first time since FY 1994 that the general operations millage rate has been below 5 mills, and the total combined rate of 4.9414 is the lowest rate since FY 1989.

During the period of July 31 through August 11, each City department presented its proposed operating budget to the Budget Review Committee, a citizen committee appointed by the City Council. The Budget Review Committee provides the City Council with funding recommendations.

The two public hearings required by Florida Statute Chapter 200 are scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 6 and Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend.

The City's operating budget can be reviewed online by clicking the "Budget FY 2006" link in the Links box on the left column of the City's main page, [www.capegov.org](http://www.capegov.org).

## Jim Jeffers Park and Neighborhood Park #4 to Open in 2007

The Parks and Recreation Department is only a few months away from the opening of two new parks: Neighborhood Park #4 and Neighborhood Park #5.

Neighborhood Park #4 is located west of Burnt Store Road and north of Pine Island Road. The 7-acre site is in a rapidly developing, diverse residential neighborhood. Staff has been working with The Haskell Company to design a plan for the park. Neighbors have come out to show their support and offer valuable input on the amenities, which will include playgrounds, tennis courts, 3-acre lake, picnic pavilion, shuffleboard court, horseshoe pits, bike paths and fitness paths.

The other park that The Haskell Company has been working on designing is Neighborhood Park #5. City Council recently voted to name this park "Jim Jeffers Park" in honor of their esteemed colleague. This park is located adjacent to the City of Cape Coral Charter School, Christa McAuliffe Elementary. The park will have soccer fields, a softball field, pavilion, playgrounds, a lake, tennis courts and a basketball court.

The potential completion date for both of these projects is spring 2007. If you have questions regarding these specific parks or any other new parks within the Parks and Recreation system, please call 573-3113 for more information.



*A rendering of Jim Jeffers Park.*

# 10 Questions for Public Works Director Chuck Pavlos on Utilities Expansion

## 1. Chuck, when and why did the City of Cape Coral begin widespread installation of water, sewer and irrigation lines?

Two variables came into play in the 1980s that triggered utilities expansion – wastewater plant problems and residential development. At the time, various regulatory agencies had been applying pressure on the City to address current problems at the plant. The agencies also were concerned about the potential impact of development on the City's water plant and wastewater treatment capability. The City was pumping far more wastewater through the treatment plant than the facility could handle. Wastewater that exceeded effluent limits was being discharged into the Caloosahatchee River in violation of federal standards. In 1987, the EPA cited the City for the violations. The parties eventually entered into a "consent decree," which included a fine of \$750,000. In addition, density agreements in 1984 with the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services required the City to extend water/wastewater to areas based on a specified density. Several areas had reached those densities, and the state of Florida was sending a very clear message that the City had to address the issue or face building restrictions.

In 1990, the City began planning a \$200 million utility expansion project that would expand plants and bring water, sewer and irrigation to about one-third of the city's total area.

## 2. Why did the City choose the more-expensive gravity sewer for the wastewater system in the 1990s?

There was significant debate about what type of sewer system to install. The City chose gravity sewer because this system provides the best overall treatment process with the lowest maintenance cost and is very customer-friendly. Other systems may provide less expensive initial costs but long-term costs are considerably higher and they create many customer service challenges. About 99 percent of the sewer systems serving large urban areas are gravity systems. The alternate systems are used mostly in rural areas, such as lakefront resorts, beachfront communities or other special cases. Sewer systems are long-term investments and should be evaluated based on all the long-term costs.

## 3. The City began planning for a second phase of utility expansion in 1997, just a couple of years after completing a big expansion project in the southeast Cape. Why did the City begin this process?

The City was being proactive in planning future expansions in a responsible manner. As noted in Question #1, the City had been given clear direction from other regulatory agencies to stay on top of the need for sewer, water and irrigation services throughout the Cape as development continued. The City could not fall behind as



had been done in the 1980s and risk additional restrictions and penalties. In 1998, Dames & Moore was hired to review and update the City's 1988 Utility Master Plan with the intent to move forward with utilities expansion.

## 4. Did the City evaluate changing from conventional gravity sewer to a different sewer treatment method for the next phase of expansion?

