Jim Burch Appointed Cape Coral Mayor

Council Member Jim Burch, who represented Council District 1, was selected to fill the seat of former Mayor Eric Feichthaler, who resigned to run for the Lee County Commission. Council interviewed candidates and appointed Burch at their November 17 meeting. Burch will complete the one year remaining on Feichthaler’s term. The seat is on the ballot for November 2009.

Burch was elected in November 2007 to complete the two remaining years on the term of former District 1 Council Member Jim Jeffers, who passed away in September 2006.

Jim Burch has lived in Cape Coral for 15 years. He is professional surveyor and mapper and holds a bachelor’s degree in English, Secondary Education for Virginia Commonwealth University. He is married with three sons.

Council will fill Burch’s vacant District 1 seat at their December 15 meeting. There is one year remaining in this term, as this district seat also is on the ballot in November 2009.

City Receives $7.1 Million to Purchase and Rehabilitate Foreclosed Homes

The City of Cape Coral has been allocated $7 million as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program provides emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. The stabilization program provides grants to every state and certain local communities to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes. The program is authorized under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

In response to this initiative, the City of Cape Coral developed its own programs and funding priorities to qualify for these funds. However, the City is required to use at least 25 percent of the funds for the purchase and redevelopment of abandoned or foreclosed homes or residential properties that will be used to house individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the area median income ($59,900). In addition, all activities funded by this program must benefit low- and moderate-income persons whose income does not exceed 120 percent of area median income ($59,900). The following activities are eligible under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program:

- City Mows Abandoned Properties
- Lock Your Vehicles
- Watch for Manatees
- Cape is Top 10 Digital City
- Garbage Pickup Schedule to Change
- Focus on Police K-9 Unit
- Citizen Police Academy
- Watering Schedule
- New Online Citizen Support Center
- Cape Police Named “Flagship” Agency
- Road Paving Projects Reduced
- Burrowing Owl Festival
- SWAT Team Calendar
- DVD Tribute to Veterans
- Watch for Unlicensed Contractors

continued on page 4
City of Cape Coral Council Members

**DISTRICT 1**
Vacancy Filled on December 15

**DISTRICT 2**
Peter Brandt  
239-574-0437  
pbrandt@capecoral.net  
William Deile  
239-574-0437  
bdeile@capecoral.net

**DISTRICT 3**
Dolores Bertolini  
239-574-0437  
dbertolini@capecoral.net

**DISTRICT 4**

**DISTRICT 5**
Eric Grill  
239-574-0437  
egrill@capecoral.net

**DISTRICT 6**
Tim Day  
239-574-0437  
tday@capecoral.net

**DISTRICT 7**
Derrick Donnell, Ed.D  
239-574-0437  
ddonnell@capecoral.net

City of Cape Coral Administration

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>City Manager</td>
<td>Terry Stewart</td>
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<td>Assistant City Manager</td>
<td>Carl Schwing</td>
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<td>Wayne Howard, Director</td>
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<td>City Clerk</td>
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<td>City Auditor</td>
<td>Dona J. Newman</td>
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<td>Community Development</td>
<td>Carl Schwing, Acting Director</td>
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<td>Fire Services</td>
<td>Bill Van Helden, Chief</td>
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<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>Steve Pohlman, Director</td>
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<td>Editor/Public Information</td>
<td>Connie Barron, Director</td>
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*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 newsletter@capecoral.net.
Welcome to the winter issue of our City’s community newsletter. I am extremely honored to be writing this message to you as your new mayor. As you may know, Mayor Eric Feichthaler resigned the mayor’s seat to seek the job of Lee County commissioner. I was very privileged to be selected by my fellow Council members to complete the remainder of his term through November 2009.

I want to thank Mayor Feichthaler for his service and his tireless dedication to the citizens of Cape Coral. As mayor, he was constantly looking out for the greater good of our community and was an advocate for our city. We are fortunate to have had him representing the City of Cape Coral as our mayor for the past three-plus years.

We now must appoint another citizen to fill my vacant District 1 seat for the remainder of that term – also through November 2009. We are accepting applications, and the appointment will be made at the December 15 meeting of City Council. Council then will take their customary holiday break and return to business on January 12, 2009.

Our 2008 hurricane season has ended, and Cape Coral was spared any major impacts from this year’s storms. Even though we escaped the wrath of major hurricanes this year, we need only to look at the City of Galveston to remind ourselves that these massive storms can cause catastrophic damage to communities and take years to recover.

With the end of the hurricane season comes the end of the rainy season. Please remember that all residents have two days for watering their lawns, and only within specific timeframes. We have an article in this newsletter detailing those days and times.

There is going to be a major change in our trash pickup schedule beginning January 12, 2009. Residents will move to one-day pickup for all trash, recyclables and yard waste. That means that residents will put all three of their trash items out for pickup on the same day. Three different trucks will drive through and collect these items on the designated day. Please review the article and map in this publication to determine your pickup day, and feel free to call Waste Management if you have any questions. Their number is 334-4115.

Let me take a moment to congratulate our Police Department, Information Technology Department and Finance Department for achieving national recognition for the City of Cape Coral. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies named our Police Department a “flagship” agency – an extraordinary honor for police excellence. IT gained recognition from the Center for Digital Government as Cape Coral was named one of the Top 10 Digital Cities in the country. The Finance Department received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 22nd consecutive year the City has received this award. Job well done!

Thank you for your time. I look forward to serving as your mayor for the next year.

Welcome to the winter edition of On the Move. As we close out this calendar year, I hope you’ll join me in giving thanks for the blessings we enjoy, living here in Cape Coral. I think it’s important that even though all of us are challenged by global economic issues, we recognize how fortunate we are to be in this beautiful environment.

It’s been a very busy time at City Hall since our last message.

Last time, I told you about our FY2009 budget challenges. With hard work from the staff and support from the council, we have a budget that keeps the same millage rate as last year, even though property values had dropped by as much as 25 percent. With additional homestead exemption allowances, this means many homeowners are paying the same or slightly less than last year.

The bottom line is that we reduced expenditures by more than $20 million including a significant reduction in personnel through an early retirement program and unfilled vacancies. I am grateful for the service of those who have chosen to leave the employment of the City, and I am enthusiastic about the “Can Do” attitude of those who remain.

Even as we finished the budget, we began construction on the new Police Headquarters Building. I was very pleased to see consensus among our elected officials as we lined up for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

We had record turnout at the polls this year, and the country has elected a new president. We wish President-elect Barack Obama well as he tackles the many challenges that face our country.

Cape Coral also has a new mayor. Mayor Eric Feichthaler was required to resign when he ran for county office. After considerable public input and discussion, the City Council has chosen Jim Burch to finish Mayor Feichthaler’s term, which ends in November next year. We congratulate Mayor Burch and look forward to working with him.

Even though the FY2009 budget just became effective on October 1, we already are getting down to the hard work of crafting next year’s budget. Our revenue projections again are bleak. I have directed staff to begin planning further cuts, and I will be working with City Council to ensure that there is a full understanding of our revenue situation.

I remain confident that we can get through these difficult times. Our community will resume its growth. Our neighborhoods will come to life. Our recovery will take time but we have the opportunity to make good decisions that will pave the way for a great future.

Thank you and happy holidays.
City Continues to Mow Abandoned Properties

For the past 18 months, the City has been mowing abandoned properties to eliminate the unsightly overgrowth. The City has spent more than $140,000 mowing properties that were left behind through foreclosure or other reasons. With hundreds of empty homes scattered throughout the Cape, the burden to keep up with all of the complaints was significant. There were not enough mowers to keep up with the calls for service.

To help address the backlog of properties, the contract was recently rebid. The City received proposals from 22 mowing contractors, and Council authorized staff to use all 22 bidders. Bids for mowing each property range from $25 to $60 depending on the contractor.

While there are more contractors from which to choose, the mowers cannot mow abandoned construction sites or lots that have debris, obstructions or other conditions that prevent standard mowing procedures. We expect the backlog of standards lots to be reduced quickly; however, these other sites must be cleared (trash, litter and debris removed), and may require weed whacking rather than mowing. Estimates to complete these jobs have been in the thousands of dollars per site. Residents should not expect these sites to be maintained very quickly, if at all.

