City Accepting Applications for Charter Schools’ 2005-2006 School Year

Response from Cape Coral citizens during the next 60 days will decide future direction.

The City of Cape Coral is accepting applications from potential students for two elementary schools scheduled to open in August 2005. While the lottery to select students will not be conducted until the end of the year, the City is setting up the database of prospective students now. With two, 600-student elementary schools on the drawing board for 2005, the City wants to gauge the level of participation and interest now before proceeding.

Applications for the elementary schools can be picked up at several City locations, including City Hall and various parks facilities. Applications can be downloaded from the charter school website, www.capecharterschools.org, or picked up at City Hall. Also, an application can be requested by calling Susan in the City Manager’s Office at 574-0447.

Cape Coral’s Charter Schools will provide a challenging learning experience for the students. School curriculums for K-5 can be viewed on the registration page at the website and also in the this issue of the newsletter on page 4. The City will post regular progress reports on the web page, and residents can sign up to receive email updates on the charter school project.

“We encourage parents to take this opportunity to register their children for the charter schools,” said City Manager Terry Stewart. “Please keep in mind that registering for the Cape Coral charter school lottery will not prevent parents from participating in the Lee County School Choice program. You can do both.”

“Mother/Son Night of Fun”

By Vicki Perron

About seven years ago, the staff at Four Freedoms Park decided that it was time to add an annual event for the mothers and sons of Cape Coral. “Daddy/Daughter Date Night” was in its 6th year and had become a very popular occasion. The staff decided that the moms and sons needed a night out, too. Thus began the “Mother/Son Night of Fun.”

This year’s 6th Annual Mother/Son Night of Fun is scheduled for Friday, May 14. Held at the Cape Coral Yacht Club, the evening will be filled with music, dancing, catered appetizers and door prizes. A special 5x7 professional photograph is taken early in the evening to capture the moment for each mother/son couple. At the end of the evening, the pictures are provided to each couple with custom frames. Each youngster also receives a special gift. The goal of this event is enhance the bond between mother and son, and provide an enjoyable evening for all participants.

Lisa Sanvidge, of Cape Coral, has attended the Mother/Son Night of Fun with her two sons, David and Peter, every year it has been offered.

“This event gives us the opportunity to get dressed up in formal attire,” she said. “It is a very special time that I can share with my two boys, and we look forward to the dance every year.”

Theresa DiAmbrosio and her son Michael will be attending for the third year.
City of Cape Coral Council Members

DISTRICT 1
Gloria Tate
239-549-4921
gloricape@aol.com

DISTRICT 2
Richard Stevens
239-542-1457
rstevens@capecoral.net

DISTRICT 3
AJ Boyd
239-945-6665
aboyd@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
Julie Nieminski

CITY MANAGER
Terry Stewart

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Howard Kunik

CITY CLERK
Bonnie Vent

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Carl Schwing, 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 email to cmo@capecoral.net.
Smart Growth for a city is growth that is financially responsible, rewarding and environmentally friendly. The providing for that growth generally is by long-range comprehensive land use planning. The obtainment of revenue and financing of our parks and playgrounds had been inadequate. While the Council had voted unanimously for a $70 million park and recreation program, there was no adequate funding mechanism in place to make these needed improvements.

The role of government always is evolving. Decades ago, the central role of government was to provide for the public safety. Protect and defend was the most important job that government could do, and citizens demanded little more than this basic and essential need. Over time, the public began to have greater expectations, and the role of government expanded into areas beyond the public safety realm. Federal, state and local governments assumed responsibility for social programs, environmental issues, health care, transportation, education and other issues. The point is that government constantly changes in response to the demands of the community.

That type of change is happening here in Cape Coral. The City of Cape Coral was not predicated on the belief that the City could do a better job of schooling the children of our city. We know that Lee County public schools do an admirable job in this arena. However, Lee County is facing a serious shortage of classroom space. The reasons we established a charter school system were to alleviate some of that shortage, provide the parents of Cape Coral with another school choice, and help our economic development efforts.

“Lee County is facing a serious shortage of classroom space. The reasons we established a charter school system were to alleviate some of that shortage, provide the parents of Cape Coral with another school choice, and help our economic development efforts.”

~ Terry Stewart, City Manager
Lee County School Board Agrees to Charter School Contract

The Lee County School Board and the City of Cape Coral have agreed to a 15-year contract giving the City the authority to create a municipal charter school system. For the past several months, the City and the School District have been negotiating the parameters of the contract. Cape Coral City Council approved the contract on January 12; however, the School Board initially denied the contract on January 13. After allowing time for public input, the Board reconsidered and approved the contract on January 22.

With the approval of the contract, the City will move forward with plans to open two elementary charter schools by the 2005 school year. A middle school will follow in 2006, with a high school slated for 2007.

“Municipal charter schools will provide another educational choice for Cape Coral parents and their children,” said City Manager Terry Stewart. “A charter school system adds value to our community and can provide a unique learning experience for the students.”

The City has been holding public information meetings throughout the community to help answer questions the public may have about charter schools. For those citizens who have not had an opportunity to attend one of the meetings at the local schools, the City will hold one more meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. This meeting will be televised live on Cape TV.

The City has created a website specifically for the Cape Coral Charter School System with updates posted regularly. The web address is www.capecharterschools.org.

“Mom/Son Night of Fun” continued

“This is one of our favorite and most special things to do together, and we look forward to it all year,” said Theresa. “The minute we leave the dance, Michael asks when the next one is going to be.”

Cost is $35 per couple, $9 for each additional boy for Cape Coral residents; and, $39 per couple, $10 for each additional boy for non-residents. Tickets are on sale at Four Freedoms Park located at 4818 Tarpon Court. For more information, call 574-0804.

EVENT INFORMATION:
WHAT: Mother/Son Night of Fun
WHERE: Cape Coral Yacht Club
WHO: Moms and their sons (ages 3+)
WHEN: Friday, May 14, 2004
TIME: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Photos taken from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.)
COST: Residents-$35 per couple ($9 each additional boy), Non-residents-$39 per couple ($10 each additional boy)

The Yacht Club is located at 5819 Driftwood Parkway.
Still Time for a Kayak Trip to the Cove

Imagine cruising silently through a tropical mangrove forest, peering through the mangrove roots at an alligator and her brood of juveniles or passing surreptitiously over a family of manatees seeking shelter in the warm water. Leaving no wake, you glide past a spider the size of your palm, a water snake concealed by a branch, or possibly through a school of jumping mullet. (Watch out! These mullet have been known to try to hitch a ride in the boat.) As you move along, you realize that there is no better way to spend a morning.

