



On The Move

A Quarterly Update From Your City Hall



Declining Aquifer Raising Concerns for Southwest Cape Homeowners

Thousands of wells may go dry if irrigation use is not curtailed.

Homeowners on private wells in the Southwest Cape are under pressure to reduce irrigation or watch their wells go dry due to a declining aquifer. More than 4,000 homes may be in jeopardy of losing their potable water supply during the dry season if residents continue to use significant quantities of water to irrigate their lawns.

Earlier this year, the City received dozens of phone calls from frustrated residents whose private wells stopped functioning as the water table dropped below the level required for the pump to function. The rainy season only temporarily eased the problem; however, as residents enter this dry season, the groundwater aquifer sits 10 feet lower than at the same time last year.

"We need the residents in the Southwest Cape to understand the gravity of the situation," said Chuck Pavlos, Public Works director. "With a lower water table and hundreds of new homes in

the area, having thousands of wells go dry is not beyond the realm of possibilities."

Without question, the greatest impact on the aquifer is the irrigation use. The City is working with the South Florida Water Management District on an action plan to address the situation. There are about 4,000 homes in the Southwest Cape that have wells sitting at the 80-ft. to 100-ft. depth. These homes are at risk of losing their potable water supply unless all residents in the area reduce their use of well water for irrigation. The SFWMD and the City are prepared to take steps to see that this happens including implementing tighter watering restrictions, and increased enforcement and fines.

"This is a problem that will not go away after one dry season," added Pavlos. "We will not be able to provide City water and sewer to this area until we expand the capacity at the water plant and wastewater treatment plants. That's at least

three years away, so we need the residents in the Southwest to practice some serious water conservation for the near future."

Please review the watering schedule included in this newsletter. All Cape Coral residents must follow the year-round watering schedule, and homeowners in the Southwest Cape who use private wells for irrigation should plan to restrict their watering even more than the schedule requires. The wells in the Southwest Cape will make it through the upcoming dry seasons only through extraordinary efforts by the residents.

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City Will Conduct 2005 Citizen's Survey

The City of Cape Coral will be conducting its biennial Citizen's Survey in early-2005. Every two years, the City surveys the community and uses the input to guide the budgeting process. Based on the results, the City Council may direct funding toward priorities identified in the survey.

To ensure accuracy and reliability in the data collected, the City will be using an outside firm to conduct the survey this year. The National Research Center, Inc. has created a "National Citizen Survey" that municipalities can use to acquire public opinion. The Center is associated with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and staff members employ scientific methods in conducting the research for the city. By using tried and true methods of data collection and cleaning, the City is assured of receiving good and valid results.

About 1,200 residents will be selected randomly to participate in the mail survey. We encourage anyone who receives a survey from the Center to respond to the questions. Each person who receives a survey represents more than 100 citizens, so your input is very important as we move forward with gathering opinions from the community.

City of Cape Coral Council Members

District 1



Gloria Tate
239-549-4921
gtate@capecoral.net

District 2



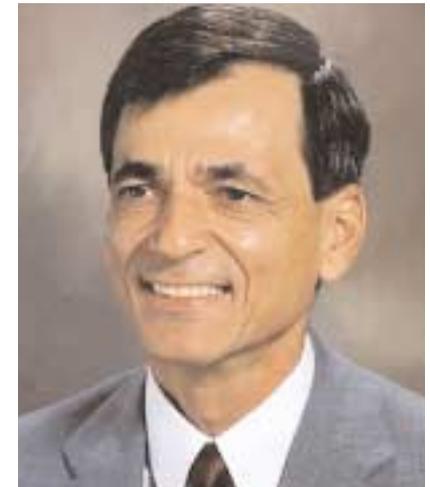
Richard Stevens
239-542-1457
rstevens@capecoral.net

District 3



AJ Boyd
239-945-6665
aboyn@capecoral.net

District 4



Paul Asfour
239-945-6131
pasfour@capecoral.net

District 5



Alex LePera
239-574-6112
alepera@capecoral.net

District 6



Tim Day
239-283-9884
tday@capecoral.net

District 7



Mickey Rosado
239-458-2074
mrosado@capecoral.net

City of Cape Coral Administration

City Attorney
Dolores Menendez

City Auditor
Dona J. Newman

City Manager
Terry Stewart

Assistant City Manager
Howard Kunik

City Clerk
Bonnie Vent

Community Development
Carl Schwing, Director

Economic Development
Mike Jackson, Director

Financial Services
Mark Mason, Director

Fire Services
Bill Van Helden, Chief

Human Resources
Phil Jackson, Director

Information Technology Services
John MacLean, Director

Parks and Recreation
Steve Pohlman, Director

Police Department
Dan Alexander, Chief

Public Works
Chuck Pavlos, Director

Editor/Public Information Director
Connie Barron

On The Move is a quarterly newsletter produced by the City of Cape Coral for the citizens of the city. The publication is mailed as a courtesy to every household and business in the city. Comments or questions can be directed to the City Manager's Office, P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027 or by e-mail to cmo@capecoral.net.

Mayor's Message

The year 2004 has been a year of unparalleled growth in Cape Coral. In the past fiscal year the City issued 5,379 permits for the construction of single family homes. When we add to that 278 duplex units and 844 multifamily residential units, we project a coming population growth of approximately 14,000 or more to be added to our current city population estimate of 135,000. We are one of the fastest growing cities in the United States among cities with populations over 100,000. Cape Coral is truly on the move.

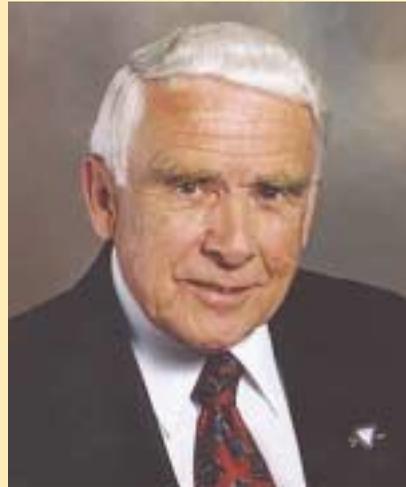
All growth presents problems to be resolved, and rapid growth in a 115-square-mile, pre-platted city presents problems in geometric proportions. While growth may never fully pay for itself, it nevertheless must be structured to pay reasonably to limit its cost to our property taxpayers. It is for that reason I have focused on growth paying more for growth in Cape Coral. Good planning and prioritizing are the essential matters that will promote smart growth, which is growth that is economically beneficial and environmentally friendly.

Being one of the largest cities in area in Florida, and with a projected build-out population of more than 400,000, it is critical that we plan well for our

development. One of our shortcomings is our heavy reliance on residential property value to carry the costs of governmental services. Many cities have three to four times the commercial and light industrial property tax base that we have.

For that reason, as well as the employment of our citizens, it is essential that we improve and expand our commercial and light industrial tax base. We now have a landowner who has filed a petition to have voluntarily annexed into our city about four square miles of unplatted property, generally along our northern boundary. I hope to present an ordinance for this annexation in the near future. It will provide lands for commercial and light industrial use that we need.

In closing for the year 2004, on behalf of the City Council and myself, we wish all a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous happy and healthy New Year.



CM's Message

Cape Coral is experiencing tremendous growth, and the pace shows no signs of slowing. While generally this is good news, our cover story illustrates the most serious challenge of growth - a diminishing water supply.

