



# Civic Chatline

The Cape Coral Civic Association was founded in March 1962



Volume X Issue II



February 2007

## Sheriff Mike Scott at Civic this Month, Tuesday February 27

It has been almost two years (Apr. 2005) since Civic last had the pleasure of Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott being our keynote speaker. As we all learned, Mike is a dynamic speaker and is well versed on law enforcement issues. Some of you may recall it was at this meeting that Civic first learned that Cape Coral has a significant Nile Monitor Lizard problem. Subsequently the lizards have gained a lot of notoriety both locally and nationally.



Since Sheriff Scott's last visit there have been other significant issues that have surfaced such as; issues with illegal aliens, increased crime statistics and a new found venue for grow houses in Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres. We will be interested in hearing Mike's take on these issues. We hope that you all will provide a good turn out and welcome Mike back to

Civic since we continue to provide a venue for our members and the general public to express your concerns and opinions.

In 2005 Chatline published some statistics provided to us from City Finance Director, Mark Mason. Mark was kind enough to update us with that information.

**What specifically is the Cape Coral dollar amount that is used to fund the Lee County Sheriff's department?**

**Answer:** Based upon the **2003/2004 budget year**, the City ad valorem tax base contributed approximately **\$16,727,000** to the Sheriff's budget representing **16.9%** of the total budget.

**Update;** Based upon the **2006/2007 budget year**, the City ad valorem tax base contributed approximately **\$16,729,000** to the Sheriff's budget representing approximately **11.5%** of the total budget for the Lee County Sheriff.

**Civic previously asked questions of the city relative to man power level calculations. Thanks to CC Police Chief Rob Petrovitch we now have those responses.**

The Cape Coral Police Department began employing the Patrol Allocation Model in 1989. This model **DOES NOT use population as a factor** in determining staffing needs. We have also adopted this methodology for our specialized units to include Investigative Services and Support Services personnel. Other department units, such as School Resource Officers, are staffed on a dedicated/required basis.

In all instances, the actual population of the city, i.e. 168,000, again IS NOT a factor in determining the staffing levels. The 168,000 residents and their individual service demands, which we refer to as calls for service or events, is one of the model's major variables. The sheer size of the city is another major variable, as is Assignment Availability Factor, which is a value or percentage of time officers are available for calls. Regardless of what LCSO commits to staffing for police services in Cape Coral, we base our staffing on what we handle (pursuant to the aforementioned staffing model).

*(continued see: up date)*

## Last month at Civic

Civic would like to express our thanks to Cape Coral Mayor Eric Feichthaler for administering the swearing in honors for the new Civic officers and board of directors.

We also want to thank Eric for providing Civic with updates on a number of issues currently facing our city as well as a breakdown on the various associated costs for the proposed Public Safety Building. See additional installation photos inside.



## Your 2007 Civic Dues are Over Due

If you have not already done so, we ask that you please bring your 2007 Civic Association dues current. Civic dues are due on Jan. 1 of each year. Most members pay their dues prior to Dec. 31, or at the first meeting in the New Year.



Membership dues are still **only \$15.00** per family, per year. Dues may be paid at the general meeting or mailed to the return address on the mailing page of Chatline.

Please make your check payable to "CCCA" today.

## We value your membership!

*continued from Sheriff Scott article; Up-Date*

**Population** only becomes valuable as a benchmark. It can be argued that you could expect that cities of comparable demographics and size would be staffed at similar levels. In our case we have historically used Palm Bay, Port St Lucie and Coral Springs, all of which, are staffed at or about the same as Cape Coral (1.7 per 000). As to whether this is double taxation, that question is best directed to the policy makers.

**From Terry Stewart:** For a little perspective on what this may mean about how much we support the Sheriff's budget, take into account that Cape Coral is about 27% of the land area in Lee County and about 25% of the total Lee population.



## Politics in Paradise

A look at bureaucrats and elected officials

On January 30, 2007 Governor Charlie Crist issued executive order 07-06 (Executive Order of Suspension) as a result of Mickey Rosado being arrested for unlawfully operating as a broker or sales associate without being the holder of a valid or current active license, in violation of section 475.42(1)(a), Florida Statutes. Contained within the executive order is the following:



Section 1. Mickey Rosado is suspended from the public office, which he now holds: City Councilman for the City of Cape Coral, Florida.

Section 2. Mickey Rosado is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of public office during the period of this suspension, which period shall be from today, until a further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.

Rosado will have his first court appearance as it relates to the felony charges on February 26.

As a result of Rosado's suspension council must appoint a replacement within 30 days or hold a special election for the unexpired term of the District 7 council seat. Should Rosado be cleared of the felony charges he would be entitled to resume his position on council. Five applicants expressed a desire to serve in this position, they include; Chris Berardi, Jim Docker, Donald Felts, Loretta Krazstek, and Patti Schleg. On Feb. 20, Council appointed Chris Berardi to fill the District 7 seat on a 6-1 vote.

\*\*\*\*\*

### City Manager Terry Stewart

On Monday February 19, Cape Coral City Manager Terry



Stewart was given the news that the Osceola Board of County Commission selected Michael Freiling of Polk County, Iowa, as its first choice and Keith Chadwell of Fulton County, GA as its second choice to become the new Osceola County Manager.

There were many people who thought Terry was a sure bet to get that position. As a result Council will not have to go searching for another CM.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Wednesday Feb. 21 Council member Bertolini will be holding a Town Hall Meeting in an effort to get input from residents regarding the disposition of the Golf Club. This issue will then come before council as a discussion item at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Feb. 26.