Where are you? No, you’re not spending the morning in the Keys or the Everglades. You’re spending a relaxing morning kayaking through Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve in Cape Coral. Located at the end of SE 23rd Terrace, just north of Veteran’s Parkway, this City preserve is an environmental jewel. During the winter season, visitors are treated to an added attraction at the preserve - kayaking. The City’s Kayak Shack Outpost at Four Mile Cove offers kayak rentals to the public on weekends from October through May. The last rental departs at 2 p.m., so make plans to arrive early if you want to spend some serious time exploring the park via the numerous water trails. Call (239) 549-4606 or (239) 574-7395 for more information, or email Katie at kalockli@capecoral.net.

Four Mile Cove is open year-round with a visitor’s center, nature trail, observation piers and picnic area available to the public daily from 8 a.m. until sunset. There is no charge for parking or admission to the park.

If you are interested in renting a kayak or canoe, the City offers very reasonable rates (see below).

RENTAL RATES:
• Single kayak: $16/two hours; $25/four hours; $8 any additional hours
• Double kayak or canoe: $24/two hours; $35/four hours; $12 any additional hours
• Last rental departs 2 p.m. Visa/MasterCard/cash/check accepted. A valid driver’s license is required to rent.

DIRECTIONS TO FOUR MILE COVE:
From Del Prado Boulevard: Go east on SE 21st Lane, south on SE 17th Place and east on SE 23rd Terrace. Make a left just after entering the first gate to get to the Kayak Shack Outpost.

Kayak Trips and Lessons

Need to learn to operate a kayak? Already know the basics and just want to get out on the water? We have some opportunities for learning and then applying your kayaking skills. Advance registration is a must, so call Rotary Park at 549-4606 if you are interested.

TRIPS

Peace River Kayak Trip
March 20 • 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • $44 ($40 Cape Resident)
Level of Difficulty: Easy Paddle
Overview: Paddle downstream through a floodplain full of cypress, maple, water hickory, oak and wild orchids. Possible sightings include alligators, hogs, turkeys and wading birds.

Pine Island Calusa Adventure
May 15 • 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. • $33 ($30 Cape Resident)
Level of Difficulty: Intermediate Paddle
Overview: We will launch from Bokeelia and paddle around Jug Creek, exploring mangrove passages, sand keys, grass flats. Possible sightings include wading birds, schools of fish, rays, sharks and abandoned junk.

LESSONS

Beginner’s Guide to Kayaking
Choice of dates: April 3, May 8
8 a.m. - 12 p.m. • $22 ($20 Cape Resident)
Location: Four Mile Cove Eco Preserve
Overview: This half-day course will teach you how to get your boat where you want it to go. A guided trip into Eco Preserve will follow the instruction. The cost includes equipment. You will get wet!

Another Environmental Opportunity
Major Park BUSH Walk
April 17 • 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. • $17 ($15 Cape Resident)
Level of Difficulty: Intermediate Hike
Overview: Be among the first to experience this vast City park. Hike through various habitats, such as cypress strand, upland oak hammock and pine flatwoods. Possible sightings include bobcats, rattlesnakes, foxes, hogs, turkeys, squirrels, birds. Wear long pants and sturdy hiking shoes.

Two kayakers meander through one of the many trails in Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve.
Initial Site Design Completed for Cape Coral Academic Village

On February 18, 2003, City Council approved the purchase of 171 acres in Northeast Cape Coral for development of an Academic Village. The project will form a partnership among a variety of potential interests including the City of Cape Coral, Lee County School District, Lee County Board of County Commissioners, various university/college branches and other ancillary uses (e.g., performing arts center, high-tech facilities, science center). Working together, these partners will create an academic environment within a campus setting.

Village Components
The Lee County School District plans to build a new high school in the Academic Village. The School District purchased 50 acres of the property from the City. This high school potentially could include an International Baccalaureate Program. This program would permit high school students to enroll at the university/college within the Village and take classes for high school and college credit.

The Village site also has sufficient land to allow for the development of the 20-acre softball or soccer recreation facility that the Parks Master Plan indicated would be needed for the Northeast Cape.
Another element the City would like to include in the Academic Village is an academic library. An academic library that would serve a high school, a university/college and the public would provide maximum benefit for the students and the citizens.

Site Design
The City Council hired Johnson Engineering to do the site design for the Cape Coral Academic Village. The site design work included researching, investigating and analyzing the impact of a future high school, college or university, library, wetlands and a sports field complex. The work addressed the issues of drainage, traffic, water and sewer, and fire and EMS services as they relate to site development. The first phase of this design project has the conceptual rendering and placement of the various components of the Village (see map).

The City will be working with Johnson Engineering on the second phase of the site design, which will include design and permitting for the infrastructure, utilities and sports complex.

Update on Two City Lawsuits
The City of Cape Coral, as is common with most municipalities, is involved in several ongoing legal actions. The two most prominent cases are the City’s pending federal lawsuit against federal agencies concerning the dock permit issue and the lawsuit filed against the City by the Cape Coral Watchdogs. Here is the latest information on these two actions:

Cape Coral Watchdogs
This action was filed by the Citizens Action Committee of Cape Coral Incorporated, aka “Cape Coral Watchdogs,” against the City of Cape Coral, the mayor and individually named council members. On February 19, U.S. District Court Judge Steele dismissed the complaint filed against the City; the mayor and members of City Council by the Cape Coral Watchdogs. The Watchdogs challenged the City’s special assessment program for utilities. Fundamentally, the Court agreed with the City’s assertion that the plaintiff’s action was barred in federal court as the result of the federal Tax Injunction Act. The Court dismissed the plaintiff’s complaint on jurisdictional grounds. At the time of printing, there had been no additional legal action taken by the Cape Coral Watchdogs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
With respect to the pending federal lawsuit that was filed by the City against the federal agencies involved in the matter commonly referred to as the “dock permitting” action, the Save the Manatee Club filed a Motion to Intervene in the action as a party. The City opposed the intervention, and the U.S. Magistrate recommended that Judge Moody (the judge in Tampa before whom the lawsuit is pending) not grant the Club’s Motion to Intervene as a party, though the Save the Manatee Club could participate as an amicus curiae, or “friend of the court.” The Save the Manatee Club has filed objections to the magistrate’s recommendation, and the City filed its response to the objections on Tuesday, February 10. The parties will await a decision from Judge Moody regarding the intervention issue. In the meantime, the federal government has filed a Motion to Partial Summary Judgment regarding the City’s dock permitting claims. The City has filed a response to that motion.