Residents expect to have a supply of drinking water available, and usually, this expectation can be met without cause for concern. However, earlier this year, homeowners on wells in the Southwest Cape experienced a loss of water when the water table declined significantly. The groundwater aquifer that supplies drinking water to these residents dropped below the pump level, and wells stopped working. Pumps had to be lowered as dozens of homes lost their drinking water supply.

We expect this problem to be more widespread this dry season. The groundwater aquifer is about 10 feet lower this year compared to this time last season. While we continue extending City utilities in the Southwest, the areas most affected by this aquifer will not receive utilities for at least two more years. Even if the City could extend water lines to these areas sooner, the City water and sewer plants do not have capacity to serve these homes.

This lack of capacity is accelerating the expansion and construction of water and sewer infrastructure. It is the driving force behind recently approved increases in the water and sewer impact fees, and establishment of an irrigation

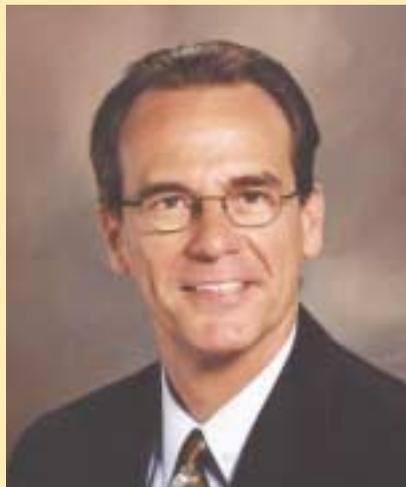
impact fee. The demand for a reliable source of potable water is one of the main reasons for proposed increases in the monthly water and sewer rates. These facilities have to be built soon or thousands of residents will run out of water.

This dry season will require extraordinary conservation efforts from homeowners in these affected areas. Watering lawns must be kept to the absolute minimum and no more. If you need to wash your car, take it to a car wash. Use low-water, native plants in your landscaping. Sweep your sidewalk and driveway with a broom, not the hose.

Ultimately, the responsibility rests with the homeowners, although the City is looking at options for water conservation in the Southwest area. This could include stricter limitations on watering and increased enforcement. We prefer voluntary cooperation; however, the situation is so serious, we cannot afford to take this cooperation for granted.

Residents who live in the Southwest and do not have City utilities will need to work together to ensure a continued supply of drinking water this dry season. If not, homeowners will take a hit in the pocketbook - either from the cost to lower their wells or the fine for violating the watering ordinance. Let's try to prevent both from occurring.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Charter School Receives \$2,250 in Donations

The City of Cape Coral Charter School system received \$2,250 in private contributions from businesses and residents of Cape Coral. The charter school system is soliciting donations from the community to assist in providing additional support and enhanced services for the schools.

The City will be opening the first municipal elementary charter school in the Southwest Cape in August 2005. A second elementary and a middle school are anticipated for the 2006 school year, with a high school coming online in 2007.

The Charter School Governing Board wishes to thank the following companies and individuals for their donations:

- Kobayashi Dojo, Inc. - \$250
- Miloff Aubuchon Realty Group, Inc. - \$100
- Spiro & Associates, Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations - \$100
- Omega Realty, Inc. - \$200
- Albert N. & Christine P. Baeza - \$350
- Hughes, Snell & Co., P.A. - \$250
- Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. - \$100
- Johnson Engineering, Inc. - \$200
- Gloria and Arthur Tate - \$100
- BJM Consulting, Inc. - \$100
- Bradco Supply Corporation - \$350
- Acra Electric Inc. - \$100

Citizens and businesses who want to show their support for these schools, which serve Cape Coral residents only, can mail a donation to:

City of Cape Coral Charter Schools
 Attn: Charter School Donations/Financial Services
 P.O. Box 150027
 Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027

City Conducts Sweep of Construction Sites for Unlicensed Contractors

By Randy Bell
 Licensing Investigator

A very active hurricane season resulted in a significant increase in the number of roof and home repairs. To ensure that the public was protected from unlicensed contract work, the Licensing Division conducted a sweep of the city on Saturday, October 30. The purpose of the sweep was to look for unlicensed contractors and construction work being conducted without a permit.

The detail included staff from the City Clerk's Office (Licensing Investigators Randy Bell and Mike Cummins), Community Development (Zoning Inspector Larry Rogowski and Inspection Representative Carlos Rosario), and the Police Department (Code Enforcement Officers Tom Seaman and Mel Wilsey).

The five-hour sweep throughout various areas of the city began at 7 a.m., concentrating on sites with ongoing roofing repair. The effort resulted in nine sites being "red tagged" with Stop Work orders for construction without a permit and two citations for unlicensed and unpermitted construction.

Code Supplements/Adopted Ordinances Online

The City Clerk's Office updates the City Code of Ordinances/Land Use Regulations about four times each year. These supplements contain ordinances recently adopted by City Council that change the Code of Ordinances/Land Use Regulations. These updates had required publishing a Code Supplement and mailing a notice to customers to pick up the supplement.

The City now has made this process easier by putting the supplements online. By adding the code supplements, as well as ordinances that have been adopted but not codified, citizens and businesses can get the latest City regulations just by visiting the City website.

To access the documents, go to www.capegov.org and select "City Codes" from the "Quick Links" dropdown menu. "Supplements to City Codes" and "Ordinances Enacted/Not Yet Codified" are listed on the Navigation bar on the left. These files are in PDF format and require Adobe Acrobat to open and read.

Council Adopts Increase in Utility Capital Expansion Fees

On November 9, City Council authorized the increase in the utility capital expansion fees. In addition to the existing capital expansion fees for water and wastewater, Council established a fee for irrigation service. The fees are imposed on new connections to the City's utilities systems (water, wastewater, and irrigation), and are used to support the orderly expansion of those systems.

The new fees become effective on January 1, 2005 and replace the previous fees established on January 1, 2001. The approved capital expansion fees for a single-family residential home are:

Water	\$1,714
Wastewater	\$1,738
Irrigation	\$ 857*

*Note: The Irrigation Fee is collected regardless of whether or not the customer connects to the City's irrigation system.

The utility capital expansion fees are not special assessments or additional taxes. Often referred to as "impact fees," the expansion fees are related to the level of service required by the property and generally reflect the financial impact the property has on the system. Fees collected can be used only for the capital expansion of the utility facilities and may not be used for improving, updating or bringing the present system into compliance with any change in the laws.

Additional information can be found by going to the City's website www.capegov.org and accessing the City Codes and Ordinances, Chapter 2 Article II, Division Fee, Sections 2-21 through 2-24.6.1.

Department of Community Development

Single-family Permits Hit Record Number

The total number of single-family permits issued in FY 2004 easily surpassed the previous year's total. The City processed 5,392 single-family permits through September 30, a 41 percent increase from FY 2003. During this same period, a total of 148,547 inspections were conducted for all permits issued, representing a 33 percent increase from the prior fiscal year.

The Permitting and Building divisions are being challenged by all of the construction activity in Cape Coral. While the staff continues to strive to meet the established service goals, the tremendous volume of permits (compounded by Hurricane Charley) is making the task more difficult. The City is asking all contractors to help the process by ensuring that all applications are completed properly before submission to avoid unnecessary delays. Owner/builders are encouraged to contact the Permitting Services Division at 239-574-0579 for a consultation prior to application submission.