Looking for Assistance through Arbitration

The City has been looking for creative ways to address these properties and still work within a budget. Code Compliance teamed with the Police Department to use the Arbitration Program. The Arbitration Program is designed for youth in need of court-appointed community service or service through a school program. This program can provide young men and women to help clear overgrowth and debris on abandoned properties. The participants gain valuable community service, and the City sees the overall appearance of the community improve.

If you have questions or concerns about the cleanup of abandoned properties, please contact Code Compliance at (239) 574-0684 or email fcassidy@capecoral.net.

“P2C” Provides Online Access to Police Information

The Cape Coral Police Department has an online program to provide public access to police incidents, reports, arrest and accidents. The P2C is the “Police-to-Citizen” service where website visitors can check the status of daily police activities using the “Daily Bulletin” category.

Citizens also can use the site to report a crime (non-emergency only), and find accident reports.

Under the “Event Search” category, users can search for specific events. This can be accomplished by name, date or case number. You can search for general event or find activities that have occurred within a defined radius of an address. In this category, incident reports may have additional details available beyond the summary report.

To use P2C, visit www.capecops.com and select the P2C link at the top of the page.
On The Move Adds New Insert on Parks Programs

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Department has published program guides to highlight the various classes, activities and recreation opportunities available during specific seasons. The guides were mailed to all residents. With significant reductions in the budget, Parks staff was looking for options to help reduce costs. The printing and mailing of the three seasonal program guides to all residents was targeted for possible reductions.

The department determined that making the programs available at various locations and by request would substantially reduce printing and mailing costs. However, getting the word out on the programs was still a key concern.

A partnership was developed with the Public Information Office to add a 4-page insert into each quarterly community newsletter to highlight various programs and advertise the availability of the program guide booklet. The only cost associated with the additional insert was about $900 for the paper and print costs. There was no additional mailing cost. The partnership will enable the department to reduce the costs associated with the program guide by several thousand dollars.

Please watch the center of each quarterly newsletter for updates on the Parks and Recreation programs available for our residents.

Charter High School will Complete the K-12 System

The final building in the City of Cape Coral’s Municipal Charter School System is moving toward reality. City Council approved moving forward with negotiating a contract for constructing a new high school with McGarvey Construction. School administrators expect to bring a construction contract to Council for final approval very soon. If approved, the high school will be completed by August 2009 and ready for students in the next school year.

The City’s charter school system was envisioned to be a complete K-12 learning system. The success of its three current schools – Oasis Elementary, Oasis Middle and Christa McAuliffe Elementary – has allowed the system to achieve the financial footing required to support a new high school.

If everything follows the plan, construction will begin as early as March, and the building will be finished in six months. The school will be located next to the existing Oasis Middle School site and will have the capacity for 700 students. The high school will feature the Cambridge University curriculum track as its main academic focus. The high school also will provide an entrepreneurial track and a unique culinary arts program.

For information on enrollment at the high school, stop by Oasis Middle School at 3507 Oasis Boulevard or call (239) 945-1999. All City charter schools are accepting enrollment applications for the 2009-2010 school year. Contact the schools for more information: Oasis Elementary at (239) 542-1577 and Christa McAuliffe at (239) 283-4511.

Police Remind Residents to “Lock It or Lose It”

Thieves look for opportunities of least resistance

If a police officer told you that there is one simple action you could take to avoid becoming a victim of theft, would you take the action? The action is not complicated; however, hundreds of residents fail to do this one simple thing every day – lock their vehicles.

The Cape Coral Police Department receives hundreds of calls each year from residents reporting theft from their vehicles. In most of these cases, the victims left their vehicles unlocked with items of value inside. Cell phones, GPS navigators, mp3 players, money, wallets, computers, car stereos are all items commonly reported as stolen from a vehicle…an “unlocked” vehicle.

“We have residents who refuse to lock their vehicles claiming that they keep nothing of value except perhaps some loose change inside,” said Officer Gerald Moll, one of the department’s district resource officers. “We try to reinforce that even if this is the case, by leaving vehicles unlocked, residents invite recurring criminal activity into their neighborhood. Thieves will return to areas of convenience.”

While locking the car is one simple way to avoid becoming a victim, a person should not assume that locking the vehicle alone will prevent a theft. Leaving items of value in plain sight, even in a locked vehicle, can tempt a thief to forcibly enter the vehicle and snatch the property.

“Throughout the year, we encourage residents to make life as difficult as possible for thieves,” added Officer Moll. “Remove valuables or store items safely out of view, and always lock your car.”

GPS devices are an easy target in unlocked cars.
City Reminds Boaters to Keep an Eye Out for Manatees

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

It is important for boaters to be aware of the speed zones in place to protect the manatee. However, speed zones alone will not keep manatee deaths at a minimum. Responsible boating is the key. Reducing the number of manatee/boat collisions requires increased vigilance by boaters and law enforcement.

For more information on the speed zones and manatee protection, visit the Lee County Natural Resources Division’s website: www.lee-county.com/naturalresources/marine/ and click on “Manatee Protection”.

2008 Hurricane Season Comes to a Close

The 2008 hurricane season has ended, and Cape Coral again avoided the impacts of a major hurricane. However, while we were spared from the devastation, other areas were not as fortunate.

Experts say the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season may be best remembered as one of the worst in Cuba’s history. Hurricanes Gustav, Ike and Paloma caused an estimated $10 billion damage in Cuba, where about 500,000 homes were damaged, and sugar cane and tobacco fields flattened.

For 2008, there were 16 cyclones – eight tropical storms and eight hurricanes – making it the busiest Atlantic season since the record breaking 2005 season, which produced 28 storms.

The average hurricane season produces about 10 storms, of which six become hurricanes. But 2008 will go down in the record books as one more in a string of exceptionally busy seasons. The increased activity may not change for some time, as researchers believe that the Atlantic basin entered a new cycle of prolific hurricane production in 1995, which could last 25 to 40 years.

Gustav and Ike caused the most damage to the Gulf Coast of the United States. After crushing Haiti, Gustav cranked up to Category 4 over Cuba’s west end and took dead aim at New Orleans. Still reeling from memories of Katrina, the 2005 hurricane that killed 1,500 people and caused $80 billion damage, most of the city was quickly abandoned. But the rebuilt levees but did not break when a weakened Gustav hit shore far enough west of the city to spare the floodwalls a direct hit.

Gustav and Ike disrupted oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, triggering widespread shortages and long lines at gas pumps. On September 13, Ike destroyed tens of thousands of homes on the barrier island of Galveston. More than 30 people died in Texas, and dozens of people are still missing from communities along the Texas coast, especially the remote Bolivar Peninsula.

This season topped 2005 in one aspect — it was the first time a major hurricane had formed in each of five months — Bertha in July, Gustav in August, Ike in September, Omar in October and Paloma in November.

City Conducts Open Enrollment for Employee Benefits

Human Resources staff conducted open enrollment for all City employees in November. Each year, employees must make their choices for all benefit plans. This year, the City offered three medical plans through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, two dental plans through Florida Combined Life, one vision plan through Humana/CompBenefits, supplemental life insurance through The Hartford, AFLAC supplemental insurance plans, deferred compensation plans through Great West, ICMA-RC and Nationwide, and a Roth IRA through ICMA-RC.

The City is moving toward electronic communication with employee benefit programs. The new service is “BluesEnroll,” and it will allow Human Resources to communicate all enrollment, changes and terminations to coverage electronically. This will result in quicker turnaround on all requests and more accurate invoices from the carriers.
The Cape Coral PAL boxing team dominated the recent State Championships held in Ft. Myers. The team won seven gold medals and one silver medal in the PAL State Championship competition in Ft. Myers. The competition was November 8 – 9. The boxing team is coached by Officer Mike Anderson, Felix Gonzalez and Jon Sanderson.

Gold Medal Winners
- Johnnie Rolon – 125 lb. Open Division
- Brian Johnson – 132 lb. 13/14 Junior Olympic Division
- Brennan Williams – 70 lb. 9/10 Junior Olympic Division
- Alston Williams – 85 lb. 11/12 Junior Olympic Division
- Edgar Landaverde – 125 lb. Novice Division
- Bruno Bredicean – 90 lb. 13/14 Junior Olympic Division
- David Rios – 119 lb. 15/16 Junior Olympic Division

Silver Medal Winner
- John Canbrele – 119 lb. 13/14 Junior Olympic Division

The team just completed another competition – the Florida Silver Gloves. The Silver Gloves tournament was held in West Palm Beach on December 5 – 6. Visit the City’s website (www.capecoral.net) for an update on the team’s results from this competition. If you are interested in the boxing program, contact the Youth Center for more information. The number is 242-3950.

