1015 Cultural Park Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL

AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CAPE CORAL YOUTH COUNCIL

October 25, 2019	3:00 PM	Council Chambers

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

We will be respectful of each other even when we disagree.
We will direct all comments to the issues. We will avoid personal attacks.

VIDEO

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

A. Chair Benitez

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Chair Benitez

3. ROLL CALL

A. Benitez, Bradish, Cranford, Dougherty, Figueroa, German, Gorbanovski, Ico, Logan, Nguyen, Orozco, Roh, Russell, and Ziegler

4. CHANGES TO AGENDA/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2019

6. ADVISOR PRESENTATION (30 MINUTES MAXIMUM)

A. Upcoming Council Report - Advisor Mazurkiewicz

B. "On The Move" Community Newsletter - Youth Council Articles - Administrative Contact Griglin

C. Youth Council 2019 Fall Gala Budget Recap

7. CITIZENS INPUT TIME

Input of citizens on matters concerning City Government; 3 minutes per individual.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

A. Quarterly Report/Presentation to City Council

9. BUSINESS

A. Bus Stop Movement Continued Discussion

B. Youth Council Community Outreach

C. Youth Council Media Recognition Program

10. NEXT MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

11. REPORTS

12. REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON AND ADVISORS

13. TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

A. A regular meeting of the Cape Coral Youth Council will be held on Friday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE CAPE CORAL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section of 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the Office of the City Clerk at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, telephone the Florida Relay Service Numbers, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (v) for assistance.

Persons wishing to address the Youth Council under Citizens Input may do so during the designated times at each meeting. No prior scheduling is necessary. All speakers must have their presentations approved by the City Clerk's office no later than 11:00 AM the day of the meeting. Members of the audience who address the Youth Council shall step up to the speaker's lectern and give his or her full name, address, and whom he or she represents. Proper decorum shall be maintained at all times. Any audience member who is boisterous or disruptive in any manner to the conduct of this meeting shall be asked to leave or be escorted from the meeting room.

Copies of the agenda are available in the main lobby of Cape Coral City Hall and in the City Council Office, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard. Copies of all back-up documentation are also available for review in the lobby of Council Chambers. You are asked to refrain from removing any documentation. If you desire copies, please request they be made for you. Copies are 15 cents per page. Agendas and back-up documentation are also available on-line on the City website (capecoral.net) after 4:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to the Youth Council Meeting.

Item Number:	**5.A.**
Meeting Date:	**10/25/2019**
Item Type:	**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
CITY OF CAPE CORAL

TITLE:
Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2019

REQUESTED ACTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN INFO:

1. Will this action result in a Budget Amendment?
2. Is this a Strategic Decision?

If Yes, Priority Goals Supported are listed below.

If No, will it harm the intent or success of the Strategic Plan?

Planning & Zoning/Staff Recommendations:

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:

LEGAL REVIEW:

EXHIBITS:

PREPARED BY:
Division- Department-

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2019	Backup Material

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE CAPE CORAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Friday, October 11, 2019

Chair Benitez called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Benitez

Roll Call: Chair Benitez, Members Bradish, Cranford, Gorbanovski, Logan, Nguyen, Orozco, Russell, and Ziegler were present. Members Dougherty, Figueroa, German, Ico, and Roh were excused.

Also in attendance: Richard Williams, Council Liaison
Joe Mazurkiewicz, Advisor
Austin O'Brien, Staff Advisor
Connie Griglin, Administrative Contact
Shaun Mitchinson, Communications Director

CHANGES TO AGENDA/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Benitez suggested moving item 9.G. (2020 Meetings Schedule Review) immediately after item 9.A. (Youth Council Fall Gala Overview).

Committee Member Logan moved, seconded by Committee Member Bradish, to adopt the Agenda for the October 11, 2019 meeting, as amended.

Council polled as follows: Orozco, Russell, Ziegler, Benitez, Bradish, Cranford, Gorbanovski, Logan, and Nguyen voted "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carried 9-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2019

Committee Member Logan moved, seconded by Vice Chair Gorbanovski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2019, as presented. Voice Poll: All "ayes." Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 27, 2019

Committee Member Logan moved, seconded by Committee Member Bradish, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2019, as presented. Voice Poll: All "ayes." Motion carried.

ADVISOR PRESENTATIONS

Upcoming Council Report - Advisor Mazurkiewicz

Advisor Mazurkiewicz provided the following City Council report for October 2019:

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

- No Council meeting on October 14, 2019
- October 21, 2019 Council Meeting: big issue will be finding a replacement for District 5 Councilmember, as of now there were ten people who have applied.

Cape Coral Veteran's Day Parade

Chair Benitez turned the floor over to Administrative Contact Griglin and Advisors for any updates.

Administrative Contact Griglin stated the Youth Council participated in the Veteran's Day Parade last year. She noted the parade would be held on Monday, November 11, 2019. She noted that Jay Ganzi, Managing Owner of the new Cape Coral Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Car Dealership, has offered the use of his vehicles. She stated the deadline to participate is October 25th since she would need a headcount.

Discussion held regarding:

- Transportation arrangements
- Response to Outlook Calendar Invite sent by Administrative Contact Griglin
- Date of Parade: Monday, November 11, 2019
- Timeline of when the Youth Council would walk in the parade
- Members attending with other school organizations

Show of hands of Committee Members planning on attending parade: Chair Benitez, Vice Chair Gorbanovski, Members Bradish, Cranford, Logan, Russell, and Ziegler.

CITIZENS INPUT TIME

No Speakers.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

None.

BUSINESS

Youth Council Fall Gala Overview

Chair Benitez provided an overview of the Fall Gala held on September 14, 2019 as follows:

- Positive feedback from community, youth, and City
- Budget and approximate funds being donated to Blessings in a Backpack $841.56
- Donated remaining food to a local Cape Coral Fire House
- Decorations donated to a children's foster home
- Pictures of the Fall Gala and Cape Coral Fire House food donation

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Chair Benitez inquired if this would be an event that the Youth Council would host next year.

Committee Member Bradish responded that he would be glad to participate in the 2020 Fall Gala planning.

Advisor Mazurkiewicz suggested that one motion could be made to accomplish approving next year's Fall Gala and appointing a Committee Member.

Vice Chair Gorbanovski moved, seconded by Committee Member Orozco, to host the Cape Coral Youth Council Gala next year and appoint Committee Member Bradish as the head of the project. Voice Poll: All "ayes." Motion carried.

2020 Meetings Schedule Review and Approval

Chair Benitez stated that there were two proposed 2020 Meetings Schedules titled Option 1 and Option 2 included and distributed within the backup material prior to the meeting. She opened the floor for discussion on the potential schedule for the future meetings.

Discussion held regarding:

- Review of Option 1 and Option 2 – 2020 Meetings Schedule
- Pros and cons of the proposed schedules
- Suggestion to move the July 4, 2020 Adopt-A-Road cleanup date
- Preference of the Option 2 – second and fourth Friday of every month
- Option 2 reflected only one meeting date for June, November, and December

Committee Member Russell moved, seconded by Committee Member Cranford, to approve the Option 2 – 2020 Meetings Schedule. Voice Poll: All "ayes." Motion carried.

Florida League of Cities 2019 Municipal
Youth Council Video Competition – Member Ziegler

Chair Benitez stated that this was a continued discussion from the last meetings, and she turned the floor over to Committee Member Ziegler for an update on the Florida League of Cities 2019 Municipal Youth Council Video Competition submission.

Committee Member Ziegler provided the following update:

- Theme of the video: "My City, I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It"
- Footage compiled and incorporated into the final video
- Video was displayed and filed under record

Council Liaison Williams voiced his approval and proudness of the video and teamwork.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Chair Benitez congratulated everyone for their participation.

Committee Member Ziegler thanked Administrative Contact Griglin for the support and assistance.

Vice Chair Gorbanovski thanked Committee Member Ziegler for putting the video together and showcasing the Youth Council's involvement and progress in the City.

Committee Member Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Gorbanovski, to approve the submission of the video for the Florida League of Cities 2019 Municipal Youth Council Video Competition.

Council polled as follows: Orozco, Russell, Ziegler, Benitez, Bradish, Cranford, Gorbanovski, Logan, and Nguyen voted "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carried 9-0.

Bus Stop Movement Continued Discussion – Member Ico was not present (draft map attached)

Chair Benitez mentioned that this was a continued discussion from the last meetings. She turned the floor over to the Advisors to discuss the draft Semi-Permanent Bus Stops Lights Benches map that was distributed in the backup material prior to the meeting.

Advisor Mazurkiewicz explained the Bus Stops map as follows:

- Expectation for the Youth Council to select a particular area to police and patrol
- Dots only in green reflecting the Benches
- Suggestion that the Members share and discuss the map with their schools

Chair Benitez suggested that the Youth Council share this topic and map with their respective schools and advisors to obtain feedback that could be discussed at a later meeting.

Advisor Mazurkiewicz agreed that the Members should share the information with their academic administrators and gather any questions and data to bring back to the next Youth Council meeting.

Discussion held regarding:

- Partnering up and meeting with the school administrators
- October 25, 2019 deadline for Committee Members to share feedback
- Direct policing and patrolling of the benches
- Collectively selecting an area close to neighborhood
- Gross number of benches that the Youth Council agree to handle
- One map of the benches being handled by the Youth Council and sharing information with all Stakeholders
- Assigning a Member to head the project and develop the plan of communications

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

- Opening the topic to Key Clubs and other school organizations
- School contribution to the movement and documenting progress

Advisor Mazurkiewicz agreed with the above suggestions.

Youth Council Adopt-A-Road Schedule – Administrative Contact Griglin

Chair Benitez informed that this was a continued discussion from the past meetings. She turned the floor over to Administrative Contact Griglin for further discussion.

Administrative Contact Griglin announced that the next scheduled Adopt-A-Road cleanup would be November 2, 2019. She requested that the Members provide her with their availability and/or to respond to the Outlook Calendar invite. She voiced that more participation would make the cleanups much easier.

Discussion held regarding:
- Cape Coral High School Key Club participation with Youth Council on the cleanup
- Reminder that Hold Harmless forms must be completed by all participants
- More participants would cut down on the cleanup time and share responsibility

Advisor Mazurkiewicz shared that having the Committee Members participate at the cleanups was a great way to build teamwork and relationships.

Council Liaison Williams and Chair Benitez concurred.

Youth Council Community Outreach

Chair Benitez reminded everyone that this topic was added to the Agenda in order to initiate discussion on a plan on how the Youth Council could reach out to the community. She shared some of her ideas and requested input.

Discussion held regarding:
- Media news outlets and having them attend Youth Council meetings
- Individual interviews with local media

Communications Director Mitchinson mentioned that he had a discussion with the Public Relations Staff and was pending some information.

Advisor Mazurkiewicz suggested that the City's main media contact should be contacted to schedule media videos at a regular meeting, at the "Blessings in a Backpack" facility, and any other City resources. He mentioned that this could also be accomplished with the City's media Staff for CapeTV.