Another Dock Moratorium Hits Cape Coral
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has placed another dock moratorium on the interior canals of Cape Coral. The moratorium affects property owners in the Northwest Cape and Southwest Cape.

The moratorium was issued after a Florida Appeals Court upheld a local state court judge’s ruling that some state speed zones were not legal. The judge’s ruling meant that speed zones in the Matlacha Pass and Jewfish Creek areas could not be enforced. The USFWS quickly acted to limit the construction of boat docks for any waterways that empty into these areas. This includes the canals using the Northwest Spreader road.

City Hall Extends Hours of Operation
The City of Cape Coral has extended the hours of operation at City Hall. On March 1, the City began providing services to the public from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Previously, most City Hall offices closed at 4 p.m., including offices that serve many of the City’s customers (Human Resources, City Clerk, Customer Service and Permitting). “We have many people who need to do business with the City, and our previous hours of operation were not very customer-friendly,” said City Manager Terry Stewart. “By extending our hours of operation, we will give our customers more flexibility if they need to pay their water bill, renew a license or secure a permit.”
**Eminent Domain**

*Why and When Government Can Acquire Private Property for a Public Use*

The power of government to acquire private property for a public purpose, without the owner’s consent, and for payment of just compensation is commonly known as the “right of eminent domain.” Eminent domain is a power that has existed for centuries and is a necessary tool for a government entity. Eminent domain is more commonly known as the exercise of the power of condemnation.

While a property owner is entitled to be paid just compensation for the taking of property, the term “just compensation” must be interpreted to mean “just” not only to the property owner, but also to the condemning agency acquiring the property for that public use.

The City’s Real Estate Division has been actively acquiring properties for various public purposes including park expansions, fire stations, a new water/sewer treatment facility, new roadways and other projects. The City always prefers to acquire property through negotiated settlements. However, if a settlement cannot be reached, the City must consider acquisition through the courts.

Voluntary transactions involve willing property owners (or sellers) with no explicit or implied condemnation. An independent, well-documented appraisal report can satisfy both parties and create a working relationship to resolve any issues during the acquisition process.

Involuntary transactions are just the opposite. The condemning authority wishes to acquire property for a public purpose, but the property owner does not wish to relinquish the property or is of the opinion the market value offered for the property does not reflect the market price. Involuntary condemnation can be expensive and adversarial. Most times, an involuntary condemnation does not create a working relationship between the parties, and legal action will be initiated to condemn the property.

**Who May Exercise the Right of Eminent Domain?**

The U.S. Constitution, in governing the activities of the federal government, constitutes the “law of the land,” insofar as the relationship between a private citizen and the US. government. Each state, through its own state constitution and statutes, has laws regulating state condemnation procedures. It is common for the power of eminent domain to be extended to counties, cities, school districts, and other local public agencies (such as public utility companies and certain private nonprofit universities and similar organizations).

**What is Condemnation?**

Condemnation is the process of acquiring property for a public use through legal proceedings. Public uses include construction of highways, buildings, parks and utility projects. The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution requires the payment of just compensation to a property owner when the government physically takes the property for a public purpose.

**What are the Steps for Condemnation?**

The steps that a condemning authority must follow are in Florida Statutes, Chapters 73 and 74. Basically they are:

- The condemning authority determines the necessity of the project and the properties needed.
- The authority determines if it meets the conditions for public use/purpose.
- The authority notifies the property owner regarding the project.
- The authority obtains an appraisal and makes a “good faith estimate” offer to the property owner.
- The negotiating period between the property owner and the condemning authority is a minimum of 30 days. If an agreement is reached, a real estate closing is set.
- If an agreement cannot be reached, the condemning authority files a Petition for Eminent Domain to take the property. (Negotiations can continue.)
- An Order of Take Hearing is set. At this hearing a judge decides if the condemning authority can take the property and if all the conditions for the lawsuit have been met.
- If the judge finds the conditions have been met, the property is awarded to the condemning authority in exchange for the authority’s estimated market value of the property, otherwise known as the “good faith estimate.”
- Negotiations as to the value of the property can continue through a mediation process where each party provides the other with its expert reports as to why their value is considered “just compensation.” If an agreement is reached, a real estate closing is set.
- If the case is not settled at mediation, the case proceeds to a trial, where a jury will determine the final compensation price.

For the City, eminent domain is an action we take only as a last resort. We would prefer the voluntary transaction route, working with all property owners to arrive at a fair and equitable price for their property. In most cases, we are successful using the voluntary route. However, in those cases where agreement cannot be reached, we will use eminent domain to acquire properties for the overall benefit of the public.

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**Citizens Can View 2004 Annual Operating Budget on the Web**

The City has added the 2004 Annual Operating Budget to the Financial Services page of the City website. Visitors have a choice of three versions to read: Budget Brochure, Condensed Budget and the Complete Operating Budget.

The Budget Brochure was mailed to all City residents and contains only a very, very brief summary of the overall budget. The Condensed Budget is designed to be an informative publication that provides a good overview of governmental budgeting and the process. The Condensed Budget defines budgeting terminology and presents an abbreviated report on the actual budget numbers.

The complete 2004 Operating Budget is the entire 596-page annual budget. Because of the size of the document, the City divided the budget book into 10 files to make downloading and viewing a quicker process. In addition to a budget message and highlights, the 2004 Operating Budget shows revenues, expenditures, debt management, capital projects, asset improvements and all other budget items.

To view the City’s 2004 Operating Budget, visit the City website at www.capegov.org. Select “Financial Services” and then “Budget” from the “Government” dropdown menu.
The City of Cape Coral - Promoting Diversity in the Work Place through Education

With a growing minority population, the City of Cape Coral is working to attract and retain qualified minority employees. In 2003, the City hired 57 minority candidates, bringing the total of minorities employed by the City to 148.