Cape Coral Selected by U.S. Census Bureau for Monthly Construction Survey

The City of Cape Coral has been chosen to participate in the "Survey of Construction," a monthly survey of new residential construction conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau will collect data relative to new residential and multi-family permits issued. Cape Coral's data will be used in conjunction with other rapidly growing areas around the country to measure new housing starts and new housing sales.

The statistics are used to monitor the construction industry and the economy. According to Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, the Census Bureau's economic surveys are indispensable to understanding America's economy. The surveys ensure the accuracy of the statistics the Fed relies on for economic policy and for successful business planning.

Being chosen to participate is a reflection of how prominent Cape Coral has become on the national scene. Our growing economy and population are catching the attention of regional and national interests.

Circuit Breaker Recall Notice to Contractors/Homeowners

The Building Division has been notified by Schneider Electric, manufacturer of Square-D circuit breakers, that a mandatory recall has been ordered for all Square-D QO, QOB and Homeline arc-fault circuit breakers.

These recalled circuit breakers were manufactured between March 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004. While these breakers will function as an over-current device, they could fail for the needed arc-fault protection as required by the 2002 National Electric Code, Section 210.12. These circuit breakers are used for protection in sleeping areas and usually are identified with a blue "test" button located on the circuit breaker.

The City's electrical inspector will check the date codes of manufacturing on each unit at the time of the swing-over inspection or the final inspection. Even though the circuit breaker may work at the time of inspection, the breaker may fail at a later date and must be replaced. Only the circuit breakers manufactured with the above-mentioned dates are affected.

The contractor is responsible for ensuring that these particular circuit breakers are replaced. The City will notify the contractor and the property owner when one is recognized in the field. Even if the breaker is working at the time of inspection, the City will not issue a certificate of occupancy until the breaker is replaced or will approve the inspection, pending completion of the City's recall form by the contractor/homeowner prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.

Widespread Damage Sustained from Hurricane Charley

The Building Division is continuing efforts to provide permitting and inspections for the damage caused by Hurricane Charley. This may take up to one year or more to get all the necessary repairs made since 50 percent of all homes sustained some sort of damage and more than 65 percent of commercial property experienced some damage. The most common damage was roof damage. In many cases, the damage allowed for water intrusion, which caused additional interior problems.

Many residents and businesses are having difficulty getting qualified, specialty contractors to perform the required work. Plus, the available contractors are

having a problem acquiring the materials necessary to complete the work. Because of these circumstances, the city still has many residents who are displaced from either homes or businesses. It will take some time before the city recovers from the effects of this past hurricane season.

Planning Division

The City's Planning Division is processing the following major commercial and public facility Planned Development Projects (PDPs) for Cape Coral:

Commercial Center at Entrada

City staff is reviewing a PDP application from Realmark Group, LLC for this shopping center. This 49.66-acre parcel is located east of the proposed Entrada subdivision, west of U.S. 41 and north of the Del Prado Boulevard extension. This proposed subdivision contains a 27.95-acre shopping center tract, seven outparcels, a 1.17-acre multi-family tract and a 9.95-acre conservation area tract.

Fire Station #8

A PDP application is under review for a new City fire station to be located on Nicholas Parkway and SW 1st Street. The 2-acre site will be developed in three phases: Phase I will house the primary fire station facility; Phase II includes a 5-story training tower and a 3,750-square-foot storage building; and Phase III will accommodate a communications tower.

Hampton Inn & Suites

This planned development project proposed in the Downtown Community Redevelopment Area is under review by City staff. This 1.75-acre site consists of a four-story hotel and includes 75 rooms and a Tiki bar. This project will be located in the City's downtown CRA district on the northeast corner of SE 6th Avenue and SE 47th Terrace.

Home Depot

In November, City staff received a PDP application for the construction of a 119,466-square-foot Home Depot Improvement Center on a 15.45-acre tract. The project also includes four commercial outparcels, totaling 4.56 acres. The site is located at the southwest corner of Skyline Boulevard and Veteran's Parkway.

Information for City of Cape Coral General Election in 2005

The City of Cape Coral has eight elected officials: A Mayor, who is elected at large, and seven Council Members, who qualify in their respective districts but also are elected at large. Elected officials in Cape Coral are limited to serving two, consecutive four-year terms.

The primary election for the City is held the first Tuesday in March in the odd-numbered years. A primary election occurs if there are more than two qualifying candidates for Mayor or any given Council district. The general election will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April in odd-numbered years beginning in 2005.

For the municipal elections in 2005, the office of Mayor will be on the ballot as well as Council Members for Districts #1, #4 and #6. Each elected official will serve 4-year terms. City elections are nonpartisan.

The successful candidates take office on the first regular Council meeting after the date of the general election.

Here are important election dates for 2005:

January 10 - 14, 2005	Qualifying
March 1, 2005	Primary Election
April 5, 2005	General Election
April 11, 2005	Newly elected officials take office

CapeTV and League of Women Voters Partner to Host Candidates' Debates for Primary and General Elections

CapeTV, the City's 24-hour government access channel on Time Warner cable, is partnering with the League of Women Voters to host televised candidates' debates for the 2005 City of Cape Coral municipal elections. This is the first time that the League has hosted a candidates' forum for local elections in Cape Coral.

There will be two debates for each open seat, one prior to the primary election and the second debate prior to the general election. All debates will begin at 7 p.m. and last for 90 minutes, with the exception of the general election debate for mayor, which will be 60 minutes. The debates will be held in City Council Chambers at 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard. The debates are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend.

The tentative date for the primary debate for candidates in Council Districts #1, #4 and #6 will be Wednesday, February 16. The tentative date for the primary debate for candidates for Mayor will be Thursday, February 17.

The tentative dates for the general election debates will be Wednesday, March 23 for candidates in Council Districts #1, #4 and #6 and Thursday, March 24 for Mayor.

The League of Women Voters will provide the debate rules and establish the list of questions to be asked of each candidate. League representative Carol Fuechsel is soliciting questions from citizens in Cape Coral. If you have a question you would like asked of the candidates, please email them to Carol at carolbf@comcast.net.

The debates will be broadcast live on CapeTV. They also will be taped and replayed on CapeTV throughout the following week prior to the scheduled election dates. Please visit the City's website in January to confirm the debate dates and times. The website is www.capecoral.gov.

Watering Schedule for All Residents

The City of Cape Coral has a year-round watering schedule. Here are the days and times for all residents throughout the year. You can water a maximum of four hours per day; however, there is no watering allowed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You do not need to water on all three days, so please water only two days and use the third day as a make-up day.

EVEN numbered addresses (1926 SE 8th Street)
Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday

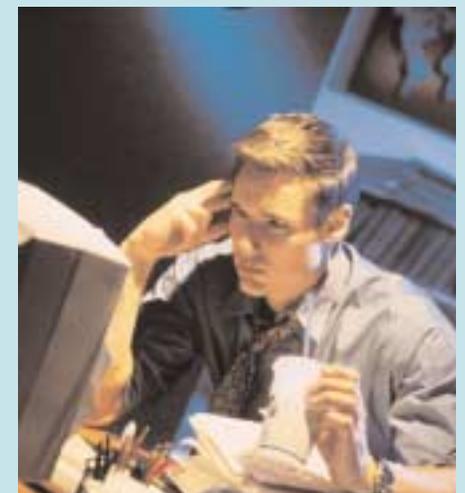
ODD numbered addresses (1927 SE 8th Street)
Monday, Wednesday or Saturday

NON-RESIDENTIAL properties
Monday, Wednesday or Friday

Pay Your Water Bill Online

On September 16, the City of Cape Coral took a major step in enhancing its customer service initiatives - Online Utility Bill Payment. The response from utility customers has been overwhelmingly favorable.