Council Liaison Williams offered to assist with setting this up with his local contacts.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Advisor Mazurkiewicz suggested that the videos be done in-house by the Youth Council and shared on the Facebook page and any other social medias. The City's Public Information Officer could also assist with "*On the Move"* quarterly newspaper, possibly a Youth Council segment and/or articles.

Council Liaison Williams suggested media exposure through the Cape Coral Breeze and any other social media outlets.

Chair Benitez summarized that the ideas discussed would be a great way to increase the Youth Council's exposure among the Youth and Community. She requested that the Communications Director reach out to the news outlets. The idea of the radio interview would be preferred when a particular topic or event was scheduled.

Discussion held regarding:

- Six Committee Members were interested in video interview
- Five Committee Members were interested in writing an article
- What is it like serving on the Youth Council?
- List of contacts for news media and other resources by October 25, 2019 meeting
- Having written essays ready by Wednesday before the next meeting to be uploaded in the backup material to the October 25, 2019 meeting
- Video postings on Facebook

Committee Member Bradish at 4:15 p.m.

Attendance Review and Discussion

Chair Benitez stated that this topic was added by the Advisors in order to review the attendance expectations and rules that must be adhered to by the Youth Council. She turned the floor over to the Advisors for further discussion.

Advisor Mazurkiewicz discussed the seriousness of being a member on the Youth Council as noted in the Code of Ordinances Section 2.58 on Forfeiture Provisions that was distributed before the meeting. The provision was read into the record as follows: *"All members of boards, commissions, task forces and other bodies appointed by the City Council shall forfeit their office if that member fails to attend two of three consecutive meetings without cause or being excused by the body."* He reminded the members that they need to confirm their attendance at meetings or provide notification that they would not be attending.

Council Liaison Williams explained that the difference between an excused and non-excused absence was a phone call or email.

2020 Meetings Schedule Review and Approval
(moved directly after Item 9.A.)

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

NEXT MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

Chair Benitez inquired if there were any Agenda topics for consideration.

Committee Member Cranford suggested continuing 9.C. Bus Stop Movement and 9.E. Youth Council Community Outreach. He opined that the Fall Gala did not have to be addressed again, as well as the schedule for Adopt-A-Road.

Chair Benitez requested to carry over the following items:

- 9.B. Florida League of Cities 2019 Municipal Youth Council Video Competition
- 9.C. Bus Stop Movement Continued Discussion
- 9.E. Youth Council Community Outreach

Communications Director Mitchinson suggested adding an item on how to proceed with the recognition program on social media.

Chair Benitez requested to add the following topics to the next meeting agenda:

- 9.C. Bus Stop Movement Continued Discussion
- 9.E. Youth Council Community Outreach
- Youth Council Social Media Recognition Program

Committee Member Cranford moved, seconded by Committee Member Russell, to approve adding those topics mentioned to the next meeting agenda. Voice Poll: All "ayes." Motion carried.

REPORTS

None.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL LIAISON AND ADVISORS

None.

TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

A regular meeting of the Cape Coral Youth Council was scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

Betty Castillo
Recording Secretary

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Item Number:	**6.B.**
Meeting Date:	**10/25/2019**
Item Type:	**ADVISOR PRESENTATION**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
CITY OF CAPE CORAL

TITLE:
"On The Move" Community Newsletter - Youth Council Articles - Administrative Contact Griglin

REQUESTED ACTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN INFO:

1. Will this action result in a Budget Amendment?
2. Is this a Strategic Decision?

   If Yes, Priority Goals Supported are listed below.

   If No, will it harm the intent or success of the Strategic Plan?

Planning & Zoning/Staff Recommendations:

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:

LEGAL REVIEW:

EXHIBITS:

PREPARED BY:
Division- Department-

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
On The Move Fall 2019	Backup Material

FALL 2019

Check Out Our CITY PARKS Insert Inside!

Cape Coral FLORIDA

On The Move

A Quarterly Update From Your City Hall

City Gathers Public Input on Future Neighborhood Parks

The City conducted a series of open house events on September 17, 18 and 19 to gather public input on the design of seven new neighborhood parks.

The input that was received during the open houses and via an online survey will be used by AECOM Technical Services Inc., an engineering firm hired by the City, to complete the designs for the future parks.

Site assessments, design, permitting and bidding is expected to take about 15 months to complete before construction can begin. Construction is projected to take 10 months to complete.

A couple reviews the concept plan for one of the neighborhood parks at an open house event.

Each park will be designed with the community interests in mind. Many of the future park designs will include amenities that may be lacking in the corresponding quadrant of the City. These amenities include playgrounds, multi-use paths, open spaces, picnic areas, shelters, fitness stations, restrooms, grilling areas, parking, and outdoor courts.

The new neighborhood parks are part of a voter-approved $60 million general obligation (GO) bond and citywide Parks Master Plan. These parks include:

- **Crystal Lake Park** - located near Caloosa Parkway & NW 43rd Street
- **Cultural Park** - located in the 500 block of Cultural Park Boulevard S.
- **Gator Circle Park** - located near De Navarra Parkway & Garden Boulevard
- **Lake Meade Park** – located near Kismet Parkway E. and NE 12th Avenue
- **Oasis Woods Park** – located off Oasis Boulevard near Oasis High School
- **Sands Park** – located near the 4400 block of Sands Boulevard
- **Tropicana Park** – located at the west of Tropicana Parkway W.

The Parks GO Bond Plan also includes the construction and development of community parks. Community parks are designed to serve a larger geographic area than the surrounding neighborhood. These parks are designed

continued on page 4 ▶

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City Council Adopts FY 2020 Operating Budget

Budget lowers property tax rate

The operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020 was adopted by City Council on September 19 in the amount $895.2 million. The City's primary operating fund, the General Fund, comprises about 26 percent or $233.3 million of the total budget.

The adoption of the annual operating budget is an undertaking that requires a great deal of consideration by City Council and input from the City's Budget Review Committee.

Planning and budget development for FY 2020 began early in the calendar year. During the months of January through April, departments developed their operating budgets for the three-year rolling budget period of Fiscal Years 2020-2022. In June, the budget requirements along with the Lee County

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Fire Department Hosts Open House 7
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Be Prepared Not Scared 14
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School Safety Tips 16
Citizen Survey Results 18
Adjust Timers for Daylight Savings 20

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Ricardo Noguera, Manager

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Victoria Bateman, Director

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Police Department
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Utilities Department
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Editor/Public Information
Connie Barron,
Assistant City Manager

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

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the fall issue of *On The Move*. We are moving into the final stretch of the hurricane season. Let's not get too complacent because storm threats remain through November 30. This time of year, Southwest Florida is still vulnerable to tropical weather. Our summer has been hot and the first part of the hurricane season has been quiet, but we must continue to be prepared. For preparedness information, please visit LeeEOC.com. You will find valuable information to protect your family from disasters.

Our City is well-prepared for a storm thanks in part to our Emergency Management Division and the disaster funds we have set aside. We also negotiated new debris removal contracts that allow the City to penalize companies who do not fulfill the terms of their contract, as we experienced following Irma. Speaking of Irma, we received reimbursements from FEMA totaling about $9.6 million for Irma cleanup efforts and will be deciding how these funds will be allocated.

While we haven't seen blue-green algae in Cape Coral's canals this summer, water quality improvement efforts continue. As your Mayor, I am working diligently at the state and federal levels on this important issue. There are 67 water quality and quantity projects slated for the state and the Governor is committed to funding these critical projects. We need support from the Federal Government, particularly the Senate, to fund these projects. Additionally, we must continue to lead by example and continue to improve water quality on a local level. The utilities extension program removes septic tanks that leak into the ground and pollute our waterways.

This newsletter has more information about some of the city's brackish canals and the duckweed that is appearing in these canals. The newsletter also contains information about the FY 2020 budget, which was recently adopted. I am happy to share that Council was able to reduce your property taxe rate. We set the millage rate to the rollback rate of 6.4903 mills or $6.4903 per $1,000 of assessed value.

We worked with the City staff to develop a budget that will provide the level of service our community expects for their tax dollars. Our challenge is always to deliver an appropriate level of service at a reasonable cost. Input from the Budget Review Committee and our community was important as we established our budget.

Speaking of input, many residents took time from their busy schedules to provide input on the new neighborhood parks that will be built as a result of the voter-approved parks general obligation bond. Public input meetings were held recently and I was fortunate to participate in these meetings to listen to suggestions from our residents about what they want to see in their new parks. The meetings for the community parks will be held in the coming months.

Cape Coral is the 8th largest city in the state and we are still growing. These parks and quality of life improvements are investments for our future and will help to elevate Cape Coral's appeal to current and future residents of this city.

Regards,

City Manager's Message

Welcome to the fall issue of *On The Move*. I appreciate you taking time to read our quarterly newsletter, which contains a good amount of information about what's happing in Cape Coral. This is a busy time of year in Southwest Florida, as the new school year is underway and we are moving into the second half of the 2019 Hurricane Season. The final stretch of hurricane season tends to be more active.

Hurricane Irma passed by the city two years ago. Fortunately, Cape Coral avoided much of the damage other communities suffered however, Cape Coral was impacted financially due to costs associated with debris pickup and disposal. The total cost to the City was about $18 million. FEMA recently reimbursed the City a little more than half of these expenses.

In July, I submitted my proposed three-year budget to City Council. We were able to craft a budget that allowed me to recommend a millage rate decrease. The final public hearing for the FY 2020 – FY 2022 Operating Budget for the City of Cape Coral was September 19. While this is a three-year rolling budget format, City Council only adopts the upcoming fiscal year.

City Council reduced the property tax rate to 6.4903 mills ($6.4903 per $1,000), which is lower than the recommendation in my proposed budget. Three reductions have been made to the property tax rate in the past seven years. City Council began lowering the property tax rate in 2013, when the millage rate was 7.9570 mills.

Since its inception in FY 2013, the public service tax has remained constant at 7 percent. The tax is applied to consumption of electricity, and Cape Coral's 7 percent rate is one of the lower rates in the state of Florida.

Our property values continue to increase at a reasonable rate, which is good news for budget planning. The total taxable value for the City increased 7.96 percent this year to almost $15.4 billion. New construction represented $470 million or 41 percent of the total increased taxable value.

We are investing $6.5 million for road paving and your City Council doubled the budget for streetlights and added funds to construct more sidewalks than we already have in the works. Cape Coral remains one of the most affordable and safest cities in Florida.

Speaking of investments, Cape Coral voters approved the Parks GO Bond in November 2018, which is a $60 million expansion of the city's parks and recreation amenities. The City is conducting public engagement meetings to solicit input from our residents on these quality of life investments. The timeline to complete all Parks GO Bond projects is aggressive but we are focused on getting these new amenities completed for our community by December 2021.

Moving forward, we have some challenges to determine the best financial plan for the operations of our City charter schools. We are working in partnership with the Charter School Board and Superintendent to ensure their economic sustainability.