City of Cape Coral Ranked as a Top 10 Digital City

The City of Cape Coral has been ranked as one of the Top 10 most technology-advanced cities in the 2008 Digital Cities Survey published by the Center for Digital Government, which partners with the National League of Cities to present the awards. Cape Coral placed 8th in the 125,000 – 249,999 population category. In winning this recognition, the City of Cape Coral joins other major cities that have invested in information technology to “create a seamless environment between local governments and constituents.”

The 2008 Digital Cities Survey focused on the implementation and adoption of online service delivery, and the technology infrastructure and architecture that make the transformation to digital government possible. The survey looks for the extent to which both wired and wireless broadband communication links are deployed as well as a city’s use of other data center technologies and special projects to meet the public need.

Using the Cape Coral website as a portal, the City provides a comprehensive range of online services. Examples include the ability to pay bills, schedule inspections, renew business licenses, view interactive maps, apply for garage sale permits, and submit and view status for requests for service. Agendas for various meetings are available online, and meetings are broadcast live via video streaming on the website. Meeting videos also are archived and available for viewing at any time by the public. Cape Coral also has a new “P2C” (Police-to-Citizen) website that provides access to police reports. In terms of supporting IT infrastructure and special projects, Cape Coral is a leader in the deployment of the new Public Safety broadband technology recently authorized by the FCC. The City makes extensive use of server virtualization to save costs and has piloted a new process for electronic permit submission.

“Our investments in the website and information technology are making our government more transparent and more convenient,” said City Manager Terry Stewart. “In the long run, this helps us deliver higher levels of service at lower cost.”

For more information about the Digital Cities Survey, and to view the list of all cities, visit the Center for Digital Government website: www.centerdigitalgov.com.
On January 12, Waste Management will start collecting your garbage, recycling and yard waste on the same day, one time a week. The change will make collection more efficient and eliminate the need for residents to place items for pickup at the curb three different days of the week.

Waste Management has divided the city into five areas for pickup. See the map for your area. This map also is available on the City website at www.capecoral.net. Use the “Find” option in the navigation box to go to the “Maps” page. The map also is available on the “Resident” links page.

Here are the rules for garbage and recycling collection:

- **Garbage and Recycling** must be placed within three feet of the curb by 6 a.m. on your pick-up day.
- **Garbage** should be in a 35-gallon or smaller container with a lid and a molded handle on each side. Garbage should not protrude from the container or bag. The container or bag should not exceed 50 pounds.
- **Bulk items** will be picked up with your garbage (e.g. sofas, chairs, mattresses, dishwashers, etc).
- **Recyclables** should be in a bin and/or paper bag. Bottles, jars, and cans should be rinsed out and placed in the recycle bin. Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, paper, and junk mail should be in a paper bag on top of the recycling bin. Cardboard boxes should be broken down flat and no larger than 2 feet long and 4 feet wide, bundled or tied no more than 6 inches high. Please do not place any recyclables in plastic bags.

**Note:** The City of Cape Coral provides recycling bins at no cost for residents. If you do not have a bin, contact Waste Management Customer Service at (239) 334-4115.

- **Garbage and Recyclables** should be placed on the left side of the driveway facing the house.

Here are the rules for yard waste collection:

- **Yard Waste** must be placed within three feet of the curb by 6 a.m. on your pick-up day.
- **Yard Waste** should be in a 35-gallon or smaller container, with a handle on each side or placed in securely tied bundles no longer than 4 feet. The container and bundles should weigh no more than 50 pounds. Unbundled palm fronds may be placed at the curb stacked neatly with the base facing the roadway. Do not mix palm fronds with other yard waste.
- **Yard Waste** should be placed on the right side of the driveway facing the house.

**Electronics and White Goods**

- **Electronics and White Goods** will be picked up on your day of service provided you contact Waste Management Customer Service Center at (239) 334-4115 at least 48 hours prior to your service day. They should be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day.
- **Electronics** devices include computers, monitors, printers, scanners, fax machines, copier, telephones, televisions, cathode ray tubes, stereo equipment, microwaves, lamps, etc.
- **White goods** include refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, stoves, washing machines, dryers, water heaters.
Cape’s K-9 Unit Continues to Catch Criminals

On October 28, Cape Coral police arrested a suspect in a series of smash-and-grab burglaries that occurred over a two-month period. The K-9 Unit played a key role in the arrest as the suspect was “apprehended” by “Dux,” one of Cape Coral’s five canine police partners. The K-9 Unit responds to a variety of police calls depending on the circumstances and the need for canine assistance.

The K-9 Unit has been part of Cape Coral policing since 1985. Officer Craig Durham bought a white German shepherd pup from a pet store in 1983 and then convinced the department’s top brass to send him and “Thunder” to St. Pete for canine police training.

“We may not have had the number of callouts in the late-80s that K-9 has today,” said Capt. Durham, who just retired from the department. “But there were many times when Thunder saved my backside.”

Durham said that Thunder’s last catch probably was the most memorable. Three suspects had attempted to commit a strong-armed robbery at a Mobil gas station on Del Prado Boulevard. One of the suspects fled the scene via one of the canals, leaving his pants and shirt on the bank. K-9 responded to the area, and Thunder “alerted” on a wall at the condo units on the other side of the canal. Durham and Thunder

Durham found the suspect wearing only a pair of underwear and Reeboks hiding at one of the units. Durham ordered the suspect to give it up but the man took off and attempted to jump over a wall. Durham sent Thunder after the suspect. The dog jumped and came down with the underwear gripped in his teeth, now leaving the suspect wearing only his Reeboks and a smile. Thunder continued the pursuit and brought the suspect down with a well-placed bite. However, that was not the end of the story.

“Even after Thunder took him down, the suspect decided he was not going to stay put and he fled again,” recalled Durham. “I just said ‘ok’ and gave Thunder the signal to go after him. The second bite on the other side finally convinced the suspect to give up.”

Thunder served in the K-9 Unit for more than six years until Durham was assigned to another area. Thunder was euthanized in 1998 at the age of 15.

The K-9 Unit now falls under the supervision of Sgt. Dave McConnell, who joined the Cape Coral Police Department and the K-9 Unit in 1989.

“The K-9 Unit today has changed significantly from the unit we had in the late-80s,” said McConnell. “Not only do we have more K-9 teams, but our dogs are far more sophisticated and specialized in the field of law enforcement.”

McConnell has worked with several dogs over the years, and he currently is training the newest member of the K-9 Unit, “Jogi.” With retirement looming on his horizon in the next few years, McConnell expects this will be his last dog.

“My entire career with the Cape Coral Police Department has been working with the K-9 Unit,” said McConnell. “The dogs that have ridden with me over the years have been loyal and exceptional partners, and I cannot imagine doing anything else.”

The Cape Police Department current K-9 Unit consists of five dogs – all of which are male German shepherds.

Dog’s Name: “Ben”
Police Partner: Officer Bob Reese
Country of Origin: Germany
Age: 3 years
Years of Police Service: 1

Dog’s Name: “Dux”
Police Partner: Officer Christopher Clapp
Country of Origin: Germany
Age: 3 years
Years of Police Service: 1

Dog’s Name: “Daro”
Police Partner: Corporal Jamie Grey
Country of Origin: Germany
Age: 5 years
Years of Police Service: 4 years

Dog’s Name: “Jogi”
Police Partner: Sgt. Dave McConnell
Country of Origin: Germany
Age: 3 years
Years of Police Service: Certified 11/20/2008

Dog’s Name: “Zuke”
Police Partner: Officer Jason Matyas
Country of Origin: Czech Republic
Age: 9 years
Years of Police Service: 8 years
Residents Learn About Being a Cop at Citizen Police Academy

Twice each year, the Cape Coral Police Department conducts a Citizen’s Police Academy, a 10-week orientation program designed to give citizens an in-depth, hands-on look at how and why the Police Department does what it does.

