



ON THE *Move*

A Quarterly Update From Your City Hall

2005 Hurricane Season is Here

The 2005 Hurricane Season is underway. For new residents who have just moved to Cape Coral from another state, this is the time we begin our annual disaster preparedness and plan for the stormy season.

Floridians observe the Atlantic hurricane season from June 1 through November 30 each year. Predictions for this year suggest another above-average season for storm activity. Storm gurus expect 12 - 15 named storms, with seven being hurricanes and three categorized as major or intense, which means a Category 3 or higher.

Many residents of Cape Coral who were here for Hurricane Charley may believe Cape Coral experienced the full effects of a Category 4 hurricane. In actuality, most of Cape Coral was on the outer edge of the hurricane and only experienced a strong Category 1 or weak Category 2 hurricane. While we were just 20 miles away from the most intense effects in Punta Gorda and Charlotte County, Charley was a very small and fast-moving storm. The compactness of Charley meant the full force of this Category 4 hurricane was limited to a smaller area. Had it been larger and slower-moving, Cape Coral would have seen catastrophic results. Remember what Punta

Gorda and Charlotte County experienced, and then realize we were spared the severity of the storm. Just because we were lucky, residents cannot become complacent.

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Hurricane Charley approaches Southwest Florida



Cape Coral sustained widespread damage from Hurricane Charley

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City Set to Build Eagle Skate Park

By: Jason Seeley

Cape Coral youth have been clamoring for something to do in the Cape for years. Skateboarders have bemoaned the lack of facilities where they can play, practice and perfect their skills. Thanks to the generosity of the Eagle family, the Cape Coral Youth Crime Intervention program can construct a state-of-the-art skate park that will be located adjacent to the Wm. "Bill" Austin Youth Center. The Eagle family donated \$850,000 to the project.

The Cape's skate park will be the largest skate park between Tampa and Miami. The facility was designed by HUNA Industries and will be furnished with equipment from Woodward Ramp and Rails.

"Eagle Skate Park will be a tremendous asset to the community," said Eileyn Sobeck Bador, executive director for the Youth Crime Intervention Program. "The park will provide lots of challenges and opportunities for our kids, and they are going to enjoy this facility."

Continued on Page 4

City of Cape Coral Council Members

District 1



Jim Jeffers
239-707-3844
jjeffers@capecoral.net

District 2



Richard Stevens
239-542-1457
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District 3



AJ Boyd
239-945-6665
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District 4



Dolores Bertolini
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District 5



Alex LePera
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District 6



Tim Day
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District 7



Mickey Rosado
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City of Cape Coral Administration

City Attorney
Dolores Menendez

City Auditor
Dona J. Newman

City Manager
Terry Stewart

Assistant City Manager
Carl Schwing

City Clerk
Bonnie Vent

Community Development
Carl Schwing, Director (interim)

Economic Development
Mike Jackson, Director

Financial Services
Mark Mason, Director

Fire Services
Bill Van Helden, Chief

Human Resources
Phil Jackson, Director

Information Technology Services
John MacLean, Director

Parks and Recreation
Steve Pohlman, Director

Police Department
Dan Alexander, Chief

Public Works
Chuck Pavlos, 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.

Mayor's Message

As your newly elected mayor, this is my first opportunity to extend thanks to those who have given me the opportunity to serve the community and also to welcome new residents to our city. With record numbers of single-family permits being issued, I know that we have hundreds of new neighbors moving to Cape Coral every month.

I also want to welcome the two new members of City Council who joined me on the dais in April. Councilman Jim Jeffers is the District #1 representative, while Councilwoman Dolores Bertolini was elected from District #4. Councilman Tim Day was re-elected to a second term as the District #6 representative. They look forward to serving our citizens for the next several years.

As we move forward, we also must take a moment to look back and recognize those who left the dais this past April. Councilwoman Gloria Tate is long-time resident of our city and has served as the District #1 representative for the past eight years. She garnered regional and statewide attention and funding for our city through her work on various boards and commissions. She has been a passionate advocate for our city at the state and local levels of government, and we appreciate her contributions and dedication to the community. Councilman Paul Asfour left office after one term; however, that one term helped produce some exceptional educational opportunities for our residents, including the Academic Village and municipal charter schools. Mr. Asfour will continue to serve the community as a board member of the Charter School Governing Board.



We also appreciate the service of Mayor Arnold Kempe who invested many hours of his time working for our city the past four years. His efforts resulted in the establishment of City Centrum, a centrally located development concept that includes the Business Park across from City Hall. The park currently provides temporary facilities for Nova Southeastern, Florida Gulf Coast University, International College and offices for MWH Constructors and City staff. Mayor Kempe also advocated higher development standards with some of our larger projects, which produced a higher-quality end product.

This is an exciting time for Cape Coral. We continue to grow at record pace, and the challenges associated with that growth must be met. These challenges include water and sewer availability, adequate police and fire services, parks and recreation opportunities, and road expansion and maintenance. There is much to be done, and your City Council will work together to keep our community moving forward in a reasoned and responsible manner.

I look forward to meeting and talking with many of you at my office, City Council meetings or other community events in the upcoming months. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

With warmest regards,

CM's Message

As we enter the 2005 hurricane season, a look back at the 2004 season might be prudent. Last year, our annual storm season started as any other, with the usual rainfall in June and July, and minimal tropical storm activity. All of that changed in August when the state of Florida experienced an unprecedented onslaught of major storms.

In a six-week period, the state was hit by four hurricanes. "Charley" began the offensive on August 13, followed by "Frances" on September 4, "Ivan" on September 16 and "Jeanne" on September 25. By the time these storms had ended, more than 90 people had died in the United States, and states had suffered \$40 billion in damage.

While we certainly do not expect another season like 2004, the main thing we learned from last year is to expect the unexpected. Knowing we are vulnerable to these storms means that we need to plan and prepare for their impacts. Our newsletter this quarter has an article on the 2005 hurricane season, and I encourage every resident to read the information provided and follow the recommendations. The prognosticators are predicting some heavy activity in the Atlantic this year, and we must be prepared for the possibility that another storm may strike our area.

Last season, the community worked together to recover from the extensive damage brought by the hurricanes. However, we still have some homeowners awaiting repairs to roofs and lanais. This may be due to several reasons, including insurance and financial matters, and availability of materials. If members of our construction industry could make a concerted attempt to repair any remaining



homes with damage from last season's hurricanes, I know our citizens would appreciate the effort.

With proper planning, we can survive the storm season. Should Cape Coral be impacted by another major hurricane, most of us now know what to expect. We know we could see a power outage that may last several days. We also know that LCEC will work around the clock to restore the power. We know that portable generators can be just as dangerous as they are useful if not operated properly.

We know the local media will take a regional approach to storm coverage, which means the hardest hit areas get the attention. This makes communicating information to the public much more of a challenge if Cape Coral is not one of those areas. The City is pursuing some solutions, including manning our own emergency information call center.

What we know more than anything else is that we must be patient. While your City did an outstanding job of cleaning roads, removing debris and getting our community life back to normal in relatively short time, we must remember that recovery from a hurricane takes time. It will not happen overnight. The vast majority of our citizens were patient, supportive and appreciative of the efforts extended by emergency and recovery workers. If another storm hits, I know we will continue to see that support and patience.

Thank you.

Eagle Skate Park

Continued from the cover

In addition to providing a great environment for the skaters, the skate park will help alleviate some of the conflict between local business owners and skaters, who have been using the streets and parking lots for their activity. Not only is this activity illegal, it also causes damage to the property.

The skate park will feature products from Woodward Ramps and Rails. This includes rails, grind boxes, quarter pipes, half pipes, and various ramps and stair wells.

The City plans to offer recreational activities for all ages and level of skaters. Some of the recreational activities planned for the skate park are skate competitions, learn to skate classes for novices and children, and skate camp during the summer and winter break. The skate park will provide a safe and enjoyable atmosphere, not only for skateboarders, but for bikers and in-line skaters as well. The City anticipates the skate park will be completed and open by the end of the year.



Projects Coming to the Cape

There are a number of commercial and major residential projects under review by the Planning Division.

Lowe's Home Improvement

The City has received a PDP application from Lowe's to build a home improvement center with 138,134 square feet. The subject property is located on Veteran's Parkway, west of Santa Barbara Boulevard and adjacent to the existing Midpoint Center. The proposed site consists of 97 lots, totaling 15.16 acres.

Radio Industrial Plaza

A light industrial project, Radio Industrial Plaza, on a 10-acre site located at 2461 SW Pine Island Road is under review through the PDP process. The proposed plan provides for 132,990 square feet of industrial buildings.

Bellagio Homes

Also under review is an application from Bellagio Homes for a project called Bellagio Village. The 3.29-acre parcel consists of 28 residential lots, and the applicant intends to develop a 53-unit multi-family complex consisting of four, 3-story buildings. This site is located on the corner of SW 18th Avenue and Cape Coral Parkway West.

Bel Lago

A site plan application known as Bel Lago has been received from Boca Bay Development, LLC for a 24-acre site located at 2029 NE 18th Terrace. The proposed plan provides for the construction of 13, 24-unit buildings, a recreation area and associated utilities, drainage, parking and landscaping.