Economic sustainability for the City of Cape Coral is important. We must remain financially sustainable for our current and future residents. The city is now the 8th largest city in the state. We have grown because future residents are choosing our city with our excellent quality of life and overall lower costs compared to other cities.

Best regards,

Future Neighborhood Parks

from page 1

Rendering of Lake Meade Park

Standing room only at the first public input meeting.

to engage families and visitors with multiple and diverse activities. They serve a broader purpose than the neighborhood parks and meet a wide variety of community needs.

The City hired Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to complete the designs for the following community parks:

- **Festival Park** – located on Wilmington Parkway, east of Chiquita Boulevard
- **Lake Kennedy Racquet Center** – located on Santa Barbara Boulevard, at Lake Kennedy Park
- **Yacht Club Community Park** – located at 5819 Driftwood Parkway
- **Yellow Fever Creek Preserve** – located on Del Prado Boulevard N.

Public engagement meetings for the community parks will begin in October. The dates/times for these meetings will be announced soon.

The designs for the neighborhood and community parks will be presented to Cape Coral City Council during a public meeting for review and approval.

A 15-year general obligation bond will fund the improvements to existing parks, construction of new neighborhood parks, and the construction and development of the community parks. The operations and maintenance costs for these parks are included the City's three-year rolling budget.

For more information, visit the Parks GO Bond website at www.capecoral.net/GoBond.

Parks GO Bond Improvements at Existing Parks

The voter-approved Parks GO Bond includes improvements to existing parks in the city. Recently completed projects that were funded by the Parks GO Bond include:

- **LED lighting installed on Field 3 at the Storm Football Complex**
- **Paving of the parking lot and installation of pavers around the concession building at Strausser BMX Sports Complex**

In October, the process will begin for new playgrounds at Pelican Baseball Complex and at the Northwest Softball Complex. The playground at Koza/Saladino Park also is set to be replaced.

Coming soon will be the addition of two new picnic pavilions at Horton Park and two new pavilions at the Northwest Softball Complex.

Operating Budget

from page 1

Property Appraiser's initial value estimates were presented to City Council. For the eighth consecutive year, our property tax base increased over the previous year. These increases came after five consecutive years of decreasing value resulting in the loss of about 60 percent.

The financial model for FY2020 initially assumed an increase of 4 percent but final property values increased more than 7 percent. The City was able to again meet it's goal of holding the reliance on ad valorem taxes in the General Fund to less than 50 percent of total revenues.

The City Manager's budget was reviewed by City Council during workshops held in August. The adopted operating budget lowered the rate of 6.750 to 6.4903. City Council adopted a 62 percent cost recovery from the Fire Service Assessment, which the same at FY 2019.

The Budget provides $6.5 million for road paving for the eighth consecutive year, the budget for new streetlights doubled to $200,000, $312,000 was set aside for median improvements, $520,000 for alley paving and $2 million for capital maintenance.

The Fiscal Year 2020 budget adheres to the important principles of municipal government management. These principles include revenue diversification, creating a culture of professionalism (which yields best practices), capital investment and planning, organizational investment and future planning. Revenue diversification provides the City with three main revenue sources to fund the City's operating budget: ad valorem property taxes, public service tax and fire service assessment.

The City's final operating budget is available to review on-line by visiting the Financial Services Department page on the City's website at www.capecoral.net.

Police Department Recognizes Jodi Walborn

Walborn Educates 21,690 Students About Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

School Resource Officer Salecki presented a "Citizen Commendable Action Coin" to Jodi Walborn after she taught pedestrian and bicycle safety to more than 375 students at Gulf Middle School in Cape Coral. Walborn has educated students in 28 different elementary schools, seven middle schools, and one high school. She has dedicated her life and career to educating students and has reached 21,690 students total.

School Resource Officer Salecki presents the Police Department's "Citizen Commendable Action" Coin to Jodi Walborn

Walborn has provided training to Cape Coral students at Caloosa Middle, Challenger Middle, Gulf Middle, Gulf Elementary, Hector Cafferata Elementary, and Pelican Elementary School.

Cape Coral Police Chief David Newlan created the "Citizen Commendable Action Coin" program to recognize citizens for their contributions to the community. The Coin is presented by an officer of the Police Department to a civilian that performs an extraordinary act or in recognition of exemplary behavior.

Congratulations Jodi Walborn. Your positive actions make our community great.

City's Charter Schools Focus on Safety

This summer, a new crosswalk, and sidewalk were installed at the City's Charter School Campus on Oasis Boulevard just in time for the 2019-2020 school year to begin. Cape Coral City Council approved the installation of these safety features earlier this year. A school crossing guard assists students during school hours.

School staff also completed threat assessment training during the summer break.

Cape Coral Firefighters Part of Hurricane Dorian Strike Team

A Lee County strike team prepares to travel to the Miami area to provide relief ahead of Hurricane Dorian.

As Hurricane Dorian approached the state and Southwest Florida was no longer in the forecast cone, members of the Cape Coral Fire Department were assembled to serve the east coast of Florida. The crew of four was part of a strike team, which included other Lee County first-responders. The team headed to Miami and were ready to respond to areas impacted by the storm.

The Cape Coral Police and Fire Departments frequently provide assistance to areas outside of Lee County, when requested by the state. The state manages requests for resources during emergencies and any costs related to the deployment of resources are reimbursed to the city through the state and FEMA.

Vacant Lot Mowing Program Rates Set By Council

The City of Cape Coral's Lot Mowing Program was established in 1971 to provide mowing on all unimproved and certain non-exempt vacant lots, medians and rights of way in the city. This includes easements, alleyways, drainage easements and cul-de-sacs. The program provides benefits to the citizens of Cape Coral by controlling vegetation, growth and vermin habitats.

There are about 63,000 vacant lots on the current program. These lots are cut seven times a year between March and December. More than 400,000 mows are performed annually.

Lots are assessed based on the square footage of the parcel. In FY 2017, the City added trimming around burrowing owl nests as part of the responsibility of the mowing contractors. The fee is collected as a separate non-ad valorem assessment on the property tax bill. For FY 2020, the annual lot mowing fees range from $55.48 to $73.40 depending on the location of the lot. Property owners who have unimproved parcels can elect to opt-out of the Lot Mowing Program by dialing 3-1-1 for the City's Call Center. If owners opt-out, they still will be required to maintain and mow the property.

Total Taxable Values Increase by 7.96 Percent in Cape Coral

On July 1, the Property Appraiser's Office provided the City with the Certificate of Taxable Value for FY 2020 ad valorem tax rolls. The City's total taxable value for the city increased 7.96 percent from $14.3 billion in 2018 to almost $15.4 billion in 2019. New construction represents about 41 percent of the total increased taxable value.

This is the eighth consecutive year that total taxable values have increased following five years of steep decline. While total taxable value increased 7.96 percent, properties in Cape Coral that are homesteaded only can increase by the CPI or 3 percent, whichever is less.

This year, the CPI is 2.1 percent. As an example, a homesteaded property with an assessed value of $150,000 only can increase by $3,150 for a new value of $153,150. Ad valorem taxes are the single, largest revenue source for the City's General Fund, which is the primary operating fund. This fund includes police, fire, parks and recreation, public works and administrative services.

The Final Taxable Value will be provided by the Lee County Property Appraiser in October.

City Council Maintains Fire Protection Services Assessment

City Council set the recovery rate for the Fire Services Assessment at 62 percent for the FY 2020 Operating Budget. This rate maintains the current (FY19) cost recovery rate.

The "recovery rate" is the percentage of the Fire Department's fire service costs being collected through the fire assessment. The remainder of the costs is funded through General Fund revenues.

The Fire Services Assessment is a two-tiered assessment. Tier 1 brings the vacant parcels into the equation. This means every parcel, regardless of size or status, will pay a flat fee for the Tier 1 portion. The Tier 1 rate for every property is $142.71. The Tier 2 rate is $2.50 per Equivalent Benefit Unit.

Fire Chief Selected as 2019 Fire Chief of the Year

Cape Coral Fire Chief Ryan W. Lamb was recently selected the 2019 Florida Fire Chief of the Year.

The award, which was presented by the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFCA), recognizes a "truly outstanding Fire Chief whose acts and deeds in their profession, home, community and country serve as an example and challenge for all other Chief Fire Executives throughout Florida."

Chief Lamb was honored for his leadership in adverse situations, his accomplishments after serving just one year as Fire Chief, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public, and for his contributions to the fire service.

Chief Lamb began his service to the City of Cape Coral in 2005 and was promoted to Fire Chief in 2018.

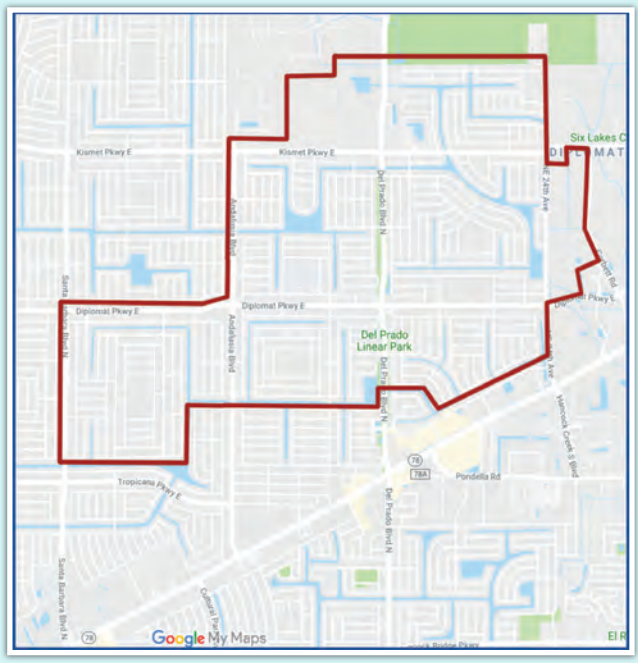
Chief Lamb received the 2019 Fire Chief of the Year award at the FFCA Executive Leadership Development Conference in July.

Fire Chief Ryan W. Lamb receives the 2019 Fire Chief of the Year award.

Representatives of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association present Cape Coral Fire Chief Ryan W. Lamb the 2019 Fire Chief of the Year award.

Engineering Design Firm Selected for North 1 UEP

An Estero, Florida company has been selected to provide engineering design services for the North 1 Utilities Extension Project (UEP). The City's Selection Advisory Committee received presentations from three of the four firms that submitted proposals for the project that will bring water, sewer, and irrigation services to the northeast quadrant of the City.



Based on the Selection Advisory Committee's recommendation, City Council approved the selection of an engineering design firm. Staff will proceed with negotiating an agreement with Tetra Tech to provide planning, design, permitting, funding support, bidding, and construction phase services. Upon conclusion of negotiations, the agreement with Tetra Tech will be presented to City Council for approval. The City anticipates construction of North 1 to commence in 2021 with construction completed in 2023.