The Citizen’s Police Academy is a streamlined version of the “real” police academy training that law enforcement officers must complete before they become certified. Attendees participate in a wide variety of activities, including Firearms Training (yes, you will shoot a gun), Ride Along on Patrol, Traffic Safety, Criminal Law, Tactical Driving, Police Communications, Mentoring Programs for Youth, and other interesting topics.

The Citizen’s Police Academy meets one evening a week for three hours in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Some sessions, such as Firearms Training and Tactical Driving, are conducted off-site and during daylight hours, usually on a Saturday.

The next Citizens Police Academy is scheduled next year on Wednesday evenings from March 18 – May 20. Classes meet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Anyone interested in applying can download an application online at www.capecops.com and return it prior to January 9. There is no charge for this program.

For more information, or to register for the Citizen’s Police Academy, call the department’s Community Outreach Programs Unit at 242-3342 or email cnaumann@capecoral.net.

Seek Help for Holiday Stress and Depression

Holidays are supposed to be festive times for all; however, this time of year can bring stress and depression to some of our citizens. A dizzying array of demands from work, parties, shopping, baking, cleaning, caring for elderly parents, kids on school break, and scores of other responsibilities can weigh heavily on people. Holidays also can produce feelings of inadequacy, loneliness and anxiety about an uncertain future.

Some level of stress is normal but when one is feeling overwhelmed for an extended time, help should be sought. Chronic stress may be a trigger for certain anxiety disorders and other illnesses. Symptoms of depression include loss of enjoyment in daily activities, sleep disruption, loss of appetite, feeling sad or empty, guilt, or thoughts of dying or suicide.

Too many times during the year, our police and fire personnel respond to calls where a person has attempted to, or succeeded in, taking their own life. These calls tend to increase during the holidays.

Cape Coral residents should seek help if holiday stress becomes too overwhelming or if symptoms of depression surface. Mental health resources provided by Lee Mental Health Center are available at the Cape Coral United Way House on Cultural Park Boulevard. Mental health counselors are available to see adults and children in both individual and group settings for a variety of issues.

To begin the process, residents must first go to Lee Mental Health’s Access Center on the Ruth Cooper campus in Ft. Myers for a free assessment. After this initial assessment, referrals for outpatient therapy will be made for residents at the Cape Coral location. Fees are affordable and may be adjusted on a sliding scale to your ability to pay. Medicaid, Medicare and some major health insurance providers also provide coverage for assistance.

For more information, please call Lee Mental Health at (239) 275-3222 and ask for the Access Department. Please do not let stress and depression overwhelm you this holiday season.

Youth Center/Skate Park

T.I.G.E.R.S. Program

As part of a nationwide effort to fight childhood obesity, the City’s William B. Austen Youth Center has developed a new program to help the young people of our community stay physically fit. The T.I.G.E.R.S. program (Teamwork Involving Group activities Exercise, Recreation, Sports) is a supervised program that encourages kids to work together, play together and stay healthy and happy. Staff will assist children with homework, arts and crafts, sports and games. The T.I.G.E.R.S. program is in session from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday while school is in session. Cost is $25 per week. For more information, call the Youth Center at 242-3950.
Rainy Season Ends – Brush Fire Season Begins

As Southwest Florida transitions from rainy season to dry season, residents should evaluate their risks for brush fires. Vegetation begins to dry in the winter, making it susceptible to ignition from manmade or natural sources.

Outside housekeeping is probably the most important thing the homeowner can do to reduce the risks of being affected by a brush or woods fire. Here are some tips to follow:

- Keep the area around your home free from encroachment.
- Keep gutters clean of leaves and pine needles and the roof clear to lessen the combustibility factors.
- Trim trees and reduce ladder fuels against the house to keep ground fires from working their way up under the eaves of the house and entering the roof.
- Maintain your sprinkler system in working order to help the flow of water and prevent the fire from spreading, especially if you are near a wooded area that is susceptible to fire outbreaks.
- Maintain uncluttered access onto your property and around your house to allow access for brush trucks and firefighters to protect the structure.
- Maintain an awareness of people having bonfires or burning any debris outdoors – avoiding these activities can go a long way toward preventing brush fires.
- During the dry season, the State of Florida typically bans open outdoor fires, and the City of Cape Coral discourages the practice as well. People must understand that it takes only a minor spark or ember carried by the wind to reach a point of ignition.

We strongly encourage our residents and visitors to notify the Fire Department any time they observe anyone discarding smoking material or starting a fire. We also encourage smokers to use the ashtray in the car and not throw cigarette butts out the window. This practice is against the law and very dangerous during the dry season. If everyone exercises caution during the dry season, we can avoid the damage and destruction caused by a brush fire.

Sun Splash Wraps up Great Season and Prepares for 2009

Sun Splash Family Waterpark had an amazing season in 2008. The park added three new speed slides – “Terror Tube,” “Thunder Bump” and “X-celerator.” The park also opened “Power Surge,” a twin ride to the popular “Electric Slide.” The new rides were a huge hit and attracted visitors from all of Southwest Florida. A new logo, new signage and new paint added to the park’s new look.

These new amenities produced a very successful 2008 season. The park had a total attendance of 145,879 in 2008, which was an 11.7 percent increase over the previous season.

The staff at Sun Splash is gearing up to bring the community a park full of fun and excitement in 2009. The park will open for the new season on Saturday, March 7, with more concession stands, a remodeled Gift Shop, a redesigned Splash-cater program and unbeatable season pass rates. Be sure to visit the Sun Splash website at www.SunSplashWaterpark.com to view season pass, group, birthday and daily admission rates as well as the 2009 operating schedule. You can contact the park to book your groups and parties early by calling (239) 574-0558.

Two-Day Watering Schedule for All Cape Residents

We are entering the dry season, and all Cape Coral residents currently have two days for watering their lawns. Residents on wells and the dual-water system have a specific four-hour timeframe for watering, depending on the last number of their home address.

Please note that residents who are using wells for irrigation may fall under tighter restrictions should the South Florida Water Management District deem it necessary to impose a shorter time schedule as the dry season continues.

Here is the two-day schedule that will be in effect for all of Cape Coral:

- **Monday and Friday:**
  - Midnight to 4 a.m. for addresses ending in 0
  - 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for addresses ending in 1
  - 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for addresses ending in 3 and 5
  - 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for addresses ending in 7 and 9
  - Midnight to 4 a.m. for addresses ending in 2 and 4
  - 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for addresses ending in 6 and 8

- **Non-residential, duplexes and other multi-family units** can water on **Monday and Friday** from midnight to 8 a.m.
Cape Police Department Receives Prestigious “Flagship” Designation from CALEA

The Cape Coral Police Department has been designated a "Flagship" law enforcement agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. A Flagship Agency represents an extraordinary example of excellence in public safety, and the designation makes Cape Coral a standard bearer for other law enforcement agencies.

“I am extremely proud of our officers and staff who worked very hard to retain our accreditation with CALEA and, once again, achieve the level of a ‘flagship’ operation,” said Police Chief Rob Petrovich.

To be accredited, the department must comply with 445 standards established by CALEA. Meeting these state-of-art standards affirms an agency’s status as one of the nation’s premier law enforcement agencies. The accreditation process is conducted every three years, and the Cape Coral Police Department has held accreditation since 1989. Being named a “flagship” agency places Cape Coral in a category that few law enforcement agencies achieve.

“Our goal is to provide the highest level of police services to the citizens of Cape Coral,” said Chief Petrovich. “By holding ourselves to the high standards set by the top national organization for law enforcement agencies, we are reaffirming our commitment to deliver the best quality police protection and public service to our community.”

New Citizen Support Center Provides Central Location for Information

The City has added a new feature to the redesigned City website – the Citizen Support Center. The Citizen Support Center is the central hub for questions, answers and action. The Center can be accessed from the main page of the City site: www.capecoral.net.

Visitors can search for answers to questions using specific terms, and ask questions if their issue has not been addressed. Currently, more than 100 questions have been submitted since the service went “live” at the end of September.

If a resident is submitting a request for service, the City’s popular Action Center is also a component of the Support Center and can be accessed from the same location.

CapeTV is “On the Move”

The City’s government access channel, CapeTV, will be moving from Channel 14 to Channel 98 as Comcast realigns its channels and adds programming. The change will be effective on December 16.

Subscribers will not require any special programming package or equipment to access CapeTV, Channel 98. Channel 98 is an analog channel and will continue to be available in the basic tier of programming.