Amenity Center by Bonita Bay

In April, City staff received an application from The Bonita Bay Group, Inc. for the Amenity Center at Sandoval. The Amenity Center will be located within Phase II of the Sandoval Subdivision on its own tract. This site comprises 326,504 square feet or 7.5 acres and will include the construction of a 5,687-square-foot recreational building, tennis courts, basketball, volleyball, and bocci ball courts, playground, and pool area. The Bonita Bay Group, Inc. also has submitted an application for the construction of the infrastructure for Phase II of the Sandoval Subdivision. This site comprises 182.68 acres and will include the construction of roadways, associated utilities and drainage.

Mel's Diner

Also under review at this time is an application from Gulfcoast Consulting Group requesting Site Plan approval for an 11,200-square-foot Office/Retail building and a 5,500-square-foot Mel's Diner. The 2.33-acre project site is located at 1327 Pine Island Road NE.

City's First Charter Elementary School Set to Open in August

Governing Board approves parent committee's recommendation on uniforms

The City's first charter elementary school is set to open in August for the 2005-2006 school year. Construction has remained on schedule, and the new, fully equipped school will be available to teachers by the end of July.

"We are very excited about the educational opportunities provided by the City's charter schools," said Dr. Patrick Mark, School Administrator. "This new elementary is the first school in our municipal charter school system, and we expect our students will enjoy the school's challenging and interesting curriculum."

Dr. Mark met with a parent committee on the issue of school uniforms. Parents unanimously supported having school uniforms at the elementary grade levels. Their recommendation was approved by the Governing Board. The parents selected three colors for the shirts (light blue, white and burgundy), and two colors for pants, shorts,

skirts (navy blue and khaki). The uniforms will be available at Beall's in the Coralwood Shopping Center.

Before- and after-school program costs also have been established for the school. The City's Parks & Recreation Department will provide the services, and parents can view and download the price sheet on the charter school's website: www.capecharterschools.org.

The City is planning an open house for parents, tentatively scheduled for August 2. This will be an opportunity for parents to tour the classrooms and meet their child's teacher. For more information on the City's charter schools, call 573-3037.

Please Note: The City of Cape Coral Charter Elementary School South is **not** affiliated with Charter Schools USA.

New Mayor and Council Members Information

Mayor Eric Feichthaler



Eric Feichthaler and his family moved to Cape Coral from Philadelphia in 1987. Mayor Feichthaler is proud to have four generations of his family in Cape Coral, and enjoys the quality of life of our safe community. Eric Feichthaler is an attorney by profession, with practice areas including tax, estate planning, and real estate transactions.

Education

Mariner High School, Diploma (1990)
University of Miami, BA in Economics with Honors (1994)
Georgetown University Law Center, Juris Doctor (1997)

New York University School of Law, LL.M. (Taxation) (2001)

Community Involvement

Cape Coral Rotary Club
Christ Lutheran Church

Family

Wife - Mary
Children - Eric Jr.

Jim Jeffers, District #1



Jim Jeffers is 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 has more than 30 years of service in the public sector in local, state and the federal government. He retired in 2001 and resides in the Yacht Club area.

Education

Southern Illinois University, BA in Political Science
Southern Illinois University, Master's in Public Administration

Awards

Handicapped American of the Year in 1977 (by President Jimmy Carter)
Outstanding Young Citizen of Chicago in 1979 (by Chicago Jaycees)
Administrator of the Year in 1993 (by Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer)

Dolores Bertolini, District #4

Moved to Cape Coral from Staten Island, N.Y., in 1986 with her husband, Aldo. Active in the community and government since 1995. Appointed to Legislative Review Board, Financial Advisory Board, Budget Review Board, Citizens Advisory Board for Minority Issues, Community Development Block Grant Board, Task Force for Council Compensation, Council Redistricting Committee.



Education

Washington Irving High School

Work Experience (Retired 1986)

N.Y. State Department of Labor - Administration Office
Ginn & Co. - Assistant to Secretary to the President
Merck Sharpe & Dohme International - Personnel Division,
Medical Division - Administrative Assistant, Director of Veterinary
Department
Sottile, Megna, M.D., PC - 25 years - Office and
Business Manager

Family

Husband - Aldo
Children - Michael and Linda
Grandchildren - Jimmy, Tony and Danielle

Awards

Lee County American Cancer Society Courage Award 2004
Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral "Citizen of the Year" Award 2004

Tim Day, District #6

Tim Day was elected to his second term in April. He and his family have lived in Cape Coral since 1996.



Work Experience

Director of the Southwest Florida Criminal
Justice Academy

Education

Rhode Island College, BA
Roger Williams University, AS.

Civic/community involvement

Cape Coral Babe Ruth Manager

Family

Wife - Lisa
Children - T.J., Ryan, Adam, Maggie

Utility Extension Program

The City's 2000 - 2005 Utility Expansion Program recently ended with the completion of Southwest Two and the Ceitus Parkway Water Main Extension. This five-year program included the following major projects:

- North Loop
- Pine Island Road
- Southwest One
- Mariner High School Water Main Extension
- Santa Barbara Force Main
- Headworks and interconnecting pipeline
- Repair and replacement at the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility
- Southwest Three
- Southwest Two
- Ceitus Parkway Water Main Extension
- Southeast One Design

The total cost of the program was about \$172 million. By using the "guaranteed maximum price" process, the City (and citizens) saved about \$14 million from the Guaranteed Maximum Price total of \$186 million.

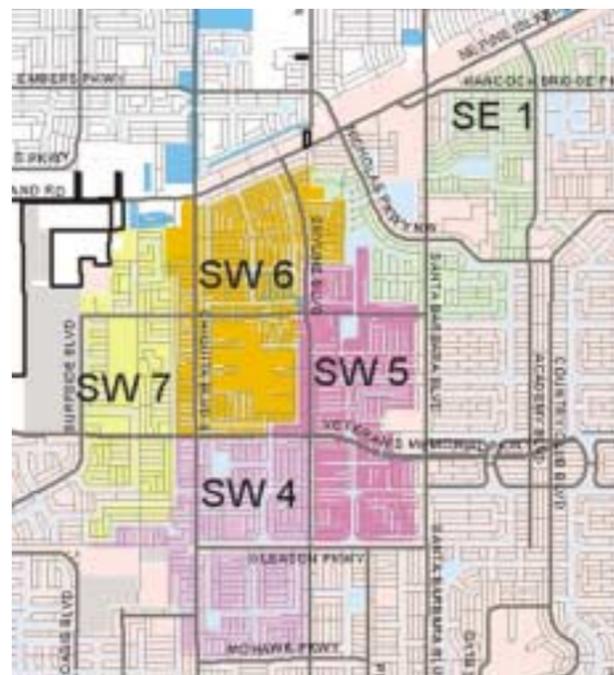
Last summer, Council approved moving forward with the 2005 - 2010 Utility Extension Program. The program as planned will provide full utility service to all the remaining platted lots south of Pine Island Road. The new projects will be:

- Southeast One
- Southwest Four
- Southwest Five
- Southwest Six
- Southwest Seven

The Southeast One project has started, and the work should be complete in July 2006. Design of the Southwest Four project is already in progress and construction for that project could begin in the spring of 2006. We then will continue the program by beginning a new project area every year.

The public hearings for initial assessment resolution for Southeast One were held in May, and the final assessment resolution will be presented in July 2005.

New expansion maps showing the new project areas and the proposed schedule are on sale at the City Clerk's Office for \$1.



New Civicall Improves Customer Service

The new Civicall program for processing citizens' complaints and inquiries went "live" in mid-March. The new program provides real-time updates for Internet users who log their questions and concerns via the online Citizens Action Center. Residents no longer need to wait for someone to call them back.

The new Civicall requires users to create a login name and password to access the system. First-time users can access the system and enter their name, address and phone number. Once the user creates a username and password, they automatically can access the ticket page to enter information.

The new system also benefits the customer service reps in the Citizens Action Center. The old system was driven by "due date," and often an issue was resolved prior to the due date; however, the customer service rep was unaware of the resolution. Now, when a complaint is completed by a department, the customer service rep automatically receives notification on their summary page, which allows them to contact the complainant immediately.

The system still can be improved. The City's goal is to reduce duplication of effort by having every concern registered in the system. Departments then can monitor the system and check to see if a complaint already has been entered and who is working on it.

To access the new Civicall system, go to www.capegov.org and select Citizen's Action Center on the left column.

Sun Splash Family Waterpark Operating Schedule for Remainder of Season

May 14 - August 21

Saturday (Family Carload Night)	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday - Wednesday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday (Date Night)	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

August 22 - September 24

Monday - Friday	Closed
Saturday and Sunday	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Labor Day (9/5)	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Summer Events on Tap for Cape Coral Residents

By: Jason Seeley

Summer in Cape Coral may be best known for its rain and heat. However, the city also is known for having some great summer events for residents and visitors to the city.



