



# Civic Chatline



A publication of CC Civic Association intended for the education and enjoyment of its members

Volume IX Issue IV

April Showers?

April 2006

## Last Month at Civic

Despite several hurdles (cancelled airline flights) Carol "Sunny" Phillips from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) made it to our Civic meeting last month to be our guest speaker. We understand that her flight into Sarasota got in around 6:30 and that she didn't leave the airport until 7 p.m. Still she managed to be at our meeting by 8:30 and I think the wait was worth the time since we all had an opportunity to learn more about the Communities for a Life Time initiative.

From what we learned the statewide CFAL initiative that assists cities, towns and counties in planning for and improving the lives of all residents, youthful and senior, sounds like a reasonable program. We understand that information is now being provided to the Mayor and Council as a result of our Civic meeting. We expect that Council may have a similar presentation on the CFAL initiative at a future "Committee of the Whole" meeting. It will be interesting to see what if anything develops as a result so you might want to contact your council representatives if you think the city should look into the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative.

## Make Your Opinions Known



In addition to supplying some up to the hour news, the News-Press has an interactive community forum on their web site at [www.news-press.com](http://www.news-press.com)

By going to the N-P home page you will be able to find "forums". You will then see the various topics that are being

discussed. There are several local Cape Coral topics that have been started and anyone can join in the discussion and post their opinions.

You will note that Civic has several posts since we have been active in several areas. Civic first became involved after reading what we thought was a post that was shall we say was not very kind to CCCA. We think some very good progress has been made "correcting" the image of Civic over the past few weeks and some of the same people who previously posted comments that were not to Civic advantage now seem to be more in agreement with some of what Civic has had to say. It would be nice to see more Civic members ( you don't have to provide your real name) involved in this forum.

## Mayor Eric Feichthaler at Civic this month.

Civic is pleased to announce that Mayor Eric Feichthaler will be our keynote speaker at our April 25 general meeting. Eric will have been in office for one year and this will be a good opportunity for Civic members to gain insight on the Mayor's views on a variety of topics.



Civic has asked the Mayor to talk about a number of issues including any areas where he is seeking additional funding from Lee County in the area of services and funding for roads such as; Del Prado N. and Burnt Store Rd. We also asked the Mayor to share his thoughts on growth and the ability of the city to keep pace with growth and at what cost as well as the impact on our potable water, etc. Additionally we have asked him to address the issue of city spending and debt. What initiatives does he see for reductions in those areas? We also asked that share his thoughts on any city charter initiatives that he would like to see placed on the ballot.

The Mayor has indicated that he will respond to the issues we mentioned and also said he would like to address issues such as bike lanes, parks, CRA, a needed presence in Tallahassee and; any other issues the membership would like to have addressed. So think of questions you would like the Mayor to answer because the more you participate the better our meeting will be.

## Civic Elections this Fall

Once again we want to remind our members that elections for Civic Board of Directors positions will take place this November. We want you to be part of your organization and we **encourage your participation!**

Per our by-laws, in September there will be a nominating committee formed of three members. They will ask members to run for the Civic Board of Director positions. No nominating committee member can run for office.

**Qualifications for Office:** President and Vice President must be members in good standing of the Civic Association for one (1) year prior to election. All other board members and trustees must be members of the association for six (6) months prior to election. Please take part in this all important Civic function that has continued for the past 44 years. Civic is your association and needs your participation. Let any board member know of your interest to be on the nominating committee or your desire to be on the Civic Board of Directors.

*Take Stock in Your Civic Association!*



# Politics in Paradise

A look at bureaucrats and elected officials

News-Press article by Joan LaGuardia, April 7, 2006



“Cape Coral city workers who do take off on Monday should be respected — not penalized — for supporting workers who do jobs most Americans don't want,” said Cape Coral City Councilman Mickey Rosado. “The U.S. cannot live without these workers. They are entitled to make their point. They want to be respected like any other citizen,” Rosado said.

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## Boyd reappointed as Mayor Pro-Tem.



Yes, Mickey Rosado is correct to question the Mayor Pro-Tem appointment. Historically the appointment was passed from year to year to other council members although Gloria Tate and Paul Monroe did serve for more than one consecutive term. Obviously Boyd wanted it again (a 3rd consecutive term) and had the votes on his side.

Council member Rosado raised a valid question of having the same person as Mayor “Pro-Term” (as Mickey called it) year after year. However, when he had the opportunity to vote for someone other than Boyd, he didn't. So Mickey has no one but himself to blame for Boyd sitting as the Mayor Pro-Tem for another year when there are six other choices available.

We really have to question how AJ can possibly compare being Mayor Pro-Tem to being; “similar to sitting as liaison” on boards or commissions? This really is a stretch.

Maybe AJ was trying to justify and possibly overcome some guilt as to why he doesn't serve on other boards and commissions like most other council members and the Mayor. Historically other Pro-Tems serving in the same capacity as AJ have also taken on the additional responsibilities and work by serving on other boards and commissions. Those who avoid the responsibility create a situation where others have to pick up the void.