To access the online service, customers require a temporary PIN number, which is provided on the customer's monthly utility bill. Customers use the temporary PIN to access their account and create a new, personal PIN for future online access. The City will continue to provide the temporary PIN numbers on the monthly utility bills for a limited period of time.



Once logged in, utility customers can view their account summary, payment history, service summary, consumption report and billing history. The online service provides two payment options for customers: On-Demand and Immediate. "On-Demand Payment" stores your credit card information in a secure location to make future payments more convenient. "Immediate Payment" is a one-time transaction and does not store credit card information.

Utility customers who have not used Online Bill Pay can access their utility accounts by visiting the City's main portal: www.capecoral.gov. Select "Pay Your Water Bill" from the Quick Links list on the left. Please remember, you will need your temporary PIN the first time you access the site. For assistance, contact our Customer Service staff at customerservicebilling@capecoral.net or call 574-7722.

customerservicebilling@capecoral.net

Fire Department Produces Hurricane Preparation Video

The City of Cape Coral's Emergency Management Division has produced a hurricane safety video to help current and future residents of the city prepare for a storm. This is the City's first attempt at creating a hurricane education video, and the product is slated to be released in early 2005.

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

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

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

Utilities Extension Incentive Will Create Industrial Growth

*By Mike Jackson
Economic Development Director*

Creating a balanced economy for Cape Coral requires several elements, including the ability to attract larger production businesses. Attracting larger businesses involves bringing investors to the table who can create spec space - buildings that are built without tenant agreements. While industrial jobs typically pay higher wages than retail jobs, only 1 percent of Cape Coral's land is zoned industrial.

In October, the City Council took action to expand the city's capacity for light industrial growth by approving an extension of water and sewer utilities to a new industrial park in the northeast Cape. Public utilities are a key incentive for adding large, spec buildings, and the extension approved by Council will provide water and sewer to a 25-acre site, located at the northwest corner of the Hancock Creek Commerce Park.

Having water and sewer available will result in the construction of three, large spec industrial/warehouse buildings: Two, 20,000-square-foot buildings and one, 50,000-square-foot building. For comparison, the largest industrial building currently in Cape Coral is the Shamrock Boat building in the Viscaya Industrial Park, which is 50,000 square feet.

The City's investment of \$1.4 million will be protected by a quit-claim deed against the property and liens against improvements. These measures will be in place until the required buildings are constructed. In addition, the City will be able to collect betterment fees not only from the developer, but from other businesses that hook up to the service.

These new buildings will be a major asset in attracting larger production or warehousing businesses. These types of companies usually make rapid location decisions and require a building to be available (rather than engaging in construction), and having these larger facilities in place will be a selling point for the City. Clearing at the site is underway, and the developer is working with the City to accelerate construction as much as possible.

Beyond the required spec buildings, the developer plans to build as much as 200,000 square feet of additional industrial space at this location. Having utilities available onsite will provide an incentive to create larger structures and market them to future businesses. Plus, this utilities extension along the entire western boundary adds value to the entire Hancock Creek and Indian Oaks area.

Yacht Club Expansion Project

Plans for the Yacht Club Community Park expansion are proceeding. The Yacht Club has been identified as one of the four "crown jewels" in the Parks Department because of its unique amenities. The Yacht Club Community Park offers our only City beach, a yacht basin, a senior center, tennis courts, boat ramps, swimming pool and a banquet hall/ballroom.

The Parks Department is seeking to develop a formal Master Plan to optimize use of the property and improve the park's facilities. The goal is to update the park to modern standards and still retain the charm and historical flavor of this unique asset. Toward that end, the Parks Department will be working with other City departments and the public to develop a master plan during the next year. More information will be available as the process is under way.

Before the master plan could be initiated, the City had to acquire all property on Floridian Court, as well as two houses to the immediate west of the boat ramps on the Caloosahatchee River. The City also owns one property just north of the overflow parking lot on the west side of Driftwood Parkway. Since the land acquisition now is complete, the City can move forward with the master planning process.

Recent improvements at the park include a complete renovation of the pool and the front fountain, and a new customer service counter in the main building. Additional improvements are scheduled to the beach playground to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and new landscaping will be added to the north side of the Yacht Basin.

Master Plan Begins for Major Park

More than 500 acres in Northeast Cape will be one of city's largest parks.

Imagine camping beneath tall pines, hiking through wilderness trails and having a picnic in a grove of spreading oaks. Maybe you can take some time to drop a line in a fishing hole or just watch the many varieties of wildlife. These are just some of the activities that will be available in the future at the City's newest regional park - Major Park.

Major Park is a combination of 200 acres of City-owned land and 336 acres purchased by Lee County for the Conservation 2020 program. The property is located in Northeast Cape off the Del Prado Boulevard extension. The land is heavily wooded with native pines, oaks and cypress, and some of the larger cypresses are 6 feet in diameter at the base. A small creek winds through the back portion of the property and eventually reaches the Caloosahatchee River. Wildlife in the park includes birds, foxes, bobcats, otters, gopher tortoises and alligators. Major Park will be Cape Coral's largest environmental park.

The City and Lee County have contracted with Johnson Engineering to develop a stewardship and master plan for the park. The planning process will involve public workshops, and discussions among City staff and Lee County. Some ideas being considered are bicycle and equestrian trails, fishing, camping and an Environmental Learning Center.

Information currently is being gathered about wildlife, types of plants and water cycles. Once all of this information is received, the City and Lee County will be able to determine the best location for various amenities. Conservation 2020 has strict guidelines for the use of their portion of the property to maximize the preserve or wildlife on the property.



The planning process will take about one year to complete, and will deliver both a Stewardship Plan and a Master Plan for the parkland. The City currently has three other Environmental Parks: Rotary Park, Sirenia Vista and Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. Rotary Park offers guided walks in the park, while Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve offers kayaking and native plant sales. Both parks offer nature trails through unique habitats. Sirenia Vista is located off Ceitus Parkway just west of Burnt Store Road. This park will be developed as a passive park in the near future. Fishing and manatee watching currently are two popular activities at this park.

Special Events in Cape Coral

The air is a little cooler in Cape Coral, traffic is getting heavier, and a new year is right around the corner. It is winter in the Cape, and that signals lots of activities, programs, and special events for everyone to enjoy.

Sunset Celebration

The Sunset Celebration at the Yacht Club is a monthly event held the first Wednesday of each month. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., visitors can enjoy music, craft vendors and a beautiful sunset. Admission is free.



Cape Coral Festival of the Arts

Another exciting event is the Cape Coral Festival of the Arts, which showcases the talents of more than 230 local and national artists. The 2005 Realmark Cape Coral Festival of the Arts is held on Cape Coral Parkway between Del Prado Blvd and Vincennes on January 8-9. This popular arts festival is in its 20th year and is highly rated by Sunshine Artist Magazine. Hours of the show are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the festival, visit the website at: www.capecoralfestival.com.