The proposed North 1 project area is in the northeast quadrant of Cape Coral. The project area is approximately 4.3 square miles with approximately 2,900 improved parcels and approximately 4,500 unimproved parcels. The project is generally bounded on the west by Santa Barbara Boulevard and Andalusia Boulevard, on the south by Hermosa Canal, Arrowhead Lake, Fairmont Canal, Balmoral Canal, Lake Zurich, Zurich Canal, and Banjo Canal, in the east by Northeast 24th Avenue, Diplomat Parkway and Corbett Road and on the North by NE 28th Street.

Cape Coral Fire Department Hosts 10th Annual Open House Event

On **Saturday, November 2**, the Cape Coral Fire Department will host their tenth annual Open House. The public is invited to visit any of Cape Coral's 11 fire stations from 9 a.m. until noon. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the station, meet firefighters and learn about the fire apparatus and equipment.

Each station will feature different activities, education, and displays. Some of the Open House activities and displays include:

- Cape Coral Police Department SWAT, K9, and Marine units
- Meet the fire and police chiefs
- Friends and Family CPR instruction
- Coastie and the Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Fingerprinting for kids
- Blood donations
- Lee County Mosquito Control District helicopter and educational bug display
- Interactive, inflatable fire safety smoke house
- Vehicle extrication demonstrations
- Junior firefighter obstacle course
- Lee County EMS ambulance and helicopter
- Pet safety and adoptable dogs from the Cape Coral Animal Shelter
- Scavenger hunt, face painting, and more.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 2 and follow the Cape Coral Fire Department on Facebook for details and updates on this family-fun event.

Economic Development Growth Continues in Cape Coral

There's lots of excitement on the "economic development front" in the City of Cape Coral. In the next three to four years, there will be unprecedented growth, investment and jobs. This growth is the result of more than $500 million in private investments that are planned over these next few years.

Currently, there's quite a bit of construction activity taking place along Pine Island Road with the new Nissan Dealership gearing up to open this Fall and shortly thereafter, a new Aldi's Supermarket also will open along this corridor. Another new Aldi's is planned at the Coralwood Mall. A 292 unit multi-family development is planning to break ground at the eastern edge of the city along Pine Island Road and a new 109-room Fairfield Inn & Suites recently held a groundbreaking event and will be constructed near Pondella Road. The hotel is expected to open next year.

Moving into 2020, significant new growth is expected with development activities planned along Pine Island Road including Pine Island Village (office/retail), a new retail center at the corner of Del Prado Boulevard. A mixed-use and retail development along Veterans Parkway and Burnt Store Road is also planned for next year.

The South Cape will witness the ground breaking of the first multi-story development in years with a four-story restaurant, skybar and offices on Cape Coral Parkway and a second mixed-use development, which will include new restaurants, retail and office space.

Meanwhile, the City continues to work closely with national real estate firm, CBRE, to secure a master developer for the Seven Islands site. The City expects to select a developer to negotiate terms for a development agreement in early 2020. To create more opportunities to attract corporate office and technology firms, the City is completing predevelopment activities in order to make the 165-acre Academic Village site ready for development in the next few years.

Economic Development staff continue to market and promote development and investment opportunities throughout the State of Florida and across the country. As more developers, businesses and future residents learn of the fascinating opportunities to invest and become part of our beautiful city, it will continue to prosper. "We are all economic development ambassadors," said Economic Development Manager Ricardo Noguera. "When you're traveling outside of this city, state, country or abroad, remember to promote the excellent work-life balance and invest in Cape Coral."

Crime is Down For the First 8 Months of 2019
Police Thank the Community

The Uniform Crime Reporting statistics for the first eight months of 2019 show that violent crime is **down -14.6%** and property crime is **down 19.4%** in Cape Coral.

The Cape Coral Police Department says multiple factors are keeping crime rates low. One factor is neighbors watching out for one another. The "See Something, Say Something" concept seems to be working. The Police Department receives calls and tips every day from members of the community reporting crimes and suspicious behavior. The community's cooperation is critical to preventing crime.

Another factor contributing to the decreased crime is the department's high visibility enforcement. Officers are making themselves visible every day in an effort to combat crimes. Officers patrol the main roadways and also drive through neighborhoods to keep our citizens safe.

Security systems, such as video doorbells, have helped police solve crimes and obtain positive identifications. Video evidence is often the best evidence. Companies such as Ring and Nest have made it easier to fight crime. The Ring doorbell includes the "Neighbors" app. This mobile device app allows people in the same geographical area to communicate and share videos or ask questions about suspicious incidents. The "Neighbors" app can be used by anyone even if they don't own a Ring doorbell. It is a free program that can help protect neighbors and prevent crime.

Neighbors
The New Neighborhood Watch™

The Juvenile Enforcement Initiative (JEI) is a program that is helping to keep crime low in the city. The Juvenile Enforcement Initiative monitors juveniles who are in the criminal justice system and aims to prevent other juveniles from experiencing the criminal justice system altogether. The JEI also works with kids who are on probation to keep them accountable with curfews, school attendance/securing employment and clean drug screens. The program is comprised of patrol officers in collaboration with school resource officers. The Police Department partners with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the State Attorney's Office, and most importantly, the family of the juvenile to help kids complete the terms of their probation to a successful conclusion. By highlighting the small wins, the Police Department is able to refocus the juvenile on the bigger goal of completing probation. The JEI also works to identify juveniles who show at-risk tendencies such as negative peer associations, chronic runaways, and misdemeanor level criminal offenses. Cape Coral officers build relationships with these juveniles by meeting with them, mentoring them, and connecting them to various resources in the community. The goal is that these relationships can stop recidivism. ■

Proper Disposal of Yard Waste
Can Help Protect Our Waterways

People often think pollution or excess nutrients in our local waterways is caused by large farms and/or commercial operations. Residents, visitors, and businesses can also contribute pollutants and excess nutrients to Southwest Florida's canals, lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Grass clippings and other yard waste should never be dumped or blown into any waterway. When yard waste is discarded into our canal system it can have significant negative impacts on our local waterways. Grass clippings and other yard waste decomposes quickly and uses critical oxygen in the water, which can lead to algae blooms and fish kills.

Managing your landscape effectively can drastically reduce pollutants from entering into surface and groundwater systems. City Code (Ordinance 86-10) prohibits leaving yard waste on roadways or blowing waste into the city's waterways or storm drains. While compliance is preferred over enforcement, City Code Officers can issue citations and fines if yard waste is not disposed of properly.

Please consider the following when doing yard work:

* Leave grass clippings on the lawn (they are natural fertilizer)
* Direct mowers to spread clippings away from pavements and waterways
* Sweep or blow clippings from pavements back onto the lawn
* Properly bag or contain leaves and other yard waste for curbside pickup

We appreciate cooperation from residents as well as lawn care and landscape professionals to help keep Cape Coral's waterways free from excess nutrients. If you have any questions or concerns related to the Ordinance, please call the City's Code Compliance Division at (239) 574-0613. ■

City's Charter Schools
Achieve "A" Grades from the State

The state of Florida released the 2019 school grades for elementary, middle and high schools. All schools of the Cape Coral Municipal Charter School Authority received an "A" grade. These schools are Christa McAuliffe Elementary, Oasis Elementary, Oasis Middle, and Oasis High School. This is the second consecutive year that all four schools received an "A".

This is a huge accomplishment and the performance of the students at the municipal charter schools is equal to or better than the performance of other students from around the state. The educators, students, and families deserve credit for the excellent scores achieved on the state's accountability standards.

School grades provide an easily understandable way to measure the performance of a school. Parents and the general public can use the school grade and its components to understand how well each school is serving its students. Schools are graded A, B, C, D, or F. ■

Christa McAuliffe Elementary
Designated a "School of Excellence"

Christa McAuliffe Elementary, a Cape Coral Municipal Charter School located in the northern part of the city, is designated by the state as a "School of Excellence" for a second time. The School's Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) were among the top three in Lee County.

The "School of Excellence" recognition grants principals greater autonomy in operations and exempts schools from several mandates due to their high performance and great success. Congratulations to Christa McAuliffe Elementary School Principal Kevin Brown and Assistant Principal Kelly Weeks. ■

Old Inlet Boxes Used to Construct Offshore Artificial Reef

The City of Cape Coral and Lee County Department of Natural Resources – Marine Services worked together to utilize old concrete throat inlet boxes from the North 2 Utilities Extension Project (UEP) to create an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

As part of the North 2 UEP, these old inlet boxes were replaced with new raised grate inlet boxes to improve water quality. Instead of discarding these old inlet boxes in a landfill, the City contributed more than 1,000 tons of concrete material that were deployed for construction of the artificial reef project. To be approved for use in the reef, each inlet box had to weigh a minimum of 500 pounds and have no protruding steel. The reef project was funded by a grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Sport Fish Restoration Program. The artificial reef not only provides a long-lasting durable habitat for a wide variety of marine organisms, but also a new destination for residents and visitors to fish and dive.

Police Department Offers Secure Medication Disposal

Residents can properly dispose of unused and expired prescription medications at the Cape Coral Police Department, which is located at 1100 Cultural Park Boulevard. Inside the lobby there is a secure **Med-Return box**. The Police Department lobby is open 24/7.

- The following medications ARE accepted:
  - Prescriptions
  - Prescription Patches
  - Prescription Ointments
  - Over the Counter Medications
  - Vitamins
  - Samples
  - Medications for Pets
- The following items are NOT accepted:
  - Needles/Sharps *(local fire stations have approved containers for sharps)*
  - Medication from businesses/clinics
  - Ointments, Lotions or Liquids
  - Aerosol Cans
  - Inhalers
  - Hydrogen Peroxide
  - No Liquids Please

MedReturn box at the Cape Coral Police Department

Annual Residential Solid Waste Assessment Increases By $3.37

Cape Coral residents will pay about $3 more this year for solid waste services. Council approved a request from Waste Pro for a 1.64 percent increase for residential collection based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A portion of the assessment increase will go to Waste Pro. The annual solid waste assessment increased to about $200. The FY19 solid waste assessment was about $196. Even with the increase, Cape Coral's solid waste fee is lower than other municipalities in Lee County.

City management plans to enter into renewal negotiations for solid waste services with Waste Pro for an additional five-year renewal, which could extend the current agreement until 2025. The City has the option to go out for bid to request proposals from other companies, if the negotiating parties are unable to agree to terms.

Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12

Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 6-12, provides fire departments across the country the opportunity to remind the public about the importance of fire prevention.

Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running public health observance in our country. President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed it a national observance in 1925. Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9 in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871. The Fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 people homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Each year the National Fire Protection Agency develops a theme for Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!"

This campaign works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. These include:

- **Testing your smoke alarms.**
- **Planning an escape route.**
- **Choosing an outside meeting place.**
- **Practicing a home fire drill.**

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

The Cape Coral Fire Department offers fire safety programs for all ages and for a variety of groups. For more information, please call (239) 242-3303. ■

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
Fleet Management Fuel Technician
Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor is a Fleet Management Fuel Technician in the City's Fleet Management Divison. Taylor was hired as a Senior Fleet Mechanic in 2012 and he was promoted to Fuel Technician in 2016.