Cape Coral Bike Nights will be held the second Saturday of each month. The first event was held June 18, and the second Bike Night will be August 13. Bike Nights will be held at FOS Furniture on the corner of Pine Island Road and Del Prado. The event begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. Bike Nights is an opportunity to check out some cool, custom bikes that will be on display. Attendees may get a sneak peek at some brand new bikes. For sponsor information and vendor applications please contact Wendie at (239) 573-3122.



Red White and BOOM is one of the largest holiday fireworks displays in Florida. This annual event attracts thousands of spectators from throughout Southwest Florida. This year, the event will be Monday, July 4 (rain or shine) on Cape Coral Parkway from the foot of the Cape Coral Bridge to Del Prado Boulevard. The party begins at 4 p.m. and continues until the fireworks finale. There will be live entertainment on the City's new stage, featuring country music national recording artist Glenn Cummings and Cape Coral's very own Brad Conner and Longshot. A kid's area is available, along with plenty of food and drink. Garden State Fireworks will

provide the fireworks display. If you would like information on sponsorships, vendors, volunteering or BOOM Garden tickets, please contact the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce at (239) 549-6900.

The 4th Annual Cape Inshore Redfish Challenge is a summer fishing tournament for all anglers held at the Yacht Club Community Park. The tournament kicks off Friday, August 5 with a mandatory captains meeting. Teams check in on Saturday, August 6 beginning at 6 a.m. The teams will receive a "Mystery Fish of the Day" card, and fishing will begin at safe light. Pre-registration is \$250 for each 3-person team. Team members will receive T-shirt, hat and captains bag and will be served appetizers at the awards ceremony. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top teams. Late registration begins after July 25 and is \$350.



While the adult teams are out fishing, the kids fishing tournament will begin onshore at 9 a.m. The kids fishing tournament takes place from the Cape Coral Yacht Club Fishing Pier. Kids bring their own fishing poles and equipment, and the City provides the bait and volunteers to assist with tangles and baiting. The cost for this tournament is only \$5, and all participants will receive a certificate of participation, a goodie bag with a T-shirt and various promotional items from local businesses. For sponsorship opportunities or more information, call (239) 573-3122.

Be part of celebrating the City of Cape Coral's 35th birthday. The city was incorporated in August 1970. On Saturday, August 20, join friends and neighbors and wish Cape Coral a "Happy 35th Birthday." Activities include live music, a kid's area, food vendors, historical displays, and the showing of "The Cape Coral Story," a one-hour documentary that was eight years in the making. For more information or to volunteer, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (239) 573-3128.

The Cape Coral CoCoNut Festival will be September 16 - 18 at Cultural Park. The festival will celebrate Cape Coral's uniqueness to the Lee County area. The city is considered a tropical paradise known for coconuts, the burrowing owl, boating, fishing and a variety of wildlife. This event will feature bands, entertainment, a carnival, food, contests and crafts. A carnival on Friday, September 16 from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. will kick off the festival. Events continue Saturday with bands and activities from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. The festival concludes Sunday, with activities from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call (239) 573-3123 for more information on sponsorship or to be a vendor.



Staff Begins Preparation of FY 2006 City Budget

Process begins shortly after approval of previous year's budget

The development of the annual operating budget is a dynamic process. While the final public hearing for the FY 2006 operating budget will not be held until the end of September, departments have been working on their 2006 budgets since December 2004.

The first step in developing the FY 2006 budget was updating the five-year asset improvements program for the period of FY 2006-2010. The asset improvements program is segmented into vehicle, equipment, maintenance and improvements components. The updated program is submitted as part of the City Manager's proposed budget.

Each department then prepares a proposed budget for the City Manager's consideration. The City Manager meets with each department and reviews the operational plan to determine how the budget meets the needs of the community in the upcoming year.

On June 1, the Property Appraiser releases a preliminary estimate of taxable value. This estimate is released to assist local governments in the budgeting process because the Certificate of Taxable Value will not be released until July 1. Within 35 days of the release of the Certificate of Taxable Value, the City must set proposed millage rates for both general operations and debt service. To meet this requirement, the

City Manager will distribute his proposed budget sometime in mid-July to City Council with a formal discussion planned for the regular Council meeting on July 25. On the following Monday, August 1, a formal vote on the proposed millages will be required.

During the month of August, staff will be meeting with the Budget Review Committee and City Council as requested.

Two public hearings will be held during the month of September in accordance with the requirements of Florida Statute Chapter 200. Public Hearings must be held after 5 p.m. and may not be scheduled on the same night as the School Board or County meetings.

The public notice of the first meeting is found on the TRIM notice (Truth in Millage). This notice of proposed taxes will be sent to each property owner by the Property Appraiser's Office.

The public is invited to attend the public meetings on the City's budget. The City Manager's Proposed Budget will be available in late-July or early-August on the City's website at www.capegov.org.

Flood Hazard Areas at Risk during Storm Season

Citizens who live in a "Special Flood Hazard Area" should understand the potential risks associated with flooding and know steps to take to minimize the risks. The City has large-scale flood maps that show the "Special Flood Hazard Areas" in the Cape. These maps and other flood protection references are available at City Hall and the Cape Coral Public Library. If you need help reading the map, please call (239) 574-0553.

Cape Coral's Flooding Threat

Flooding in Cape Coral can occur from two causes - heavy rain and storm surge. Aside from localized street flooding, the Cape's stormwater infrastructure performs well relative to preventing flood losses to homes and businesses during torrential rainstorms. However, if it rains hard enough for an extended period, or if pipes get clogged, the stormwater system may not have adequate capacity

Storm surge is a phenomenon usually associated with hurricanes, and the surge can be as high as 25 feet in an intense hurricane. Areas most susceptible to storm surge are located near the coastline of Charlotte Harbor, the Caloosahatchee River and Matlacha Pass. High tides up to 12 feet above normal were reported at Fort Myers and Punta Russa during the 1926 hurricane. In 1960, Hurricane Donna caused high-water marks of 10 to 11 feet on Estero Island.

In 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall in Southwest 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 over 7 feet, and North Naples reported rainfall of 7.48 inches.

If a hurricane watch is issued, please keep in mind that every hurricane is different. Base your action plan on information pertaining to the incoming storm. The flood zone map indicates the susceptibility of each area to flooding.

What You Can Do

- 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. This includes lawn clippings, horticulture, dirt and fill material, and construction debris. Dirt or lawn clippings blown into the street will be washed into the drainage system. Construction sites are required to

have erosion protection devices. Material such as silt and sand can reduce the capacity or plug the drainage system. If this occurs, the system cannot carry the water away as designed. If you see dumping into the stormwater system or any body of water, please notify Code Compliance at (239) 574-0613.

- If your property is next to a drainage inlet, canal, or river, keep inlets open and banks clear of brush and debris.

- Always check with the Department of Community Development at (239) 574-0546, before you build on, alter, regrade, or deposit fill on your property. You may need a permit to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties. If you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted, notify Code Compliance at (239) 574-0613.

Emergency Warning System

The Lee County Emergency Operations Center provides the Emergency Warning System for Cape Coral. Tune in to local radio or television stations listed for the latest distribution of emergency information. Severe weather and flood warning threats are broadcast by the National Weather Service on weather radios, Channel 4, 162.475 MHz. Because storms can interrupt electric power, it is important to have a radio or television that operates on battery power, along with a supply of fresh batteries. Be prepared for interruptions of service with cable television providers. Emergency vehicles also may broadcast emergency information over an amplified speaker.

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; six 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. Floodwaters also carry microorganisms that may cause 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 because the road or bridge may be washed out.

- Avoid power lines and electrical wires. Electrocuting is next leading cause of flood deaths. 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 homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over, and scare away small animals.

- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with mud and debris, including broken bottles and nails. Walk carefully.

- 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 where exhaust fumes will not enter the house. Operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area. Keep the generator away from air intakes, and protect the equipment from rain.

After Hurricane Charley, the Cape Coral Fire Department conducted more than 400 safety inspections at homes using generators. One-fourth of the homes had potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide inside, and 10 people required hospitalization.

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 areas extend from Burnt Store Marina to north of Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. The areas with the highest susceptibility to flooding are preservation lands owned by the State of Florida.

Preserving the native vegetation, including salt marshes and mangrove communities, provides numerous benefits for Cape Coral residents. The mangroves have prop roots, leaves and branches that offer frictional resistance to flowing water, which stabilizes the shoreline during hurricanes. This also reduces storm erosion, decreases the flow of tidal inundation and allows particulate matter to settle. Trees use these sediments and nutrients in the water for growth. Wetlands also provide areas for marine and bird life and water quality enhancement.

Property Protection Measures

If a home has a low, finished floor elevation, consider retrofitting the structure. 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 be costly, these measures will help protect property during flooding. One protection measure that costs nothing is to elevate valuables when flooding is

Continued on next page

predicted. Put items on counters, upper cabinets, and attics or upper floors. 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 City Hall. All floodplain development requires a permit. For information on obtaining the publications and permitting, contact the Building Department, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990, or call (239) 574-0546.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner's and renter's insurance policies exclude damage caused by flooding. Almost any building with two walls and a roof is insurable against flooding through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which offers affordable, federally-backed insurance. Structures under construction also are insurable. Contents of insurable buildings can be covered by a separate policy, which is a benefit to renters also. You must request that your contents be covered in the flood insurance policy. Flood insurance purchased because the lending institution required it for a mortgage or loan may cover only the structure. Remember, floodwaters could cause more damage to the contents than to the structure. Residents in V-Zone or A-Zone are four times more likely to experience a flood than a fire. Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. Because the City provides more than the minimum required flood plain management, properties within the city are eligible for a 15 percent discount. There is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

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, 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 (pages LU-194 through LU 211.5) specifies details on flood damage prevention. This information is available at the City Clerk's office.