Celebrate Cape Coral

On March 5, join the Chamber of Commerce at the Celebrate Cape Coral event. This family friendly event is held from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Big Johns Shopping Center. Activities include musical acts, vendors, a kid's area, and the Jaycee Kick-Off Parade at 6:30 p.m.

Sounds of Jazz

Bring your blankets or folding chairs to the Time Warner Cable "Sounds of Jazz" Concert on March 19. Smooth jazz will fill the air at Jaycee Park, located along the waterfront of the Caloosahatchee River. For the past 15 years, the Sounds of Jazz has featured some of the finest jazz entertainment in the business including: Peter White, Richard Elliot, Dana Paul and The Nantucket Sound, Kirk Whalum, Maynard Ferguson and his Big Bop Nouveau Band, Shadowfax, Doug Cameron, Spyro Gyra, Larry Carlton, Fred Johnson, David Benoit, Diane Schuur and the Mambo Brothers. Do not miss the opportunity to spend a relaxing night eating, drinking and listening to some of the world's greatest jazz musicians. Performers will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

For more information on any of these events or other programs, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 573-3128.

Cape Coral/Fort Myers Area Ranks #1 in 2004 Milken Institute's Survey of "Best Performing Cities"

By Mike Jackson
Economic Development Director

The Cape Coral/Fort Myers metropolitan statistical area is now ranked first in the 2004 Milken Institute index of Best Performing Cities: Where America's Jobs are Created and Sustained. The region was ranked third in last year's analysis. The Milken index surveys where jobs are being created and maintained, where wages and salaries are increasing, where economies are growing and where businesses are thriving.

Cape Coral has a population of about 135,000 and is growing at the rate of about 11,000 new residents per year. The U.S. Census Bureau recently ranked Cape Coral as the 5th fastest-growing city with populations of more than 100,000. Cape Coral is the largest city between Tampa and Miami, and the third largest city by land mass in Florida. Cape Coral's population grew by more than 16 percent from 2000 to 2003.

While the report notes that much of the region's growth, including a surge in housing construction, is driven by retirees, more than half of the population in Cape Coral is age 44 or younger. Residents under the age of 25 outnumber those over the age of 65, according to the U.S. Census. More than 60 percent of the Cape's population is of working age (15 to 64).

The Milken Institute's report says that the region has a diversified economy with a low dependence on manufacturing, which insulated it from the sharp national

downturn in manufacturing jobs. In Cape Coral, manufacturing operations employing more than 25 people have tended to increase in size in the past several years. The city is expanding its industrial base to meet growth demands with several new industrial developments coming online that will provide facilities for both large and small production and service businesses.

The report indicates that professional and business services employment in the region has grown by over 38 percent during the past four years, and many young professional families have migrated to the area. In Cape Coral, the census reports that more than 60 percent of Cape Coral's workforce (more than 50,000 people) are white collar workers: management, professional, sales and clerical.

Finally, the Milken Institute report says that entrepreneurial capacity and behavior are prime drivers of economic growth and job creation. Cape Coral continues to be a generator of small-business development. The city will be funding a new SBA Small Business Development Center, and has attracted a branch of Nova Southeastern University, which will further support entrepreneurial activity.

The entire report can be reviewed at www.milkeninstitute.org. Additional information about Cape Coral (the Growth Engine of Southwest Florida) can be obtained by contacting the Economic Development Office, ecodev@capecoral.net, or call 574-0444.

City Reminds Boaters to Keep an Eye Out for Manatees

USFWS extends emergency speed zones in Lee County.

The return of cooler weather in Southwest Florida signals two significant annual migration events - snowbirds and manatees. As our friends from the North journey south for the winter, the mild-mannered manatee also begins its journey toward the warmer waters of the Caloosahatchee River.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced December 1 that it would provide emergency coverage of the Florida manatee in Lee County for 120 days. The coverage began on December 6, the date a previous emergency rule expired. The Service believes the designation is necessary to provide protection to the manatee in the area of five former state manatee speed zones in Lee County. This coverage will remain in effect until April 3, 2005.

The areas affected by this emergency designation are in Matlacha Pass, Estero Bay, southwest side of Pine Island, eastern San Carlos Bay and the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River. The Service made the decision to provide emergency protection for manatees in these areas after carefully assessing the impacts of state court decisions that ruled these former speed zones invalid. Also considered were the effects of three hurricanes that occurred in the region during August-October and the implications of allowing the second emergency rule to expire before the final rule is approved.

Speed zones alone will not keep manatee deaths at a minimum. Responsible boating is the key, and local boaters must hold up their end of the bargain or face additional

boating restrictions. According to the Florida Marine Research Institute records, there have been 12 mortalities related to watercraft activities recorded in Lee County through October 31 of this year, up from eight last year.

Reducing the number of manatee/boat collisions requires increased vigilance by boaters and law enforcement. Cape Coral added more marine patrol officers and more signage to increase awareness. In fact, marine enforcement agencies at the local and state levels are working together to provide added enforcement of existing state speed zones. Lee County and Cape Coral also are increasing their information efforts. The City of Cape Coral is producing a manatee safety video, which should be ready by early 2005.

Boaters and government agencies must continue to work together to protect the manatee. For more information about manatee protection and speed zones, visit the USFWS' Vero Beach website at <http://verobeach.fws.gov> or the Lee County Natural Resources web page at www.lee-county.com and click on "Manatee Protection."



Cape Coral Mini-Bus Service Receives Community Development Block Grant Funds

*By Nan Rodriguez,
Social Service Superintendent*

The Cape Coral Mini-Bus Service will receive \$12,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds in 2005. The grant monies will be used to subsidize transport fees for Cape Coral citizens who are in need of financial fee assistance. This program assists with helping citizens who need transport to priority destinations within the city limits.

The Cape Coral Mini-Bus Service is a program operated within the Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department, Social Service Division. The program will begin its' 18th year of providing transportation services for Cape Coral Transportation Disadvantaged citizens. The Cape Coral Mini-Bus Service is a

door-to-door transport service dedicated to providing opportunities for Cape Coral citizens to maintain their independence and quality of life.

Door-to-door transportation services to medical and shopping destinations are provided to qualifying Cape Coral residents who have no other form of transportation.

With the continued support of the Cape Coral City Council, Cape Coral citizens and community-based groups, the Cape Coral Mini-Bus Service will continue to address the needs of some of our disadvantaged citizens.

For more information about this service, please call 574-0573.

Coral Oaks - *Back in the Swing of Things*

Coral Oaks Golf Course is back in operation after an active hurricane season that caused significant damage to the course. The course lost many acres of 100-year-old oak trees, which was distressing to our guests and employees. The one silver lining to the destruction is that some of the fairways now are much wider and more forgiving to errant golf balls than prior to the storm season. The added sunlight has brought more "green" to the TifEagle greens and the wider Bermuda fairways. While the course still is challenging because of the design, the remaining large oaks and ponds located throughout the course, the loss of trees makes the course friendlier to the novice golfer.

Along with a more open appearance, Coral Oaks also welcomes the addition of PGA Professional Mark Haluska to our team of golf specialists. Mark brings 25 years of golfing experience to Coral Oaks Golf Course and already has started developing avenues to make the sport more accessible and inviting. Mark will offer

four, one-hour complimentary golf clinics for all ages and skill levels. The clinics are held on the grass driving range and include opportunities to practice pitching and putting. Adult clinics are offered on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 3 p.m. The Junior clinic is offered on Saturday at 9 a.m. Due to the popularity of the program, guests are encouraged to contact the Coral Oaks Pro Shop in advance at 573-3100.

