2010 Hurricane Season Expected to Be Active

The 2010 Hurricane Season is upon us. Floridians observe the Atlantic hurricane season from June 1 through November 30 each year. Once again, it is time to make our annual preparations. Predictions for this year suggest an above average season for storm activity, with 15 named storms, eight being hurricanes and four categorized as major or intense, which means a Category 3 or higher.

The names for the 2010 hurricanes are: Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tomas, Virginie, and Walter.

Many residents of Cape Coral who were here for Hurricane Charley in 2004 mistakenly believe they experienced the full effects of a Category 4 hurricane. In actuality, most of Cape Coral experienced a strong Category 1 or weak Category 2 hurricane. While we were only miles away from the most intense effects in Punta Gorda and Charlotte County, people should not develop a false sense of security. Charley was a very small and fast-moving storm, and had it been larger and slower-moving, Cape Coral would have seen catastrophic results. Continue to be prepared, plan ahead, and be aware of forecasts and predictions as the season progresses.

With tropical storm systems, we can experience extremely high winds, massive amounts of rain and the possibility of tornadoes. One of the most deadly aspects of a hurricane is storm surge or a massive wall of water making 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. Some people may believe that Southwest Florida is not susceptible to storm surge. This is not the case at all; in fact, had Hurricane Charley been a slower-moving storm and not taken such a last-minute turn into our area, we would have experienced substantial storm surge in Cape Coral. Residents need to continue to be very aware of storm surge predictions and plan accordingly. Remember, hide from wind and run from water.

Continued on page 10

Erick Kuehn Appointed to Fill District #5 Council Seat

City Council selected Erick Kuehn to fill the vacant District #5 Council seat on March 15. This is Kuehn’s first public office. He will complete the remainder of the term for the District #5 seat, which is up in November 2011.

Kuehn is a retired insurance agent and has lived in Cape Coral since 2003. He has a Bachelor’s degree from Goshen College in Indiana and is a member of the Cape Coral Civic Association and the Loyal Order of the Moose. Kuehn has two grown children – a son and daughter.
On The Move is a quarterly newsletter produced by the City of Cape Coral for the citizens of the city. The publication is mailed as a courtesy to every household and business in the city. Comments or questions can be directed to the City Manager's Office, P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027 or by email to newsletter@capecoral.net.
Mayor’s Message

Welcome to our summer issue of On The Move. This is the time of year that most of our snowbirds take flight and leave for their northern homes. To all, please have a safe trip home, and we will see you when you return in October.

The summer months are here, which means hot, humid and rainy days are ahead. This also means that the hurricane season is upon us. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30, and prognosticators are predicting an above average season. I encourage our residents to read the articles in this newsletter pertaining to flooding and hurricanes, as they contain information to help you be prepared for this annual storm season.

I want to take the opportunity to discuss a few of the decisions your City Council has made these past few months. The first one involves the decision to decline the opportunity to pursue a National Swimming Center. This Council decision was heavily influenced by the need to consider all our citizens. We had to evaluate the financial risks associated with the National Swim Center Corporation’s new and untested business model. For the majority of Council, the NSCC simply was asking for the City to assume far too much risk, and taking that risk was not in the best interests of our citizens. Your City Council realizes that there is substantial interest within the community to develop an aquatic center in Cape Coral. Because of that, we will be open to future business proposals that are properly presented from a fiscally sound standpoint and with adequate financial backing.

Another decision involves the undergrounding of electric lines in the Downtown CRA district. City Council approved the plan to place these lines underground to protect the integrity of the CRA and encourage future development. However, most of the City Council did not support the cost allocation for this work, which has LCEC contributing only $600,000 toward the estimated $4.5 million price tag. I have concerns about whether this meager contribution fulfills their obligations within their franchise agreement with the City. Because of these concerns, I have asked our City Attorney to research the agreement and determine if LCEC is meeting their financial and legal responsibilities. My hope is that we can reduce the CRA’s portion of the cost and help the agency direct more dollars toward the entire downtown area.

Finally, City Council decided to move forward with assisting our external auditor, Michael Kessler, in obtaining various payroll records from MWH, the company who oversaw our multi-million dollar utilities projects. I was disappointed when MWH corporate leaders stated they would not cooperate with any document requests for any audits related to the completed expansion projects. Because of this firm stance, the City was left with few choices. We either use our subpoena powers to try to get the records or we close the books on these projects without ever knowing whether the City is owed money from this company. Council ultimately decided that we need to exercise all of our options to get our questions answered. Our next step will be in the court system.

I appreciate your time. Have a good summer and be safe during the storm season.

City Manager’s Message

Along with our mayor, let me wish our winter residents a safe journey back to their northern abodes. We had quite the winter season this year, wouldn’t you say? There were plenty of opportunities to feel that “chill in the air” this winter, and many of our year-round residents enjoyed the cool weather.

Our annual hurricane season begins June 1. Well-known hurricane expert, William Gray, thinks the quiet period we experienced these past couple of years is about to end. He is predicting 15 named storms this season with eight expected to become hurricanes and four of these being major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). This newsletter provides detailed information on the storm season, and our residents should take steps now and put an emergency plan in place. By providing this information to all of our residents in the newsletter, the City receives points from FEMA and is able to lower our flood insurance rating, which results in a discount in the cost of the insurance to our citizens. Even if you are not in a flood area, we encourage all of our residents to consider purchasing flood insurance for their homes.

The mayor addressed the swim center in his message. Let me add that City staff spent many hours reviewing financial information to see whether this project could be a good fit for Cape Coral. We only had a few weeks to get as many of our questions answered as possible and then present options to City Council for their consideration. We met with the NSCC, Lee County and our state Representative Gary Aubuchon to vet funding options. We still had some unanswered questions to resolve prior to any final contract; however, Council decided not to move forward. While I know some residents are disappointed, my hope continues to be that we can attract a viable entity to take a look at this location for future development.

One major project that staff completed was the submission of 24 comprehensive land use changes to the Department of Community Affairs. This was a monumental task for our Planning staff. They had to review and write the language for all of these changes within a three-month schedule. Consider that the City typically submits about 4-5 of these changes during the open submittal process, and you can see the significance of this accomplishment. City planners solicited the help of other City employees and mailed more than 30,000 notifications to surrounding properties impacted by these changes. The planners then attended and presented the changes at public hearings to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the City Council. They did an outstanding job!

These land use changes needed to be completed and submitted prior to the vote this fall on the Hometown Democracy amendment. There is an informational article in this newsletter about this amendment. I encourage our residents to read the article to gain an understanding about the effect it will have on how decisions are made regarding development in the state of Florida. You also can view these land use changes on the City’s website (www.capecoral.net) under News Highlights in the middle column.

Thank you for your time, and have a great summer.
North Water Plant Supplying Water to Customers

With the exception of a few more items, the construction of the new Cape Coral North Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant basically is complete. In fact, the new plant started delivering water to the city’s distribution system on March 8.

The plant is located near Kismet Parkway and Chiquita Boulevard. Construction on the plant began in December 2006 when the City was following a sequenced utilities extension plan to extend all three major utilities (water, sewer and irrigation) to the remaining unserviced areas of the city. When the extension projects stopped, the construction on the water plant already was well underway. The City continued completing the first phase of the plant, which provides a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day (MGD). The plant could have two potential future phases, which can add 12 MGD each. Eventually, this plant will be able to provide a total treatment capacity of 36 MGD.

The City currently is operating both the north and southwest plants during the daytime and only running the distribution pumps from storage overnight. Completion of the new North plant now enables the Utilities Division to temporarily shutdown the 32-year-old southwest plant, and perform some much-needed maintenance work on the clear wells and the raw water inlet pipes.