In addition to gravity sewer, Dames & Moore evaluated four alternative methods – Grinder Pump Pressure (PEP), Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP), Small Diameter Gravity, and Vacuum. Each method has advantages and disadvantages. The overall costs of these alternatives (construction, operation and maintenance) do not provide any significant cost savings. The decision was made to continue with the existing conventional gravity sewer.

## 5. Why did the City pursue the Construction Manager at Risk method of managing the project?

During the expansion project in the 1990s, there was general agreement that the entire process (design, construction, oversight) was fractured and disorganized. The City had one consultant designing the project and four construction contractors doing work at the same time throughout the southeast Cape. Complaints from residents registered in the thousands. City inspectors were inspecting what the consultant's inspectors were inspecting. Contractors were finding rock and piping in areas where maps were showing otherwise. The result was three contractors filed lawsuits against the City, which the City settled for about \$18 million.

This time around, we wanted to improve the overall process, so we evaluated various project delivery methods and selected "construction manager at risk." This method would designate a clear line of authority and provide the City with a single point of responsibility.

## 6. How is the CM at Risk method different than other methods?

The "construction manager at risk" (now called Program Manager at Risk) puts the program manager in charge of managing the project, from the design to final closeout. The City has one point of contact – the program manager – and maintains oversight of the project via the program manager. The program manager oversees the design, construction (including bids), customer complaints and final closeout of each project. The City receives a Guaranteed Maximum Price for each project, and any cost overruns are absorbed by the construction manager. Any savings generated from the project are returned to the City. This puts all risk associated with the project on the shoulders of the program manager and not the City.

**7. Does the CM at Risk method cost more than the traditional design/bid/build method?**

We do not believe so. When you look at the standard 10,000-square-foot lot in SW 1, the final assessment costs for all three utilities was reduced from \$10,800 to \$9,850 with the refund. Take the assessment costs for the Orange Area of the mid-1990s, add cost of living increases, and the costs for SW 1 actually were less expensive. Plus, the process and final product were much better, and the City receives a three-year warranty on the work (industry standard is one year). Under design/bid/build, the City would manage the entire project, which would require many additional staff, including professional engineers and inspectors. There would be no “guaranteed maximum price,” and the City would have all the risk and responsibility for additional costs or problems.

**8. What is a Guaranteed Maximum Price and how is it calculated?**

A Guaranteed Maximum Price is the absolute maximum the City will pay for a project. The program manager includes the costs for design and management, plus the costs to put the pipes in the ground and restore the area. The amount also contains a small contingency fee (currently 2.5 percent) to cover potential unforeseen circumstances. If the final costs come in lower than the GMP, the savings is returned to the City and passed along to the property owners in the assessment area. In every project to date, the program manager has returned cost savings to the property owners (about \$14 million).

**9. Why did the costs of construction increase for the SW 4 expansion area?**

Southwest 4 had a number of influences affecting the overall cost of the project. The most significant influence was the astronomical increases that have occurred with the cost of materials. We started to see the effects of these increases with Southeast 1. PVC pipe and asphalt prices have increased 80 percent in the past three years. Concrete prices have gone up 90 percent in the same period. When the increased costs for fuel, labor and insurance are added to this equation, the overall cost of construction has jumped dramatically. Southwest 4 also contains more rock in the subsurface, which adds to the cost of excavation. City Council recently opted to make some changes to the project in Southwest 4 (and future projects) that will help reduce the overall assessment.

**10. Property owners are complaining that Cape Coral's projects cost more than other communities. Why is there a difference in what people pay?**

It is important to differentiate between what the project “costs” and what the people “pay.” There is very little difference in the costs of construction for similar projects throughout Florida. In fact, Cape Coral's cost of construction is very competitive and has been lower than other areas. The difference is in how the City collects those costs from the property owners. Cape Coral historically has charged nearly all of the costs of the project to the property owners. Other areas, such as Bonita Springs, charge a set amount for the assessment and then pay the balance of the costs from water and sewer revenues. All utility customers pay more on their monthly bills to subsidize the projects. While the policy could be changed to this type of payment system, there probably would be significant opposition from those customers who have paid or are paying an assessment.