Coral Oaks offers a full service restaurant with beverage carts patrolling the course for convenience, and the Pro Shop carries a full line of soft goods and golf necessities.

For information on Coral Oaks Golf Course, please call our Pro Shop at 573-3101 or stop by the course at 1800 NW 28th Avenue for a guided tour. You also can visit our web page for more information (www.coraloaks.com).

Police Department Receives State Accreditation

The Cape Coral Police Department has been awarded accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). This prestigious honor was confirmed October 6 at the Commission's meeting in Orlando.

On July 27, a team of CFA assessors examined all aspects of the Cape Coral Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. The CFA assessment team, composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies, reviewed written materials, interviewed individuals, and visited offices and other work areas to measure the Cape Coral Police Department's compliance with 276 accreditation standards.

After completing their review, the assessors reported back to the full commission, which subsequently voted to grant accredited status to the

Cape Coral Police Department. Accreditation is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, and is awarded for a three-year period. After this time, the department may apply for renewal.

The Cape Coral Police Department has held national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 1989.

"The state accreditation, coupled with our department's long-standing national accreditation, reinforces our vision to become one of America's premier law enforcement agencies," said Chief Dan Alexander. "I congratulate our employees for their role in this achievement, and I thank our residents and City leaders for ongoing support of their police department."

City Receives Federal Assistance for Hurricane Charley Damage

Federal assistance in the wake of disasters is coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Under the Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides supplemental aid to communities and states to help them recover from disasters as quickly as possible. Specifically, the program provides assistance for debris removal, implementation of emergency protective measures and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The program is based on a partnership between FEMA, State and local officials.

The Financial Services Department submitted the City's Request for Public Assistance, which was approved by the agency.

To facilitate the processing of public assistance grants, FEMA has divided disaster-related work into seven categories. These categories are divided into "Emergency Work" and "Permanent Work" as shown in the following table:

Category	Type of Work	Estimated Costs
Emergency Work:	A. Debris Removal	\$17,090,000
	B. Emergency Protective Measures (Public Safety)	900,000
Permanent Work:	C. Roads and Bridges	10,000,000
	D. Water Control Facilities	1,500
	E. Buildings and Equipment	1,159,700
	F. Utilities	206,900
	G. Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	3,883,700

Projects have been assigned under each category. The Financial Services Department will be submitting requests to the State for reimbursement of expenditures.

Costs for Category A will be federally funded at 100 percent for August 18-20, 2004 and costs for Category B will be federally funded at 100 percent for August 13-15, 2004. All other costs for Categories A-G will be federally funded at 90 percent, state funded at 5 percent, and City funded at 5 percent.

For certain types of facilities or areas, disaster assistance is the responsibility of a Federal agency other than FEMA. The Federal Highway Administration administers the Emergency Relief Program to assist with sign replacement, and repairs of routes identified by the FHWA. They include most public roads classified as arterial and collector routes.

Under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service has the authority for the repair of flood control works. This includes the debris removal of the City's canals. The City recently received approval from the agency to proceed with cleaning the canals of hurricane debris.



Governing Board Selects Dr. Patrick Mark as New Charter School Administrator

Promoting and Implementing the Educational Program at City's Charter School System is Top Priority



Dr. Patrick J. Mark has been appointed as the new Charter School Administrator for the City of Cape Coral Charter School System.

The former Superintendent of Schools with the Marion-Adams School District in Sheridan, Indiana was selected from four finalists. "We are quite pleased to have someone with Dr. Mark's experience heading our charter school system," said Mary Margaret Embroli, chairperson of the City of Cape Coral Charter School Governing Board. "His leadership abilities and knowledge will be instrumental to our success as we move forward with building the schools and developing the programs."

Dr. Mark obtained his Doctorate in Educational Administration from Ball State University in 1988. He also holds two Master's degrees from Ball State, one in Secondary School Administration, and the other in English and Physical Education. His undergraduate degree from the same university is in English and Physical Education. He has extensive involvement in professional organizations as well as civic associations. Dr. Mark has published numerous educational articles.

Prior to working with the Marion-Adams School District, Dr. Mark served as superintendent at the Northwestern School Corporation (District) in Kokomo, Indiana (nine years), Northwest Allen County Schools in Fort Wayne, Indiana (two years), and Shenandoah School Corporation (District) in Middletown, Indiana (two years). Dr. Mark was a secondary school principal, elementary school principal and an English teacher.

As superintendent, Dr. Mark took steps to resolve a financial crisis in the Shenandoah School system, including consolidation of two, older elementary buildings to a newer central elementary site and realigning the curriculum to close an existing achievement gap. He also was responsible for directing the implementation of a district-wide technology program. Dr. Mark created a fiscally sound approach to educational expenditures and programs, and provided an emphasis on assessment and research-based curriculum.

Dr. Mark and his wife, JoAnne, have been married for 35 years. The couple has two children, Kimberly and Ryan, and three grandchildren. Dr. Mark enjoys golf, antiques, traveling and visiting flea markets with his wife.

Nova Southeastern University Establishes Cape Coral Campus

*By Mike Jackson
Economic Development Director*

Nova Southeastern University has signed a lease agreement with the City of Cape Coral for interim classroom and office space across the street from City Hall at the new City Centrum Business Park. If the interim campus proves successful, Nova will consider establishing a permanent facility at the City's Academic Village site on Del Prado.

Nova Southeastern is the largest independent institution of higher education in the Southeast United States and is the 8th largest independent institution nationally. NSU awards associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, doctoral, and first-professional degrees in a wide range of fields.

Nova will occupy about 3,000 square feet of space in two buildings. There will be three classrooms and one office suite for administrators and instructors. This space will be shared with International College, an established school in Southwest Florida since 1990.

Nova is planning to begin offering courses early in 2005. The lease with the City provides Nova the right of first refusal for course offerings at this campus site on a broad range of degree programs.

The following degree programs and the coursework required to complete the degrees are the study areas where Nova has a right of first refusal. Please note that course offerings in these degree programs are not necessarily the courses that will be offered when the campus first opens. The university is conducting market research to determine areas of greatest need for their initial course offerings.

The potential degree programs listed in the lease include:

- Education Specialist
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

- Bachelor of Science in Public Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems
- Master of Science in Management Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Education
- Master of Science in Education
- Doctorate in Education
- Specialist in School Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Master of Science in School Guidance and Counseling
- Health-Related Programs
- Bachelor of Science in Management
- Master of Science in Management
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration

If another educational institution wants to offer any of the listed degree courses, Nova would be given the first option of offering the course. If Nova chooses not to offer the course, the other institution can do so. This arrangement provides Nova with the opportunity to maximize its investment at the City Centrum campus, while providing potential students with an assurance that if demand for classes is great enough, other institutions also could locate there. For more information on Nova, visit their website at www.nova.edu.

Nova will be the main anchor for the Business Park at City Centrum. The facility also will house offices for engineering firms, Public Works engineers and Community Development building inspectors. For more information on the Business Park or the Academic Village, contact the Economic Development Office at ecodev@capecoral.net, or call 574-0444.