One of the programs the City uses to help support the professional growth of its diverse workforce is an education reimbursement program. All full-time employees looking to expand their education and improve their opportunities for promotions are eligible for reimbursement. The City currently has 4.1 percent of minority employees receiving education reimbursement and 3 percent of non-minority employees.

Dayiana Burdier, a Human Resources Specialist with the City, was born in the Dominican Republic and has worked for the City of Cape Coral since August 1993.

"During my employment, I have attended numerous training seminars that helped advance my career within the City," said Burdier. "I have been promoted three times and am extremely happy to be working for the City of Cape Coral."

For more information about employment opportunities with the City of Cape Coral, visit the City’s website at www.capegov.org. "Jobs" can be accessed from the "Quick Links" dropdown menu on the main page.
Downtown Cape Coral - A New Face, A New Place
Community Redevelopment Agency is working to change the look of Cape Coral's Downtown area

Cape Coral's Downtown is getting a new face and becoming a new destination point for visitors and residents. During the past few years, major projects have been completed in the Downtown Cape. The City's Community Redevelopment Agency has worked with businesses, developers and government agencies to complete several improvement projects. The CRA is a public entity created by the City to implement community redevelopment activities. Here are some of the accomplishments:

- "Streetscaping" of Cape Coral Parkway
- The LeeTran Intermodal Bus Station
- Approval of the "Design Downtown" Master Plan, which was prepared by Dover, Kohl
- Expansion of the Downtown CRA area
- Approval of the Downtown Property Improvement Incentive Program was approved by the CRA Board

CRA Master Plan
The intent of the CRA Master Plan is to transform Downtown Cape Coral from the current "auto-dominated" environment to a "pedestrian-friendly" environment. To accomplish this goal, the CRA will need to eliminate curb cuts and autos driving over the sidewalks. One way to do this is to extend buildings to the public right-of-way and move parking to the back.

Expanded Downtown CRA District Map
(Subject to modification)
The City Council unanimously approved the expansion of the Downtown CRA area to the east and west. The CRA now includes about 425 acres, almost 1,000 businesses that employ about 3,200 people and an ad valorem tax value of about $120 million. Here is the map of the new CRA district:

- Red Area - Downtown Core District
- Orange Area - Downtown Edge District
- Gray Area - Downtown Gateway District
- Green Line - Original Downtown CRA District Boundaries
- Broken Line - Expanded Downtown CRA District Boundary Areas

Property Improvement Incentive Program
The Property Improvement Incentive Program already is yielding results. Existing Downtown businesses and property owners are taking advantage of the incentives to expand and redevelop their properties (within the guidelines of the new master plan). These businesses include Paesano's Italian Market, Heart 'N Home, Raso Realty Building, Sal's Pizza, Dr. Mel Youngs and Subway Sandwich.

Other Activities
CRA Executive Director Chet Hunt and the Board of Commissioners are working to redevelop the Downtown area by incorporating New Urbanism "Smart Growth" guidelines. The CRA is being distinguished with three district designations: Core, Edge and Gateway. To incorporate these designations, the City's Land Development Regulations must be updated for the Downtown area. This complicated job is nearing completion and should be presented to City Council for approval in the next several months. In the interim, the Downtown area's C-1 zoning was amended for new buildings and includes the following changes:

- A cap of 2,027 Residential Dwelling Units in the CRA District
- A cap of 200 Dwelling Units in the CRA's "High Hazard Coastal Area"
- A two-story minimum and a six-story maximum
- Allowing mixed-use buildings and permitting a residential component in commercial zoning within the same structure, and 6- to 10-foot "Build-to-Zone" setbacks
- Floor Area Ratio of 4.0 for commercial and professional uses only
- Density of 20 Dwelling Units per acre by right, with up to 40 Dwelling Units per acre under certain conditions

This new zoning will allow property owners, builders and developers to use their land more diversely and productively. It removes many of the previous restrictions on Downtown property, allows more flexibility and increases value for new developments.

Coming next issue: CRA Strategic Goals
City Continues Rapid Pace of Development

Cape Coral continues to experience a phenomenal increase in the construction of single-family homes. Each year, the Department of Community Development issues record numbers of single-family home permits. In Fiscal Year 2003, the City issued 3,819 permits. To illustrate the significant growth occurring in the city, five years ago in 1998, the City issued 1,403 permits.

Based on the number of permits issued for the first quarter of 2004, this year will be another record breaker. For the first three months (October - December 2003), the City issued 1,318 single-family permits. This exceeds the 1st quarter numbers of 2003 by 385 permits (933 in FY 2003).

Cape Coral continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the country. When adding the latest numbers for January 2004 into the mix (438 permits), the City has issued more permits in the first four months of FY 2004 (1,756) than was issued in the entire FY 2000 (1,734 permits).

Coming Soon: Click2Gov Building Permits Software

The City is installing a new system that provides improved internet access to the HTE Building Permits application. The new system, Click2Gov, will enable the public and businesses to inquire about permits. Contractors also will be able to schedule inspections in real time. Some of the benefits of Click2Gov are:

- Improved customer service by allowing customers to acquire information without waiting for a clerk’s assistance.
- Reduced inquiry calls from contractors and the public, thus maximizing resources of building department personnel.
- Electronic inspection scheduling.
- Property and permit information - parcel numbers, zoning, ownership, etc.
- Online permit application submittal.

Bennett Joins DCD Horticulture Staff

Paul Bennett is DCD’s newest horticulturist, and his primary focus will be landscape inspections. Paul is a native Floridian and previously was employed by Forestry Resources, a Fort Myers-based landscape supply company. Paul received his Bachelor’s Degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and has an extensive background in environmental science.

Annexations Add 198 Acres to Cape Coral

The City Council recently approved two voluntary annexations into the city. These two annexations add 198 acres to Cape Coral’s geographic area. The two annexations are:

Kirby/Rice Annexation: The City of Cape Coral annexed 5.43 acres on December 1, 2003. The property was part of an “enclave” (an area under Lee County jurisdiction surrounded by land under City jurisdiction) located south of Pondella Road and just west of the Park 720 vehicle storage facility.

Judd Creek Annexation: This annexation added about 192 acres into the City of Cape Coral. The annexed properties are located on Pine Island Road, just south of Merchant’s Crossing shopping center, approximately one quarter mile west of the intersection of Pine Island Road and U.S. 41. The subject properties consist of seven parcels of undeveloped land, with some wetland and upland features. This annexation was adopted by Council on January 26, 2004.