## AM Radio Channel in Progress

The City is moving forward with a project to establish an AM radio channel within Cape Coral's geographic area. The City issued a Request for Proposals earlier this year, and selected Information Station Specialists to provide the AM radio service. The company has installed systems throughout the country including at least 10 systems in the state of Florida since the 2004 hurricane season.

Programming on the radio channel can be heard by citizens/travelers within the city boundaries. The radio channel will be an excellent communications tool during emergency situations and allow the City to broadcast updates and information to the community. The channel also will audio stream CapeTV programming during non-emergency times. This will enable residents to listen to City Council meetings and other programming while traveling in their vehicles. The City hopes to be testing the system within the next several weeks.

## City Renews CapeTV Contract with 1Pro Media

The City has renewed the contract for CapeTV production services with 1Pro Media, Inc. in Cape Coral. The City is entering the third year of a three-year contract with the company. 1Pro Media provides all production and broadcast services for the City's government access channel, CapeTV. The channel is provided to the City by Time Warner Cable.

“We have been very pleased with the level of service provided by the 1Pro Media staff,” said Connie Barron, Public Information Director. “They have a very professional staff and are willing to assist the City whenever we ask for their help and support.”

CapeTV provides 24-hour, 7-day government programming on Channel 14 of Time Warner Cable. The channel also can be viewed via video streaming on the City's website at [www.capegov.org](http://www.capegov.org).

*Chuck Pavlos has been the City's Public Works director since 1997. He is a registered engineer, and has been involved with planning the utilities expansion project since coming onboard.*

## Utility Rates to Increase to Support Operations of Water/Sewer Plants

On September 18, 2006, a public hearing will be held on Resolution 25-06, which will establish new rates for water and wastewater services for the four-year period FY 2007 – 2010. Annual increases will become effective on October 1 in the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The resolution provides for annual water rate increases of 7 percent. Wastewater rates would increase 10 percent annually in the first two years and 9 percent annually in the second two years. There would be no change to the irrigation rates currently in place. With the proposed changes, the average bill would increase approximately \$5 per month (\$2 for water and \$3 for wastewater).

The increases will provide sufficient revenue for the operation of existing and future plants, and adequate funds for the renewal and replacement of older parts of the system.

As a result of the accelerated growth in our city, many scheduled capital projects were moved up, and the time for completion has been compressed. These projects include:

- Expansion of the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility from 6.6 mgd (million gallons per day) to 15 mgd
- Expansion of the Everest Water Reclamation Facility from 8.5 mgd to 13.4 mgd
- Expansion of the Southwest Reverse Osmosis Plant and wellfield from 15 mgd to 18.1 mgd
- Construction of a North Reverse Osmosis Plan at 12 mgd
- Construction of Aquifer Storage and Recovery System for irrigation purposes
- Construction of a Bio-Solids Facility at the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility
- Construction of North Water Reclamation Facility at 10 mgd

A detailed rate schedule will be posted on the City's website at [www.capegov.org](http://www.capegov.org). A copy also can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office for a nominal fee.

## Growth Engine Update

The Milken Institute has named the Cape Coral-Fort Myers metropolitan area as its 2nd top performer nationwide in the 2005 index, maintaining the area's position among the country's elite. It was ranked No. 1 in 2004 but slipped into second place this year behind the Melbourne metropolitan area. Our metropolitan area has ranked no lower than third during the past three years.

The area recorded job growth of 6.7 percent in 2004 but witnessed a modest deceleration in 2005. Nonetheless, the region is experiencing a virtuous, self-reinforcing pattern of growth. Retirees are increasingly finding the area to be an attractive location. More than 25 percent of its population is over 65, double the national average, and that percentage is expected to rise. The local travel and tourism sector is thriving. Growth in financial services and back-office operations, such as call centers, has created new jobs. High-tech manufacturing has been another growth engine.