Remaining work at the new North RO Plant includes punch list items, communications tower and radios, perimeter wall, landscaping and a concentrate storage tank, which will be a backup to the deep injection well during mechanical testing. The concentrate storage tank eventually will double as a reject storage tank for the future North Water Recovery Facility.

Community Emergency Response Team Training Available

Tornadoes, fires and hurricanes are disasters the City of Cape Coral has faced in the past, and these threats are a byproduct of living in our city. Being prepared for these events can improve the likelihood of survival for you and your family. The Fire Department’s Community Emergency Response Team training can help Cape Coral citizens learn the basic principles for “disaster preparedness.”

The Fire Department offers CERT training, free of charge for city residents. The classes are eight weeks, one night a week. This class expands the knowledge and experience you may already have dealing with storms. Participants will learn basic training in fire suppression, search and rescue, first aid, CPR/AED, hazardous materials, and generator and electrical safety. The classes are instructed by firefighters and paramedics who engage in discussions regarding real-life situations that they have responded to in the past. Open discussion and questions are highly encouraged during the weekly sessions.

A certificate will be granted to each individual who completes the training. With the training completed, the graduate should be more confident and capable in a disaster situation.

If anyone is interested in receiving this training, please contact Mindy Blasetti, mblasetti@capecoral.net, or call (239) 242-3603 if you have any questions, or would like to sign up for the upcoming CERT class.

Register to Vote in Upcoming Primary and General Elections

Each election, we are given the right and responsibility to choose our direction and our representative government at the ballot box. There are several key offices on the election ballot in 2010, including Governor, U.S. Senator, Congress, Lee County Commission, State Attorney and other local offices.

There are some important dates to keep in mind if you intend to vote in this year’s elections.

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<tr>
<th>Registration Closes for Primary Election</th>
<th>Monday, July 26</th>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Election Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration Closes for General Election Day</td>
<td>Monday, October 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Election Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 2</td>
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Detailed information regarding voter registration, candidates and referendums, precinct and polling places, candidate qualifying, prospective poll worker qualifications and other election-related topics may be found on the Lee County Supervisor of Elections website at www.leelections.com.

Cape Officers Raise $17,000 for Officer Damien Garcia

On June 2, 2009, Cape Police Officer Damien Garcia was involved in an on-duty motorcycle crash and suffered life-threatening injuries. While Officer Garcia focused on getting better, members of the Special Operations Bureau looked for ways to help their injured brother. They decided to do a promotional calendar featuring officers in the bureau. All proceeds would be donated to Officer Garcia and his family to assist them during his lengthy recovery.

The officers worked numerous hours while off-duty to promote the calendar throughout the community. As a result of their efforts, the first printing of 1,000 calendars sold out, and a second printing of 1,000 was needed. Officers took copies of the calendar on their vacations and sold them in other states. Others attended special functions such as the Farmer’s Market, restaurant events and car shows where many additional sales were made. Officers also sold copies to family members and friends.

By the end of the calendar sales, more than $17,000 was raised for Officer Garcia. The officers recently were recognized by Police Chief Rob Petrovich with the Chief’s Special Recognition Award.
Liam J. Perk Memorial Playground at Rotary Park

Turning tragedy into something positive is not always an easy thing to do. However, Joey and Carrie Perk did just that after their 2-year-old son, Liam, died on December 22, 2009 after being bitten in the neck by a family dog. On May 15, the Liam J. Perk Memorial Playground at Rotary Park was opened and dedicated in Liam’s name. The playground is adjacent to the Waggin’ Tails Dog Park.

The playground is designed for children ages 5 to 12, and is full of climbing equipment, slides, swings, a spider web and several other exciting elements. The park is a labor of love for Liam’s mother, Carrie, who designed the playground. It also was completed thanks to a community-wide effort. A portion of the playground was donated by Playworld® Systems, Inc., a family-owned playground company based in Lewisburg, PA. Additional donations were provided by Playmore Recreational Products and Services, Kobayashi Dojo, Inc., Cape Coral Rotary Club, H.L. Posey Builders, Paint Misbehavin’, J. Heather Harris Photography, and Cape Coral Parks and Recreation. The playground would not have been completed so quickly and efficiently if not for the hard work of hundreds of volunteers.

The Liam J. Perk Foundation Fund was created in an effort to educate parents and dog owners through seminars, school presentations and events to provide a safe environment for children and dogs as a family. For more information about the foundation and its goals, visit www.liamjperkfoundation.org.

Online Citizen Support Center Surpasses 1,000 Questions

The online Citizen Support Center continues to be a valuable communication tool and recently surpassed 1,000 questions in the center’s FAQ database. The support center was launched less than two years ago and has become the main Internet portal for citizen assistance from Cape Coral government.

The Citizen Support Center is a one-click location from the City’s main portal page (www.capecoral.net) where residents can find answers to questions, ask questions or request service from the Action Center.

Citizens are encouraged to visit the Citizen Support Center if they have a question or need service. Search the “FAQ Database” first to see if the question has been asked and answered. If not, submit a question and then check back for the answer. Please note that this is not “real time,” and it may be a day or two before the question is answered. Individuals who have immediate need for service should call the Citizen’s Action Center at (239) 574-0425.

City Staff Continues Work on FY 2011 Operating Budget

City Council provided their strategic objectives in December 2009, and now City staff is developing the FY 2011 operating budget. Budget planners currently are using a 10 percent reduction in property values for revenue planning purposes. The actual change in values will not be finalized by the Property Appraiser until July 1; however, the City will have a preliminary number on June 1, which will provide some better guidance. Property taxes are the single, largest revenue source for the General Fund.

The second most significant revenue source for the General Fund is the state shared revenues, which include Half-Cent Sales Tax Receipts. While the City does forecast revenues, we also rely upon information released by the State Department of Revenue. Revenue projections from the DOR typically are released mid- to late-June. Current indications are that state revenues will remain fairly stable at the FY 2010 level.

General Fund revenues would decrease by about $8 million if the overall taxable property values fall by 10 percent, and the current millage rate remains unchanged. The General Fund is responsible for providing the basic daily services for the community to include police and fire services. In planning for this potential loss in revenue, the City’s administration actively has made reductions in the current year budget. This creates additional reserve funds that can be used to offset possible reductions in service levels next year. As the current fiscal year proceeds, staff continues to closely monitor current revenues and expenditures and refine estimates for the next fiscal year.

Meetings between staff and City Council will continue through the final adoption of the budget. Listed below are some important dates:

- **July 14** – Release of City Manager’s Proposed Budget
- **July 19** – Regular City Council Meeting - Review of City Manager’s Proposed Budget
- **July 26** – Regular City Council Meeting - Setting of proposed millage rate
- **July 26** – August 16 Review of Department Budgets by Financial Advisory Committee
- **TBD** – Two public hearings during the month of September
Waste Pro is City’s New Solid Waste Company

The City of Cape Coral will have a new garbage hauler and a new collection process beginning October 1. Waste Pro was selected through the competitive bid process to provide the trash, recycling and yard waste services to residents. With the new contract, residents will see a slight reduction in the annual cost for these services; however, the overall savings citywide is about $1 million.

Residents should prepare for a major change in the process for collecting trash and recyclables. Waste Pro will start automated pickup service, which means containers will be dumped into the truck with hydraulic controls and robotic arms. Residents will have a new, larger container for garbage and a new container for recyclables. These containers will be provided by Waste Pro at no cost to the residents.

For more information, please read the accompanying Q&A article. The Q&A also is available on the City’s website at www.capecoral.net. Waste Pro will be sending information to customers later this summer.

City Cuts Power Use by 7.5 Percent with New Energy Conservation Measures

Energy conservation measures recently completed on the lighting system in City Hall will reduce electricity use by 219,000 kilowatt hours and save about $21,000 per year, or 7.5 percent. This is the equivalent to the annual electricity use of more than 15 typical Cape Coral homes.