More Development Projects in the Works for Cape Coral

The City’s Planning Division currently is processing the following Planned Development Projects (PDPs) on tap for Cape Coral:

BLUE WATER COACH HOMES

This planned, multi-family development is under review by City staff. The project consists of 14, two-story buildings, each containing four units each, or a total of 56 units. The 8-acre parcel is on the east side of Burnt Store Road, just north of Pine Island Road, on the Shadroe Lake. Blue Water Coach Homes will provide a clubhouse, boardwalk, finger piers, and a tiki hut as amenities. This project is anticipated to be before the Planning and Zoning Commission in April.

CAPE ESTATES CONDOMINIUM

This multi-family project is being planned for the northeast corner of Del Prado Boulevard and Kismet Parkway. This 29-acre parcel will be used to develop a 340-unit gated community. The plans for the project feature homes with the “Big House” effect, equipped with large garages. This innovative style of development is new and exciting for Cape Coral. The Planning staff is coordinating the review process with other City departments, with Public Hearings planned for April.

HERITAGE SHOPPING CENTER WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD WAL-MART

A new commercial development is being planned in the Village District of Pine Island Road at the northeast corner of Pine Island Road and Nicholas Parkway. This 32-acre commercial subdivision consists of a main parcel with three outparcels, each totaling 26,000 square feet of land area. This project will encourage and promote the retail uses as recommended in the Pine Island Road Master Plan.

VETERAN’S PARKWAY WEST (AKA BONITA BAY)

This development, located on SW Pine Island Road, is moving forward with public hearings scheduled. The Planning and Zoning Committee held a special meeting on February 25 to consider the project. By press time, the City Council will have rendered a decision on the project.
City Council Approves Comp Plan Amendments

The City Council recently approved multiple amendments to the City of Cape Coral Comprehensive Plan that will set the stage for some significant changes to our previous pattern of growth. The Comprehensive Plan is a document used by the City to guide development decisions. The City has a Future Land Use map that illustrates where various types of development (commercial, professional, multi-family, etc.) might occur in the future.

One of the Comprehensive Plan amendments approved will allow selected concentrations of housing density in the downtown area. This means the City can develop special regulations to enable people to live within a traditional downtown area in residential units located above offices and shops.

Other recent amendments to the Future Land Use map include:

• Changing the land-use designation at the northwest corner of Kismet Parkway and Del Prado Boulevard North from "Industrial" to "Public Facilities" for the purpose of developing an "Academic Village." This Academic Village site will provide a location for a post-secondary educational facility within Cape Coral. Additionally, the Academic Village will be designed to host a public high school and recreational facilities.

• Changing the area around City Hall to "Mixed Use" and "Commercial/Professional" for the purpose of developing the City Centrum plan. City Centrum would be a unique area, anchored by City Hall, where we could encourage development of government and private sector uses that benefit from a close association with each other. The area also could be a place where people can live and interact within a variety of cultural and recreational activities.

• Changing a large area of land in the North Cape to "Parks and Recreation" for developing a Festival Park. The Festival Park is a recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Master plan and would serve multiple functions - the primary purpose being to provide a place to host large events for city residents.

• Changing the land use on property in the North Cape to "Public Facilities" for developing a Reverse Osmosis Water Plant, which will be necessary to serve the Cape's growing population. This amendment reserves about 55 acres for the water production and wastewater treatment facilities required in the City's Utilities Master Plan Update.

• An amendment earmarking an area large enough for a community commercial center at the northwest corner of Diplomat Parkway West and Santa Barbara Boulevard North. The amendment establishes a "Commercial/Professional" designation along this roadway as outlined in the City's Commercial Corridor Study. This study identifies opportunities to establish a good balance between residential, office/services and retail uses. This particular corridor is within a relatively sparsely developed area. The City is taking a proactive approach by establishing the new designation now and alerting property owners in advance of future development.

• A land-use change to "Commercial/Professional" at the northwest corner of Mohawk Parkway and Skyline Boulevard South to allow the development of a Neighborhood Wal-Mart store. Development plans for the neighborhood grocery store are under review.

• Changing the land-use on property west of Gulf Middle School and south of Mariner High School to "Public Facilities" for the development of a public high school and middle school.

• Establishing a land-use of "Public Facilities" to construct a new fire station on Everest Parkway near Del Prado Boulevard South.

• Adding the "Pine Island Road District" designation to land recently annexed into the city, south of Pondella Road. This designation will allow for the expansion of a vehicle storage facility.

• Changing the land use at the northwest corner of Sands Boulevard and Veteran's Parkway to "Commercial/Professional" to allow an expansion of an existing commercial area near the Bonita Bay development.

ALERT: Two New Scams

Residents should be aware of two new scams which have surfaced in early 2004.

In one scam, thieves attempt to have potential victims divulge their debit card number and PIN number via response to what appears to be an official “bank” email. In the scam, the victim receives an email from “Citibank,” “lager@citibank.com,” or a similar email address. It also could come from any bank or financial institution. The subject line might read “Email Verification” or similar wording including the victim’s correct email address. The email contains numerous spelling and grammatical errors, and may originate from abroad. In the email, the victim is asked to click on a link and enter his/her debit card number and PIN number.

This is an attempt to take over the victim’s account, steal money, and possibly steal the victim’s identity. If you receive such an email, do not click on the link and do not respond. Instead, immediately delete the email.

Citizens should never divulge their bank account, debit card, credit card and most especially, PIN numbers. This warning also applies to Social Security numbers and any other personal identifying information.

The other scam victimized a local elderly woman, who was conned out of $2,000 cash and several hundred dollars in jewelry.

The only known victim thus far is a 78-year-old Cape Coral resident who told police she was shopping at a local store on January 27 when she was approached by two Hispanic women. One of the women told the victim she needed help cashing a $100,000 lottery ticket and asked her for $5,000 because she said the lottery required two witnesses with $5,000 each. The other woman, playing the part of the second “witness,” was in fact part of the con.

The suspects convinced the victim to drive them to her residence, where she gave them $2,000 cash plus two chains, three pair of gold earrings, and a watch. When the victim had to use the bathroom, the suspects disappeared with her cash and jewelry.