### *2005 Milken Institute Top 10 Performing Cities*

1. Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL
2. **Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL**
3. Naples-Marco Island, FL
4. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX
5. Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL
6. Orlando-Kissimmee, FL
7. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division
8. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO
9. Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL Metropolitan Division
10. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA

INC Magazine has weighed in ranking Cape Coral-Fort Myers as the No. 1 medium metropolitan area for entrepreneurs in 2005. The rankings were based on job growth – led by tourism, construction and new service firms. In an area of more than a half-million people, this bodes well for catching the attention of corporations looking to relocate to the Gulf Coast region. Cape Coral's growing cache of commercial space comes at just the right time.

## Parks and Recreation has Moved

Many of the Parks and Recreation administrative staff have moved out of City Hall and into Cottage #9 at the Business Park located across the street. During July, staff was relocated to make room for the expansion of the Department of Community Development. Cottage #9 includes the deputy director, recreation administration, parks administration, Special Events Division, and the marketing & sales coordinator. The department director and a few staff continue to occupy space at City Hall. Registration for Parks and Recreation programs or events can be completed at City Hall or by calling **573-3128**.

## Special Events on Tap at Tony Rotino Senior Center

### 11th Annual Thanksgiving Day Feast

Make plans to participate in the Tony Rotino Senior Center's 11th Annual Thanksgiving Day Feast. Thanksgiving Day is a special holiday and is a day of celebration and a time to count one's blessings. This free event is for those who are alone, too frail to cook or unable to afford a holiday meal. We invite you to come and enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. If you know someone in need, or if you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring this event, please call the center at 574-0807. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with dinner being served at noon. There is no charge but a donation of a canned good to benefit the Cape Coral Caring Center is appreciated. Pre-registration is required by November 20. For more information, call 574-0575.

### Christmas Day Open House – December 25

The plans for the 9th Annual Christmas Day Open House are underway. This free event is for those in the community who would like to celebrate this special day in the company of friends. This holiday event features a continental-style breakfast buffet, specialty coffees and teas, music, and a sing-a-long. The entry fee is a "canned good" to benefit the Cape Coral Caring Center. This event will be Christmas Day, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by December 22. Call the Tony Rotino Center at 574-0807.

### Panama Canal 11-Day, 10-Night Cruise – April 18, 2007

Join the Tony Rotino Senior Center as we travel on the Coral Princess to experience one of those great moments in travel as we tour the Panama Canal. The history and engineering wonder of the Panama Canal is an awe-inspiring achievement that has significantly contributed to the progress of the world. The Canal was made possible by an international workforce under the leadership of American visionaries. Travel with us and enjoy the great hospitality of the Princess staff along with the wonders of the many islands we visit. Call the center at 574-0807 for more information.

# VOTE 2006

Dates to Remember

Registration <b>Closes</b> for General Election Day	Tuesday, October 10
Early Voting <b>Begins</b> for General Election	Monday, October 23
<b>General Election Day</b>	Tuesday, November 7

The state of Florida will be holding elections for several key offices this year, including several statewide races. Voters will select a Governor, U.S. Senator, State Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture. All congressional seats are on the ballot as are two local County Commission seats – Districts #2 and #4. The School Board Districts #1, #4 and #5 also are on the ballot, along with other local public offices. A complete list of qualified candidates may be found on the Lee County Supervisor of Elections website ([www.leeelections.com](http://www.leeelections.com)).

#### *As a voter, you should:*

- Familiarize yourself with the candidates and the issues
- Maintain a current address with the Supervisor of Elections
- Know the location of your polling place and the hours of operation
- Bring proper identification to the polling station
- Familiarize yourself with the operation of the voting equipment
- Treat precinct workers with courtesy and respect the privacy of other voters
- Make sure that your completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station
- Report any problems or violation of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections

Detailed information regarding voter registration, candidates and referendums, precinct and polling places, candidate qualifying, prospective poll worker qualifications and other topics may be found on the Lee County Supervisor of Elections website, or you can call the office at 533-8683.

## Plan Now for Lake Kennedy Senior Center Holiday Events

The Lake Kennedy Senior Center will present the "Holiday Pageant" on December 8 and December 10. This live theatrical production combines the magic, beauty and joy of the holiday season with live music, detailed costuming and choreography. The production and all entertainment is created and presented by the talented Senior Center members. Make your reservation early for the evening Holiday Pageant Dinner Show on December 8 or the matinee presentation on December 10.