The savings was accomplished by measuring the actual lighting levels and simply disabling lights to reduce the illumination down to 2007 Florida Energy Code levels (versus the codes in effect in 1999 when the building was developed). Employee support for this effort was widespread, especially when they noticed that the changes reduced glare on their computers and made work easier. Many asked for additional lights to be disabled as the work progressed. The janitorial work schedule also was revised to end two hours earlier, which not only cut the lighting and cooling needs but also was a better schedule for the employees.

Several improvements to the air conditioning system were implemented, although the cost savings cannot be measured until summer. Unoccupied setbacks have been nearly doubled from 48 to 92 hours/week. Exhaust fan setbacks have been more than doubled, from 48 to 100 hours/week. Occupied thermostat settings were increased from 72 F to 76 F, while unoccupied settings were increased to 80 F. Engineering work is in progress to update some of the air conditioning systems later this year for an expected reduction of 200,000 kilowatt hours saving $15,000.

Several thousand dollars of additional savings will result from other items in progress, including changes to computer hibernation settings and photocell control of life safety lighting in the west side atrium.

Within a few months, City Hall will be our first major building to have completed improvements that will exceed the City’s 10 percent energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reduction objective for 2012 (versus the 2008 baseline). We also are well on the way to meeting the 2017 objective of a 25 percent reduction.

Garbage Collection Facts

This article has been prepared to answer the most commonly asked questions regarding the new Solid Waste Collection Contract approved by Council on April 12, 2010.

1. Why the change?
The current contract with Waste Management ends this year, and the contract was sent out for bid.

2. When does the new contract go into effect?
The new contract goes into effect October 1, 2010.

3. What will change?
The waste hauler will be Waste Pro, replacing Waste Management. The method of collection will move to an automated process, which means that workers no longer will manually dump the containers into the trucks. The automated process should improve the aesthetics with the use of standardized containers. Improved safety and a reduction in costs also are benefits.

4. What about horticulture pickup?
Horticulture will be picked up the same as it is now.

5. How much of a savings will I see?
Customers may save $1 each month on collection expenses (est. of $1 million citywide). The actual savings will depend on other annual fees associated with administration of the contract and dumping fees, which are calculated during the year.

6. What should I expect to happen?
You will be provided two new containers by Waste Pro – one for garbage and one for recycling. There is no charge for the containers. These containers will need to be placed properly at curbside on your current, scheduled pickup day. Additional placement instructions will be provided via door hangers and with containers, which will be delivered in the fall.

7. What size is the new garbage container?
The garbage containers are large – 96 gallons. The larger size container should eliminate the need for customers to use plastic, garbage bags and sit them curbside. The containers have wheels and hinged lids, which are harder for animals to open.

8. What if I do not have room in my garage for this large container? Will I be able to keep them outside?
In most cases, containers stored outside should not be visible from the street; however, because new containers are required, Code Compliance will allow containers provided by Waste Pro to sit adjacent to the side of the house.

9. What size is the new recycling container?
Recycling containers will hold 65 gallons of recyclables – twice as much as the current blue totes. Larger recycling containers typically result in more recycling.

10. Do I still need to sort my recycling?
No. The City is moving to a single-stream recycling process. Lee County’s Recycling Facility will have new equipment in place by October 1 to handle the new process.

11. Can I get a smaller container for my garbage?
No. There is only one size container provided.

12. Can I get a smaller container for recyclables?
No. There is only one size container available for recyclables.

13. If I live alone and have a doctor’s note about moving any size container, can I get assistance?
Yes. With an annual doctor’s excuse, the hauler will bring your container to the street and return it.

14. Who maintains the container?
The containers will be delivered and maintained by Waste Pro.

15. What do I do with my old garbage can or recycle container?
Old containers can be used for horticulture, storing Christmas decorations or destroyed.

16. Who do I contact when I have questions?
The containers will have Waste Pro’s phone number. We also will have a Waste Pro representative located in City Hall starting in August. Flyers will be provided at your door with information during the summer.
“Adopt-a Burrow” Program Helps City’s Burrowing Owls

As home to the largest, single population of burrowing owls in the state of Florida, Cape Coral is playing an important role in the bird’s continuing existence. To assist with this effort, the City of Cape Coral is looking for volunteers to help tend to the thousands of burrowing owl nests located throughout the city.

For almost 10 years, members of the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife have been maintaining burrowing owl nests throughout the city; however, with more than 2,500 known locations in Cape Coral, there are not enough volunteers to provide upkeep on these nests.

The burrowing owl is classified as a Species of Special Concern and is the official bird of the City of Cape Coral. The owl’s most common predators are hawks and cats. Because of these predators, the owl must be able to see the surrounding area prior to leaving the safety of the burrow. Trimming the vegetation around the burrow periodically can help improve the owl’s viewing area.

After a free, short training session, residents who have burrowing owl nests nearby can unofficially “adopt” the burrows in their neighborhood by providing owl burrow vegetation maintenance. Maintaining the burrow will help ensure the burrowing owl will remain in the area for your continued enjoyment.

For more information about adopting a burrowing owl nest, residents can call (239) 980-2593 or email wildlife@capecoral.net. Also, residents can visit the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife website at www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org.

Volunteers help maintain a burrowing owl nest site.

Eco Preserve Memorial Area Receives Many Improvements

The City has been working with several entities to add amenities and improve the Eco Preserve Memorial Area located at the base of the Veterans Memorial Bridge. The improvements include:

Construction of a Veterans Memorial Pavilion

This new pavilion was constructed by Russ Ringland Construction Company and funded by the various veterans groups honored at this park. The pavement is about 80 feet long with brick paver flooring. Veterans groups plan on using the pavilion to speak to various groups such as school classes, regarding the memorials in this area and their history.

Soldier/Child Statues

Statues of a U.S. soldier and Iraqi soccer child were unveiled at the park on Memorial Day. Two local artists worked on the bronzed statues, and funds from our community covered material costs.

Naming of Veterans Memorial Area

City Council approved the naming of the memorial area along the south side of Eco Preserve as the “Veterans Memorial Area.” A sign with landscaping and lighting was installed for viewing from within the park or while driving west on Veterans Memorial Parkway.

“Welcome to Cape Coral” Sign Relocated

This sign welcoming visitors to Cape Coral as they come off the Veterans Memorial Bridge was replaced with a new sign and relocated just west of the Veterans Memorial Area.

Veterans Memorial Area Landscape Improvements

City Parks staff and the South West Irrigation Society worked together to improve the landscape throughout this area with new trees, bushes, flowers, irrigation and mulch.

Brick Pavers Extended

Brick pavers were extended from the Flag Array area to the pavilion where the U.S. Soldier/Iraqi Soccer Child Statue and the U.S. Navy Submarine Anchor are located.

Iwo Jima Statue Renovations

Fundraising is ongoing to make needed repairs to the Iwo Jima Statue. Funds are being solicited in memory of Craig T. Fuller, a Cape Coral Marine killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on April 25, 2009. A special event was held on May 22 to raise funds for these renovations. The City and the Marine Corps are working together to ensure these renovations are done in the near future.

Del Prado Boulevard Widening

Construction of the new lanes on Del Prado Boulevard is currently on schedule, as crews recently shifted traffic to the west side of Del Prado Boulevard from just south of Diplomat Parkway to NE 9th Terrace. Travel lanes on the east side of the road are closed to motorists reducing northbound and southbound traffic to one lane only in each direction. Construction crews continue to make progress and are planning to move south on Del Prado Boulevard to begin constructing the new lanes from NE 9th Terrace to SR 78/Pine Island Road.