Flood Protection Assistance

The Community Development Department and/or Public Works Department will visit a property to review flood problem and suggest how to minimize flooding. There is no charge for the visit. If your home is in a floodplain or has experienced drainage or sewer backup problems, contact these offices. They can offer assistance with selecting a qualified contractor or consultant to help solve and/or prevent a particular flooding problem. If you need assistance with retrofitting a structure to address flooding concerns, contact the Planning Division at (239) 574-0552.

Experts have studied the problem of storm damage and provide the recommendations provided herein. Additional information about hurricane procedures is available in the Sprint Yellow Pages directory. It contains a map showing evacuation zones for Lee County, primary evacuation routes, and locations of Red Cross-managed emergency public shelters. The telephone directory has lists of materials you should have for a hurricane or flood event. More detailed

information is available in the All Hazards Guide, prepared by Lee County Emergency Management and available at City Hall.

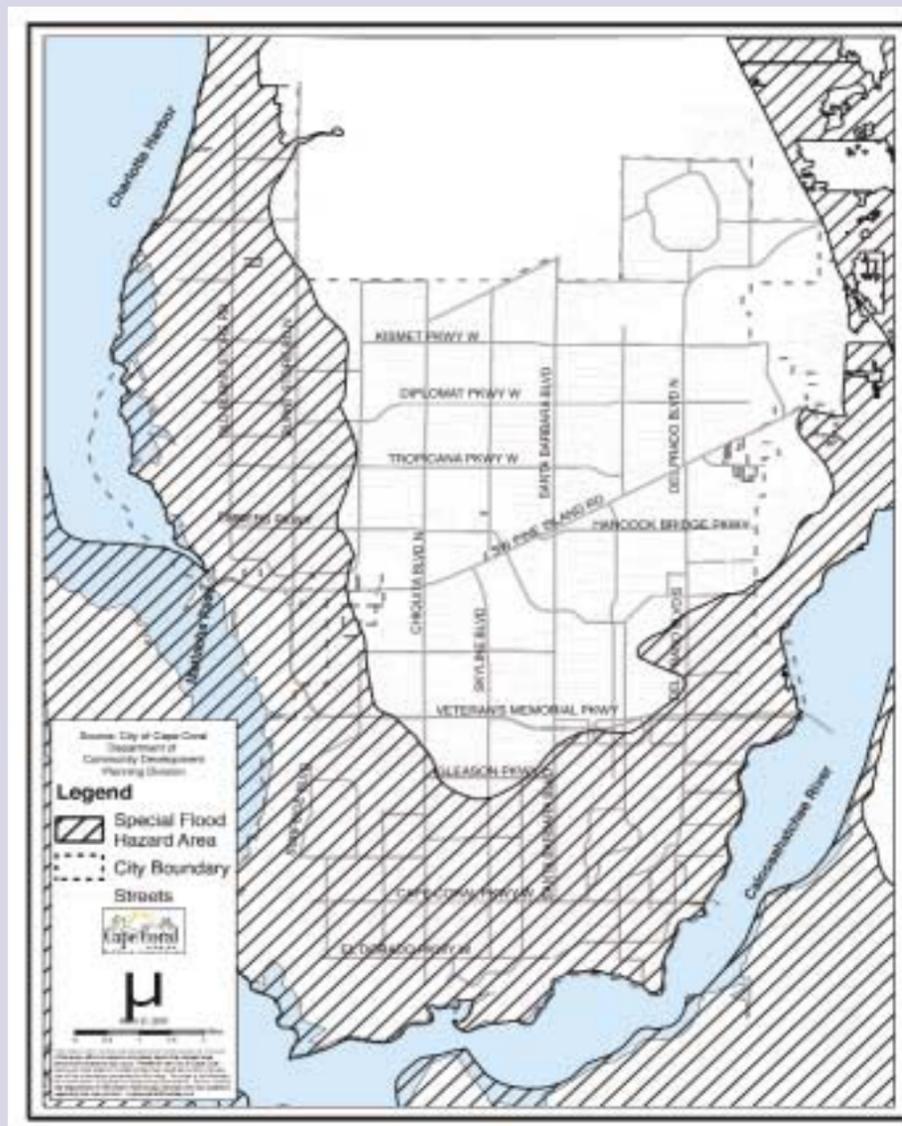
Hurricane Evacuation Safety Tips

A "Hurricane Watch" means it is time to put your hurricane plan into action. Gather important documents (birth certificates, insurance policies, health records, mortgages, deeds, titles, financial documents) to take with you. Every home should prepare a 72-Hour Disaster Survival kit to ensure a minimum three-day supply for each person.

Advise out-of-area relatives or friends of your plans, and ask them to wait to hear from you after the storm. Leave early. When winds reach 40 mph, bridges may close, and RVs and trailers might not be allowed on evacuation routes. If you wait until the "Hurricane Warning" is issued, hotel rooms may be scarce. Emergency Management officials have developed hurricane shelter and evacuation policies. Officials will issue statements on recommended evacuation routes. Local radio and television will announce the times when shelters will open. Do not report to a shelter until it is open. Include a current road map as a part of your disaster supply kit. Know where you are going and plan, both the best route and alternate routes. A public shelter should be your last option.

If your household includes an ill or disabled person, check with their doctor for advice on accommodations. Lee County has special needs shelters, but you must register in advance. Familiarize yourself and family with locations and routes from home to shelters. If you need to evacuate, move quickly but without panic.

AM Radio Stations			
WWCN-AM	770	WNOG-AM	1270
WKII-AM	1070	WCRM-AM	1350
WPTK-AM	1200	WMYH-AM	1410
WINK-AM	1240	WCCF-AM	1580
FM Radio Stations			
WAYJ-FM	88.7	WINK-FM	96.9
WSRX	89.5	WJEX-FM	99.3
WGCU-FM	90.1	WCKT-FM	100.1
WSDH-FM	90.9	WAVV-FM	101.1
WJYO-FM	91.5	WWGR-FM	101.9
WVIZ-FM	91.7	WKKB-FM	103.9
WARO-FM	94.5	WSTT-FM	105.5
WOLZ-FM	95.3	WJPT-FM	106.3
WRXK-FM	96.1	WZJZ-FM	107.1
Television Stations			
	Time Warner Cable	Broadcast (Air)	
WBDF (NBC)	2	20	
WTVK (WB)	6	46	
WZVN (ABC)	7	26	
WFTX (FOX)	4	36	
WINK (CBS)	5	11	
WEVU (IND)	8	4	
WGCU (PBS)	3	30	



Online Bill Payment and Account Information Online

In September 2004, the City introduced Click2Gov, an automated system to provide our utility customers with the convenience of online payment of their utility bills. This is a secure site for making payments and is available 24/7 for convenience.

How to Access Your Utility Account

Customers must register to access their account. To do this, customers should go to the City's website www.capegov.org. Select **Pay Your Water Bill** from the **Links** list located on the left column of the main page. Customers will need their utility account number, which is the Customer-Location ID. A PIN number (password) also is required to access the account. For first time users, a temporary PIN number is located in the middle of the utility bill.

The following information is available online:

Account Information
Payment History
Consumption Report
Billing History
Service Summary
Account Maintenance
Email Us

Forgot Your PIN?

If you have forgotten your PIN number, please find your latest utility bill and go to the City's website: www.capegov.org. Again, select **Pay Your Water Bill** from the **Links** column. Once you open the page, select **Forgot PIN?** Enter your utility account number and click on **Remind Me**. The system will send you a PIN number via email.

Once you have accessed your account, the PIN number or email address can be changed at any time by selecting **Account Maintenance**.

Having Trouble Accessing Your Account

If you are having difficulty accessing your utility account, go to **Pay Your Water Bill** then select **Email Us** and send us your question. We will get back with you quickly. If possible, please provide a phone number so we can contact you directly.

Cape Coral's Crime Rate Drops Again

The population-based major crime rate in Cape Coral was reduced by 13.7 percent in 2004. Last year's crime rate was the lowest since 1984, and it was the 10th time in the past 13 years that crime in the city has gone down.

This latest crime data reinforced Cape Coral's status as one of Florida's safest cities. According to statistics compiled by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Cape Coral had the state's fourth-lowest crime rate among the 15 cities with over 100,000 residents in 2003 (the latest full year available at the time of this writing).

"We certainly are pleased that our crime rate remains very low," said Chief Dan Alexander. "We are able to do so because of the outstanding work of our officers, and the cooperation and support of our citizens."