Another holiday event is the Third Annual New Year's Eve Celebration at Lake Kennedy Senior Center. The evening begins with hors d'oeuvres, light refreshments and party favors. A variety show, games, door prizes and music will fill your evening with fun. An elegant full-course dinner will be served later in the evening followed by dancing and festivities leading up to ringing in the New Year. Attire for this event is semi-formal. For more information or reservations on these events, call Lake Kennedy Senior Center at 574-0575.

## Cape's Narcotics Unit Conducts Drug Busts

With the growing population in Cape Coral, the Police Department has witnessed an increase in illegal drug activity. The Police Department's Vice Narcotics Intelligence Unit (VIN) has conducted several drug raids this summer.

In June, the VIN Unit arrested three people for manufacturing and selling crack cocaine in an apartment at 4921 Vincennes Street. Authorities seized 13.0 grams of powder cocaine, 3.1 grams of crack cocaine, 8.8 grams of Cannabis and other drug paraphernalia. There were three children, ages 8 and 9, and 6 months, in the apartment. A loaded shotgun was within reach of the children on the kitchen floor, partially concealed in a canvass bag. The crack cocaine was in a kitchen drawer that was accessible to the two older children.

In July, the unit busted three marijuana grow houses, which were located in the middle of residential neighborhoods. Police found an extensive marijuana cultivation operation, which involved an elaborate hydro-marijuana grow house setup with lighting fixtures, transformers, homemade electrical boards and irrigation systems. Police seized 228 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of about \$1 million. Three people were arrested for possession with intent to distribute. VIN Unit officers nabbed a cocaine dealer in a buy/bust operation in August at the Publix parking lot on Santa Barbara Boulevard. Undercover officers attempted to buy drugs from a known offender. He had more than 262 grams of cocaine, of which 45 grams was crack cocaine. The suspect also had more than \$1,200 in cash. The street value of the cocaine is estimated at \$15,000.

The efforts of the City's VIN Unit have not gone unnoticed. Recently, one of Cape Coral's narcotics officers (unidentified) was recognized by the Florida Narcotic Officer's Association as a co-recipient of the Statewide Officer of the Year Award.



## Road Widening Construction Projects Underway

Road widening improvements continue on Santa Barbara Boulevard as part of the City of Cape Coral's Five-Year Road Improvement Program. As the first of the City's major corridors to be constructed, Santa Barbara Boulevard ultimately will be widened from four to six lanes from Gleason Parkway to Pine Island Road. The design plans for the Del Prado Boulevard road widening project are 60 percent complete. The City is acquiring rights of way needed for construction and for relocating private and public utilities throughout the corridor.

For more information on road projects, visit the project website at [www.capecoraltransportation.com](http://www.capecoraltransportation.com). You also can contact Public Information Officer, Brenda Menendez at 239-707-9050 or via email at [info@capecoraltransportation.com](mailto:info@capecoraltransportation.com)

## City Clears Debris and Litter on Vacant Lots

In April, the City began receiving regular complaints about trash along the major roadways and adjoining vacant lots. The combination of dry, windy weather, the poor containment of building debris at construction sites, and the continuing problem of uncontrolled illegal dumping was creating visible blight throughout the city. In June, Public Works' Services Division diverted additional employees and trucks from their assigned duties and hired 10 day-labor personnel to address the issue of litter on vacant lots.

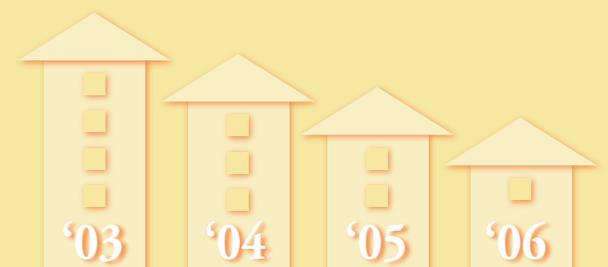
The Division expended 1,400 man hours cleaning the four-lane roads and adjoining vacant lots. Since the work began, the crews have cleaned 113 miles of roads, some of which have been cleaned three times. More than 4,000 trash bags have been filled with almost 500 cubic yards of litter. The crews picked up 1,200 pounds of junk appliances and more than 40 car and truck tires. This amount of debris represents only about one-third of the illegally dumped trash picked up by Public Works in remote and unimproved areas of the Northeast and Northwest parts of the Cape.