This fall, the project team looks to open the new Del Prado Boulevard lanes from Kismet Parkway to Diplomat Parkway to motorists. Pedestrians and bicyclists also can enjoy the 10-foot, multi-use paths in this completed section of the project. Motorists and pedestrians may notice the landscaped areas decorated with various types of trees and bushes ranging from royal and sabal palms, laurel and live oaks, jasmine, society garlic and fire crackers. In July, the project team plans to recognize their subcontractors by acknowledging 8,500 man-hours worked without a “lost time” incident.

Del Prado Boulevard is being widened from four to six lanes, resurfaced, and realigned at the SR 78/Pine Island Road intersection. Other improvements along this 2.3-mile stretch of Del Prado Boulevard include the widening of two bridges, building three off-site bridges, street lighting, new traffic signals, curb, storm drainage, landscaping and 10-foot-wide, multi-use paths. This widening project has an anticipated completion date of summer 2011.

For more information about the City of Cape Coral Roadway Improvement projects, please contact Maricelle Venegas, Public Information Specialist at (239) 707-9050 or visit us at www.capecoraltransportation.com.
3rd Annual Canal Cleanup Day

On Saturday, March 27, about 125 volunteers dispersed across the city, by land and by boat, to tackle the problem of trash in canals. It was Cape Coral’s third annual Canal Cleanup Day, and by lunchtime, these volunteers had collected 2.4 tons of trash from our canals and waterfronts.

Volunteers checked in at 8 a.m. at the Yacht Club and were supplied with trash bags, gloves and grabbing tools. They spent the morning collecting trash and found such varied items as plastic bottles, Styrofoam cups and products, TV’s, engine parts, chairs and even a roll of carpet. When the day was complete, they came back to the Yacht Club for lunch and socializing.

Volunteers traveled to known trouble spots or were assigned a location. Many people cleaned the canals around their homes, and boaters headed to areas where they knew trash was an issue. Other boaters took volunteers to nearby canals, while some kayakers paddled to nearby mangroves. A group from Cape Coral High School targeted boat ramps, while other volunteers carpooled and went to an area along Old Burnt Store Road to clean up several bridges. The Cape Coral Bass Club covered the Lake Kennedy system.

The event was organized by the City’s Environmental Resources Section and Keep Lee County Beautiful. Additional funding was provided by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Waste Management delivered dumpsters in convenient locations throughout the city, and provided T-shirts and other giveaways for volunteers.

The goal of the Canal Cleanup was not only to pick up trash but also to foster a sense of community pride. The Cleanup helps raise awareness about litter, which is detrimental to our water quality, adversely impacts the aesthetics of our environment and can be threatening to wildlife.

Citizens can help prevent litter problems with a few, simple efforts. Take a litterbag in the car. Make sure trash cans and dumpsters are properly covered. Tie up trash bags before placing them at the curb. Use the trash cans at a park or recreation area, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do these things.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and sponsors who participated in the Canal Cleanup Day. Thanks also to Geo’s Italian Restaurant, Papa John’s Pizza and CiCi’s Pizza for donating the food.

Yacht Club and Sun Splash Offer Water Safety Classes

Drowning is the 4th leading cause of accidental death in the United States. This tragedy can be prevented with ongoing public education about water safety practices, including swim lessons, the buddy system, and most importantly, parental supervision. With the City of Cape Coral being surrounded and integrated with water, the importance of water safety is particularly vital in our community.

One of the key things you can teach your children is how to be safe in and around the water. The Yacht Club Community Pool and Sun Splash are offering “learn to swim” classes for children of all ages throughout the summer and fall. Beginning with “Star Babies” for ages 6 months to 3 years, this class will help children develop confidence and a comfort level in the water. Parents also will learn about water safety and drowning prevention. For pre-school age children (3-5 years old), “Sea Sprites” teaches beginning swimming skills and water safety. “Sea Stars” (6-8 years old) teaches core skills and progresses to advanced strokes. “Swim Stars” (9-12 years old) introduces backstroke, butterfly and the sidestroke. There are eight sessions, and the cost is $50 for Cape Coral residents and $75 for non-residents. See the Parks and Recreation program guide at www.CapeParks.com for session dates and times and/or to register online.

In addition to swim lessons, the Yacht Club Pool will be hosting a water safety clinic including lifeguard demonstrations on Saturday, July 17. The clinic is part of the Yacht Club Community Park’s open house celebration for National Parks and Recreation Month. Sun Splash will host three, 30-minute, free Water Safety Awareness Clinics starting at 9 a.m. on June 26, July 10 and August 7. All of these clinics are designed to teach drowning prevention and safety awareness, and are recommended for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, babysitters and others who watch children around pools and waterways. As an additional incentive, people who attend one of the clinics at Sun Splash will receive a coupon for $2 off for up to four general admission tickets.

A wide variety of other aquatic programs and events will be taking place at both facilities this summer including Jr. Lifeguard Camp and Jr. Splash Camp. The Yacht Club also will have the 31st Annual Synchronized Swimming Program, Splash Bash, Aquatic Festival and the Back to School Pool Party. Sun Splash continues to host monthly “Family Fun Nights.”

For more information about upcoming events, visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.CapeParks.com. For details about programs at the Yacht Club Pool, call 542-3903, and for details about Sun Splash, call 574-0558 or visit their website: www.SunSplashWaterpark.com.
Cape Police Continue to Work 20-Year-Old Double-Murder Case

Detectives hope to find justice for families of victims

On May 9, 1990 at around 10:30 p.m., Jan Cornell tucked into bed her 11-year-old daughter, Robin. The single mother told Robin that she was going to her boyfriend’s house to watch some late night basketball game, so she gave the girl a kiss and headed for the door. Jan’s new roommate, Lisa Story, did not mind staying at home to keep an eye on Robin.

Shortly after 4 a.m. on May 10, Jan returned home and walked into a mother’s worst nightmare — her daughter, Robin, had been murdered and sexually assaulted. Her lifeless body was lying next to her bed. Jan was unaware that her new roommate also was dead in her own room.

It has been 20 years, and the murderer has yet to be found. Cape Police continue to work this case, and about a year ago, two of the City’s most-seasoned detectives were assigned the task of reviewing the reams of evidence. Det. Christy Jo Ellis and Det. Kurt Grau are looking over interviews, checking out potential suspects and hoping that the more advanced DNA technology will help them find the killer.

The Cornell-Story murder case is one of the most prominent unsolved homicides in the state of Florida. The murders have been featured on “America’s Most Wanted” twice, and the show is scheduled to air a third time in June.

Police are asking for the public’s help to find this killer and bring justice to Jan Cornell and the family of Lisa Story. To watch the video clip from the 2006 America’s Most Wanted episode and a recent CapeTV interview with Jan Cornell and the Cape detectives, go to www.capecops.com and click on the Cornell-Story information box.

Business Licensing Moves to Community Development

Cape Coral businesses now have a “one stop” center for applications for a business tax receipt, certificate of use and building permits. The Licensing Division has been moved from the City Clerk’s Office to the Department of Community Development in City Hall. This move streamlines the process, and allows applications for business-related licenses and permits to be conducted in one location.

Forms, guidelines and lists of frequently asked questions pertaining to business licensing can be found on the City’s website at www.capecoral.net under the “Request Help with” navigation option. Questions also can be directed to the Licensing/Business Tax Division at (239) 574-0430.

Santa Barbara Boulevard Widening Project Continues

In May 2009, work crews began constructing the lanes on the east side of Santa Barbara Boulevard from SW 8th Street to SE 11th Terrace and from Veterans Parkway to SW 28th Street. The road construction work will move north to south on the east side of the road in this phase. The west side of Santa Barbara Boulevard will remain open for two-way traffic. Motorists are reminded that left turns from side streets onto Santa Barbara Boulevard are not permitted during this phase of construction. This restriction is in place to keep motorists and construction crews safe while traveling through the construction area.