Residents are warned to be on the alert if approached by anyone with a story involving you having to show or provide money, jewelry or other valuables. This is a scam. Do not give anyone your valuables, no matter how convincing they sound. Instead, immediately call the police.

New Hours - Fingerprinting Services for Citizens

The Cape Coral Police Department has implemented new hours for fingerprinting services for citizens. The hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). No appointment is necessary. Citizens should go to the lobby of the Police Department, 815 Nicholas Parkway, and see the Desk Officer. The charge for fingerprinting remains $4.50, and anyone who wants to be fingerprinted must present valid photo identification.

Visit our website at www.capecops.com. For up-to-minute information from the Cape Coral Police Department. You will find pages containing the department’s latest news releases, crime prevention tips, crime statistics and other information.
Daddy’s Girls and Doodlebugs!

By Cathy Loyola
Environmental Resources Biologist

Since I have been involved with the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, I have a newfound appreciation for bugs and their role in the environment, especially plant life. The program’s approach to bugs is simple: If the bug is not a problem for your plants, leave it alone. If it is and you can catch the bug early, try to remove it by using the least toxic remedy - soap and water. And never treat for something you cannot identify.

That was the key for me. Since my husband and I could not identify many of the bugs we saw, we bought a copy of “A Field Guide to Florida Critters: Common Household and Garden Pests” by Bill Zak. While I knew the new book would be handy in identifying the little critters that visit my plants, I also had an immediate curiosity to address. The first bug I wanted to look up was the doodlebug. Why? Like most girls growing up, my dad had given me an affectionate nickname: “Doodle,” which was short for “Doodlebug.” I had my own idea of what a doodlebug would look like, and as I leafed through the pages, I fully expected to see this beautiful image:

As I scoured the book for my namesake, imagine my surprise when I finally happened upon my beloved “doodlebug,” and it actually looked like this:

This is a doodlebug? I was shocked (not to mention a little disappointed). My dad had given me the nickname of a voracious larva with sickle-like jaws that digs a pit, waits in the bottom for prey with open jaws, and then sucks out their insides and spits out their exoskeleton.

At a gathering later with friends, I shared this newfound knowledge on the doodlebug and discovered that there were other daddy’s girls who shared this same nickname. When I showed them the doodlebug picture, they were as surprised as I, and we all wondered the same thing. What were our dads thinking? Did they know a doodlebug actually is called an “antlion,” and that it eats ants and other smaller insects? Did they know that these bugs undergo complete metamorphosis with an egg, larva, pupa and winged adult? Did they know that their silken cocoon is derived from tubules and spun from their anus?

Well, my answer is “no,” and I am sticking to it. I believe our dads pictured a beautiful lady beetle, just as most of us do. But even if the answer was “yes” (although I am still sticking with “no”), I would say that dad called me that because just as I made a difference in his world, the doodlebug makes a difference in its world - the ecosystem.

If you would like to read more about the doodlebug (antlion), here are some websites to visit:

www.archboldstation.org/discoveringflscrub/unit2/unit2antlion.html
www.insectia.com/beta/e/iv_c202025.html
www.antlionfarms.com

To learn more about Florida Yards and Neighborhoods and Florida Friendly Landscaping, please join us for our classes at Rotary Park. Call 549-4606 for reservations:

2004 Introductory Class Schedule (all Fridays)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>2004 Introductory Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>2004 Introductory Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>2004 Introductory Class</td>
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City Adds OwlCam to WildCam Project

The City has added another wildlife viewing camera to its web page. The OwlCam is now operational and focused on one of Cape Coral’s most unique birds - the burrowing owl. The OwlCam can be accessed from the main page of the website: www.capegov.org.

The OwlCam is the most unique of the City’s three wildlife cameras. The camera package is equipped with an infrared unit and a special Panasonic camera that switches from color to black-and-white for night viewing. If current trends hold true, the City expects the OwlCam to become very popular with visitors to the web page. The most popular pages on the City website are the EagleCam and the OspreyCam, and the City has received email from across the country from avid fans of the WildCam project.

“In January, the eagles recorded more than 158,000 page views, while the ospreys had more than 56,000 views,” said Connie Barron, public information director for the City. “These two sites get 52 percent of our website traffic, and I have no doubt that within a short period of time, the OwlCam will be up there with them.”

The WildCam project is a joint effort among the City of Cape Coral, LCEC, Sprint and National Media Services. These agencies are working together to provide these unique viewing opportunities for visitors to the City of Cape Coral web page.
How to Lend a Helping Hand to Wildlife

This time of year, the City often receives numerous calls from concerned residents about injured or abandoned wildlife. While taking in wild animals is prohibited without proper permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Florida, there are a few things that you can do to help if you find an animal in distress.

A young bird fluttering on the ground is not necessarily an indication that the bird is in distress. The bird could be learning to fly under the watchful eyes of nearby parents. Before rushing to help, wait a few minutes to see if this is the case. If you are convinced that the young bird is not learning to fly, you can help the bird by returning it to its nest (if you know the location). Handling the bird will not cause the adults to reject the young one. If you do not know the location of the nest, or if the animal is injured, then you can take the animal to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife on Sanibel Island. Their number for emergencies and advice is 472-3644.

You also can take injured wildlife to the emergency vet clinic in the Dragon Plaza in Fort Myers. They will transfer the animal to CROW. Their number is 939-5542. Another option is to contact the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife at 772-7332.

You can help many species of birds, especially cavity nesters like woodpeckers and screech owls, by planting more trees or keeping some dead “snags” around. Keep a dead tree or “snag” in your yard by trimming off weak limbs and planting healthy shrubs around the exterior. If keeping a snag in the yard is not possible, nest boxes are another option. Nest box plants can be found on the Internet or at the All Native Garden Center in Fort Myers, where you can purchase assembled nest boxes. If you can, leave some branches interwoven.

Helping our native wildlife survive is important to most of us. In the urban setting, there is a lot we can do to help.