While a small amount of windblown paper is generated on solid waste collection days, contractors also must do a better job of securing or collecting debris on construction sites. This is a requirement of City code. To help in this effort, the Department of Community Development has established a construction debris complaint line that citizens can call to report untidy building sites. The number is 574-0560, ext. 2160. When calling the complaint line, be prepared to state the name of the builder, the job site address, and a general statement of the problem.

## Single-family Home Permits Drop to Lowest Level in Four Years

The building slowdown is affecting residential development in Cape Coral. In July, the City issued 184 single-family home permits, the lowest number since May 2002 when 175 permits were issued. While the City still is on pace to issue 4,000 permits for the fiscal year, the total will be about

40 percent less than last year's record of 7,694 permits. The good news is that commercial development continues to show solid numbers, with several significant developments planned or in progress. Check our "Projects Coming to the Cape" article for more information.



## Coral Walk Shopping Center Includes Starbucks Coffee

*Olive Garden also will be part of the center anchored by Super Target.*

The City of Cape Coral finally is getting the attention of national retailers, and the result will be more shopping and dining opportunities for our community. With nearly 160,000 residents, Cape Coral caught the eye of the famous coffee chain, Starbucks. Olive Garden, Chili's and Sports Authority join Starbucks as the main tenants of the center.

The City's Planning and Zoning Commission approved the 36-acre development at Pine Island Road and Pondella in August. The project still must be approved by City Council and is scheduled for public hearing on September 18. If approved, the new restaurants will add to the expanding development along the Pine Island Road corridor. Currently planned or under construction are Mel's Diner, Bob Evans and Famous Dave's. Arby's and Pollo Tropical recently opened, joining Outback, Steak n Shake, DQ Grill, Shrimp Shack and Carrabba's as major restaurant retailers serving their fare along Pine Island Road.



## Projects Coming to the Cape

The Department of Community Development also is currently reviewing the following commercial and large residential projects:

### East Cape Commons

This is a four-flex building comprising 12.1 acres of office/warehouse space located in the East Cape Commerce Center at 1190 Pondella Road. Each building ranges from 33,600 to 43,200 square feet and will provide 332 parking spaces for tenants.

### Jim Jeffers Park

This 18.58-acre park and public recreational facility is located at SW 3rd Street and SW 3rd Lane and includes three soccer fields, a joint-use soccer and baseball field, tennis courts, a multi-size basketball court, age-specific playground areas, a concession building with restroom facilities, picnic facilities, a lake and parking facility.

### Pine Island Park

This development has 14 warehouse/office buildings with 28 units totaling about 73,020 square feet located on 4.5 acres at 721 SW 3rd Terrace. The buildings range from 6,324 to 4,600 square feet in total area.

### Boca Bay Block 2072

Boca Bay is a multi-family building site comprising all of Block 2072. The proposed structures total 185,250 square feet on a 24.6-acre site, and consist of 13 buildings with 312 units and a clubhouse.

### Lake View Commons

This development is a 54.51-acre parcel, located northwest of the intersection of Chiquita Boulevard and Pine Island Road. The proposed development consists of three phases to be completed over a 10-year period. The first phase includes an eight-story building with 576 residential units, two garage structures, a clubhouse and recreational facilities. The second phase includes a 10-story building with 302 residential units, two garage structures and recreational facilities. The third phase includes two commercial buildings with 90,000 square feet of condominium office space.

### Bella Tuscany

Bella Tuscany is a 320-unit, multi-family development situated on a 20-acre site located between Surfside Boulevard and Veterans Parkway. About 57 percent of the site has been designed for recreational use with lakes, walks, seating areas, three pools, a recreational building and open green space.