CapeTV also can be viewed via video streaming on the City’s website: www.capecoral.net.

Citizen’s Academy Offers Opportunity to Learn about Your City Government

City staff believes that City government and citizens can partner together to create a unified community. With that in mind, the City offers a Citizen’s Academy for Cape Coral residents.

This program challenges residents to commit to a 12-week class that will teach them what City government does, how they do it and why they do it. It is the goal of the program to help residents learn about their government and understand how the processes work. Graduates will become knowledgeable about their City government and can become true ambassadors for our city.

The 12-week course focuses on what it takes to run one of the largest cities in Florida. Participants will spend a minimum of 50 hours learning about City departments, the City’s charter schools and the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Take the challenge and discover for yourself. The next Citizen’s Academy starts in January. Sign up at www.capeacademy.com. You must be a Cape Coral resident to enroll, and class size is limited. Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at 574-0446 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.
Facilities Expansion Program Update

The facilities expansion program continues moving forward to meet the utility service needs of our citizens. Below is a brief update as to the status of the various program elements.

Water Treatment Plants

Construction of the new Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant in North Cape Coral, in the vicinity of Kismet Parkway and Chiquita Boulevard, is about 50 percent complete. The first phase of the water plant will have a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons daily with two future phases of 12 MGD each. This plant one day will be able to provide a total treatment capacity of 36 MGD. The new plant will be capable of producing water in 2009. Completion of the new North plant will enable the Utilities Department to temporarily shutdown the 30-year-old Southwest Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment plant to perform some much needed maintenance work.

Water Reclamation Facilities

The Everest Water Reclamation Facility is being expanded from 8.5 MGD to 13.4 MGD treatment capacity. The major modifications are 85 percent complete. The contractor is drilling the 4,200-foot injection well. Work is about six months ahead of schedule with completion of the major modifications anticipated in July 2009.

The Southwest Water Reclamation Facility is being expanded from 6.6 MGD to 15.0 MGD. The project is about 75 percent complete. Completion is scheduled for July 2009.

Design is complete for a new North Water Reclamation Facility to treat an initial capacity of 10 MGD. Construction has been postponed until the capacity is needed. The facility will be located adjacent to the new North RO Water Treatment Plant. Build-out capacity will be 20 MGD.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells

A master plan is under development identifying locations for Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells at several locations throughout the city. The South Florida Water Management District Regional Irrigation Distribution System Study recommended these wells to help meet the city’s long-term irrigation supply needs.

During the summer, excess water from the canal system will be pumped and stored in the wells. During the dry season, the water can be withdrawn and used for irrigation supply. Each well can provide about 1 million gallons of water per day during the dry season. Six locations have been selected for the first test wells. The wells have been permitted and drilled. Cycle testing will be performed to determine which sites are most suitable for further development.

Future Sidewalk Projects Set

The City’s Public Works/Services Division is proceeding with its sidewalk construction program. Sidewalks recently were installed on Agualinda Boulevard between Cape Coral Parkway and SW 36th Terrace. In October, sidewalk construction began on Gleason Parkway between Chiquita Boulevard and Santa Barbara Boulevard.

The Gleason project is supported by a $400,000 grant through the Florida Department of Transportation. In the past two years, similar grants were received for sidewalks installed on Pelican Boulevard and Mohawk Parkway. Additional grants are anticipated for Trafalgar Parkway between Santa Barbara Boulevard and Skyline Boulevard in 2011, and for Academy Boulevard between Nicholas Parkway and Veterans Memorial Parkway in 2012. The City also applied for a “Safe Routes to School” grant for sidewalks on SW 38th Terrace from Agualinda Boulevard to Oasis Boulevard in 2010.

New Fire Station on Track for February Opening

Construction of Fire Station #1 on Coronado Parkway, a few blocks north of Cape Coral Parkway, is on schedule for completion in February 2009. The new structure replaces the old fire station built in 1963. Due to the very competitive construction market, the construction manager (Lodge Construction) projects that construction costs will be about $500,000 less than the $4.4 million guaranteed maximum price. The City also saved costs on Fire Station #1 by using the same design that was done for Fire Station #9, which was built this past March on Pelican Boulevard.

Fire Station 1 will withstand moderate Category 5 hurricane winds. The higher elevation provides secure living quarters, so the station can be staffed during a hurricane. This provides the ability to respond to the community needs immediately following a storm event. The new facility will have three bays and be staffed by 11 emergency personnel.

Southwest Five Utility Project Nearing Completion

The Southwest Five utility project is about 95 percent complete, and work should be done by the end of the year. The project brought water, irrigation, and sewer services to 3,536 parcels in the area north of Gleason Parkway, mostly between Skyline and Santa Barbara Boulevards and south of the Beaumont Canal near the BMX Park.

The North Central Loop Project is about 90 percent complete and should be finished in early 2009.

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North Spreader Canal System Ecosystem Management Agreement Progress Continues

Progress continues with the North Spreader Canal System Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA) process, which began in July and involves many governmental agencies, environmental groups and interested members of the public. The purpose of this EMA process is to develop the strategies necessary to protect environmental quality and wildlife habitats in Matlacha Aquatic Preserve and Charlotte Harbor.

Under the provisions of the legal agreement executed in May 2008 by the City of Cape Coral, Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, consensus on the improvement strategies is to be developed by June 2009. The schedule also calls for EMA stakeholders to vote in March 2009 on their confidence in the progress being achieved. If they are not confident of the progress, the permitting process to rebuild the Ceitus barrier and boat lift is to begin.

In the short term, the Ceitus stormwater barrier and boat lift was removed in July as a temporary measure to arrest further erosion damage to the tidal wetlands and mangrove forest. Since removal, the tidal flow through the west side breach has essentially stopped, and the erosion damage has ceased.

Unit 89/Eco Park Boat Lift Removed

After more than a two-year process to acquire all of the needed governmental agency permits, the City of Cape Coral successfully removed the 83-foot concrete barrier and boat lift located at Eco Park. Florida Marine Contracting completed the project on October 7. This now provides the residents of Unit 89 direct boater access to the Caloosahatchee River. Total cost for the design, permitting and construction of this project was $139,117.

Road Paving Projects Reduced for 2009

As a result of significant losses of revenue for the 2009 budget, the City will be limiting paving work to four-lane road repairs only. The widespread local road paving that has been provided in the past will not be done this year. Structural and surface repairs to select areas of four-lane roads will be done primarily in north Cape Coral. Roads such as Diplomat Parkway, El Dorado Boulevard, Nelson Road and Andalusia Boulevard will be improved, although only the worst areas of these roads will be repaired due to budget constraints.
New Financial System will Improve City Processes

The City of Cape Coral will be implementing an integrated, comprehensive financial enterprise system to improve current business processes. The following areas will be included in the scope: general ledger, budgeting, financial reporting, cash receipting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, purchasing, project accounting, grant management and accounting, utility billing, work order, fleet management, asset management, and cash and investment management. The new system also will include community development software for automated permit management, project tracking, code enforcement, business license tracking software system and related subsystems.

In March, the City received two proposals for City-wide Financial Software from AMX International/Oracle and Tyler Technologies/Munis. An evaluation committee comprised of staff from Finance and Information Technology reviewed the proposals. Following onsite software demonstrations, AMX International/Oracle was determined to be the top-ranked firm based on the cost and system functionality of the JD Edwards/Oracle Solution. This new system will replace the outdated HTE system that has been used for many years.

The City engaged the assistance of the Government Finance Officers Association in the preparation and evaluation of the proposals for the financial system. The GFOA agreed with the committee's ranking and assisted City staff in negotiations with AMX International/Oracle.

The project kickoff will be in January with an estimated “go live” toward the end of 2009. The implementation methodology will be a six-step process:

1. Define/Plan – Create a successful project strategy, requirements, and scope.
2. Model – Develop the future system procedures.
3. Configure – Necessary programming and preparation for production.
4. Validate – Resolve issues, tests, and readiness acceptance prior to “go live.”
5. Go Live! – Places the system in production.
6. Refine – Continuous process improvement and reviews as well as ongoing support.

This new system will improve and streamline the existing financial process and obtain much-needed additional functionality. The system will drive the enterprise-wide information technology strategy to serve the City's immediate IT needs as well as form the base for future technology expansion. The JD Edwards system also will provide for efficient and effective management of core administrative functions.