Recently, the project team completed the improvements to the intersection of Santa Barbara Boulevard and Hancock Bridge Parkway, and opened all travel lanes on Santa Barbara Boulevard from SW 28th Terrace to Gleason Parkway. In addition, various types of landscape were placed in different areas of Santa Barbara Boulevard from SE 19th Street to SE 21st Street, and south of Veterans Parkway to include royal and sabal palms, live oaks, ixoras, holly and society garlic. Improvements along this section of Santa Barbara Boulevard from just south of SR 78/Pine Island Road to Gleason Parkway will include widening the road from four to six lanes, the installation of curbs and gutters, street lighting, landscaping, six-foot sidewalks and new traffic signals. Final phase work will continue over the next year with an anticipated completion of spring 2011.

For more information about the City of Cape Coral Roadway Improvement projects, please contact Maricelle Venegas, Public Information Specialist, at (239) 707-9050 or visit us at www.capecoraltransportation.com.

Citizens Academy this Summer

This Citizens Academy is a 12-week class that will teach citizens about City government and how the processes work. The City offers two opportunities each year to participate, and the second class will be starting this summer.

The academy focuses on what is involved with running one of the largest cities in Florida. Participants will spend about 50 hours learning about each City department, the City’s charter schools and the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Take the challenge and discover for yourself. Sign up at www.capeacademy.com. Enrollment is open to Cape Coral residents, and class size is limited. Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at 574-0446 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.
Hurricane ........................ continued from page 1

Know Your Elevation

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, while it is still sunny.

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 located on Nicholas Parkway, and from City Hall on Cultural Park Boulevard. 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 the All Hazards guide in Spanish and Creole to assist our diversified population in preparing for storms.

When considering a disaster plan, please remember to plan for any pets, and have food, water, and a pet carrier on hand for them. Pets are not allowed in shelters, although limited availability with certain restrictions will now be made at the Lee County Civic Center. Please contact Lee County Emergency Management at 533-3622 for additional details.

If you or a member of your family need 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 533-3640. 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 160,000 + residents). Because of the lack of space, shelters should only be used as a last resort. A list of shelters is in the Lee County 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 across the river 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 waiting period for flood insurance. It is recommended that all homeowners in Cape Coral carry flood insurance to help cover damages sustained by water other than storm surge.
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 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.capecoral.net.

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, former Director of the National Hurricane Center said, “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.

2010 Storm Season – Cape Coral’s Flooding Threat

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

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

In 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall on the southwest coast of Florida, near Cayo Costa, with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots. Because the eye shrunk considerably in the 12 hours before landfall, these extreme winds were confined to a very small area, reducing storm surge potential. During landfall, the local area received an average of 3.91 inches of rainfall. Other municipalities within Florida reported storm surge of more than 7 feet and North Naples reported rainfall of 7.48 inches.

If a hurricane watch is issued, please keep in mind that every hurricane is different. Base an action plan on information specifically pertaining to the incoming storm.

The flood map in this publication is transcribed from large-scale flood maps and shows the “Special Flood Hazard Area” (SFHA) within the City of Cape Coral. The SFHA is the area where floodplain management regulations must be enforced and mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. The SFHA includes Zones AE and VE. These large-scale flood maps and other flood protection references are available at City Hall and the Cape Coral Public Library. If you would like assistance with reading the map, please call (239) 574 0553 to ask for help from the Planning and Growth Management Division staff.

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

➤ What You Can Do:

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

• Do not dump or throw anything into the swales, drainage inlets, canals, basins or river. Dumping into these waters is a violation of City of Cape Coral Code of Ordinances, Section 9-15. This includes lawn clippings, horticultural trimmings, dirt and fill material, and other construction debris. Keep in mind that any dirt or lawn clippings blown into the street eventually will be washed into the drainage system. Also, all construction sites are required to have erosion protection devices, as silt and sand can reduce the capacity of the drainage system. If this occurs, the drainage system cannot carry the water away as the system was engineered to do. If you see materials entering into or any dumping into the stormwater system, or any water body, please notify Code Compliance at (239) 574 0613.

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Flooding

- If your property is next to a drainage inlet, canal, or river, please keep inlets open and the banks clear of brush and debris.
- Always check with the Building Division, at (239) 574 0546, before you build on, alter, regrade, or deposit fill on your property. You may need a permit to ensure that your project does not cause drainage problems on other properties nearby. If you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted, please notify Code Compliance at (239) 574 0613.

➤ Property Protection Measures

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

Measures to protect a property from flood damage include retrofitting, re-grading your yard, and correcting local drainage problems. If your property has a low finished floor elevation, you may consider retrofitting your structure. If you don’t know your property’s current elevation, you can obtain copies of elevation certificates for all buildings that were built since 1993 through the City Clerk’s Office, by calling (239) 574 0411. Retrofitting can include elevating the structure, flood-proofing doors and walls, re-grading, or installing earthen berms and/or concrete walls. Although these remedies may require a considerable investment, professionals may recommend these measures to help protect your property during flooding.

If you need advice on retrofitting a structure to address flooding concerns, the City can provide this for you. If requested, an employee from the Community Development Department will, at no charge, visit your property and explain ways to prevent flood damage. We can also offer assistance with your selection process if you need to hire a qualified contractor or consultant to help you solve and/or prevent a particular flooding problem. If you are in a floodplain or have had a flood, drainage, or sewer backup problem, check out these sources of assistance. Please contact the Planning & Growth Management Division at (239) 242-3204, if you need such technical assistance.

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

➤ Flood Insurance

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

➤ Substantial Improvement Requirements

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

➤ Natural and Beneficial Functions of Wetlands

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

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

➤ Emergency Warning System:

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

The City of Cape Coral has the CodeRED high-speed telephone emergency notification service. The CodeRED system gives City officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone information to targeted areas or the entire city at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. Visit the City of Cape Coral website at www.capecoral.net or call (239) 242 3901 to enter your contact information in the CodeRED database.

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

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

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Flood Safety: continued from page 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Hurricane Evacuation Safety Tips**

  Experts who have studied the problem of storm damage and ways to mitigate the consequences formulated the recommendations provided herein. Additional information is available in the Lee County All Hazards Guide, prepared by Lee County Emergency Management. The guide is available at City Hall, Fire & Police Headquarters, the library, the post office, and online at www.leeecoc.com.

  By considering this information, attending hurricane seminars, purchasing flood insurance, and tuning into media broadcasts and other sources of information, you may prevent loss of property and life.

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Deputy Police Chief Bart Connelly Graduates from FBI National Academy

Cape Coral Deputy Police Chief Bart Connelly recently graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Connelly has been with the Cape Coral Police Department since 1988 and currently heads the Operations Division.

The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for law enforcement leaders from the United States and international countries. The course serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad, and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge and cooperation worldwide.

About 250 law enforcement and military officers attend each session of the National Academy, which is a 10-week course consisting of undergraduate and graduate courses in behavioral science, forensic science, leadership, legal issues, counterterrorism and health/fitness. Officers participate in a wide range of leadership and specialized training, and share ideas, techniques, and experiences with each other, creating lifelong partnerships that span state and national lines.

“T am deeply honored to have been a member of the 240th session of the FBI National Academy and graduated with some of the finest law enforcement executives in the field,” said Deputy Chief Connelly. “The knowledge gained and the partnerships formed at the National Academy will no doubt add great value to my ability to serve the citizens of Cape Coral.”

In addition to required course work, Connelly completed eight fitness events including a 9-mile run/obstacle course and a 34-mile swim challenge.