How You Can Help Wildlife

• Take a Florida Yards and Neighborhoods class. Classes are held at Rotary Park. Call 549-4606 for more information about class dates.
• Have plants of varying heights in your yard. To be safe from predators, birds need layering and plenty of cover.
• Keep dead trees whenever possible in your landscape. Dead palm trees are often used by woodpeckers and screech owls.
• If you don’t have any dead trees, be willing to put up nest boxes. Plans can be downloaded from the Internet or assembled boxes can be purchased at All Native Garden Center, 939-9663.
• Put up a bat house. We have native bats in Cape Coral, and they also need adequate housing. Bats make great neighbors because they help keep the insect populations under control.
• Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides.
• Use native vegetation whenever possible: It provides food and shelter for birds, butterflies and small mammals. It requires less water. It does not need fertilizer and pesticides the way non-native plants and trees do.
• Do NOT feed wildlife. They will become dependent on humans for food and become a “nuisance,” or their trust in humans will put them in harm’s way.
• Provide preserved areas for wildlife. The single most important factor in declining numbers of Florida’s native species is loss of habitat.

Driving Tips to Help Wildlife

• Do not throw food out the window. It will attract animals to the roadside.
• Drive with high beams whenever possible.
• Scan the roadside as you drive.
• Drive the speed limit. This allows animals more time to cross the road and provides more time for you to respond.
• Stop if you see a raccoon or deer crossing the road. These animals usually travel in groups and more may be following.
• Help turtles cross in the direction they are going.
• If you hit an animal, stop and try to find it. Use a blanket or towel to cover while transporting. Take it to the emergency vet clinic, or call CROW at 472-3644.

Following is a list of phone numbers that can be very helpful if you have questions or want to help injured or harassed wildlife.

CITY OF CAPE CORAL

Environmental Resources Division: ....................................................... 574-0745 or 574-0746
Wildlife Questions: ................................................................. 574-0589

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife: .......................................................... 772-7332
Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife: .............................................. 472-3644
Florida Marine Patrol: ................................................................. 332-4966
Lee County Animal Control: .............................................................. 432-2085
Lee County Environmental Services: .................................................. 479-8181
Lee County Extension Office: ............................................................ 338-2332
Manatees: .............................................................................. 1-888-404-3922
Marine Fish Kill Hotline: ................................................................. 1-800-636-0511

FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wildlife Alert: (Report harassment of protected species)............ 1-863-648-3200
Bureau of Protected Species Management: .................... 1-850-922-4330
Injured or dead manatees: ............................................................... 1-888-404-FWCC
Tagged Manatee Sighting: ............................................................. 1-727-896-8626

Plant Sales at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve

Now that Cape Coral is under year-round watering restrictions, you may be wondering what you can do to create a more efficient landscape. Native plants can provide a great alternative to the popular non-native species that demand frequent watering and lots of fertilization. Once established, native plants generally prove to be tough, low maintenance plants that are resistant to drought, disease and pest problems. They also are beautiful as well as attractive to butterflies and birds. Some Florida municipalities even require a certain percentage of new landscapes to be native.

Where can you find plants that will survive on normal rainfall with minimal irrigation in the dry months? This is where Cape Coral Parks and Recreation can help. Besides the many great gardening seminars offered at Rotary Park, the department also sells native plants at the Kayak Shack at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. Plant sales are available from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from October through May. Along with nature-related gift items, bottled water, snacks and canoe/kayak rentals, you can look at our wide selection of Florida native plants for sale. From low growing wildflowers, to mid-sized shrubs to larger trees and palms – there is a good variety of options, all reasonably priced.

To get to the Kayak Shack, make an immediate left upon passing through the main gate to Eco Preserve. For the complete schedule on gardening classes call Rotary Park at 549-4606.
Utilities Expansion Update

In the winter of 1999, the City Council approved the current Utility Expansion program. This program has been very successful in providing the property owners in the City’s Utility Expansion areas with potable water, irrigation water, and sanitary sewer services. The City’s current Utility Expansion Program is continuing on schedule. The Pine Island Road Corridor and Southwest One projects have been completed and the Southwest Three project is coming to a close with some areas already approved for connections. We anticipate that all of the Southwest Three sub-contract areas will be ready for connections by the end of March 2004.

In December 2003, construction began in the Southwest Two area. This is the last project of our current program, and the work is on schedule for a completion sometime in March 2005. Southwest Two has five sub-contract areas with the two northwest areas being mostly in Unit 93 off of Surfside Boulevard and the southwest areas mostly in Unit 65 and some in Unit 70. The south areas are east of the Marlene and Perch Canals, south of Mohawk Parkway, west of Skyline Boulevard and north of Cape Coral Parkway. As individual sub-contract areas are completed, homeowners will receive notifications from the City that they can connect to the City’s water, sewer and irrigation systems.

All of the pipes, manholes, concrete structures, and fittings necessary to complete this project have been staged along the various streets in the Southwest Two Area to enable rapid installation of the water and wastewater lines.

The expansion projects are funded with bonds and loans received from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. This federal loan program is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and permits municipalities to borrow money from the state at low interest rates. In addition to the current pre-pay and tax bill payment plans, the property owners in the Southwest Two area will be presented with an option to use a new flexible payment plan.

Planning for the next major expansion program is underway, and this project may include all the currently unserviced parcels south of Pine Island Road. These unserviced parcels will be divided into five, one-year projects with the first starting in 2006 and the last in 2010. Staff will be presenting the new program to Council in the near future. The projects in the new program should be similar in size to the three Southwest projects in the current program.

For more information on the current Utilities Expansion program, visit the City’s website at www.capegov.org. Utilities expansion information is available on the Public Works Department page.

Access Your Account Information from the City’s Website

Cape Coral property owners, or prospective property owners, can look up account information on the Internet at the City of Cape Coral’s website at www.capegov.org. While we do not have online bill pay available yet, visitors can find out account balances on specific properties. If you cannot find the information on the Internet or need additional information, you can contact the City's Customer Billing Services Division by phone at (239) 574-7722 or in person by visiting the first floor of City Hall, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTILITY BILL INFORMATION:</th>
<th>ACCOUNT INFORMATION FOR:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items needed to access your account:</td>
<td>ASSESSMENTS IMPACT FEES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Customer ID and Location ID account numbers as shown on the upper left section of the utility bill.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Click on eCape (a dropdown box will open)</td>
<td>SEAWALLS LOT MOWING FEES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Click on eCape Index</td>
<td>BETTERMENT STORMWATER FEES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Click on BILL (navigation menu)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ENTER your customer account number and location ID number (shown on your bill)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Click on GO (NOTE: Account information is shown as of current date the system is viewed)</td>
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You also can access your property taxes from the results page by clicking on “VIEW REAL ESTATE TAX INFO.” This link takes you to the Lee County Tax Collector’s website and the property’s tax bill.