Tour de Cape, Senior Games and Sounds of Jazz on Tap

The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Special Events Division has a full slate of events coming up this winter and spring. On January 10-11, the 20th annual Tour de Cape takes to the streets of Cape Coral. Participants can select rides of 15, 30, 62 or 100 miles or run in the 5K event. Stop by the Parks & Recreation counter in City Hall to register.

In late January and early February, senior athletes are welcome to participate in the Lee County Senior Games. These popular games offer competitions in tennis, track and field, racquetball, horseshoes, and many more events. The Senior Games are for residents who are age 50 and older.

Finally, join us in March for the Sounds of Jazz and Blues. The smooth sounds of jazz will fill Jaycee Park on Saturday, March 28. The park is located on the shores of the Caloosahatchee River. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Cape Coral City Hall, or on line at www.capeconcerts.com.

For more information about these events and others, contact the Special Events Division at 573-3125 or visit the Parks & Recreation website at www.CapeParks.com.

7th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival

Celebrate Cape Coral’s official city bird at the 7th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival. The festival will be Saturday, February 21 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The day will be full of activities for the whole family with guided nature/bird walks and live animals. There will be demonstrations on installing starter burrows, perch making and burrow maintenance as well as exhibitors, bus tours, a butterfly house and the popular children’s activity tent sponsored by Kindness Animal Hospital.

The event is sponsored by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, a not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and protecting wildlife in Cape Coral, especially the burrowing owl. Cape Coral has Florida’s largest population of these owls, and people come from all over the world to see and photograph our city bird. The owls are listed as a species of special concern; however, the hope remains that with education and appropriate care and concern, the residents of Cape Coral can help the owls avoid becoming a threatened species. This festival is designed as a fun way to teach people about burrowing owls, and get residents involved in the preservation and care of this fantastic little creature.

A requested donation of $3 per person will provide admission to the festival. Children under age 12 are free. Proceeds from the festival go to local wildlife preservation and protection. For more information, call Pascha Donaldson with the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife at (239) 980-2593 or email at contact@ccfriendsofwildlife.org.
New Police Headquarters Construction Underway

The groundbreaking for the new Cape Coral Police Headquarters was held in August after the City Council unanimously approved the project for construction on July 28. Construction is progressing on schedule to completion in June 2009. The 100,755-square-foot, three-story facility is designed to withstand a moderate Category 5 hurricane and provides the numerous unique elements required in a police headquarters. The building has a guaranteed maximum price of about $19 million. The more competitive construction market conditions benefited the project significantly, driving construction costs down from prior estimates to $190 per square foot, which is the best value we have seen for a quality facility in many years.

Online Training Page Provides Option for City Employees

The City of Cape Coral’s Training and Development Specialist is developing an Intranet page to enhance the City’s training needs. The page currently is under construction but several key pieces already are in place.

One piece is a sexual harassment video, which is now available for employees to view. The sexual harassment training is mandatory for all City employees, and the online presentation provides an option for those who are unable to attend the training sessions. The page also has links to community trainings, and there is a survey for employees to identify training needs. The survey will help develop the 2009 training curriculum.

The idea for creating a “training” page resulted from recent budget cuts. The Training and Development Division had planned to purchase a learning management system that included a variety of training solutions, including online learning. The system was a casualty of budget cuts, so an alternative method for reaching as many employees as possible had to be devised. Since City employees work different hours, schedules may not allow everyone to attend mandatory classroom training. Providing the training via DVD or online ensures that all employees have the opportunity to meet the mandatory requirements.

The training page will be a one-stop location where employees can download training forms, register for training, view training videos, get information on upcoming trainings and other options. While the learning management system would have provided a complete package, this new Intranet training page is a reasonable alternative for reaching City employees.

City Launches New Portal Page for Website

New navigation is designed to help visitors find information more quickly

As mentioned in the previous issue of On the Move, the City has launched a new navigation system for the government website. The entire navigation structure is designed to make it easier for website visitors to find information.

“We reviewed many other government websites, particularly the award-winning sites, to see which portals were receiving the highest praise from industry professionals,” said Connie Barron, Public information Director. “The new navigation on our site reflects ‘best practices’ and helps simplify searches.”

Prior frequent visitors may have an adjustment period as access to information has been arranged in a different format. However, visitors who do have difficulty finding information are encouraged to use the “Search” function in the main heading area at the top of each page. Also, the website has mini portal pages for “Resident” and “Visitor.” These pages contain links to various services and agencies that may be useful for the website visitors.

Request Public Records Online

The Records Management Division of the City Clerk’s office is responsible for maintaining and providing access to City documents pursuant to state records laws. While documents can be provided in paper format, the City is working toward a “green” solution and providing more electronic access to the City records.

The City Clerk website has various links and a centralized location to view City documents. Visitors can submit a public records request, get a garage sale permit, view Council agendas, minutes and videos as well as links to Ordinances, Resolutions, Engineering & Design Standards and flood elevation certificates. You can also view Ordinances that have been enacted, but not yet codified into the Code and Land Use books as well as supplements you can download and print to update the books. Many documents also can be accessed from the main portal page: www.capecoral.net. Just check the “Publications” and “Laws and Codes” options in the navigation box.

A detail of documents and services we provide as well as any applicable charges is outlined within the page. Should you have any questions regarding the City Clerk website, email the City Clerk using the email link on the web page, or call (239) 574-0411 on Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
SWAT Team Calendar to Raise Funds for Cape’s PAL Program

The Cape Coral Police SWAT team has joined with two local businesses to create a 2009 calendar that will be sold to raise funds for the Cape’s PAL program (Police Athletic League). The calendar features photos of 12 members of the SWAT team taken by local photographer, Cherilyn Nocera of Nocera Photographic. Cherilyn donated her services to the fundraising effort. Direct Impressions, also in Cape Coral, printed 2,000 copies of the calendar at no cost to the team.

“The more kids we can reach through the activities of our local Police Athletic League, the more positive effect we can have on their future,” said Sgt. Jimmy O’Brien, a SWAT team leader. “The proceeds we collect through the sale of this calendar can help provide better opportunities for at-risk kids in our community.”

The cost for the 2009 SWAT Team calendar is $10. Copies are available at Ooh-La-La Salon & Spa at 1319 Cape Coral Parkway East #1. You can email Sgt. O’Brien for more information on purchasing a calendar at jobrien@capecoral.net.

Economic Development to Continue to Pursue Goals

With the retirement of Director Mike Jackson, there may be questions about the future plans for the Economic Development Office. This Office plays a key role in business development and attraction, and the staff will continue to address the challenges here in the Cape and report directly to the City Manager Terry Stewart. The Office has identified the following key economic objectives:

- Increase the Cape’s business tax base
- Increase higher wage jobs
- Diversify the economy
- Reduce reliance on real-estate and construction
- Increase “export” businesses that sell beyond our region

Economic Development’s mission is to facilitate a productive business environment by encouraging process improvement at the City level and regulation reform where needed. The Office also provides ombudsman services to business customers and works toward leveraging incentives to make Cape Coral attractive to businesses. Expanding home-based businesses into commercial space is another activity, as well as the innovation of new home

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Video Pays Tribute to “Missing Man” for Veteran’s Day

To honor the women and men who served our country in the military, the City produced a video that aired at the beginning of the November 10 City Council meeting. At the request of Council Member Bill Deile, a retired veteran, staff worked with 1Pro Media to create a 6½-minute video titled “Service, Honor, Sacrifice – A Tribute to Those Who Served.”

The video was produced by Ric Boyden, a Vietnam veteran and employee of 1Pro Media. Ric used high-quality animation to create the “Missing Man” table segment and then combined it with two additional segments to honor all veterans.

The video can be viewed on the City’s website by going to the City Videos page (under “Watch” on the navigation), and then selecting the Special Programs section. DVD copies of the video can be purchased at Cape Coral Historical Museum at 544 Cultural Park Boulevard. The phone number is 772-7037.

Speeding Fines Increased

As snowbirds begin to return for the winter, they need to be aware that the fines for speeding tickets increased on July 1. The current fines for simple speeding violations are:

- Speeding at 6-9 over limit ......................................................$99.00
- Speeding at 10-14 over limit ................................................$174.00
- Speeding at 15-19 over limit ................................................$199.00
- Speeding at 20-29 over limit ................................................$224.00
- Speeding at 30+ over limit ..................................................Mandatory Court
Santa Barbara Boulevard Widening Project

Earlier this year, the Santa Barbara Boulevard Phase III project team began the final phase of improvements, which will include widening the roadway from four to six lanes, installing curb and gutter, median landscaping, six-foot sidewalks, and new traffic signals on the three-mile stretch of roadway.