While non-violent crimes (burglary, larceny, and auto theft) decreased considerably - from 3,763 to 3,474, Chief Alexander has concern about increases in certain crimes and the skyrocketing demand for police services. Violent crimes, traditionally very low in number in Cape Coral, did increase slightly last year, from 312 in 2003 to 327 in 2004. Violent crimes include homicide, sex offenses, robbery and aggravated assault. Calls for service were up nearly 20 percent in 2004. The department also is concerned with what appears to be an upturn in our overall crime numbers over the last three months of 2004 and first month of this year.

"Rapid population growth and demographic changes certainly are challenging the Police Department," said Alexander. "We are seeing an increase in both the variety and volume of crime and service requests."

CITY OF CAPE CORAL
2000-2004 CRIME COMPARISON

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
POPULATION	101,642	108,748	116,159	126,601	136,910
HOMICIDE	0	2	3	1	4
FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	46	53	52	40	45
ROBBERY	32	34	42	33	43
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	278	257	292	238	236
BURGLARY	738	855	1,081	1,044	882
LARCENY	2,460	2,293	2,394	2,544	2,359
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	221	176	222	175	233
CRIME RATE PER 100,000	3712.0	3374.8	3517.6	3218.8	2776.3
PERCENT CHANGE	23.0%	-9.1%	4.2%	-8.5%	-13.7%
TOTAL INDEX CRIME	3,773	3,670	4,086	4,075	3,892
PERCENT CHANGE	26.4%	-2.8%	11.3%	-0.3%	-6.7%

Council Approves Increase in Road Impact Fees

The City Council approved increases in the City's road impact fee, an increase that brings the City's fees more inline with Lee County's fee. The Council approved raising the fee for single-family homes from \$1,499 to \$2,698. While the 80 percent increase is significant, the Cape's fee was substantially lower than other areas. Even with the increase, the City's fee still is \$273 less than Lee County's.

Road impact fees are one-time fees assessed at the time of building for all new construction. The fee's are deposited into a special revenue fund and can be used only for specific road projects related to growth.

Lack of Pool Enclosures Creates Safety Concerns

With children out of school and many homes still awaiting installation or repair of a pool enclosure, citizens need to raise their awareness of the potential hazards presented by the combination of kids and pools.

City code requires homeowners to properly screen pools with an enclosure or a permanent fence around the perimeter of the backyard. The fence must be a minimum of 4 feet high. Homeowners who have damaged or missing lanais and no fence must, at a minimum, provide an adequate barrier to hinder access to the swimming pool. The temporary barrier can be the orange plastic fencing (rigidly installed) or the rigid baby barriers. The temporary barrier also must be at least 4 feet high.

Because of the potential hazards unprotected pools present, the City will be canvassing the community and issuing notices to property owners who do not have the proper pool barriers in place. The intent of the notice is to illicit immediate action on the part of the property owner for safety reasons, not to collect a fine.

Residents also should be aware that any pool exceeding 2 feet in depth requires a building permit, whether it is a portable, above-ground pool or an in-ground pool. Homeowners who have any questions about the enclosure requirements for pools can contact a Plans Examiner at 573-3198 or Code Compliance at 574-0613.

The responsibility for protecting children and other citizens from the dangers of swimming pools does not remain solely with the homeowner. Parents and adults also must exercise supervision of children throughout the day, and always know where the kids are and what they are doing. One moment of inattention can have tragic results.

Here are some important guidelines to follow to prevent a drowning:

Infants to 5-year-olds

- Maintain constant adult supervision of the child.

- If a child is missing, go to the pool immediately. Do not hesitate. Even if there are several safety barriers in place, do not assume that the child cannot get to the pool or canal.

- Take the following actions to provide layers of protection to the pool, hot tub or canal:

- 1- Install alarms on all openings such as doors and windows leading to the pool or canal area.

- 2- Install four-sided pool fencing with a self-latching gate to block off access to the water from the house. The fence needs to be a minimum of 4 feet high.

- 3- Install gates with self-closing and self-latching hardware on all fences leading to the pool area.

- 4- Install secondary locks and latches on all windows and exterior doors leading to the water area. These locks should be placed out of the reach of small children.

- 5- Place a floating sonic pool alarm in the pool as a last barrier of protection. Be sure to maintain fresh batteries in these devices.

- Provide children with water survival training once they are able to crawl. This will teach children life-saving techniques if they accidentally fall into the pool. These techniques include how to flip over, float on their back and navigate to the side of the pool or steps to get out. This type of training is different than regular swim lessons and should be taught to children at a very early age.

- Learn basic CPR and be prepared to react appropriately in the event of an intentional water submersion.

- Take a cordless or portable phone with you while at the pool or playing in the yard with small children. This will minimize the possibility of leaving a child unattended for "just a second" to run in and answer the phone.

- Perform a critical survey of your home and yard daily, checking for hazards that might not have been present previously. Examples include a forgotten bucket, wading pool, or a wheel barrel that has become filled with water from lawn sprinklers or rain. When filled with water, these ordinary items can pose a serious drowning threat to toddlers.

Elementary-aged Children

- Teach your children the "reach or throw, don't go" principle:

- 1- Teach your children that if another child needs help while in the water, do not go into the water to help them. When one child jumps in the water to save another, both children are at risk for drowning.

- 2- Train them how to throw an object that floats to the child in the water to help them stay afloat. Also show the child how to lay down at the edge of the water and extend a towel or an object with a long handle to the person in the water, and pull them to the side.

- Advise children about the dangers of pretending that they are drowning when they are not. Repeated behavior such as that can result in a delayed reaction to a child who genuinely might need help in the water.

- Young children should always wear a life jacket while on a boat.

- Explain the rules of safe boating to children before they get on a boat.

- Do not allow children to swim alone, even in the backyard pool. Talk to your child about the dangers involved with swimming alone.

High School through Adult

- Drownings involving teenagers most likely will occur in rivers, lakes or streams or while boating in a small boat. If a teenager refuses to wear a life jacket while boating, make sure they have a life jacket handy while boating and are prepared to use it if needed.

- Adults and teens need to know their limitations and know the water. It is very easy to become overpowered and tired as a result of variations in water conditions.

- When swimming in unfamiliar waters, be on the alert for under currents or obstructions in the water.

- Do not consume alcohol when swimming, boating or diving. Alcohol can impair your judgment and coordination, and this impairment could lead to serious or even fatal injuries in the water.



What's the Green Stuff in the Canals?

This unsightly but common visitor is "duckweed." Duckweed is a small, freshwater plant and a favorite food of ducks. The plant is moved by wind and tides. It enters saltwater areas from the river and freshwater canals, and the complaints usually begin right after rainy season starts. Rain causes the salt content (salinity) of the water to drop, and duckweed grows quickly. Typically, the salinity stays below seven parts per million from July until late-October. Once rainy season eases, the salinity starts to rise, and the duckweed dies off.

People who live on canals should expect to see duckweed every year. Patience is necessary. Duckweed is unsightly, but it will go away. The plant is not harmful, and other than making the canals green, there is no adverse effect. For duckweed problems, call Lee County Hyacinth Control at 694-2174.

City Secures Discount for Residents for Flood Insurance

FEMA finally provided some good news for the City and the residents. Thanks to the efforts of City agencies, FEMA has lowered the City's flood insurance rating from an "8" to a "7." This one-step drop means that Cape Coral residents who purchase flood insurance now are eligible for a 15 percent discount to their premiums. FEMA, which operates the National Flood Insurance Program, has a voluntary program in which communities can earn a rating based on various criteria. The more the City does to increase community awareness and reduce the potential for flooding, the more points the organization earns. The higher the point total, the lower the rating. The City completed most of the work required to reduce the rating to a "7" in December 2003; however, FEMA just approved the reduction. The City will continue to take steps to reduce the rating; however, a "6" probably will be the lowest rate attainable. This would add another 5 percent to the discount.

Rainy Season Means Prepare for Standing Water

The City of Cape Coral is entering the rainy season, which typically lasts from June through September. Cape Coral receives an average of 53 inches of rain each year. The rainfall is so heavy at times that standing water in roads and yards is common. Standing water does not mean the City needs to do more with drainage. Standing water is one of the byproducts of living in a subtropical environment, and also is an indication that our stormwater management program is working.

It certainly is not unusual to have several incidents and reports of flooding during heavy rain. With the majority of the city's 53 inches of rain falling within a four-month period, some areas are bound to have occasional flooding. This flooding often results in an equal flood of phone calls to the Citizen's Action Center. In most cases, if residents can wait a day or two, the majority of standing water will drain. However, there are situations where standing water remains for several days, and these are the situations that rate as top priorities for response from the City.

What Causes Standing Water?

During and after a storm, the rainwater is conveyed and filtered through the swales (the recessed drainage areas near the street in front of your home). The filtering process removes heavy deposits before the water enters the inlets. Cape Coral's stormwater eventually flows into about 400 miles of man-made canals throughout the city. These canals are defined as primary stormwater conveyance facilities (drainage systems). The canals receive this water from the secondary drainage facilities, which consist of shallow roadside swales, pipes and thousands of catch basins/inlets.