Fleet Management Fuel Technician Robert Taylor

Taylor is responsible for ordering fuel for the fuel sites that are located around the City and for all aspects of maintenance at the fuel sites. This requires coordinating with outside vendors when maintenance is needed or a fuel site is not working properly. He is also responsible for monitoring fuel levels on a daily basis using specialized software. Taylor works to get new assets "department ready". This includes receiving new vehicles and equipment when they are delivered by a vendor. When equipment is received, Taylor coordinates the application of decals and asset numbers on this equipment. Finally, he installs the fuel "nano pass", which allows the Fleet Management Division to monitor all details concerning fuel usage.

Taylor and his family moved to Estero, Florida in 2012 after retiring from the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. His 33 years of service was spent as a mechanic. In his spare time, Taylor enjoys spending time on the boat with his family and grandkids.

Fleet Management is a division of the Public Works Department. Fleet Management is responsible for equipment services including; vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, governmental and environmental compliance, specification development, acquisition, disposal, and the purchase of fuel for City vehicles and equipment. The City's fleet is comprised of 1,672 vehicles and equipment. ■

Human Resources Receives the IPMA-HR "Agency Award for Excellence"

The City's Human Resources Department was awarded the 2019 International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR) "Agency Award for Excellence".

The award recognizes the "overall quality, accomplishments, and contributions of an agency personnel program that exceeds the normal operation of a good government personnel program" and is based on agency program initiatives, accomplishments and contributions within a three-year time period.

The City's Human Resources Department is comprised of about 16 employees serving 1,800 full-time equivalent positions and 775 retirees. The HR team developed purposeful solutions to enhance workforce readiness and preparedness. They collaborated with city employees and developed customized leadership programs, enhanced technology, instituted extensive metrics for communications, adjusted pay structures, and promoted a positive culture.

Recent HR accomplishments include:

- Developing an organizational pay philosophy, which set pay grades at the 75th percentile to market. This philosophy provides guidance during budget talks and union negotiations to maintain competitive market placement as well as internal pay equity.
- Customizing metrics for departments and evaluating retirement eligibility for succession planning and identifying possible skill gaps.
- Implementing a talent management system, which supplies onsite learning to enhance employee skills and provides a method to conduct electronic performance reviews.
- Creating and implementing the Leadership Education And Development Series (L.E.A.D.S.) program to develop skills in each of the competency areas and to develop working relationships across departments.
- Increasing the applicant experience and automated the new hire paperwork process. The improved applicant website (www.capecoral.net) provides on-the-job videos that allow applicants to make informed decisions about job postings.

The entire HR team contributed to these solutions and the City's continued efforts to enhance the full employment experience, from applicant into retirement.

HR Director Lisa Sonego recently accepted the 2019 "Agency Award for Excellence" at the IPMA-HR international training conference in Miami. The IPMA-HR is the leading public sector human resource organization in the world. They represent human resources professionals at all levels and strive to promote excellence in HR management.

Oasis Middle School Participates In "Students Against Destructive Decisions" Prevention Program

Oasis Middle School celebrated the inauguration of a new school-wide club called SADD, which stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. This national youth prevention program helps students learn how to better navigate their decisions when faced with peer pressure and social media pressure.

The program is sponsored by the Lee County Coalition For A Drug-Free SWFL and is a collaboration between Lee Health, Park Royal, The Hanley Foundation, Florida National Guard Counterdrug Program, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The mission of SADD is to help students avoid the dangers of substance abuse, vaping, discrimination, bullying, and other destructive decisions.

Superintendent Jacqueline Collins, Deputy Police Chief Lisa Barnes, and Oasis Middle School Principal Donnie Hopper worked to implement the program in the Cape Coral Municipal Charter School.

← Oasis Middle Principal Donnie Hopper and Lee County Coalition For A Drug-Free SWFL representative kicked off a new SADD Chapter at Oasis Middle School.

Cape Coral Earns GFOA Distinguished Budget Award

The City's Finance Department received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the FY 2019 budget.

The GFOA has been promoting the preparation of high-quality budget documents since 1984. The purpose of the program is to encourage and assist governments in preparing excellent budget documents for the benefit of citizens and other parties with a vital interest in the government's finances.

The City of Cape Coral has been presented this award 21 times. To earn the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the City had to substantially conform to the program's demanding criteria. This required the professionalism and commitment of numerous individuals as well as many hours of staff time. The award reflects a high degree of dedication and leadership.

Congratulations to our Finance staff and other City staff who worked to achieve this award.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional services association servicing the needs of more than 19,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners.

Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Wins Public Relations Award for Fun-Mobile

The City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department recently received a 2019 Public Relations Award from the Florida Recreation & Park Association (FRPA) for the Cape Coral Fun-Mobile recreation initiative.

Cape Coral's Parks and Recreation Staff were presented the FRPA award for the Fun-Mobile.

A former municipal van that was used to transport children was converted into a "recreation center on wheels". The Cape Coral Fun-Mobile has been offering organized activities for free to promote outdoor play at parks and events throughout Cape Coral since the spring of 2018.

By bringing recreation and information to the people where they are, instead of the other way around, the Fun-Mobile has been instrumental in helping to increase public awareness of Cape Coral Parks & Recreation and the universal benefits of parks and the services provided by the City of Cape Coral.

The FRPA Public Relations Award is presented annually to individuals and agencies that have significantly impacted the public's awareness and recognition of public parks, recreation and leisure service programs through marketing and public relations.

The award was officially presented on August 28 at the Florida Recreation & Park Association's Annual Awards Ceremony in Orlando.

For more information about the Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department or to sign up for upcoming programs, visit www.CapeParks.com or call (239) 573-3128.

City Council Continues Stormwater Rates Plan

Fourth year of plan raises FY20 stormwater fee to $119 as planned

In 2016, City staff presented the CDM Smith Rate Study for the stormwater fee to City Council. The study recommended a stepped approach to increasing the stormwater fee to maintain the sustainability of the Stormwater Fund. Council approved a five-year plan that would increase the fee from the current rate of $115 to $119 for FY 2020. The City's stormwater fee had remained at $75 for many years until a modest increase was approved in 2015 raising the rate to $80. The CDM Smith Rate Study detailed the dire financial situation with the Stormwater Fund, which was close to exhausting its fund balance. Rate increases were necessary to maintain the level of stormwater management required for a 120-square-mile city. Stormwater operations include the maintenance of 22,000+ catch basins annually to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System under the Clean Water Act. Other stormwater activities include drain pipe replacement, drainage management, canal dredging, drain pipe relocations, weir maintenance and more. The stormwater fee is expected to increase to $125 in FY 2021.

Remember Your Year-Round Watering Schedule

Dry season begins in October

Cape Coral is approaching the beginning of the dry season. The lack of rainfall we experience during the dry season, along with the greater demand for irrigation water can put a strain on the City's irrigation supply.

The City relies on canal water from the freshwater canal system as a supplement to the reuse water produced from our wastewater reclamation plants

It is very important for our residents to conserve water by following the City's year-round watering schedule. Please remember that during the dry season, lawns require less water than hot, summer days.

Our two-day watering schedule is in effect for all residents whether you are using the City's dual-water system or private wells. There is a specific four-hour timeframe on the designated days for watering. The watering days depend on the last number of a property address.

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

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

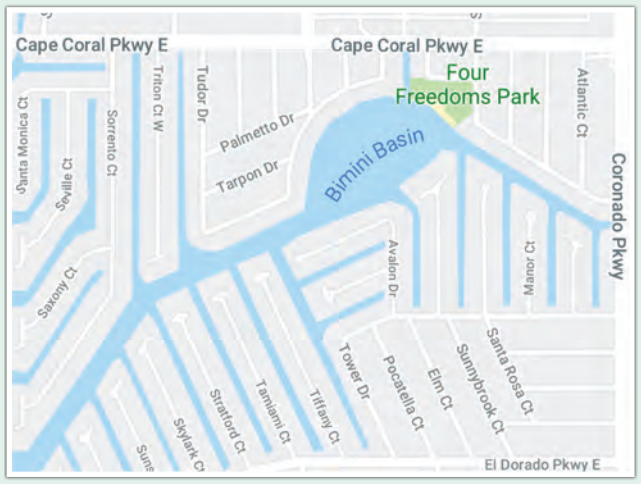
Non-residential, duplexes and other multi-family units can water on Monday and Friday from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.

City staff continuously monitors freshwater canal conditions paying close attention to weather forecasts and rain totals through the dry season. The Utilities Department will make appropriate and timely adjustments, if needed, to manage freshwater basins affected by the City's irrigation demand.

GET CONNECTED
The City of Cape Coral is social
FOLLOW, LIKE & SHARE

Bimini Basin Mooring Field Project Moves Forward

Last summer, the City adopted an Ordinance that allows the City to regulate the time, place, and manner for mooring of boats in the Bimini Basin. Mooring involves securing a boat to a permanent structure.



The adoption of the Ordinance is a step towards establishing a mooring field. By law, the City cannot regulate mooring in state waters without an established mooring field. The adoption of Ordinance 41-18 was the first step of a three-step process to establish a mooring field in the Bimini Basin.

The next step is developing a mooring field plan and obtaining permits. This step is expected to cost about $50,000 to complete. The plan provides specific design specifications for the mooring field including the number of mooring sites and the boat size limitations. Once the plan is complete then the City will apply for state and federal permitting, which is estimated to take about 18 months.

The final step in the process of establishing a mooring field in the Bimini Basin involves the actual construction of the permanent structures and any land-based facilities. This cost depends on the finalized plan, design and the permits that are obtained by the City.

Staff is working to search for grant funding for this project and is moving forward with obtaining quotes for the mooring field design. ■

City's "Canalwatch" Program Celebrates 24 Years

Program Volunteers Needed

In 1995, about a dozen Cape Coral residents under the guidance of the Environmental Resources Division took a vested interest in the waterways behind their homes and pioneered the volunteer group "Canalwatch." Twenty-four years later, Canalwatch continues to attract the interest of waterfront property owners concerned about the health of their property's greatest asset, as well as those residents interested in water quality.

The volunteer water-sampling program helps educate Cape Coral residents about water quality issues and engage citizens in water quality science to increase awareness of the important issues that affect Cape Coral's canals.

Cape Coral's 400-mile canal system is a defining feature of our City and one of our most vital economic assets. Our canals offer waterfront living and recreation, protect our homes from floods, enhance property values, supply us with irrigation water, and attract wildlife to our City.

Cape Coral's citizens recognize the canal system's impact on their quality-of-life. Canalwatch volunteers are the canal network's first line of defense against pollution, as calls from alert residents are often the first indication of a canal-related problem.

The Canalwatch program provides residents with the opportunity, materials, and instruction to sample water from their own backyards and have those samples tested at the Environmental Resources Laboratory. The program gives volunteers the means to become environmental stewards for their community and assists Cape Coral's environmental staff to achieve their goal of public education related to water quality topics.