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Cape Coral Testing LED Lighting for Streetlights

Cape Coral is one of the first cities in the nation to test energy-saving LED lighting for streetlights. Workers recently installed the first prototype in a light fixture along Cape Coral Parkway.

The idea is to tap into high-power, energy-efficient LED lights to use less energy, yet provide a powerful light source. EnviroGreen Technologies is based in Fort Myers and manufactures the LED prototype to fit within the existing light fixture, thus saving the City money.

The City budgets $22,000 in maintenance costs per year for the 120 traditional light fixtures along Cape Coral Parkway. Each of these bulbs needs to be replaced every year. In comparison, the LED lights have an expected life of 10 years and provide energy savings of up to 75 percent.

City staff will evaluate the new technology for the quality and consistency of light output, durability and actual energy savings. Future installations are planned along Diplomat Parkway and U.S. 41. If all goes well, high-powered, energy-efficient LED lights could replace our traditional streetlights.
Bonnie Potter Retires as City Clerk

Bonnie Potter moved to Cape Coral from New Jersey in January 1975. She was enjoying going to the beach and shopping with Mary Helen Cottrell, the wife of the City’s part-time City Attorney Jim Cottrell. With Jim tiring of his wife spending money every day, and Bonnie’s money supply running short, she took him up on his suggestion to apply for a job as a Minutes Clerk. Back then, typing minutes was done on a typewriter with no whiteout. An error meant starting over.

Bonnie eventually became the Deputy City Clerk. In 1993, Council removed all deputy positions from the budget, so City Clerk Eula Jorgensen decided to retire and allow Bonnie to move in the Clerk’s position in 1994.

One of the main things Bonnie learned from Helen Peck, the City’s first City Clerk, was to stay in the middle and never take sides especially when conducting the elections. That philosophy allowed Bonnie to serve for 17 years as the City Clerk and work for eight city managers, four acting city managers, several mayors and dozens of city council members.

Bonnie enjoyed helping and working with the citizens the most. As her office is the central hub for public records, she often responded to the requests of the citizens, and loved being able to research and find the appropriate documents. She also has worked with hundreds of City employees throughout the years.

“Most of the employees I have worked with are very hard working and dedicated to their jobs, and they truly want to help the public,” said Bonnie. “They care about Cape Coral, and they have chosen to live here, pay taxes and raise their families in Cape Coral.”

Bonnie plans to write a book called "If these Walls Could Talk – 35 years in City Hall." The book will focus on her memories of the ups and downs of her life at City Hall. She and her husband, Bill, plan on doing some traveling and have trips set to Africa, New England, Washington DC and South Dakota. She also plans on spending more time with her parents, Jack and Betty Mullen, who still live in Cape Coral, and her step grandchildren, Sofia and Sam.

“It will be nice not getting up at 6 a.m. and hurrying off to work,” said Bonnie. “I can now sit on the back porch with my cats, Ricky and Lucy, and have my coffee and read the newspaper. After 35 years, that sounds good to me.”

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Cape Coral PAL Boxer Wins State Golden Glove Championship

Three other team members win District championships

A boxer with the Cape Coral Police Athletic League’s team won the state Golden Gloves championship in Miami on April 17. Alston Williams, from Mariner Middle School, won the 110 lb. weight class for the 13/14-year-old division by scoring a technical knockout over Jeremiah Boone, Davie FL.

Three other team members, along with Williams, won their division championships in Florida’s North District Golden Glove championships in Punta Gorda on March 26-27.

- Brennan Williams (Pine Island Elementary School) won the 85 lb. weigh class in the 11/12-year-old division.
- Joey Cignek (Diplomat Middle School) won the 85 lb. weight class in the 13/14-year-old division.
- Charlie Hughes (Mariner High School) won the 165 lb. weight class in the 15/16-year-old division.

Alston Williams also qualified to represent the state of Florida at the regional Junior Olympic State Championships in Augusta, GA.

The PAL boxing team will be traveling to Port St. Lucie on June 5 for a boxing match. Included in the competition will be one of the team’s female boxers, Andrea Binns from Mariner High School, who has been working hard in the gym this past year preparing for competition. This will be her first match. The next competition for the team will July 2-4 in Orlando for the Platinum Gloves competition.

For more information about the Cape Coral PAL Boxing Team, contact the Youth Center at (239) 242-3950.
July as “National Parks and Recreation Month”

Parks are one of the few places where it all comes together – good health, a sense of community, respect for nature, and ties to our past and future. In recognition of all the positive benefits that start in parks, the Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department is proud to join other municipalities across the state and nation in celebrating July as “National Parks and Recreation Month.”

As part of the month-long celebration, several of Cape Coral’s recreation centers will be offering free open houses and special events. In addition, local children’s artwork featuring Cape Coral parks will be on display in City Hall. There will be a variety of “Family Golf Month” specials featured at Coral Oaks Golf Course, and the Marine Services Division is offering a free boat trailer parking day at all of the City’s public boat ramps. To see a complete list of activities and specials being offered during the month of July, see the Parks and Recreation insert located in the middle of this newsletter, or visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.CapeParks.com.

Even in the heat of the summer, there are numerous ways for people to recreate and enjoy leisure. The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department maintains 39 parks and recreational facilities, including 20 parks with covered picnic shelters (which can be reserved in advance for a nominal fee), 19 parks with playground areas, a 14-acre water park, a community pool, and several parks with amenities including boat ramps, tennis/basketball courts and walking/exercise trails. Be sure to get out of the house this summer and take advantage of all the recreational opportunities our local parks offer.

To view a complete Cape Coral parks map, find out about upcoming activities, and/or to register for classes and programs online, visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.CapeParks.com. Whether your motivation is achieving better health, making new friends, or getting more involved in your community, It Starts in Parks.

VA Clinic Construction Continues

Since January’s groundbreaking of the city’s new VA Medical Clinic, workers have poured more than 5,000 yards of concrete and installed nearly 800 tons of steel. Almost all of the underground utilities are in place, along with detention ponds and specialized vibro-replacement piers. Later this month, three emergency generators will be brought in, and workers will pour more concrete on an elevated deck on the second floor of the east building.

The construction is being overseen by Naples-based Kraft Construction, Inc. The company estimates that as many as 600 workers will be involved in the clinic’s construction, most of them from Southwest Florida. Once completed, the new VA Medical Clinic will encompass 220,000 square feet, nearly three times the size of the VA clinic in Fort Myers.

When the facility opens in early 2012, it will employ more than 400 doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical staff. The clinic will offer expanded services to include minor surgeries and specialized assistance for women. The $131 million medical facility is located at Corbett Road and Diplomat Parkway.

Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Raises $725 for Special Olympics

Cape Coral Police and supporters raised $725 during their annual Law Enforcement Torch Run on April 30. There were 25 runners who participated in the 10.5-mile run, including officers and detectives from the SWAT team, Investigative Services Bureau, Street Patrol, and Vice, Intelligence and Narcotics Unit.

The Torch Run is an intrastate relay involving more than 300 city, county, state and federal agencies throughout 67 counties in Florida. Lee County’s 10.5-mile leg began at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and traveled north along U.S. 41 to the Big Lots parking lot near Pondella Road. This is the fifth year for the charity run.

Sign Up for CodeRED Emergency Alert System

Residents, business owners and employees of the City of Cape Coral are reminded to sign up for the CodeRED Emergency Alert System. By entering your contact information in the database, you will receive notification of emergencies through the services of a high-speed telephone emergency notification service called CodeRED.

The CodeRED system gives city officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone notifications to the entire City or to geographically targeted areas at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. Officials from Emergency Management, the Fire Department, and the Police Department have been trained on the system to ensure all citizens can be informed of any emergency public safety issues.