With a heavy storm, water will collect in front of these inlets and may create standing water within a road intersection. The reason this standing water occurs is because the canal level is higher than normal, to the point where the storm pipes are unable to release the water. When the water reaches a certain depth in the intersection, it creates such head pressure at the inlet that the water is forced through the pipes. This creates a siphoning effect, which will drain most flooded intersections in a matter of minutes. If the canal levels get too high in the freshwater systems, structures called "weirs" can be removed to bring the water down to an acceptable level.

The tidal action in the saltwater canals greatly affects the secondary drainage facilities when there is a high tide. As the tide recedes, the water flowing through the outfall pipes have less restriction and disperse water from the swale areas faster.

During the rainy season, we ask that residents exercise patience and caution in waiting for the rainwater to drain and caution in navigating the rain-soaked streets of the city. Working together, the City staff and residents can get through the daily deluges without incident or injury. If you have any questions or concerns about flooding or drainage, call the Citizen's Action Center at 574-0425.

Note: The City addresses only the flooding that occurs along the roadways. The homeowner must handle standing water in the backyard and side yards of residences. While the City can provide suggestions or guidance to residents experiencing flooding problems in these areas, actual maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner.



Standing water appears at a residential corner following a heavy morning rain, and the same corner two hours later.

City's Property Values Soar Nearly 50 Percent

On June 1, the Lee County Property Appraiser released the preliminary numbers for taxable assessed property value, and Cape Coral's total taxable value soared 49 percent. The final numbers will be released on July 1, and historically, these numbers have been a few percentage points higher.

Most of the city's increase came from escalating values of vacant property and a record amount of new construction. Escalating property values can result in higher property taxes; however, residents who are homesteaded are protected from huge increases by

"Save Our Homes." Save Our Homes limits the amount one's property can increase in value (for tax purposes only) to 3 percent or the CPI, whichever is lower. This year, the increase limit probably will be at 3 percent.

Homeowners living in non-homesteaded properties and owners of vacant land will feel the full tax impact from the increased value of their properties. These property owners have no Save Our Homes protection and will be taxed on the full value.

Cape Coral residents probably can expect some decrease in the City's overall tax rate; however, the property owners who have no Save Our Homes protection will not gain significant relief from the increased property taxes resulting from skyrocketing property values.

The City Manager currently is putting together his Fiscal Year 2006 budget for City Council. The City bases budget recommendations on the amount of revenue anticipated from various revenue sources, the largest of which is property taxes.

Carl Schwing Selected as Assistant City Manager

Schwing replaces Howard Kunik, who left to take city manager position in Punta Gorda

Carl Schwing, director of the City's Department of Community Development, has been selected as the new assistant city manager. Schwing replaces Howard Kunik, who left the City of Cape Coral to take the position of City Manager for the City of Punta Gorda.

Schwing was hired in June 2002 as the City's director of Community Development. At the time, Schwing was a municipal planning consultant in St. Petersburg. He has been city manager of three cities, most recently at St. Pete Beach. Schwing has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri, and a Master's degree in Public Policy Administration from the same university. He is married with two daughters. Schwing will begin his duties within the next few weeks. A search is underway for his replacement in DCD.

Howard began his new job in Punta Gorda on April 25. Kunik had worked for Cape Coral for 15 years, the past five as Assistant City Manager. Previously, he served as the City's Financial Services Director.



Kevin McGee Named Superintendent of Utilities Division

Kevin McGee has been named superintendent of the Utilities Division, Collection and Distribution section in the Department of Public Works. Kevin replaces Frank Manocchi who retired earlier this year.

Prior to working for the City, Kevin owned and operated a successful construction company on Eastern Long Island in New York. He joined the City in November 1986. Kevin worked his way through the ranks and became a supervisor in the Services Division in 1995. He has held "acting" positions as division manager in Services and Stormwater Management.

During the 18 years Kevin has been with the City, he has proven to be a valuable asset to the organization. He implemented a program that saved the City \$550,000 when he redesigned the patented Star Wheel drive system on the City's dredges. His redesign to the star wheels negated the need to replace the wheels every three months. Kevin was responsible for implementing an Equipment Training Program for all City employees who were interested in learning about heavy equipment operation. Kevin became the first State Certified CDL Tester/Trainer for the City. He was the City of Cape Coral's employee of the month in 1994 and 2002, and was named Employee of the Year in 2003. The Fort Myers Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals named him the Executive Professional of the Year in 2003.

Rain Accelerates Development of Potholes

Reporting potholes quickly to City will facilitate repair.

Potholes are major irritations for drivers. They seem to appear almost overnight, and they grow larger if not repaired quickly. As some drivers know, a large pothole can cause serious damage to wheels and tires.

Why do potholes increase during the rainy season? Potholes usually are created when water seeps into cracks in the surface of the road. The combination of rainwater and tire vibration across the cracks causes the asphalt to fail. Potholes also are caused by trucks and buses on a roadway. These larger, heavier vehicles create movement of the subsurface. Once a weak spot forms, every car that passes over the spot increases the stress on the road and the problem worsens. Eventually, a section of the material will fail, and a pothole is created. This type of erosion also can be found along the shoulder of the road.

With the deluge of rain the city has received in June, pothole complaints have increased substantially. The City of Cape Coral usually has two pothole crews to respond to pothole reports;

however, another crew was added to address the backlog. The City addresses potholes on the four-lane roads first, and then moves to residential areas.

Pothole crews always are looking for potholes. But drivers also need to watch for potholes, and try to avoid them. If you are unable to avoid a pothole, brake before impact and then roll through the hole at a low speed.

Call the Citizen's Action Center as soon as possible to report potholes. The phone number is 574-0425, or you can submit a report via the City website at www.capegov.org. Select "Citizen's Action Center" from the left column. Please have the exact location of the pothole (street name, side of street, approximate address). Notifying the City quickly will help facilitate the repair of the pothole. Please note that the City of Cape Coral must have notice of the pothole and failed to respond in a reasonable time for the City to be held responsible for any damage.



2005 Hurricane Season is Here *Continued from the cover*

We must continue to be prepared, plan ahead, and be aware of forecasts and predictions as the season progresses.

What should we expect? With tropical storms, we can experience extremely high winds, massive amounts of rain and the possibility of tornadoes. With hurricanes, the most deadly aspect is storm surge. Storm surge is a massive wall of water that can make landfall. A good portion of Cape Coral is susceptible to storm surge, and this could result in the loss of property or life if one chooses to stay through a storm.

Since Southwest Florida did not experience storm surge during the 2004 season, some residents may wonder just how susceptible our area is to storm surge. Had Hurricane Charley been a slower-moving storm and not taken a last-minute turn into our area, we would have experienced substantial storm surge in Cape Coral. In the Panhandle of Florida, storm surge from Hurricane Ivan washed out bridges and homes in Pensacola. Residents need to be aware that storm surge is a possibility in Cape Coral, and the surge can be devastating and deadly. Remember the most important rule of storms: Hide from wind and run from water.

Know the Elevation of Your Home

Do you know the elevation of your home? If evacuations are called, it is important to know this information. You can find this data in the paperwork you received when you closed on your home or with your flood insurance information.

If you are requested to evacuate, you need to know what evacuation route to take out of Cape Coral. Evacuation signs are posted on the major roads leading out of Cape Coral. Review a map of the area now while the weather is still calm. Learn the safe routes inland, north, south or east of our area. You will be directed based on the category of the impending storm and the direction the storm is traveling. You may be asked to evacuate north toward Tampa, east toward Orlando or south to the Miami area, depending on the direction and intensity of the storm. The evacuation request may come even while the sun is out, but heed the warning.

Prepare a Kit

A disaster preparedness kit is essential. There are a number of items necessary to have on hand to help weather a storm. A list is available on the Red Cross website, www.redcross.org, the FEMA website, www.fema.gov, and the State of Florida website, www.floridadisaster.org.

Detailed hurricane information for this area is available on the Lee County website, www.lee-county.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, an "All Hazards" booklet with extensive hurricane preparation information is available from the Fire Department administrative offices on Nicholas Parkway and from City Hall on Cultural Park Blvd. It is also available at the Cape Coral Public Library, and

the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce. This publication is free. In addition, Lee County is producing this All Hazards guide in Spanish, German and Creole to assist our diversified population in preparing for storms.

Don't Forget Your Pets or Medical Necessities

When considering a disaster plan, please remember to plan for any pets, and have food, water and a pet carrier on hand. Pets generally are not allowed in shelters, although limited availability with certain restrictions will be made at the Lee County Civic Center. Please contact Lee County Emergency Management at 477-3600 for additional details.

If you or a member of your family needs medical assistance, i.e., oxygen or other medical problems that require monitoring, or if you need assistance in getting to a shelter, please make arrangements in advance by calling Lee County Public Safety at 335-1601. Do not wait until the last minute as this could delay assistance.

Storm shelters are in short supply in Cape Coral (4,700 spaces for 140,000 + residents). Because of the lack of space, shelters only should be used as a last resort. A list of shelters is in the Lee County "Big Red" Phone Book, or in the All Hazards Guide. If a shelter is the only option, it is strongly suggested that you learn the locations of shelters, both in Cape Coral and in other parts of Lee County.