Seahawk Park Recovers from Hurricane Season

The Parks Department has developed a very successful relationship with the Cape Coral Seahawk Model Airplane Club. This partnership has resulted in Seahawk Air Park, a radio control (R/C) airstrip in Northwest Cape Coral. The air park offers a venue where R/C miniature airplane enthusiasts can enjoy the sport and have a safe location to fly and share the experience.



Even though the hurricanes destroyed much of the air park's facilities (which included several shade shelters, fencing, a portable restroom and garbage receptacles), some of the damage already has been repaired. Work continues on the remaining damage, with the Parks Department and Seahawk Model Airplane Club collaborating on the repairs. All repairs should be completed by mid-March.

Seahawk Park is located on Wilmington Parkway, just west of Nelson Road. The City currently is purchasing land in this area to create a larger Festival Park, which will include Seahawk Park. Cape Coral Seahawk Model Airplane Club supervises Air Safety Management, Flight Operations and R/C regulations for the park. The Airplane Club is a Florida-registered, nonprofit club with a

membership of more than 280 members. The Club also is chartered by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), an organization of 160,000 members. The Seahawk Model Airplane Club provides free flying instruction, airplane construction advice and pre-flight checks of aircraft. Club membership is open to everyone ages 7 and older. Additionally, AMA insurance is available to each club member.

The Seahawk Model Airplane Club holds an annual Air Show open to the public. The 2005 show will be March 19-20, starting at 9 a.m. on each day. Pilots will be demonstrating aircraft aerobatics, military formations and other flying and landing skills developed at the park. One event is a candy drop by a miniature plane. Air Show attendees also will be able to view the planes up close and ask questions of the pilots. A finale will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. One of the highlights is the raffle for a complete and ready-to-fly R/C airplane. Admission to the show is free, but a \$3 donation per carload is requested for parking. For more information about the Cape Coral Seahawk Model Airplane Club, visit their website at www.rseahawks.org.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS BUDGET AND LOWERS TAXES

On September 28, the City Council adopted the 2004-2005 operating budget for the City of Cape Coral. For the seventh consecutive year, Council reduced the overall tax rate for Cape Coral property owners. If you have a homesteaded property, this reduction will provide for a decrease in the Cape Coral General Fund and Cape Coral Debt Service portions of your property taxes.

Cape Coral property taxes make up only about 27 percent of your total property tax bill. School taxes are the greatest single portion of the tax bill. Services for Lee County government, the library fund, mosquito control as well as South Florida Water Management District also contribute to your total property tax bill. Below is a summary of the adopted budget for all City of Cape Coral funds. Property taxes are included in the General Fund.

General Fund	\$100,498,593
Special Revenue Funds.....	26,053,567
Capital Projects Funds	37,888,907
Debt Service	2,913,396
Internal Service	5,792,969
Enterprise Funds	126,752,941
TOTAL	\$299,900,373

The City Council approved a General Fund millage rate of 5.5287 and a Debt Service millage rate of .2311 for a total millage rate of 5.7598 mills. This equates to \$5.7598 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Millage rates, or tax rates, for the City of Cape Coral continue to decrease. In the past five years, Cape Coral's millage rate dropped 15.9 percent, with a 5.7 percent decrease this year.

The following is a comparison of millage rates since fiscal year 2001:

FY 2001	6.8478
FY 2002	6.5177
FY 2003	6.3745
FY 2004	6.1049
FY 2005	5.7598

Some key components of the new budget include:

- Road resurfacing
- Sidewalk construction
- 16 additional police officers
- Two additional police sergeants
- 12 additional firefighters
- Nine additional firefighter/engineers
- Three additional fire lieutenants
- Drainage pipe replacement projects
- Academic Village Site Development
- Public Safety Building - site & design
- Land Acquisition for parks expansion, utility plants,
- Academic Village and fire stations
- Utility extension in Southeast 1

The final budget document is available on the City website www.capegov.org or can be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 574-0417. If you have any questions about the new budget, contact the City's Financial Services Department at 574-0489.

Scam Alerts - Collect Phone Calls and Bogus Emails

Police warn citizens about two scams that have surfaced again in our community.

The Cape Coral Police Department is warning citizens about two scams that have resurfaced in the city - one involving phone calls and the other involving emails.

With the phone call scam, the intended victim receives a collect call from a detention facility. If the victim accepts the charges, he/she is told a "sob story" and asked to dial a series of numbers, supposedly to contact an inmate's relative. When the victim dials the numbers, he/she actually is turning over control of his/her telephone, which the scammer then uses to make dozens of long-distance phone calls charged to the victim's account. To prevent being victimized by this scheme, residents should not accept any collect calls unless they personally know the caller, and do not dial any numbers at the request of any caller (whether it is a collect call or not).

The other scam involves what appears to be legitimate email from the intended victim's bank or credit card company. The email may claim that the company is "verifying" the customer's account number, social security number, or password/pin number. Beware of any such email - it is a trick to

get the victim to divulge personal information, which is then used to "steal" the victim's identity and/or access financial accounts. If you receive this type of email, or any other request for personal information, do not reveal the information. Banks, credit card companies, and other financial institutions will never ask customers to "confirm" or "verify" personal information. Anyone who receives such a request should immediately delete the email - don't open it, don't respond to it, and especially do not click on any links contained in the email.

Individuals who believe they have been victimized by either of these scams, or any other con game, should report the crime to their local law enforcement agency. In Cape Coral, the number to call is 574-3223.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For up-to-minute information from the Cape Coral Police Department, visit our website at www.capecops.com.

You will find pages containing the department's latest news releases, crime prevention tips, crime statistics, and much more.

Cape Coral Southwest 3 Utility Expansion Project Receives Southeast Construction Magazine's "Best of 2004" Award

The Southwest 3 utility expansion project received the Best of 2004 Award of Excellence from McGraw-Hill's *Southeast Construction* magazine. The project was recognized in "Civil/Infrastructure" category. The award recognizes the contributions of key development personnel and the innovative solutions to this project's challenges.

We are very pleased that this expansion project within the City of Cape Coral has been chosen for such a prestigious award. Congratulations to all City staff and contract workers who have contributed to the success of the City's utilities extension projects.

Ceitus Boatlift Renovation Will Begin Soon

The Ceitus boatlift, located on the north spreader canal, will undergo a major renovation. Due to the age of the existing facility and the increased usage, the City will provide a new lift with an increased capacity of 15,000 lbs.

The design of the project and bidding process have been completed, and permits from the Department of Environmental Protection have been obtained. The lift currently is in manufacture, which will take about 12 to 14 weeks. The targeted construction start date is February 15, 2005. The estimated time of construction from start to finish is two weeks. This project's main objectives are to increase dependability, improve the safety of operation, and allow larger boats access to Matlacha Pass. We are working with the Northwest Neighborhood Association to keep them abreast of scheduling and address any concerns that may develop.

Debris Clean-Up Status

On August 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley caused heavy damage to southwest Florida. Cape Coral was impacted directly by sustained winds in excess of 100 mph for about 90 minutes.

In addition to the widespread damage to structures, the City estimated that 500,000 cubic yards of horticulture debris would need to be removed from public rights-of-way and municipal properties. Fortunately, the City already had a contract in place to implement the huge public works effort required to remove the debris.

Within 48 hours after the storm, City staff was meeting with the contractor, Crowder-Gulf, to begin the clean-up effort. On Wednesday, August 18, the trucks began hauling debris from residential neighborhoods. The number of crews and trucks continued to grow during the next few days as personnel and equipment were mobilized and moved into the city.