“The City always will use the media as their primary contact for getting information out to the public with emergency situations,” said Fire Chief Bill Van Helden. “However, CodeRED gives us another tool to communicate directly with our citizens in the event of an emergency.”

While the CodeRED system has an existing database of home and business phone numbers, citizens are strongly encouraged to log on to the City’s website (www.capecoral.net) and follow the link for CodeRED to register their current information. Those without Internet access can call the Citizen's Action Center at 574-0425 to request their name and number be added.

Businesses should register, as well as individuals who have unlisted phone numbers. Anyone who may have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who prefer to be notified by their cell phones should sign up.
City Staff Reduces Current Year’s Budget in Anticipation of Revenue Drop

With another decline in property values anticipated for the FY2011 budget, the City administration began looking at the current year’s budget for possible reductions. At a staff retreat in December 2009, all areas of government were evaluated.

Since that retreat, staff has brought forward three budget change packages for City Council consideration. With Council’s approval, these changes increased the General Fund’s undesignated reserves by $4.4 million – dollars that could be used to offset the revenue shortfalls anticipated in FY2011.

The first of the packages was approved on January 25. Several vacant positions were eliminated to include six firefighters, one fire lieutenant, five police officers, two customer service representatives for Police records, and a technology technician in Community Development. Other personnel-related actions included the conversion of a vacant Information Technology service desk support technician to a contract position, elimination of a filled clerical position in the Fire Department, and the reduction of overtime funding for the Fire Department. Other changes included the downsizing of the expansion project for the Emergency Operations Center, which was funded by All Hazards funds, for a savings of $1.16 million. Additionally, the General Fund disaster reserve is being re-established using All Hazards dollars.

The second of the three packages was approved on March 1. The changes included the elimination of a Code Compliance Supervisor, converting two Parks and Recreation positions from fulltime to contract, and reducing overtime funding for Information Technology, Human Resources, and Parks and Recreation. Travel and training reductions also were made in the City Manager’s Office, Economic Development Office, Financial Services, City Clerk, Information Technology, Community Development, and Parks and Recreation. One other adjustment included reimbursing the General Fund from the Solid Waste Agency Fund for administrative costs of providing notification and assessment billing services.

The third package was approved on April 12. The adjustments included a reduction in the personnel budget for the Public Works Department where salary savings from delaying the filling of certain positions in conjunction with the department’s FY2010 reorganization were removed. Additionally, the General Fund will receive a reimbursement from the Alarm Fee Fund for services provided during the period of FY 2005 – 2009 related to false alarm responses.

City staff continues to review the current budget as they plan for the FY2011 budget, and additional savings may still be identified.
**Rotary Park Butterfly House**

A new butterfly house has been donated to Rotary Park by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. The butterfly house will attract native butterflies, which are fascinating to watch as they transform from egg stage to a beautiful butterfly. All stages of their life cycle can be viewed in the butterfly house.

Not only are butterflies enjoyable to watch but they also serve an important roll in the ecosystem as pollinators and food for birds. At Rotary Park, you can walk through the butterfly gardens around the butterfly house and see the native plants that can attract these beautiful creatures to your yard.

The butterfly house was built by volunteers with the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, who also donated plants and supplies. Home Depot donated construction supplies, and Cape Coral Parks and Recreation also worked on the project as well. The North American Butterfly Association has donated money to help maintain the butterfly house, and Cape Coral’s Special Populations Division will help maintain the butterfly house and garden. In addition, friends and neighbors of Rotary Park donated time, plants and flower pots.

The new butterfly house is an excellent community partnership to help educate the public about butterflies and their role in the environment. Stop by the Rotary Park Environmental Center, which is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Call (239) 549-4606 to tour the butterfly house or register for one of the butterfly gardening classes offered at the park.

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**City Receives $92,000 through Retiree Drug Subsidy Program**

The City of Cape Coral currently has 528 retirees, 231 of whom are Medicare-eligible. One of the benefits the City provides to their retirees is a retiree drug subsidy (RDS). This subsidy is one of several options available under Medicare, which enables employers and unions to assist their Medicare-eligible retirees in obtaining more generous drug coverage. The RDS generally is considered the easiest and most straightforward of the available options from Medicare. This subsidy often can be implemented with little or no benefit design changes to current coverage.

By closely monitoring the application and reconciliation process, the City is able to receive funds from the RDS program, and this past April, the City received $92,759. Since the RDS program began in 2006, the City has collected $268,420.

For more information on the retiree drug subsidy program, visit: http://rds.cms.hhs.gov.

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**Voters to Decide on Future Growth and Development with Hometown Democracy Amendment on November Ballot**

In addition to many statewide elections on the November ballot for Floridians, an amendment to the state constitution also will be in front of the voters. Amendment 4 (aka "Florida Hometown Democracy") is a referendum on who manages community growth and development.

Amendment 4 will allow citizens to vote directly on whether to make changes in local comprehensive land-use plans, which determine what kind of development goes where. If approved next November, this amendment would give voters the final say over projects such as retail stores, businesses, residential developments and public schools.

This amendment resulted from a petition drive by a group of individuals who acquired the necessary signatures to place the initiative on the ballot. Hometown Democracy puts the decision-making authority over land-use changes in the hands of citizens rather than the elected officials, city planners and developers.

Is this a good idea? Ultimately, voters will decide if they want to have all growth decisions placed before them rather than their elected City Council representatives. If the amendment passes, then any change to Cape Coral’s comprehensive plan could be subject to voter approval. Because of the nature of planning and engineering, the ballot questions could be highly technical in nature.

Proponents of Amendment 4 say that this will lead to better land-use decisions, and protect property values and neighborhoods. They also believe this will eliminate sprawl and not affect essential services.

Opponents say Amendment 4 will reduce jobs and economic growth as potential developers decide that Florida’s development process is too cumbersome, risky and costly. Businesses could be forced to spend dollars on referendum campaigns, and perhaps wage legal challenges or defend the results of a ballot decision.

For comparison, a version of Hometown Democracy was adopted by voters in St. Pete Beach in 2006 to prevent a proliferation of high-rise condos. As a result of some of the decisions, the City of St. Pete Beach (population 10,000) is dealing with some legal challenges related to the land-use plan. The City incurred more than $240,000 in legal fees in fiscal year 2009 and budgeted $265,000 in 2010. City officials are trying to determine how to cover the legal fees associated with zoning decisions made by the voters.

The voters of St. Pete Beach recently decided to change this comprehensive voter approval process for land-use changes. On November 3, 2009, the electorate voted to limit the scope of planning changes to be placed before the voters.

Cape Coral encourages voters to take time to become fully informed on the pros and cons regarding Amendment 4 before going to the polls on Tuesday, November 2. There are several pro/con websites online where voters can gather information from both sides before voting in November.
Cape Police Chief Rob Petrovich to Retire June 25

After 26 years on the force, Cape Coral Police Chief Rob Petrovich has decided to retire. His final day on the job will be June 25.

Petrovich was hired by the Cape Coral Police Department on June 25, 1984. Cape Coral’s population was about 40,000 people at that time, and the city had a much smaller retail and commercial base.

“Our crime concerns in the city certainly were much different back then with Cape Coral having more of a small town environment,” said Petrovich. “We had crime but it was not on the scale of what we see today with 162,000 people.”

Petrovich served in nearly every capacity as a police officer. He started out as a patrol officer and spent time as a field training officer. He was promoted through the ranks, attaining the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, commander, major and deputy chief. He worked in Patrol, Special Complaints and Traffic, and Investigative Services. Petrovich was a detective in Vice, Intelligence and Narcotics where he worked undercover. In September 2006, he was named the Police Chief.