The best plan in the event of a storm is to leave early and get out of harm's way. The earlier you leave, the better the choice of hotels. Plus, you can avoid the inevitable traffic jam that will occur should a massive evacuation take place.

Here are some steps to take prior to the approach of a hurricane:

1. Protect all windows and the garage door in your home.
2. Trim back all trees and palms.
3. Check your insurance coverage. Insurance is not available if there is an active named storm in the Atlantic, Gulf or Caribbean, and there is 30-day wait period for flood insurance.
4. Have a family communication plan with someone out of the area to serve as a contact.
5. Purchase enough food, water and medication for 5-7 days for each person. (With the heat in Southwest Florida, plan on having one gallon of water per person per day on hand).
6. Keep your car fully fueled.
7. Take pictures and/or video of your home, the contents and all possessions for insurance purposes to prove what you owned should you lose everything.

8. Bring your outdoor furniture inside, and anchor anything that cannot be stored inside.

9. Secure your boat (excellent information on this process in All Hazards brochure).

10. Gather valuables and insurance documents in a waterproof container and take with you.

11. If you are leaving your home, disconnect power from all appliances, except refrigerator.

12. Watch TV or listen to the radio for hurricane reports and shelter openings.

13. Keep a supply of cash at home, preferably in small bills. Banks may be closed, and ATMs may not work due to loss of the facility or loss of electricity.

The City of Cape Coral continues to be committed to working with Lee County in the event of an impending storm. The state and county agencies are responsible for evacuation decisions and opening of shelters. We will make every effort to warn Cape Coral residents via the media of the status of the storm, conditions in Cape Coral and the availability of shelters. City staff will prepare for the storm, take emergency protective measures prior to, and assist in response and recovery following the storm. As long as Internet service is available, you can also check for storm updates on the City's website at www.capegov.org.

We encourage Cape Coral residents to attend a hurricane seminar. These seminars are announced through the local media. The seminars will provide a wealth of information from local TV meteorologists, Lee County Emergency Management staff, Cape Coral Emergency Management staff, Red Cross, Animal Services and people in the building industry. You will walk away with a better insight into the hurricane season and what you must do to protect yourself and your home. As Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center says, "Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy."

For more information on hurricanes and seminars, contact the Cape Coral Emergency Operations Center at 573-3022.

Fire Department Moves Forward on Fire Stations #3, #4 and #8

The Fire Department is beginning implementation of their master plan with construction of Fire Stations #3, #4 and #8. The City of Cape Coral selected Lodge Construction to build the three facilities.

Construction recently began on Fire Station #8, which is being built at Nelson Road and Embers Parkway. The station is expected to be completed by April 2006. The site eventually will include a fire training facility.

Construction on Fire Stations #3 and #4 began in May and June respectively. These two stations are being relocated for better response time and rebuilt to meet current hurricane codes and elevations. Completion of these projects is anticipated within one year of construction.

The master plan for the Fire Department has been updated to accommodate the latest growth models and population trends in the city. An aggressive land acquisition has taken place to assemble the land necessary to site future fire stations. This planning strategy has enabled the City to acquire the land for future expansion and avoid additional costs associated with escalating real estate prices.



City Parks Offer Summer Camps for Kids

By: Susan Edwards

The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of summer camps for children. While many of the recreation camps are full, the City does have some availability at a few of the facilities.

Imaginarium Camp

Four Freedoms Park has teamed up with the Imaginarium to offer innovative science "themed" specialty camps designed to stimulate the imagination. Preschoolers will take a field trip to the Calusa Nature Center and enjoy a camp where art meets science. Little ones will learn about color and let their creativity shine. Four Freedoms Park still has availability at the Imaginarium Camp for children entering into grades 4 to 6. Weeks open are: 6/20 - 6/24; 6/27 - 7/1; 7/11 - 7/15; and, 7/18 - 7/22.

Cost per week is \$120, and camps run from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sports Intensive Camp

Four Freedoms Park and the Wellness Center will be offering a Sports Intensive Camp which will take campers through a series of sports conditioning designed to help your child improve his/her skills in sports. A registered dietician will explain the benefits of healthy eating habits. Also available is our Fitness Camp offered at the Wellness Center for ages 12 to 15.

Weeks open are: 6/20/ - 6/23 and 7/25 - 7/28. Cost is \$120 per week, and the hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration for the Imaginarium and Wellness camps is at Four Freedoms Park. Call 574-0805 for more information.

Eco Adventure Nature Camp

Eco Adventure Nature Camp held at Rotary Park is geared for children who love the great outdoors. This camp offers a chance for children to discover, explore, and investigate creatures of our woods and wetlands. Call 549-4606 for more information.

Junior Tennis/Youth Sailing Camps

The Cape Coral Yacht Club offers several water-related programs, which include the Youth Sailing Camp, Powerboat Safety Camp, Junior Life Guard Camp, Splash Camp, and a Junior Summer Tennis Camp. Call 574-0806 for more information.

Fine Arts Camp/Fine Arts Intern Program

The Cape Coral Arts Studio offers a Fine Arts Camp that provides children the opportunity to experience the creative process through a variety of fine arts and crafts projects. New this summer is the Fine Arts Intern Program for future artists and administrators. The program is geared toward the young high school student who has serious interest in art.

Call 574-0802 for more information.

Lighting Adjustments Improve Council Chambers Presentations

Future attendees to the City Council meetings will notice a difference in the lighting ambiance in Council Chambers. To improve the images and information being projected on two, 10-ft. projection screens in Chambers, the City reduced the saturation of light in the audience area and installed stage lights that illuminate the members on the dais.

The projection screens now are brighter, and the information is easier to read. While the lighting over the audience area has been reduced, there is adequate light for attendees to navigate the room.

In the past, meeting attendees sitting in the audience had difficulty reading presentation materials or distinguishing images as projected on the large screens. All the lights in the Chambers were illuminated throughout the meetings, and this high saturation of light in the room was washing out the images as they were being thrown to the screens by the projectors.

Another benefit of the new lighting pattern is that the quality of the image being broadcast to viewers at home via CapeTV, Channel 14 also is improved.

“Profiles” Helps Evaluate Candidates for Customer Service Jobs

In April, the Human Resources Department implemented a new pre-employment assessment tool to better evaluate candidates for the position of Customer Service Representative. The “Profiles Assessment” tool is an online survey completed by the prospective candidate in conjunction with their online application.

“Profiles” is not a test with right or wrong answers. It is a performance indicator that looks at eight job-related areas with observations of primary behavioral tendencies and suggestions for increased effectiveness. These eight measurement areas are Work Productivity, Quality of Work, Initiative, Working with a Team, Problem Solving, Motivational Energy, Response to Job-Related Stress, and How to Motivate at Work. The Profiles online assessment can be completed in English, Spanish or French.

The Human Resources Department is using Profiles to gain information that traditional interviewing techniques may not identify. Most importantly, Profiles provides an accurate forecast of the potential for a “good fit” for the employee and the City. By using Profiles, candidates who are hired can learn more about themselves, both their strengths and their weaknesses. While such knowledge is a cornerstone for growth and development, it also represents powerful information for supervisors who are interested in maximizing the productivity of their employees.

The Profile Assessment Tool has been very well received by City directors, managers and potential candidates. To view job openings with the City, go to www.capegov.org and select “Jobs” from the Links column on the left.

Wade-Trim Selected to Create Yacht Club Master Plan

By: Kierstan Lynch, Business Opportunities/Project Coordinator

The City of Cape Coral is beginning the master planning project for the Yacht Club Community Park, a crown jewel of Cape Coral. The City is working with Wade-Trim, a consultant in park design and infrastructure, to create a master plan that will guide the functional, aesthetic and economic development of the Yacht Club area. Wade-Trim was the design consultant for the City's Parks Master Plan in 2001.

The challenge for future development is to address the short-term and long-term maximization of the Yacht Club's waterfront features. Wade-Trim will hold public meetings to seek community input on the future uses and design of the park. The firm will perform an inventory of current uses, develop high priorities and best uses for the Yacht Club, and address issues of concern with the existing park configuration. Current Yacht Club features include tennis and racquetball, boating ramp and yacht basin, senior activities, beach activities, swimming pool activities, fishing, shuffleboard, play areas, ballroom activities, small conference and meeting areas, and commercial food services.

Issues of concern include insufficient parking, insufficient use of the beach pavilion, overcrowding of boat ramp and trailer parking area, failing infrastructure, expansion and traffic flow.

The City expects to have a conceptual master plan that will address both the Yacht Club's deficiencies and potential. A public conceptual design workshop will allow for additional community feedback.

The Yacht Club is one of the key destination points in Cape Coral. The City has invested millions of dollars acquiring additional property to make better use of the area. The goal is to preserve the Yacht Club's unique history, while making this a safe and beautiful place for all to enjoy. If you have any questions concerning the Yacht Club and its amenities, or any future plans please call (239) 574-0806.