During the next two years, Phase III will be constructed in the following segments:
- Phase III North – State Road 78/Pine Island Road to 1,500 feet north
- Segment A – SE 8th Street to SE 12th Street
- Segment B – SE 12th Street to SE 19th Street
- Segment C – SE 19th Street to SE 24th Street
- Segment D – SE 24th Street to Veterans Parkway
- Segment E – Veterans Parkway to Gleason Parkway
- Segment F – State Road 78/Pine Island Road to just south of Hancock Bridge Parkway

Improvements to a section of Santa Barbara Boulevard from State Road 78/Pine Island Road to 1,500 feet north were completed on schedule, which allowed crews to begin construction on Segment B (SE 12th Street to SE 19th Street) and Segment C (SE 19th Street to SE 24th Street). The road widening of other segments on Santa Barbara Boulevard will follow in early 2009.

Phase III work will continue the next several years with an anticipated completion by spring 2011. Although there may be some isolated work areas that cannot be made available due to utility conflicts or right-of-way acquisition delays, road work will generally flow from the north of each segment to the south end. The east half of Santa Barbara will be closed for construction and the other half open for two-way traffic. At times, the closure of side streets will be necessary as crews construct the east side of Santa Barbara Boulevard. The traveling public is reminded that left turns from side streets on Santa Barbara Boulevard are not permitted during this phase of construction.

An important component of this project is making every effort to minimize the impacts to local businesses and residents while still maintaining a safe work zone to all drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and construction crews. Motorists are reminded to obey posted speed limits and to seek alternate routes whenever possible.

For more information about this project or construction updates, please contact Maricelle Venegas, Public Information Specialist, at (239) 707-9050 or visit our project website at www.capecoraltransportation.com.

Del Prado Boulevard Widening Project

Returning seasonal Cape Coral motorists are now able to travel on the recently widened existing mainline bridges on Del Prado Boulevard over Jaguar and Zurich Canals and on three, new, off-site bridges at NE 14th Place, NE 17th Place crossing over Jaguar Canal and NE 16th Place crossing over Zurich Canal. These bridges continue to help alleviate traffic volumes from Del Prado Boulevard and to provide additional access onto Kismet Parkway and Diplomat Parkway. This completes Phases I through IV for the Del Prado Boulevard improvement project.

Of particular note: The project team completed this work with more than 100,000 man-hours without a lost time accident.

In 2009, the traveling public can expect to see crews begin road work on Phase V. This last phase of improvements consists of widening Del Prado Boulevard from just south of Kismet Parkway to just south of SR78/Pine Island Road from four to six lanes. Other upgrades include landscaping, 10-foot-wide, multi-use paths, street lighting, curb and gutter, and new traffic signals. Work will flow from the north end of each segment to the south with half of Del Prado Boulevard closed for construction and the other half open for two-way traffic.

Below are the Phase V Segments:
- Segment I – South of Jaguar Canal to Diplomat Parkway
- Segment II – Intersection of Diplomat Parkway
- Segment III – South of Diplomat Parkway to north of Pine Island Road
- Segment IV – Intersection of State Road 78/Pine Island Road

An Information Open House is planned prior to the start of the Phase V road work. The community will have an opportunity to look over the construction plans for Del Prado Boulevard and to meet the project team at this Open House. Phase V of the project is expected to start in the winter of 2008 and finish in spring of 2011.

An important component of this project is making every effort to minimize the impacts to local businesses and residents while still maintaining a safe work zone to all drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and construction crews. Motorists are reminded to obey posted speed limits and to seek alternate routes whenever possible.

For more information about this project or construction updates, please contact Maricelle Venegas, Public Information Specialist, at (239) 707-9050 or visit our project website at www.capecoraltransportation.com.
Senior Centers Provide Opportunities for Fun and Activity

We are entering “snowbird season,” and the Lake Kennedy and Tony Rotino senior centers have a broad lineup of exciting and entertaining social, recreational and educational programs. The programs are designed to meet the varied interests of today’s active, mature adults, ages 50 and older.

Welcome Home Snowbirds Picnic – January 25
Bring your children and your grandchildren, and join us for this multi-generational event at the Yacht Club Beach Pavilion. There will be food, fun, games and live entertainment for all ages. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 12 and under. Please call (239) 574-0807 for more information.

Variety Show – February 20
Join us at the Yacht Club Ballroom for a variety of local talent presenting an interactive Mystery Dinner Theater. This event is from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. The cost is $22 for members and $32 for non-members. Please call (239) 574-0807 for more information.

Benefit Performances
The Lake Kennedy Senior Center is well known for its wonderful dance and music programs. Instructors Betty Dentzau of “Betty’s Guys and Dolls” and Lori Turner of the “Turner Tappers” and their students put on annual events to raise funds that benefit the center. Here are upcoming feature events:

◆ An Afternoon with “The Elegants” – February 22
◆ 4th Annual “Turner Talents” Revue – March 7 – 8

Day Trips
Both the Lake Kennedy and Tony Rotino senior centers offer fun and exciting day trips throughout the year to give people a chance to explore locations outside of Cape Coral at affordable prices. Some of the trips upcoming include:

◆ Holiday High Tea at the Ritz Carlton & Shopping* – December 28
◆ Tampa Bay Downs Trip** – January 9
◆ Cabbage Key / Captiva Cruises** – January 23
◆ “Singing in the Rain” at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre* – February 4
◆ Bonnet House Museum & Gardens and Bubba Gump Shrimp** – February 6
◆ Okeechobee Cracker Cowboy Experience** – February 20
◆ “All Shook Up” at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre* – March 4
◆ Marco Island Trolley / Snook Inn** - March 20

* To make reservations for Rotino Center trips, call (239) 574-0807.
** To make reservations for Lake Kennedy Center trips, call (239) 574-0575.

Dinner Show Series
All dinner shows are held in the beautiful Lake Kennedy Senior Center Ballroom on Friday evenings at a cost of $22 for members and $32 for non-members. Here’s the upcoming schedule:

◆ “The Del Prado’s Dinner Show” – January 16
◆ The 5th Annual “Senior Idol” Contest – February 27
◆ Dinner Show with “Destiny” – March 27
◆ “Tom Charles Dinner Show” – April 17

Kayaking at Eco Park Returns
The kayak rental shack at Four Mile Cove has reopened for business with the return of the winter season. Visitors can rent a kayak on weekends until May 24, 2009. This is a great time to get out and enjoy the park. At 365 acres, Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve is one of the largest, preserved areas in Cape Coral. Located along the Caloosahatchee River, just north of Veteran’s Parkway, Eco Park features a 6,600-foot elevated nature trail, observation piers, a visitor center and a shack for native plant sales and kayak rentals.

Walking the boardwalk can provide great opportunities to view eagles, ibis, herons, wading and migratory birds, turtles, raccoons, alligators, snakes, lizards and mangrove crabs. However, paddlers get to see some of the truly beautiful areas of the park that cannot be seen from the walking path. An 800-foot elevated portage and several narrow mangrove tunnels make the paddling tricky for beginners. But if you are looking for an adventure, kayaking is really the best way to explore the park.

Children under the age of 6 are not permitted in the rental kayaks, but visitors of any age can walk through the preserve along the boardwalk. Be sure to stop at the visitor’s center for information on programs, local wildlife, trail guides. Please remember that Eco Park is indeed a nature preserve. That means no pets, skateboards, bikes, rollerblades or running on the boardwalk. This is a great place for people to walk and enjoy the solace of a quiet, nature preserve.

Kayaking Tip: To see the best, most pristine, interesting areas of the park, enter Alligator Creek on the east side of the portage. Plan to spend at least four hours exploring the park by kayak. The rental operation opens at 8 a.m. and all the boats have to be back by 4 p.m.

Single kayak: $25/four hours; $16/two hours; $8/hr. any additional hours. Tandem kayak: $35/four hours; $24/two hours; $12/hr. any additional hours.