“The growth that we experienced brought a change in demographics with younger families moving here and creating an increase in the juvenile population,” said Petrovich. “We saw greater demands on the public schools and with more youth in the community, an increase in juvenile crime.”

Petrovich also sees a difference in the philosophy of individuals who want to become police officers today.

“The dynamics of police leadership and its relevance to today’s younger generation of personnel has also presented unique challenges to train, maintain and foster an effective police work culture,” he said. “We just have to do things differently today.”

Petrovich says he always enjoyed trying to make a difference for the better whether it was for the people who worked for or with him, or the citizens in the community. He is proud that Cape Coral remains one of Florida’s safest cities, and that his department is considered a Flagship Agency with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He was glad that he was able to be here when the department moved into their new, modern police building.

When asked about his most difficult memory as police chief, Petrovich says it was the near-fatal accident of Cape Motorcycle Officer Damien Garcia and the death of Telecommunicator Michelle Olsen, who died from Swine flu.

“Those incidents were difficult for everyone for many reasons,” said Petrovich. “Damien was in a coma for a long time, and we were not sure he would even survive. Michelle was a 30-year-old mother of three children. Helping my staff cope with these events was my main responsibility as the chief, and they were difficult situations for me.”

Petrovich says he made the decision to leave after much contemplation. Ultimately, he decided that he wanted to spend more time with his family and enjoy a renewed and refreshed outlook on life. He plans to become more active with his church and continue teaching part-time as an adjunct professor at a local college.

Rebecca van Deutekom is New City Clerk

City Manager Carl Schwing has appointed Rebecca van Deutekom as Cape Coral’s new City Clerk. She replaced long-time City Clerk Bonnie Potter who retired at the end of April after 35 years with the City.

Rebecca has been the Executive Assistant to the City Manager since May 2007. She was a Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Estes Park, Colorado for 5½ years and holds the professional designation as a Certified Municipal Clerk issued by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Rebecca and her husband, Mike, originally are from Louisiana. They moved to Estes Park, Colorado in 1984. In 2004, they decided to leave the cold winters of Estes and moved to Cape Coral. Mike is a former police commander with the Town of Estes Park. After moving to Cape Coral, he took a position with the City’s Code Compliance Division in May 2005. Rebecca and Mike have two adult children—a son and a daughter. As a side note: Rebecca’s nephew, Ryan Theriot, is the starting shortstop for the Chicago Cubs.

City Staff Works with Residents to Reduce Noise Impact at Everest Reclamation Plant

When City workers at the reclamation plant on Everest Parkway received a complaint from a homeowner about a high-pitched noise coming from the pumps, they decided to see if they could devise a simple, inexpensive fix to the problem. While the noise levels were far from the maximum allowable decibel levels per City ordinance, City staff wanted to try to accommodate the concerns of the neighboring residents.

The high-pitched whine comes from the reuse pumps used for the City’s irrigation system. The noise from the motors is the loudest during the late hours when residents are watering their lawns.

To help minimize the noise, workers created a modification to the decorative block wall that surrounds four of the reuse pumps. The City staff used fiberglass sound dampeners, Styrofoam sheathing and plywood to reduce the noise level outside of the reuse pump building. The dampeners were positioned at the top of the decorative block to allow for air ventilation, and Styrofoam and plywood were used to cover the remainder of the openings. City workers also placed Styrofoam and plywood around the door opening on the northern side of the building. The final modification involved blocking the opening to the 36-inch reuse discharge pipe.

The reuse pump room modification completed by the City staff appears to have significantly reduced the high-pitched noise levels along Everest Parkway much to the appreciation of the homeowners. Workers were able to do the modification at a cost of only about $516.
Jennifer Artiles is Named Cape Coral’s “Student of the Year” at Do The Right Thing Annual Picnic

Jennifer Artiles, and 8th grader at Challenger Middle School, was named “Student of the Year” for Cape Coral at the annual Do the Right Thing regional picnic on April 24 at Lakes Park. The picnic is hosted by police departments from Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lee County and Collier County. During the event, four students were recognized as “Student of the Year” by their respective law enforcement agencies.

Jennifer is the daughter of Marilyn Luque and Orlando Artiles. Jennifer’s mom is fighting advanced stages of cancer, which has spread to several organs in her body. Jennifer accompanies her mom on weekly trips to Miami for chemotherapy treatments and is constantly by her mom’s side. She also helps interpret between the medical professionals and her dad.

At home, Jennifer does her mom’s housework, helps her dad with food preparation, and cares for her 5-year-old brother by reading to him and helping him with his homework.

“My mom did everything for me when I was little, so the least I can do is help take care of her,” said Jennifer.

While Jennifer has missed school because of the trips to Miami, she never makes excuses. She maintains all A’s and carries a 4.0 grade point average. She remains focused in class and does every extra credit assignment possible.

Jennifer’s teacher says she is polite and respectful. She never has a negative comment and looks down on no one. In fact, Jennifer will offer to work with another student when she knows no one else is willing. Jennifer says that she does what she does because she knows her mom “wants her to be someone.”

Congratulations to Jennifer and all the regional winners, as well as every student recognized during the year through the Do The Right Thing program. These students have saved lives, helped fellow students, raised money for a charity, reported drugs or weapons in their schools, and organized mailings to soldiers. They are role models for their peers, and thanks to the Do The Right Thing program, they can be recognized by the community for their actions.

If you know a student who was caught doing the right thing, contact Cape Coral’s DTRT Coordinator Cindy Naumann at 242-3342 to find out how to nominate him/her for the award.

City’s Charter Schools Offer Complete Learning Experience

The City of Cape Coral Charter Schools offer a pre-K – 12th grade educational opportunity for Cape Coral residents. The City’s charter school system has four beautiful facilities: Christa McAuliffe Elementary, Oasis Elementary, Oasis Middle, and Oasis High School. All of the schools are A-rated and staffed with certified teachers who inspire young lives.

Because of the smaller size, the schools have a family atmosphere between parents, staff, and students. Although many grade levels have waiting lists, parents are encouraged to visit the schools, and let the principals know if you would like to be a part of their growing community.

Personal tours from the principals are available anytime by calling for an appointment.

The new high school features a challenging Cambridge curriculum to prepare students for college success, a state-of-the-art Culinary Arts program taught by a four-star chef, a full array of sports programs and business/entrepreneurial programs.

For more information, call the schools at the following numbers:

➤ Oasis High School • (239) 541-1167
➤ Oasis Middle School • (239) 945-1999
➤ Oasis Elementary School • (239) 542-1577
➤ Christa McAuliffe Elementary School • (239) 283-4511

New Driver License Requirements

New requirements are in effect for renewing or obtaining a driver license or ID card in the state of Florida. Applicants must provide specific proof of identification. The lists below show the proper ID required when you visit a local driver licenses office. You must bring documents from each of the three categories below:

- **Primary Identification** – Bring one of the following (original or certified copies):
  - Certified U.S. birth certificate includes territories and District of Columbia
  - Valid U.S. passport or passport card
  - Consular report of birth abroad
  - Certificate of Naturalization, Form N-550 or N-570
  - Certificate of Citizenship, Form N-560 or N-561

- **Social Security Number** – Bring one of the following:
  - Social Security Card (if issued)
  - W-2 form
  - Pay check stub showing Social Security number
  - Letter from Social Security Administration

- **Residential Address** – Bring two of the following:
  - Deed, mortgage, payment book or rental agreement
  - Florida vehicle registration or title
  - Utility bill or hookup work order
  - Statement from person you live with along with two address documents in that person’s name

- **If you need to do a name change for your driver license**, you must bring the documents from three categories listed PLUS you must bring the appropriate documents listed below:
  - Court order
  - Marriage certificate
  - Divorce decree
  - Naturalization certificate

For more information and a complete list of documents required, visit www.GatherGoGet.com.