City Continues to Add eGovernment Services

During the past few months, the City's Information Technology Services Department has been adding several new enhancements to its eGovernment services. Most of these enhancements can be accessed from the main page of the City's website, www.capegov.org.

eCivical

eCivical allows citizens to enter service requests to City departments online. This service is handled by the City Clerk's Office and the Citizen's Action Center, and more information is available in a corresponding article within this issue of the newsletter.

Maps Online

Maps Online provides color maps for Rezoning, Land Use, Vacation of Plat, PDP, Special Exception and Variance. Citizens who are impacted or interested in these planning and zoning issues can view maps of the proposed areas prior to the scheduled case reviews. To access "Maps Online," go to www.capegov.org and click on "eCape" at the top of the "Links" column on the left.

Online Alarm Registration

With the new requirement for residents and businesses to register their alarms,

the City recently added the ability for the alarm registration to be completed online.

Building Inspection Payment

Contractors and builders now can pay for their inspections online via the Click2Gov service.

Other significant accomplishments during the past quarter include installing high bandwidth Internet connectivity at the City's Emergency Operations Center, which enabled the City to host the City's website inhouse rather than with an outside provider. This is important for providing resiliency during the upcoming hurricane season as the EOC provides a secure environment with power-generating capability.

Upcoming IT projects include providing GIS (Geographic Information System) capabilities online, implementing the City-wide SharePoint Intranet across all City facilities, placing business license applications online, and supporting the computer infrastructure of the City's new Charter Elementary School South.

Charter Middle School Location Approved

The Charter School Governing Board and the City Council approved the new site for the City's Charter Middle School. The school will be built adjacent to the new Charter Elementary School South on Oasis Boulevard. The Haskell Company, the construction manager for the City's two elementary schools, will design and build the middle school.

The City submitted applications for charters for a middle school and high school to the Lee County School District on May 9. The City should receive approval of the charters from the District in about two months from the date of submittal. The middle school will house 660 students and will open for the 2006-2007 school year, along with another 600-seat elementary school in the north Cape. The high school is scheduled to open in 2007 at the City's Academic Village site on Del Prado Boulevard, north of Kismet.

Ceitus Boat Lift Now Operational

The boaters located behind the Ceitus Boat Lift once again are enjoying access to the Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico.

On December 18, 2004, the lift was damaged beyond repair when the anchor bolts failed. The failure caused the 1978 vintage lift with an operating capacity of 5,500 pounds to fall into the canal, and the City was forced to close the lift.

A new boat lift already was on order with plans to install the new lift and have it operational in mid-March 2005. In early 2005, the City was notified of a delay in shipping the lift due to lack of parts. The revised date was then set at March 31.

After the lift and related equipment was in place, two problems materialized that would not allow acceptable operation. After three weeks of troubleshooting, a non-metallic bearing that was causing friction when turning was removed, and the hydraulic unit was modified to perform as intended. On April 22, the new lift, with an operating capacity of 15,000 pounds, was placed in service after four months without access.

The boat lift operation has been modified from the previous self-operation practice to City-operated. The City will provide daily attendants to assist the boaters and operate the lift controls. The

lift will follow the Chiquita Boat Lock schedule, with attendants scheduled daily and on-call outside the regular hours. After regular hours, the boaters would call the Ceitus Boat Lift telephone and request the attendant on-call to meet them at the lift for passage. With this plan, the lift operation would be 24 hours/7 days a week. Here are the hours of operation:

Weekdays -- 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Weekends and Holidays -- 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

After hours passage may be obtained by calling the lift house number at 239-283-7235 at least 30 minutes prior to your requested passage time. The call backs are shared between the attendants, so this will give the attendant time to arrive.

There is also an emergency phone located on the building exterior. The phone is a one-button operation that will direct dial police non-emergency dispatch should a boater require assistance.

Many thanks go out to all of the employees for their many hours of extra effort in getting the new lift operational and manning the lift during the initial start-up period. A special thanks to Jeff Greenwood for making the necessary modifications needed to make the operation safer and easier for the attendants and boaters.

Fire Department Produces Hurricane Preparation Video

The City of Cape Coral's Emergency Management Division has produced a hurricane safety video to help current and future residents of the city prepare for a storm.

The City hired a Cape Coral company, Dreamtime Entertainment, to put together the 30-minute show, which contains video footage from the 2004 hurricane season, interviews with Cape Coral emergency officials, local meteorologists, and hurricane experts. The video also provides advice for residents on how to prepare for, stay safe through and recover from hurricanes.

The most unique feature about this video is that it is being produced specifically for Cape Coral, which faces its own set of challenges during major storms. These challenges include limited shelter space, low-lying areas prone to flooding, numerous miles of canals, and potentially overtaxed evacuation routes.

The video is available in DVD format, free of charge, to Cape Coral residents and will air on CapeTV on Time-Warner Cable Channel 14. Officials encourage residents to acquire a copy of the video and follow the advice provided on proper preparation for the hurricane season. After the record-breaking season in 2004, there is ample evidence that preparation is not only necessary but essential.

For a copy of the DVD, please stop by the Information Desk at City Hall (1015 Cultural Park Boulevard) or call 573-3022.

Fire Department Adds Two Rescue Units

The Fire Department has added two rescue units for the citizens of Cape Coral. The units are located at Fire Stations #5 and #6. Both of these locations have experienced a tremendous increase in rescue-related calls for service during the past few years.

These new units should reduce the response times in these service areas and will provide extra flexibility to manage resources in the north and south geographic zones of the city. The units are staffed by a firefighter and an engineer. They will provide basic life support functions as well as firefighting and accident scene stabilization.

Online Auction Reaps Big Dollars for City

In January, City Council approved the use of online auctions for the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. Since then, the City has conducted four online auctions. Through these four auctions, the City has sold 41 items and realized net proceeds of \$131,098. By comparison, the City previously auctioned 110 items via an onsite auction and netted \$152,195. Based on the auction results to date, total annual auction proceeds have the potential to exceed last year's total by more than \$240,000.

The City is using the services of GovDeals to facilitate the monthly auction events. The auction usually begins around the third week of each month. The full description and pictures of each item being auctioned are posted on the GovDeals website. Each auction is open for a two-week period, and interested parties must register as bidders with GovDeals. Successful bidders are issued a Buyer's Certificate that must be presented to the City along with payment. Payment must be received within five business days after the auction closes, and auctioned items must be removed within 10 business days.

To participate in the City's auctions, go to www.capegov.org and select "Auction Online" from the "Links" list on the left.

Santa Barbara Road Improvement Project Status

The City of Cape Coral design report was completed in May for the Santa Barbara Boulevard Road Improvement Project. This allows the design consultant (Avalon Engineering) to proceed to the more detailed design aspects of the project (e.g. drainage design, utility relocations, pavement composition, etc.).

The entire corridor was studied from Cape Coral Parkway to Pine Island Road. The study determined that improvements to six lanes were needed only on the section of Santa Barbara north of Gleason Parkway. The section south of Gleason Parkway can remain a four-lane section through the year 2025.

An open house was held at Cape Coral High School on May 4 to discuss the project with the public. After viewing a short video, the public was free to examine the proposed alignment, access management plan, landscaping concept, and right-of-way issues. Overall, the response from public was positive.

The design of this project will be completed in 2006, and construction is anticipated to follow shortly thereafter. This four-mile project, from Gleason Parkway to Pine Island Road, will be completed in phases, and construction is expected to take up to 24 months.

Information For Newcomers

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE 574-0411	Various Maps for Sale -- Future Land Use, Zoning, etc Site Plans / House Plans-Permits / Elevation Cert. City Ordinances & Resolutions (Also Online) DVD's / Audio Recordings of Meetings Street Maps
CAPE CORAL LIBRARY 542-3953 www.lee-county.com/library	Library Cards & Research
CITIZEN'S ACTION CENTER 574-0425 www.capegov.org	City of Cape Coral - Complaints
LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VITAL STATISTICS 332-9572 MAIN 332-9501 www.lee-county.com/healthdept	Birth & Death Certificates
LEE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES 432-2083 http://www.leelostpets.com/	Pick Up Unwanted Animals
LEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS 1039 SE 9th Place Cape Coral, FL 33990 242-7718 1700 Monroe Street Fort Myers, FL 33901 335-2283 www.leeclerk.org	Traffic Tickets 335-2283 Small Claims 458-7048 Marriage License / Court Cases / Court Dates Quit Claim Deeds- only if between two residents Recording Documents, Warranty Deeds Passports, Declaration of Domicile Property Sales, Satisfaction Mortgage Liens (placing)
LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE 1039 SE 9th Place Cape Coral, FL 33990 458-7020 www.leeelections.com	Register to Vote
LEE COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 656-2300 www.lcec.net	Electric Service - Billing Question Street Lights Out
LEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER 339-6100 (Ft. Myers - No offices in Cape Coral) www.leepa.org	Homestead Exemptions New Residency Info on most current property owner
LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 334-1102 (School Choice 337-8247) www.leeschools.net	Educational Information
LEE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES 652-7900 http://dhs.lee-county.com/default.asp	Electric & Rental Assistance
LEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR 1039 SE 9th Place Cape Coral, FL 33990	Tax Record Information Registration of Cars & Boats, Tags Titles to Vehicles & Vessels

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