One challenge for the Public Works Department and the contractor was the continuing onslaught of storms. Numerous City staff were required by FEMA to oversee the operation; however, many City employees were trying to recover from damage to their homes and their families' homes and property brought on by Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. In addition, the storms caused contractors to lose about five days of work.

As the days passed, and the debris piles grew at the two staging sites, the City changed its focus to the debris in the 400 miles of canals throughout the city. An initial assessment was done through observation and aerial photographs provided by the Lee County Emergency Operations Center from August 14. Staff estimated the canal debris to be 100,000 cubic yards.

Once staff was comfortable with the progress made in picking up horticulture debris, crews were dispatched to focus on construction and demolition debris. Early assessments placed the amount of construction debris to be removed at less than 25,000 cubic yards. This number reflects only hurricane-related debris and does not include the thousands of cubic yards generated by the reconstruction.

As of November 8, the City had completed all debris clean-up from the streets and municipal properties. The clean-up efforts dedicated to the canals will take about three months to complete. Work began on November 29.

<i>Horticulture Debris</i>	
602,000 cubic yards.....	\$12,642,000 (est.)
<i>Construction & Demolition Debris</i>	
20,000 cubic yards	\$420,000 (est.)
<i>Canal Debris</i>	
(estimate) 100,000 cubic yards	\$2,300,000 (est.)
<i>City</i>	
40,000 cubic yards	\$840,000 (est.)
<i>Administration Costs.....</i>	
	\$800,000 (est.)
Total Estimated Cost.....	\$17,002,000

The total costs listed above do not include losses to traffic signals, street signage, municipal buildings, athletic fields or utility infrastructures. The City is working to recover most of the costs for debris removal from the federal and state governments.

Land Acquisition Projects

The City of Cape Coral is about one-third developed, and the City has been working to acquire property for vital projects required to serve the residents of Cape Coral. The City's No. 1 Strategic Planning Objective has been the acquisition of land for parks, fire stations, roads and a future water and sewer treatment facility. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Real Estate Division purchased 177 properties and by the end of Fiscal Year 2004, the division purchased 359 properties.

Fire Stations

In May 2003, the Real Estate Division worked with Fire Chief Bill Van Helden to identify locations for future fire stations. By the end of FY 2004, the division had completed the purchase of land to build four new fire stations. The locations of these new stations will be in Unit 84 on Averill Boulevard, Unit 87 on North Gator Circle, Unit 59 on Tropicana Boulevard, and Unit 54 on El Dorado Boulevard at Ceitus Parkway. The division also purchased the remaining properties for future Fire Station #8. This station will be located on Nicholas Parkway extension at Nelson Road and Embers Parkway. Construction will begin in the near future.

North Government Complex

In December 2002, the City Council selected a site in Unit 42 for future water and sewer treatment facilities. The original site was expanded to include additional property for other City uses. The North Cape Government Complex now consists of 293 properties, and by the end of October 2004, the City had purchased 202 properties.

Festival Park/Other Parks

The Parks Master Plan identified the need for parks and parkland to meet the needs of a growing population. The Real Estate Division's largest park acquisition task is Festival Park, located in Unit 43. Festival Park is slated for a "large gathering area" and encompasses Seahawk Park and Lake Argosy. The park will include the development of athletic fields and an outdoor entertainment area where the public can gather. The project consists of 516 parcels, of which 131 properties have been purchased since the project began in July 2003. Another park acquisition project is Lake Meade Park expansion. This park is located close to the future Academic Village and consists of 102 properties. To date, about 45 percent of the properties have been purchased. Additionally, the Real Estate Division successfully completed purchasing all of the property required for the Yacht Club Expansion.

Road Projects

The Real Estate Division has coordinated with the City's Transportation Division to purchase several properties for various road projects. The final property for the extension of Gleason Parkway west to SW 32nd Street was purchased earlier this year. Properties were purchased for the intersection between Gleason and Kamal parkways and an east extension from the Sun Splash entrance for the Santa Barbara Access Management intersection plan. The acquisition of more than 230 properties for the widening of Del Prado Boulevard north between Pine Island Road and Kismet Parkway is underway and will be the division's primary road project for FY 2005.

Utility Expansion Project

The City is in the process of completing the last project of the 2000 - 2005 Utility Expansion Program, and the following assessment projects have been completed:

- North Loop
- Pine Island Road
- Southwest One
- Southwest Three

Construction for the Southwest Two (SW 2) Assessment project began in December 2003 and is almost 95 percent complete. All the underground pipes have been installed, and the majority of the roads and restoration work have been completed. The project is scheduled for final completion in March 2005. The final assessment resolution was approved July 26, 2004. Assessments that are being financed as part of the amortized payment program will have their first annual payment levied on their tax bill in November 2005.

Council Approves Agreement with MWH Americas, Inc. for Future Extension Projects

On August 30, City Council approved an "Agreement for Program Management at Risk Services for Water, Wastewater & Irrigation Facilities" with MWH Americas, Inc. The agreement includes the construction of new water and wastewater treatment facilities and the upgrades and expansions to the City's existing treatment facilities. MWH also will be responsible for the next five-year Utility Extension Program.

As currently planned, the new extension program will provide full utility service to the remaining platted lots south of Pine Island Road. The five new projects will be Southeast 1 and Southwest 4, 5, 6 and 7. Southeast 1 currently is in the design phase. Expansion maps showing the project areas and the proposed schedule can be picked up at the City Clerk's Office for \$1.

Bonnie Vent Earns "Master Municipal Clerk" Designation



City Clerk Bonnie Vent has earned the designation of "Master Municipal Clerk." This is the highest recognition given by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Inc.

Bonnie is one of only 333 active clerks worldwide who have achieved this level of recognition. The organization has a membership of 10,300. Congratulations, Bonnie.

2005 City Council Regular Meeting 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3
 MONDAY, JANUARY 10
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
 MONDAY, JANUARY 24
 MONDAY, JANUARY 31
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
 MONDAY, MARCH 7
 MONDAY, MARCH 14
 MONDAY, MARCH 21
 MONDAY, MARCH 28
 MONDAY, APRIL 4
 MONDAY, APRIL 11
 MONDAY, APRIL 18

MONDAY, APRIL 25
 MONDAY, MAY 2
 MONDAY, MAY 9
 MONDAY, MAY 16
 MONDAY, MAY 23
 TUESDAY, MAY 31
 MONDAY, JUNE 6
 MONDAY, JUNE 13
 MONDAY, JULY 18
 MONDAY, JULY 25
 MONDAY, AUGUST 1
 MONDAY, AUGUST 8
 MONDAY, AUGUST 15
 MONDAY, AUGUST 22
 MONDAY, AUGUST 29
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 3
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 17
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 24
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 31
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

2005 City Council Committee Of The Whole Meeting 3:00 P.M.

The following dates have been reserved for Committee of the Whole meetings.
 Please note the meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
 MONDAY, JANUARY 31
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
 MONDAY, MARCH 14
 MONDAY, MARCH 28
 MONDAY, APRIL 11

MONDAY, APRIL 25
 MONDAY, MAY 9
 MONDAY, MAY 23
 MONDAY, JUNE 6
 MONDAY, JULY 18
 MONDAY, AUGUST 1
 MONDAY, AUGUST 15
 MONDAY, AUGUST 29

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 24
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

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FOR THE BREEZE**