Canalwatch volunteers collect stormwater samples at the waterbody behind their property. The specific purpose of Canalwatch is to give residents a constructive opportunity to collect samples for nutrient analysis. If you are interested in joining the Canalwatch program, please email Katie McBride at kmcbride@capecoral.net and join us for our next meeting. Volunteers should be able to commit to regular sampling the first Wednesday of the month for at least one year. ■

Hurricane Dorian Reminds Residents to Be Informed. Be Ready. Be Calm.

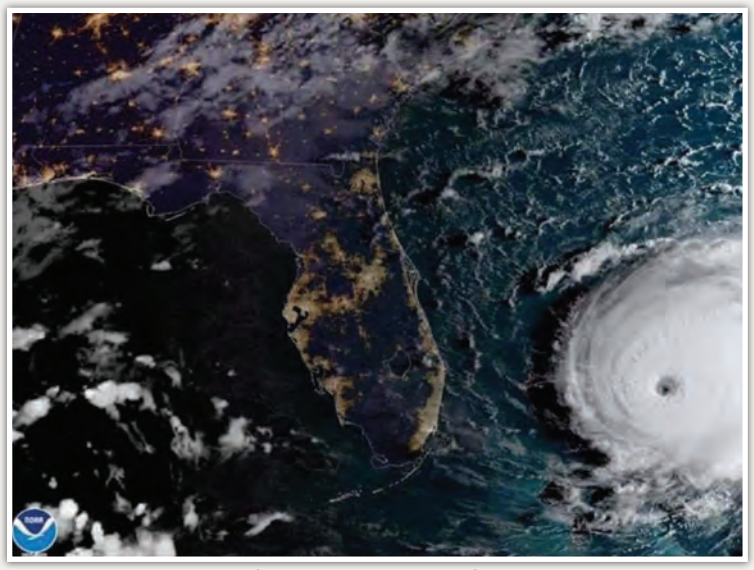
September is recognized as National Preparedness Month by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security. It's a time to ensure plans and processes are in place for emergencies and natural disasters.

While Hurricane Dorian thankfully spared Southwest Florida of any major impacts, it provided us with a reminder that we all need to: ***Be Informed, Be Ready, and Be Calm.***

PREPARED, NOT SCARED

FEMA | Ready

National Preparedness Month 2019



NOAA picture of Hurricane Dorian from September 1.

Be Informed:

■ **Know Your Evacuation Zone - Hurricane evacuation zones are no longer referenced by hurricane category.** Evacuation zones are named by hurricane surge zones: A, B, C, D and E. Residents are evacuated by zones for storm surge in a phased manner. This means evacuation of a zone may be ordered before any effects of the tropical storm are seen. To find your zone, visit www.leeeoc.com and select "Know Your Evacuation Zone" under the Emergency Management menu.

■ **Emergency Public Shelters - A shelter is a safe place to be during an emergency however, it offers only basic life-sustaining necessities.** The shelter may not have electricity for most of your stay. It will be noisy, crowded, and somewhat uncomfortable. Lee County manages emergency sheltering and all listed shelters will not be open for every storm. Be sure the shelter is open before you go. You should bring food with you if you use a shelter. Food will be provided but dietary restrictions and food preferences may not be accommodated. Please bring all necessary medications, personal hygiene items, sleeping bags/cots, blankets, towels, and comfort items to the shelter. Shelter information can be found in the All Hazards Guide provided by Lee County. To view the guide, visit www.leeeoc.com.

■ **Transportation During Evacuations - Moving people in Lee County can take up to 41 hours and that time only increases once you leave the County.** Because of the roadways, it can take up to 89 hours to evacuate out of Southwest Florida. The weather may be beautiful outside when an evacuation zone is ordered to evacuate however, you need to reach safety before any danger reaches Cape Coral. When emergencies and natural disasters require a mandatory evacuation, many residents use public transportation to get to and from an emergency shelter. Currently, the following applies during mandatory evacuation:

- All LeeTran regular bus routes and transfer points remain in service
- Bus fares will be waived.
- LeeTran will run shuttles from designated Transfer Stations to move evacuees to open emergency shelters before the storm.
- LeeTran will run shuttles from emergency shelters to Transfer Stations when shelters are closed after the storm has passed. ■

2019 Coconut Festival Coming November 7-10

Cape Coral Parks and Recreation is proud to announce the return of the Cape Coral Coconut Festival at Sun Splash Festival Grounds. This annual event is set for November 7-10. The festival is the City's signature event celebrating friends, family and the community.

Join us on Thursday, November 7 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a Coconut Fest sneak peek. Enjoy food, shows, and carnival rides during this early event.

Grab your cowboy hat and boots for "COCO Country" on Friday, November 8, when the festival concerts will kick off with national country artists on the main stage. To finish the night, the sky will light up with a spectacular fireworks show.

Be prepared to rock n' roll for "COCO Rock" on Saturday, November 9. Saturday's lineup will also feature a national artist, fireworks show, and another great day of food and carnival rides.

To wrap up the festival, Sunday, November 10 will offer another full day of carnival rides and community stage entertainment.

Make plans to join in the fun this year and get ready to "GO COCONUTS!" Over 20,000 people are estimated to come out for the largest carnival, concert, and entertainment event in Cape Coral.

Thank you to Achieva Credit Union, Cape Coral Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Waste Pro, Dolphin Key Resort, Bruce L. Scheiner Attorneys for the Injured, Jason's Deli, Lightning Wireless Solutions, Happenings Magazine, Cat Country 107.1, The Westin Cape Coral at Marina Village, Hampton Inn and Suites, Brent's Music and Sound and Rockstar Harley-Davidson for proudly sponsoring this event.

For more information, visit the event website at www.CocoFest.com or call the Cape Coral Special Events Division at (239) 573-3128. ■

Swing into Fall at Coral Oaks

Coral Oaks Golf Course is pleased to host the 2019 "Storm Smart City Championship" the weekend of October 19-20, with the Roger Dean Chevrolet kick-off Pro-Am on Friday, October 18. The entry fee is $100 per person for Friday's Pro-Am and $175 per player for the two-day, 36-hole, stroke-play city championship tournament.

The City Championship entry fee includes greens and cart fees for two rounds, practice range balls, tee gifts for every player, Friday night kick-off BBQ, Saturday lunch, and an awards banquet on Sunday. Those who have participated in the past can attest that this is the premier amateur golf tournament in Southwest Florida and a great value. Registration will be online only and open on September 10 at www.CoralOaksGolf.com. Be sure to sign up early to ensure your spot in the field before it sells out.

Coral Oaks will also host four charity fundraisers during the fall, and we encourage everyone to participate in these events. The Oasis Charter High School Booster Club Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 2. The Cape Coral Animal Shelter Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, November 16. The Ricky Pigott Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, November 17, and the Cape Coral Junior Golf Association Scholarship Tournament will be held on Saturday, December 7. All of these events will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

The Cape Coral Junior Golf Association's Junior Golf Program at Coral Oaks Golf Course completed its 31st year this summer and the program was once again a huge success with 265 children registered. The kids had a fantastic time learning and playing golf all summer long. Over 70 volunteers helped during the summer and a big thank you goes out to those who assist with the program every year.

In addition to the annual City Championship and affordable daily play, Coral Oaks Golf Course offers Men's and Ladies' Golf Associations, junior golf programs, First Tee Programs, PGA golf instruction, clinics, golf schools, charity fundraising events and special discounts for group play outings that are professionally conducted and competitively priced. Make sure you check with Coral Oaks before you go anywhere else. In addition, season pass memberships are a fantastic value for golfers who like to play more than two times per week.

Find out about special deals on the Coral Oaks website at www.CoralOaksGolf.com then book tee times up to seven days in advance. If you have an interest in any golfing programs, golf outings, group bookings, and/or to book a tee time, please call (239) 573-3100 or visit the Coral Oaks website.

Negotiations Continue for Purchase of the Old Golf Course Property

In 2018, Cape Coral City Council directed City Manager John Szerlag to begin negotiations with Ryan Companies on a purchase price for the abandoned golf course property. The property is located on Palm Tree Boulevard and is owned by Ryan Companies.

City administration continues to negotiate the potential purchase of this property. The negotiations are taking some time due to environmental concerns related to this property. These environmental concerns are often associated with former golf courses and staff believes that these issues must be addressed before moving forward with recommendations to City Council on a purchase price.

Staff continues to have discussions with the owner of the property as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the cleanup of this property.

FEMA Holds OPEN HOUSE in Cape Coral

New flood maps presented to property owners

FEMA conducted a series of public open houses earlier this month and introduced new draft preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to residents and property owners. One of these meetings was held at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

According to FEMA, FIRMs show the potential extent and risks of flooding. The maps will be used to determine flood insurance premiums and building requirements.

Attendees learned about their risk of flooding and asked questions about the new maps and how they are affected by the changes. FEMA's subject matter experts discussed flood insurance, appeals, and mitigation options, as well as the engineering behind the new draft preliminary maps.

The preliminary FIRMs were developed through a partnership between the communities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They are based on updated modeling data and show coastal flood hazards more accurately than previous maps.

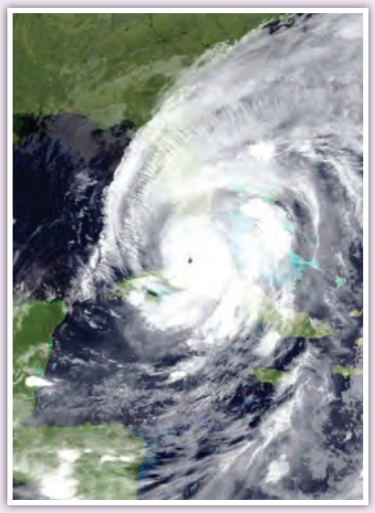
The goal of the open houses is to inform property owners and the community of their flood risks. Over time, these risks change due to construction and development, environmental changes, watershed conditions, and other factors. Flood maps are updated periodically to reflect these changes.

By law, federally regulated or insured mortgage lenders require flood insurance on buildings that are located in areas at high risk of flooding. Standard homeowners, business owners, and renters' insurance policies typically don't cover flood damage.

If you were unable to attend an open house, the draft FIRMs are available on FEMA's website. Please visit, www.fema.gov and search "View Your Community's Preliminary Flood Hazard Data".

City Receives $9.6 million for Hurricane Irma Debris Removal Expenses

The City has received $9.6 million in reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program for Hurricane Irma debris removal related expenses.



These funds will reimburse the City for a portion of the costs of collection, removal, and disposal of debris following Irma. City crews and contractors collected more than 318,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and more than 22,000 cubic yards of construction/demolition debris following the storm.

The Public Assistance Grant Program reimburses percentages of eligible costs based on the category of work and dates completed. FEMA provides assistance for debris removal, life-saving measures, and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly-owned facilities.