City’s Growth Spurs Need for Central Records Storage Facility

As Cape Coral’s population continues to grow, the City’s collection of official records is matching the pace. Each City department creates official records that have to be retained for specified periods of time. For the past few years, the City Clerk’s Office (the official keeper of the records) has sought space from whatever might be available within City facilities. This resulted in having records stored in seven different locations throughout the city. Needless to say, this storage policy was creating a logistical problem for customers and staff.

The decision was made to try to find a central storage facility for all of these records. Certain criteria had to be met before any building could be used as records retention area. The building needed to have climate control, be protected from fires, hurricanes and weather events, and provide proper accessibility.

The City Clerk’s Office found a facility that would meet these criteria - a 4,000-square-foot building in the Industrial Park. The City is leasing the building and making modifications to ensure that thousands of boxes of public records will be stored safely. Once the site has been equipped with additional shelving, increased air conditioning and a fire suppression system, staff will begin the process of relocating files to the central records storage facility. Having a centralized location for storage of records will help the City provide a better response to public requests of the records. This facility also will keep records in a safe environment and enable the City to meet the records retention requirements of the state.
Don’t Get Nailed: A Consumer’s Guide to Choosing the Right Contractor

Contracting for home improvements and storm repairs can pose many difficult problems if you’re not careful. This information can help you make smart choices - and help you avoid an unlicensed contractor.

There are many risks in hiring an unlicensed contractor. For more information on Florida’s Construction Lien Law, visit the City’s website at www.capegov.org and select “Forms Online” from the eCape dropdown menu. Then follow the link for “choosing a contractor” to read more about your potential liability. Here are some tips when seeking a contractor:

**Watch for These Hints of a Con Artist:**
- Target the elderly, uninformed and the young and inexperienced.
- Focus on driveway paving, roofing and painting.
- Solicit door-to-door claiming to have “just finished a job down the street.”
- Arrive in unmarked vans or trucks, some from out-of-state.
- Have a post office box address with no street address, or give a local motel as their address.
- Promise to use your home as a “demonstration model” at a bargain price.
- Offer to work for you, only if you will obtain any necessary building permits. This makes you responsible for the work done.
- Ask for all the money upfront.
- Hurt themselves at your job site and then sue you if they are not insured.

**How to Find a Reputable and Reliable Contractor:**
- Ask to see the state contractor’s license. All state-generated licenses come with a wallet card printed on the same paper stock as the main license. Check that the license shown matches the person showing it. Ask to see additional identification if you have any doubts.
- Determine how long a contractor has been in business. You may check with local building supply retailers. An established contractor with a reputation for using quality materials and paying his bills with suppliers is more likely to do quality work for you.
- Check with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation or local licensing department to verify that the license is current.
- Ask for references of persons for whom the contractor has done work. Check them out!

**Narrowing the Field:**
- Choose several contractors and always obtain a written estimate from each. Explain what you want done, specifying such items as the quality and type of materials.
- If this is insurance work, take the estimates to your adjuster or agent to verify the proper procedure you must follow to ensure payment of the claim.
- Obtain detailed estimates from several contractors for material specifications, how long the job will take and the total cost.
- Be suspicious of a contractor who offers the fastest, cheapest job on a “you must act now” basis. Poor workmanship, inferior materials and unfinished jobs are often the result.

**Before Signing the Contract:**
- Read the contract carefully, including the small print.
- Fill in all blank spaces.
- If this is insurance work, consult your insurance agent to see if the repairs are covered by your insurance.
- Have an attorney review the contract before you sign. Take every reasonable precaution to protect your interest.

**Be Sure the Contract Includes:**
- Contractor’s name, address, telephone number and professional license number.
- Precise description of work to be completed and materials to be supplied.
- Construction completion date.
- Any financing information that is required by law or that is part of the transaction.
- Any warranty agreements.
- All necessary building permits or licenses. Make sure the job site will be cleaned thoroughly and that no debris will remain after the job is completed.

**Canceling a Contract:**
Some home improvement or repair contracts may be canceled without penalty or obligation by midnight of the third business day after signing. These contracts may include:
- Agreements signed anywhere other than the seller’s normal place of business, unless you have requested the specific goods or services.
- Agreements resulting from door-to-door sales solicitation.
- Agreements that will be paid on an installment basis for more than 90 days.
- It is important to note that emergency home repairs, made at the owner’s request, are not subject to cancellation under the three-day rule. To protect yourself, consult an attorney.

**How to File a Complaint:**
All complaints must be made in writing to:
Business and Professional Regulations
1940 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0782

**More Tips:**
- Avoid any contractor who requires advance payment.
- Arrange to pay after the work is completed or in regular payments.
- Do not sign the work completion certificate until all work is completed to your satisfaction.
- Avoid paying cash.
- If your contract exceeds $2,500, become familiar with the Florida Construction Lien Law. A notarized release of lien will help ensure that you will not have to face double payment or possible loss of property to the unpaid workers. For complete information, write to: Construction Lien Law Brochure, 7960 Arlington Expressway, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32211.

Sun Splash Family Waterpark Now Open

Sun Splash Family Waterpark is now open for another season of recreational fun. Sun Splash is a 12-acre community aquatic facility located at 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard near Lake Kennedy. The park offers a variety of water activities for swimmers and non-swimmers. From the five-story Electric Slide to the Main Stream River, Sun Splash has a water adventure for everyone. The park also has volleyball courts, an arcade and lounge chairs available. Here are the daily rates for admission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults and children 48” and taller</td>
<td>$10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 48” tall</td>
<td>$8.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children age two and under</td>
<td>$2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens 55 and older</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior Citizens 55 and older receive a $2 discount off general admission (except for senior citizens).

Cape Coral residents with proof of residency receive a $2 discount off general admission (except for senior citizens).

If you are looking for summer employment, consider working at SunSplash. Our employees range in age from 16 years old to seniors. We have openings for lifeguards, maintenance workers, cashiers and guest services. For more information on programs, jobs, hours of operation, group sales and rentals, call the park at 574-0538.

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- Adults and children 48” and taller: $10.95
- Children under 48” tall: $8.95
- Children age two and under: $2.95
- Senior Citizens 55 and older: $5.95

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BREEZE AD TO BE PLACED HERE AT TIME OF OUTPUT