We also wonder how the vote might have turned out had there been a full council present for the selection of Mayor Pro-Tem? Surely, this issue could have waited thus giving all council members an opportunity to vote. On the other hand it's also possible this could be the reason they voted when they did.

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Civic extends *Get Well Wishes* to City Council member Jim Jeffers who has been in the hospital undergoing some surgeries. We wish Jim a speedy recovery and best wishes for a favorable outcome.



## President's Message Apr. 2006

### Dear Members and Friends,

Last month, despite a less than overwhelming turnout I think Civic had an excellent meeting. Part of the reason for the quality of the meeting I think had to do with our open mike policy where you the members had the opportunity to voice your concerns. I believe our policy brings a lot of diversity and openness to our meetings and I want to thank all that participate in our process.

This month at Civic our keynote speaker will be Mayor Eric Feichthaler. In addition to addressing a number of topics that we suggested, he has indicated that he is looking forward to answering questions from the audience. Civic meetings I think generate some very good questions and answers primarily because our Civic members are a caring and informed group of Civic minded individuals. As president I am very thankful for our members and the knowledge, wisdom and civic pride they bring to our organization!

On April 2, Civic celebrated another milestone in the our history and the history of Cape Coral. Following an organizational meeting that was held on March 1, 1962 Civic elected its first Board of Directors on Monday April 2, 1962 marking the beginning of the *Cape Coral Civic Association*. Civic's first general meeting took place on June 4, 1962 at the Cape Coral Yacht Club, even before the building was formally dedicated.

Speaking of history, in this month's Chatline you will read what President Teddy Roosevelt had to say on immigration in 1907. I sent an e-mail to the Mayor and Council and included Roosevelt's words after reading Council member Mickey Rosado's comments in the News-Press on April 7. My personal opinion on the issue of illegals is that what is taking place in our country today is an insult to all those who legally immigrated to our country before them, including most of our ancestors. I also agree with what President Reagan said, “A nation without borders is not a nation at all.” It appears there is no respect for our Southern border and since it is illegal to cross our borders without proper papers, those who do so are invading our country.

We understand the state audit is finally complete and we continue to wait for a report on the audit.

As you may be aware the city will be opening two additional municipal charter schools in August. There will be a North Cape Elementary School and a Middle School. At this point the big question is finding the money to build a High School. As such there have been some suggestions that maybe the city charter school system should consider only grades K-8 as opposed to building a high school. It's a thought.

See you all at Civic...and bring along a friend or two..

*My Best Regards,*

*Ralph LePera*

*“The Association is for the betterment of Cape Coral.”*



## E-Mail Sent to the Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor and Council,

The following comments appeared in the News-Press article by Joan LaGuardia, April 7, 2006. "Cape Coral city workers who do take off on Monday should be respected — not penalized — for supporting workers who do jobs most Americans don't want," said Cape Coral City Councilman Mickey Rosado. "The U.S. cannot live without these workers. They are entitled to make their point. They want to be respected like any other citizen," Rosado said.

Does city council share Mr. Rosado's views and condone city employees taking the day off to support illegal aliens who will march in a parade that wasn't properly permitted in the first place. Permits for this parade were not properly applied for and only granted so as to not compound the problem.

Doesn't Mr. Rosado understand that illegal aliens are violating federal laws? Does Mr. Rosado not understand that he was sworn to uphold all local, state and federal laws?

While we respect Mr. Rosado's right to his opinion, his views expressed as a city council member show a lack of understanding (or respect) of our laws and the history of our nation.

For example, this is what President Teddy Roosevelt had to say in 1907:

**"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."**

We believe President Roosevelt was speaking of immigrants who were duly and legally processed into the United States of America.

Sincerely,  
Ralph LePera, President  
Cape Coral Civic Association



Cape Coral Civic Assn.  
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Ellis Island, N.Y.

<http://www.nps.gov/stli/serv02.htm>

***Next General Meeting: Tues. Apr. 25 @ 7 p.m. CC Yacht Club***

*Chatline is a publication of the CC Civic Assn. and intended for the enjoyment of its members*

Civic Web Page: <http://www.capecoralcivicassociation.org> Visit On-Line forum <http://civicchatline.blogspot.com>

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**City Council member directory:**

Mayor:	Eric Feichthaler	898-8524
Dist: 1	Jim Jeffers	443-7173
Dist: 2	Dick Stevens	542-1457
Dist: 3	A.J. Boyd	945-6665
Dist: 4	Dolores Bertolini	542-4038
Dist: 5	Alex LePera	574-6112
Dist: 6	Tim Day	772-4196
Dist: 7	Mickey Rosado	458-2074

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**Council Office Phone:** 574-0437  
**City Web Page** <http://www.capecoral.net>