To date, FEMA has approved $10.2 million in reimbursements to the City. FEMA claims from the City of Cape Coral total about $18.1 million, of which $13.1 million are for debris removal.

Sun Splash Wraps Up 2019 Season

Thank you to all the guests, both near and far, who helped Sun Splash Family Waterpark celebrate its 27th season. Sun Splash remains a place to mix both value and fun, while being protected by the park's award-winning lifeguards who once again earned a 5-star rating by the Starfish Aquatics Institute. Sun Splash's lifeguard staff has been featured in many of Starfish's training videos that show the professionalism and the competency of a lifeguard.

Highlights during the 2019 season included Mother's and Father's Day Weekend specials and Military Discount Days. In addition, the 2019 season brought back opportunities to splash at night. "Slide Nights" were held throughout the summer every other Saturday from 5:00-8:30 p.m. with discounted admission rates to give more guests the opportunity to attend.

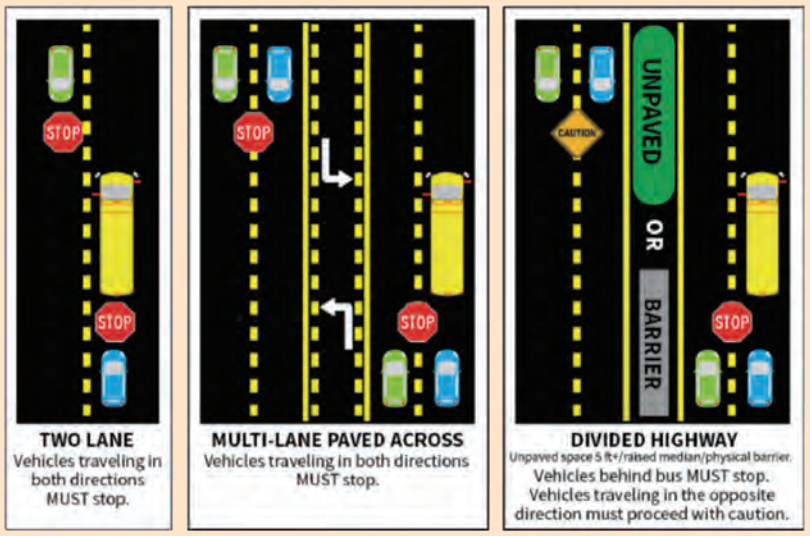
The biggest highlight of the season was the addition of alcohol sales at the park for a one-year trial period. While staff at the park strictly enforced a two-drink maximum limit, they also noticed a significant increase in attendance by individuals who had not visited the park before.

Sun Splash is also experiencing continued success with its new Guest Relations Building that includes the Treasure Trove Gift Shop and Buccaneer Bites Café. Park management has received many positive comments from guests who found the building to be far superior to the old building. This new building was built to replace the former building which was lost to fire on July 6, 2016.

Although the season is wrapping up, there is still a little time left to slide into fun at Sun Splash. The waterpark is open weekends only from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. through September 29. Stop by and cool off and look for some late-season specials. Visit www.SunSplashWaterpark.com to find out what is coming up and register to receive free e-mail updates. Also, follow Sun Splash on Facebook and Twitter, or call (239) 574-0558.

School is Back in Session – Important Tips to Keep Kids Safe

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation on the road today. In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, students are 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a bus instead of traveling by car. That's because school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road.



More children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passengers. The greatest risk to children is approaching a school bus or leaving a bus. For this reason it is necessary to know the proper laws and procedures for sharing the road safely with school buses:

- All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists they are preparing to stop to load or unload children.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorist the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.
- Traffic behind the school bus (traveling in the same direction) must stop when the stop sign arm is extended.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger. Stop the car far enough from the bus to allow children necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children can be unpredictable.
- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

Safety tips for children at school bus stops

Most adults did not grow up with mobile devices with internet capability. Students often have these devices with YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram and more and their heads may be looking down at these devices or they may be wearing headphones. This technology can compromise their safety.

The Cape Coral Police Department urges parents to talk to their children about the importance of being aware of their surroundings and to follow these tips:

- Keep an eye on traffic.
- Do NOT sit in the roadway because drivers may not see you.
- Do not play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Stand at least 10 feet from the road while waiting for the bus so you are away from traffic.
- Be courteous and never leave litter behind.
- Use reflective materials, a flashlight, or flashing lights so drivers can see you.
- If you are going to wear headphones, only use one headphone so you can hear traffic.

Sharing the road with child pedestrians

Motorists need to recognize the safety needs of pedestrians and bicyclists, especially children. Drivers should exercise great care and extreme caution when pedestrians and bicyclists are in the area and remember these safety tips:

- Drivers should not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Blocking the crosswalk forces pedestrians, bicyclists and children on scooters to go around the vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.
- In a school zone when a warning flasher is blinking, drivers must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian/bicyclist crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with n marked crosswalk.
- When passing a bicyclist traveling in the same direction, do so slowly and keep a distance of no less than 3 feet.
- Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, school resource ofcer or designated crossing guard.
- Take extra precautions in school zones and neighborhood areas where children and teenagers may be walking or riding bicycles.

Recent Samples Show No Blue-Green Algae Toxins

The City's Environmental Resources Division recently received reports from residents living on canals between Everest Parkway and Palaco Grande Parkway who were concerned about a green substance floating in their canals. These reports were investigated by a biologist and the lime-green substance was Duckweed and Water Lettuce, which are non-toxic aquatic plants.

Duckweed can invade local waterways and is a common sight in late-summer.

While blue-green algae is present in Lake Okeechobee, no toxins have been detected in recent Lee County samples. Duckweed and water lettuce are common in our canals, especially at the end of summer when storm-water runoffs bring nutrients to our waterways. These plants can be unsightly however, they use the nutrients in the water to grow making the nutrients less available for blue-green algae.

Blue-green algae is naturally-occurring and is found in small concentrations in our waterways. Issues arise when the following factors occur:

- **1.** High cell concentrations reaching millions of cells per liter
- **2.** Detectable toxin levels above 8 micrograms per liter (EPA)

The Environmental Resources Division conducts weekly monitoring of Cape Coral waterways looking for the presence of blue-green algae. The Division frequently communicates with partners at Lee County Natural Resources, Lee Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Residents with water quality concerns can report issues to 3-1-1 and a City biologist will address these issues.

No Nitrogen or Phosphorus Fertilizers Permitted through September 30

The City's fertilizer ordinance regulates the application of fertilizer. From June 1 through September 30, the use of nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizers is restricted in the city.

The purpose of this regulation is to keep the harmful nutrients found in fertilizer from washing off from lawns into storm drains during the rainy months. These nutrients impact the city's canals and surrounding waters, leading to poor water quality and algal blooms.

The fertilizer restrictions apply to citizens and commercial lawn services.

Here are the key points of the fertilizer ordinance:

- **No nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizers** are permitted **between June 1 and September 30**.
- **No fertilizer use is allowed** of any kind if a **storm watch or warning** is in effect.
- **No fertilizer can be used within 10 feet of any body of water** – measured from the top of a seawall.
- **The percentage of slow-release nitrogen content in any fertilizer used** during the remainder of the year (January-May and October-December) must be at least 50 percent.
- **No grass clippings or vegetative debris may be swept** or blown into stormwater drains, conveyances, bodies of waters, sidewalks or roadways.

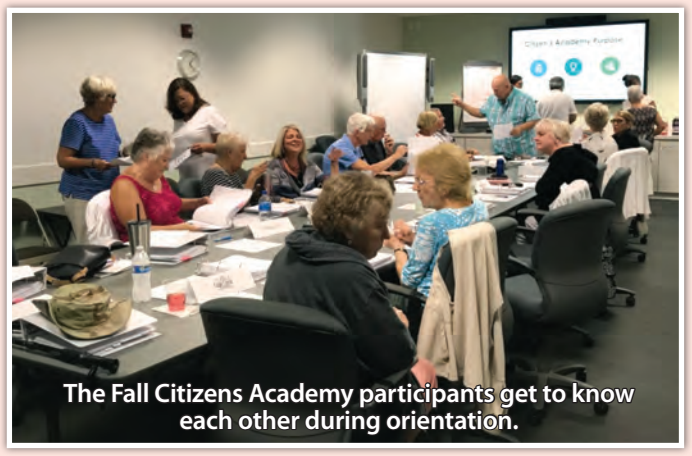
The City's fertilizer ordinance was adopted in 2010.

To bring awareness to water-quality issues following last summer's blue-green algae and red tide crisis, the City hung banners at Eco Park and at the Veterans Parkway overpass on Del Prado Boulevard. The banners displayed a message concerning the City's fertilizer restrictions. The same message was also displayed on the digital signs that are located near the Veterans Bridge and the Cape Coral Bridge. Last month, these signs were changed to clarify the "No Nitrogen or Phosphorus Fertilizers" message.

Fall Citizens Academy Kicks Off

Program provides access to all city departments

The Fall session of the City of Cape Coral Citizens Academy recently began and the participants are highly engaged and asking lots of good questions.



The Fall Citizens Academy participants get to know each other during orientation.

The Citizens Academy is a 12-week class that teaches citizens about your City government and how the processes work. The City offers opportunities each year to participate in this valuable program, and sessions are typically held twice a year.

The academy focuses on what is involved with running the 8th largest city in Florida. Participant will spend about 50 hours learning about each City department, the City's charter schools, and the Community Redevelopment Agency. Attendees will take tours of facilities and participate in hands-on demonstrations.

Take the challenge and discover City government for yourself and become an ambassador for the city. Enrollment is free and open to Cape Coral residents. Class size is limited. Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at (239) 242-3685 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.

2019 National Community Survey Complete

The 2019 Citizen Survey is complete. Overall, ratings in Cape Coral generally remained stable for 2019. Of the 133 items for which comparisons were available, 100 items were rated similarly to 2017, while 10 items showed an increase in ratings and 23 showed a decrease.

"Excellent/good" ratings for "Overall quality of life" (74 percent) and "Cape Coral as a place to live" (82 percent) have remained consistent over the past four surveys (dating to 2013). "Place to retire" scored its highest rating in any Citizen Survey with 85 percent giving Cape Coral "excellent" or "good" ratings in this category. "Overall image" received "excellent/good" ratings from 59 percent, a slight increase from 2017 and equal to the highest rating recorded in 2013.

The survey also showed 80 percent of respondents were "somewhat" or "very likely" to recommend living in Cape Coral to others, and 84 percent were likely to remain in Cape Coral. These results are similar to the 2017 survey.