### Schools II and Y

The Lee County School District is constructing a middle school (130,813 square feet) and an elementary school (122,244 square feet) on this 27.5-acre site located at the corner of Trafalgar Parkway and Skyline Boulevard.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Here are some events on tap for the fall/winter season:*

**OCT 14 ..... Cape Bike Night**

SE 47th Terrace between Coronado and Vincennes  
5 p.m. -10 p.m.

**OCT 28 ..... 9th Annual Fall Kids Festival**

Jaycee Park, 4125 SE 20th Avenue  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**NOV 10–12 .. Cape Coral Coconut Festival**

Sun Splash Family Waterpark Complex  
The Cape Coral Coconut Festival will celebrate Cape Coral's uniqueness to the Lee County area, including coconuts, the burrowing owl, tropical paradise, boating, fishing and our wildlife. This will include a full carnival, fireworks, water ski shows, bands, entertainment, carnival games, food, contests, crafts and kid's activities. The kick-off will be Friday night from 5 p.m. – midnight. Activities continue Saturday with bands and activities from 10 a.m. – noon. The event concludes Sunday, with activities from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

**NOV 11 ..... 8th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration & Parade**

SE 47th Terrace  
10 a.m.

**NOV 15–16 .. Cole Brothers Circus**

Times and location to be announced

**NOV 23 ..... 27th Annual Turkey Trot**

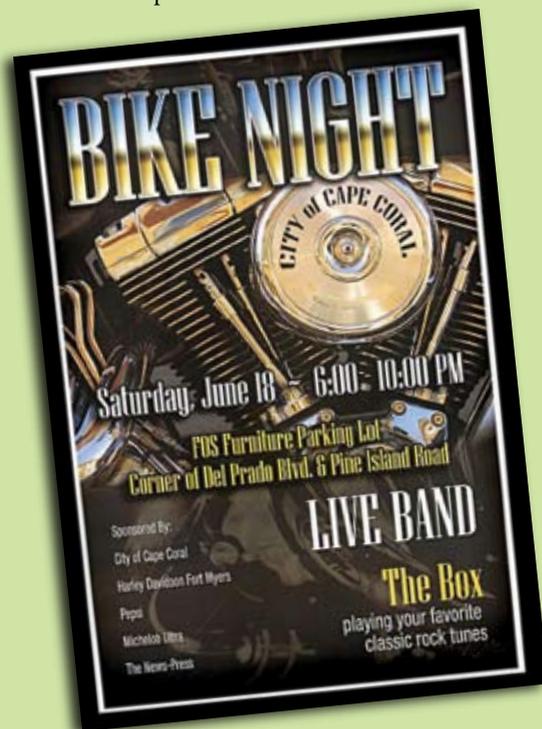
The Wellness Center of Cape Coral, (Cape Coral Hospital), 609 SE 13th Court  
7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

**DEC 9..... Cape Bike Night**

SE 47th Terrace, between Coronado and Vincennes  
5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

**DEC 17..... 29th Annual Cape Coral Holiday Boat-A-Long**

Four Freedoms Park, 4818 Tarpon Court  
4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Boat parade starts at 7 p.m.



The City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Special Events Division received 1st Place in the poster competition at the Florida Festivals and Events Association Annual Conference. The City was recognized for their Cape Bike Nights event poster.

## New Fireboat Placed in Operation

The City of Cape Coral Fire Rescue and Emergency Management Department placed a new Fireboat into service this summer. The custom-built 27-foot Boston Whaler replaces the City's first fireboat, which is 26 years old. The new Marine One is berthed at the City's Yacht Club and operated out of Fire Station No.1, the Chester Street firehouse in the downtown Cape.

The new boat is capable of response speeds in excess of 45 mph, and safely can carry the four-member crew and up to 15 rescued passengers. Boat operators are provided with all-weather protection, sophisticated navigation and electronics, an inboard fire-pump and generator for full operation of the ship's systems. The boat also has a dive door, which allows divers to enter and exit the water at the waterline and bring water rescue patients onboard without added distress. The crew and boat have been training every week with the U.S. Coast Guard on search patterns and helicopter deployment operations. The boat also is capable of being used as a continuous water supply to support land-based fire engines for firefighting operations. The new boat was funded by a 50/50 grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District and the City of Cape Coral.