For more information on Four Mile Cove and kayak rentals, contact 239-574-7395.
Watch for Unlicensed Contractors
Using an unlicensed contractor can bring problems for homeowners

The economy is faltering, and many residents may be trying to pinch pennies to weather the downturn. During times when dollars are tight, a resident might be tempted to look the other way regarding the requirement for using a licensed contractor to do any project around the home. Someone who is unlicensed might offer to do the work for less money or without a permit. The City’s Code Compliance Division warns residents that this could lead to many problems.

As mentioned above, the economy can trigger more unlicensed contractor activity. In some instances, and often out of desperation, individuals who are unlicensed solicit work. The number of these “fix-it” operations is increasing, and they present a large risk for our residents.

What are the risks? An unlicensed contractor usually is not bonded and will not pull a permit. This means that the City’s inspectors will not inspect the work to ensure that it meets all state and local building codes. It also means there is an increased chance that the contractor will take the money and not finish the work. The experience of having been taken advantage of by an unlicensed contractor can be devastating. There are residents who are out thousands of dollars to unscrupulous contractors. These contractors pose a public safety hazard, create an unsafe environment and impact personal finances.

The City of Cape Coral supports the aggressive enforcement of state and local codes and ordinances. Code Compliance investigates complaints and violations of both licensed and unlicensed contractors, often working with other agencies and departments. Once a violation is identified, the operator is shut down and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

How can you help? Always ask contractors to present their license prior to working. Be suspicious of contractors who request payment in advance. If you feel uneasy or suspect illegal activity, please contact Code Compliance. You also can check a business license online at www.capecoral.net. Click on “Business Licenses” in the “Click2Gov” box in the right column. Then use the “License Information” option in the menu bar to look up a business.

Code Compliance officers are more than happy to talk to neighborhood associations, civic groups and other community groups. Contact the division and schedule a presentation. We believe that more knowledge will lead to better enforcement.

To be effective, we must work together. Violators outnumber the enforcement officers, and the City needs your assistance. If you are suspicious or can identify someone who is unlicensed, please contact us. Our phone number is 574-0613.

Goals

The City adds RSS feeds to City Website

The City continues to use the government website as a source for all information for the public. Another added feature is the ability to get updates from the City by subscribing to RSS feeds.

What is RSS?

Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is an XML-based format for content distribution. We offer several RSS feeds with headlines, descriptions and links back to CapeCoral.net for additional detail. You can find the current list of RSS feeds using the “RSS” link in the main heading bar on the City website.

RSS feeds by themselves may be confusing, so it is recommended that you use an RSS reader/aggregator. RSS aggregators periodically check for new items in the subscription feeds. This results in the content coming to you, rather than you having to go get it. It saves time, and the RSS aggregator gets only new information, avoiding all the other content on a web page. Many free readers are available and can be found by a simple Google search for “free RSS reader.”
TAKE A BREAK AND RECREATE!

Cape Coral FLORIDA
Parks & Recreation Department

It Starts In Parks!

Our 2009 Winter/Spring Programs are All Set & Ready to Go!
Check out the complete schedule & REGISTER ONLINE at
www.CapeParks.com

Or, pick up a copy of the new program guide at any of our Recreation Centers or at the Parks & Recreation counter in City Hall.

NEW THIS YEAR:
To help save money and resources, program guides will no longer be mailed to your home, but you can save time by viewing it online!

Look inside for a preview of some of the fun and exciting programs and events coming up!

Note: Program guides will no longer be mailed.
For Kids!

- T.I.G.E.R.S. after school program, plus weekend DJ Jams & V.I.P. Nights
- Swimming lessons, Cupid drop-off night, and March Madness
- School’s Out Days and monthly “Date Nights”
- VPK, Tiny Toads, and other preschool programs
- Skate Jam Contests and Bike Night Spin Off
- Winter Art Classes and Fine Craft Bash Workshop
- Cal Ripkin & Jr/Sr Baseball League, plus Tiny Tots and Junior Tennis
- Friday Night Dinner Shows & Sensational Senior Excursions

For Adults!

- Boating/Fishing Workshops
- Beauty Bonanza
- Big Native Plant Sale
- Golf School & Golf Lessons
- Lee County Senior Games, Adult Softball and Men’s Flag Football leagues

Remember, these are just a few of the activities being offered…

Visit www.CapeParks.com to view the complete program guide & register online!
Get Started TODAY!
Go to www.CapeParks.com to get more details and register online or Visit any of our Recreation Centers to pick up a new Winter/Spring program guide* and sign up for your favorite activities in person!

*Note: Program guides will no longer be mailed.

Visit Cape Coral’s Recreation Centers!
Cape Coral Arts Studio .................. 4533 Coronado Pkwy
Coral Oaks Golf Course .................. 1800 NW 28th Ave
Four Freedoms Park .................. 4818 Tarpon Ct
Lake Kennedy Center .............. 400 Santa Barbara Blvd
Rotary Park Environ Center ........ 5505 Rose Garden Rd
Special Populations Center .......... 400 Santa Barbara Blvd
Sun Splash Family Waterpark .... 400 Santa Barbara Blvd
Tony Rotino Senior Center .......... 5817 Driftwood Pkwy
Youth Center / Eagle Skate Park ........ 315 SW 2nd Ave
Yacht Club Community Park & Pool .... 5819 Driftwood Pkwy

For more info, visit www.CapeParks.com or call (239) 573-3128

* Please help us to go GREEN by only picking up one printed guide per household.
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Parks & Recreation FUN!

DECEMBER 2008
13 – Bike Night on 47th Terrace 5-10pm
17 – Winter Magic at the Yacht Club 4-7pm
20 – Holiday Celebration at the Youth Center 6-9pm
21 – Holiday Boat-a-Long at Four Freedoms Park
   7pm boat parade
28 – Ritz Carlton Tea & Shopping Trip w/ Rotino Center
30 – St. Artmand’s Circle Day Trip w/ Lake Kennedy Center

2009 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY
3 – New Year's Dance at the Youth Center 7-10pm
7 – Sunset Celebration at Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm
9 – Gallery Exhibit Reception at the Arts Studio 5-7pm
10-11 – Tour de Cape 5K Run & Bike Tour
16 – The Del Prado’s Dinner Show at Lake Kennedy
18 – An Evening Under the Sea at the Yacht Club
22 – Recreational Boating Seminar at the Yacht Club
24 – Winter Games at Four Freedoms Park
25 – Rotino Center’s Welcome Back Snowbirds Picnic

FEBRUARY
1 – Youth Services’ Super Bowl Bash
4 – Sunset Celebration at Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm
7 – Cape Bike Night on 47th Terrace 5-10pm
8 – Beauty Bonanza at Rotary Park
13 – Magnificent Magic Show at the Yacht Club
14 – Cupid Drop-off at Yacht Club Pool
18 – Bike Night Spin Off at Eagle Skate Park
21 – Burrowing Owl Festival at Rotary Park 10am-4pm
22 – Car Show at the Yacht Club
27 – Lake Kennedy’s 5th Annual Senior Idol Dinner Show

MARCH
4 – Sunset Celebration at Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm
6 – Star Gazing Party at Rotary Park 6-10pm
7 – Sun Splash Opens for the 2009 Season!
7 – Tropical Plant Bazaar at Four Mile Cove 9am-2pm
8 – Art Focus Festival at the Arts Studio 10am-4pm
8 – Wedding Expo at the Yacht Club 1-4pm
14 – St. Patrick’s Day Dance at the Youth Center
27 – Lake Kennedy Dinner Show with Destiny
28 – Sounds of Jazz & Blues at Jaycee Park 3-11pm
28 – Special Populations’ Rock & Roll Dance Fundraiser

APRIL
1 – Sunset Celebration at Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm
3 – Rotino Center Senior Prom at Yacht Club
4 – Egg Hunt with the Bunny at Four Freedoms Park
11 – Rummage Sale & Kayak Demo Day at Yacht Club
11 – Cape Bike Night on 47th Terrace 5-10pm
12 – Easter Egg Hunt at the Yacht Club Pool
17 – Jazz It Up Dinner Show at Lake Kennedy
18 – Spring Native Plant Sale at Rotary Park 9am-2pm

Check out the complete schedule & REGISTER ONLINE at www.CapeParks.com
Or, pick up a copy of the 2009 Winter/Spring program guide at any of our Recreation Centers.