- "Services provided by the City" also continued an upward trend and were rated as "excellent" or "good" by 66 percent of respondents. This is the highest rating since 2005 and continues the positive movement that began in 2011.
- On specific services, our "Police" and "Fire" services maintained their high "excellent/good" ratings with 78 percent and 93 percent respectively. "Fire Prevention" services ratings improved from 69 percent to 83 percent. "Public information" services also scored its highest since 2005 with 65 percent "excellent/good ."
- Services that declined in "excellent/good" ratings included "Paths and walking trails" dropping 10 percent to 31 percent, while "Travel by car" (47 percent) and "Public parking" (44 percent) dropped 15 percent and 10 percent respectively.
- The timing of the survey reflected how current events impact results. Five City services saw drops in "excellent/good" ratings from 2017. "Street lighting" (43 percent to 26 percent), "Sidewalk Maintenance" (46 percent to 30 percent), "Garbage Collection" (79 percent to 61 percent) , "Recycling" (81 percent to 60 percent) and "Yard Waste pickup" (71 percent to 56 percent).
- There were some positive results under the "Governance" section of the survey, indicating "public trust" is improving. "Treating all residents fairly" and "Being honest" both jumped 10 points from 2017 to 50 percent and 45 percent respectively. "Acting in the best interest of Cape Coral" jumped from 34 percent to 43 percent. The scores in these categories are on par with our national benchmark cities. While "Confidence in City government" received "excellent" or "good" ratings from 37 percent of respondents, up from 31 percent in 2017, these scores consistently remain lower than our national benchmarks.

THE SURVEY

The City mailed 1,600 random surveys and received 415 surveys. After adjusting for returned surveys, the response rate was 28 percent. Response rates for mailed citizen surveys range from 25 percent to 40 percent. Cape Coral's survey results have a margin of error plus/minus five percentage points.

WEB SURVEY OPTION

This year, the City again added an online version of the survey open to any citizen to participate. This option generated 1,688 responses. Please know there was no mechanism to limit who responded and how many times, or even if the person lived in Cape Coral. While the number of respondents is much higher than the mail version, the web results have not been weighted and are not statistically valid. Some web results mirrored the "excellent/good" ratings from the mail results:

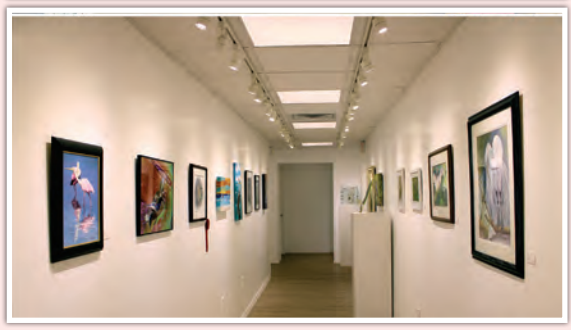
	Mail	Web		Mail	Web
Overall quality of life	74%	72%	Police Services	78%	79%
Overall image	59%	55%	Fire Services	93%	92%

Cape Coral Arts Studio

Renovation Reveal, Open Studio & Upcoming Gallery Exhibits

The Cape Coral Arts Studio's extensive renovations funded by a Cultural Facilities Grant awarded by the State of Florida, Department of State Cultural Affairs Division are almost complete.

Specific improvements include a full transition to LED lighting, hurricane-rated windows and doors, flooring, a full gallery renovation, and other enhancements. These improvements will advance the Cape Coral Arts Studio as a premier arts and culture located in Southwest Florida.



The Arts Studio renovations are almost complete

In celebration of these renovations, the Arts Studio is inviting the public to an Open Studio on Friday, October 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. In addition to showcasing the renovations, there will be two exhibition receptions with free food and drinks, studio demonstrations, live music as well as an unveiling of the South Cape Entertainment and Hospitality Association's "Public Art Utility Box Project" painted by artists of Artsemble Underground, LLC. The first of the 14 boxes will be completed at the Arts Studio to launch the project. Artists Brian Weaver and Cesar Aguilera will be available at the event to discuss their work and the meaning behind it.

The Arts Studio also is proud to announce the creation of an ongoing secondary exhibition space in Building 2. Each month, there will be two exhibitions available for guest viewing. At opening receptions, guests are encouraged to visit both exhibition spaces that offer something unique for the viewer. There are many open call exhibitions throughout the year that extend the invitation to local artists to submit their artwork.

The 20th Annual "Aquarium" exhibit, a favorite among patrons, will be on display in the Main Gallery and "Fusion Coalescence" will be on display in the Side Gallery, featuring artists from the Artists Society. Exhibitions run August 30 through September 26 with an open reception to meet the artists on Friday, September 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a great chance to see creative interpretations of underwater scenes by local artists. Admission is free to both the gallery and reception. Other upcoming exhibits include:

- **"Pictorial Conversations-Opus 1"** featuring artists of Artsemble Underground, and **"Abstracted Reality" - October 4-24**; Reception: Friday, October 11, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **"Tiny Art2" November 1-21**; Reception: Friday, November 8, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **"Holly Daze" Fine Arts Sale – November 30-December 21**

The Arts Studio is located at 4533 Coronado Pkwy in Rubicond Park. Registration is available online at www.CapeParks.com, where you can also find class descriptions, material lists and fees.

For more information on any of these great programs and exhibits, find us on Facebook and Instagram, stop by the Arts Studio, e-mail jgerhard@capecoral.net or call (239) 574-0802. Thank you for supporting the arts in Cape Coral.

Cape Coral Parks and Recreation's Special Event Season Returns

Cape Coral Parks and Recreation is proud to kick off another amazing event season in October with the return of **Cape Bike Night**.

Motorcycle or not, Bike Night is a crowd-pleaser for all with live entertainment on the City stage, plus over 40 vendors with a variety of products and giveaways to offer. Join us for the first Bike Night of the season on **Saturday, October 12** from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. featuring the ZZ Top tribute band "ZZ's Best."

October's Bike Night will once again be returning to 47th Terrace in downtown Cape Coral. Additional Bike Nights this season are scheduled to take place on December 14, February 8 and April 11. For more details, visit www.CCBikeNight.com.

On **Saturday, October 19**, the **Free Movie in the Park** series returns with a "Family Night" showing of the new "Aladdin" film at Jaycee Park on a giant inflatable movie screen starting at dusk.

Get there early to grab dinner from a local food truck and participate in giveaways and activities. Plan to pack some lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a fun night under the stars with family and friends.

The next event in the series, and new to the city, will be a **"Girls Night Out"** Movie in the Park on **Friday, November 1** at Rotary Park from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ladies can expect a fun night out with girlfriends, a free yoga session, lots of giveaways, a local food truck, childcare availability at the park facility and more.

Check the Parks and Recreation website for more upcoming Movie in the Park opportunities and park locations.

October also brings the **Annual Fall KidsFest** at Sun Splash Festival Grounds on **Saturday, October 26** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy stage entertainment, giveaways, inflatable rides, interactive experiences, craft and food vendors, face painting, pony rides, and firetrucks.

For more information about events taking place in Cape Coral in conjunction with the City's Special Events Division, visit www.CapeParks.com.

Police Remind Residents to Park with Care

The Cape Coral Police Department reminds the community that parking is not permitted on sidewalks and bicycle paths. It is a violation of state law (F.S.S. 316.1945) to park a vehicle on a sidewalk or a bicycle path.

Parking is not allowed in bicycle paths

People who have a disability, bicyclists, and students can not "just go around" a parked car. It is a safety issue, which can be even more dangerous around schools where children are walking or riding bikes/scooters to and from school.

The school year has begun and many parents utilize school drop-off and pick-up routes. Especially during the beginning of the school year, some parents park anywhere they can find space. The Police Department is asking that these parents avoid parking on sidewalks or bicycle paths, within an intersection, or on a crosswalk.

Please follow the traffic laws, have patience and courtesy for your neighbors and others in the community.

Cape Coral Parks & Rec Supervisor Earns CPRE Certification

Mark Cagle, supervisor of the William Austen Youth Center, recently achieved Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) certification. Cagle is the first City employee to earn this recognition.

Youth Center Supervisor Mark Cagle

The CPRE program recognizes parks and recreation professionals that are committed to fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of park and recreation programs and services. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the CPRE is a "mastery-level credential" that focuses on practical knowledge necessary in today's changing park and recreation environment.

There are currently about 250 CPRE's in the country and only 25 CPRE's in Florida.

Cagle joined the since in 2007 after retiring as a police lieutenant in Rhode Island. Cagle was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1987. He served on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga and was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard. In his spare time, Cagle logs flight time as he holds a private pilot's license. He also plays in a local band called "Razing Cape" and is a City of Cape Coral Youth Council advisor.

Cape Coral FLORIDA
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City Reminds Residents to Adjust Timers for Daylight Savings Time

Clocks fall back on November 3

Twice each year, Cape Coral residents must reset the various clocks used in our daily lives due to Daylight Savings Time. We move the clock forward on hour (in the Spring) and backward one hour (in the Fall).

One timer that can be forgotten is the timer for our sprinkler systems. The City reminds residents when making adjustments to all the timers in the home and car to changes the sprinkler system timer as well.

On Sunday, November 3 the clocks "fall back" one hour. While the City provides a grace period to allow resident's to adjust their timers and avoid a citation, that grace period does expire after 30 days. The Code Compliance Division will assist anyone requesting assistance with changing the timer on their sprinkler's. Please dial 3-1-1 or 239-574-0425 for assistance.

Please remind your neighbors and any "snowbirds" who are arriving for the winter to change their timers for daylight savings time. The year-round watering schedule is published in this newsletter for anyone who may not know what days and/or times they can water.

For more information contact Linda Biondi 239-246-1157 or linda@rasorealty.com

Item Number:	**6.C.**
Meeting Date:	**10/25/2019**
Item Type:	**ADVISOR PRESENTATION**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
CITY OF CAPE CORAL

TITLE:
Youth Council 2019 Fall Gala Budget Recap

REQUESTED ACTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN INFO:

1. Will this action result in a Budget Amendment?
2. Is this a Strategic Decision?

   If Yes, Priority Goals Supported are listed below.

   If No, will it harm the intent or success of the Strategic Plan?

Planning & Zoning/Staff Recommendations:

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:

LEGAL REVIEW:

EXHIBITS:

PREPARED BY:
Division- Department-

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Youth Council 2019 Fall Gala Budget	Backup Material

Fall Gala Budget

Gunterberg Foundation	$2,500.00
Mr. Mazurkiewicz - Bar (not included in total)	$328.90
Rotary Club	$500.00
Total donation amount	$3,000.00

Expenses	Projected Cost	Actual Cost
Catering (75 @ $30.00)	$4,100.00	$2,250.00
DJ/Photo Booth	$650.00	$650.00
Rental Hall	$250.00	$173.00
Decorations	$500.00	$303.44
Subtotal	$5,500.00	$3,376.44

Sponsorships/Ticket sales	Projected Cost	Actual Cost
Gunterberg Foundation		$2,500.00
Rotary Club		$500.00
Ticket sales online		$960.00
Ticket sales at door		$180.00
Tip jar (located at bar- goes directly to Blessings in a Backpack)		$39.00
Subtotal		$4,179.00

Total Projected Cost	$5,550.00	
Total Actual Cost		$3,376.44
Total Funds Brought in		$4,179.00
Difference		$802.56

Total Donation to Blessings in a Backpack	Difference + tips	$841.56