The city has received two appraisals for the Golf Club one in the amount of \$13.8M if it remains as a golf course and another in the amount of \$28M if it is developed for residential uses. In 2006 the assessed value was \$4.8M which in 2006 brought in \$86,856.91 in property taxes which we will lose should the city

buy the property.

We also understand from Sal Grosso (who is on the board of directors) at Palmetto Pines golf course which is; comparable in size and in far better condition, that their appraised value is under \$5M. Any city purchase of the Golf Club will be done with your money.



## February President's Message

Dear Friends and Members:

It was a great honor to be elected and sworn in as Vice President of the Cape Coral Civic Association on January 23, 2007. I never imagined at that time that I would now be writing to you as President of this association.

On February 20, 2007 Shawn Seliger tendered his resignation from the presidency of our association. In his resignation letter he wrote:

"The Cape Coral Civic Association is an organization that is rich in tradition and has played a vital role in the development of Cape Coral, I am honored that you respected and trusted me enough to elect me as your President.

However, I am exploring the possibility of pursuing a position that may conflict with being President of the Cape Coral Civic Association.

Therefore, I am respectfully submitting my resignation effective today, February 20, 2007. I am forever appreciative of the opportunity to have served as your President. I wish all of you the best."

On behalf of Civic, I wish to reciprocate by wishing Shawn the best and extending our gratitude for his time, dedication and willingness to make a difference in our community.

Looking forward to this month's general meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, we have an informative evening planned with Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott, as our special guest and keynote speaker. Sheriff Scott is looking forward to speaking to us about the issues affecting the City of Cape Coral and surrounding areas of Southwest Florida.

Mark your calendar now to attend the momentous Cape Coral Civic Association 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner on the evening of March 31, 2007 from 6:00 to 10:30 pm at the Italian-American Club, located at 4725 Vincennes Blvd. Tickets go on sale on a first come, first served basis at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members can purchase tickets at a reduced price of only \$10 per person/\$20 per couple. Future members can purchase tickets for \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. We will have a wonderful dinner with choices of chicken cordon bleu or roast beef and live entertainment. Don't miss this great event!

I look forward to serving as your President for the next 23 months and welcome your thoughts and insights. Civic is here to make sure you are aware, alert and informed of all important issues affecting you in our great city!

Until next month,

**Leelo Bush**

President, Cape Coral Civic Association

**"The Association is for the betterment of Cape Coral."**

## Civic to Host Public Safety Building Discussion at March 27 Meeting

## Sewer & Water Impact Fees

Earlier this month council barely approved increasing the sewer and water impact fees on a 4-3 vote. Civic has for many years favored the use of impact fees as a way for **Growth helping to pay for Growth**. In the absence of adequate impact fees the only other available revenue sources, at this time, are increased property taxes or increased utility rates.

Representatives of the CC Construction Industry once again came before council to argue their objections to increasing impact fees citing the negative affect it will have on the building industry. They also promoted the merits of a "property transfer tax" as a option to impact fees. While we understand their concern with the added cost burden to new construction that these increased fees bring, especially in a slow building growth economy, we have difficulty in understanding why there was such a lengthy discussion on the philosophical differences of a non-existent "Property Transfer Tax" as an alternative.

As many of you know council increased the sewer and water utility rate in Feb. 2005. That rate increase was for the first two years (2005/2006) of administration's five year plan for a **48% utility rate increase**. It should also be noted that 75% of the proposed rate increase is allocated for **growth**. And while it is true that Growth does not entirely pay for Growth, it is also true that the current utility rate payers have already paid for the demands of the growth that they created through Impact Fees and Assessments when they connected to the utility system. And currently it is only they who are paying for the utility services. Yet, 75% of the utility rate increase is to help pay for the increased needs of the utility system while those currently on well and septic are paying nothing into the system that must be expanded to accommodate their needs.

While we understand the construction industry's concern relative to the added cost impact fees add to their product we also find it interesting that no one ever mentions why impact fees were first enacted in the early 1990's. Since property taxes in Florida are paid in arrears new construction does not always immediately add to the tax base. However, the new home or business owner immediately impacts the demand for city services (police, fire, etc) that others have paid for through their property taxes. Impact fees were devised, as a result, to help collect revenue for the demands that new growth was creating.

In 2005 when the utility rate increase was first proposed Civic supported an equalization of those rates where all residential customers paid the same rate for sewer and water services and usage. Such was not the case prior to 2005 which has since been corrected. Currently, there is an inequity in the utility impact fees in that all residential users are not paying a like fee. We fail to see where a duplex or multifamily unit impacts the system any less than a single family residence. Yet, single family pays a higher impact fee creating an inequity. Hopefully this will get corrected.

## Civic Business Meeting February 27

At the Civic business meeting on January 23, 2007, the Civic members present approved changes to our By-Laws. They are listed below for your review.

### Art VIII - Board of Director Rules

**Section B: Any board member seeking election for public office must take a leave of absence from the Board until after election, and if elected must resign from the Board prior to taking office.**

### Art XI - Financial Administration

**Section E: Any expenditures of the association over \$250.00 shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Any expenditures of the association \$250.00 or less shall be approved by the President or Treasurer.**

Subsequent to their enactment, some Civic members have expressed concerns regarding the enactment of these two provisions and the lack of previous notification of this vote. Accordingly, your Board of Directors has recommended calling a business meeting at the conclusion of the February 27, 2007 General Meeting for the purpose of entertaining a motion for reconsideration of the new By-Law provisions. Should the motion for reconsideration pass, it will restore the By-Laws to their previous state prior to January 23. Since only one motion made for both by-laws amendments at the last meeting, one motion for reconsideration will be made at the business meeting.

A By-laws committee has been formed and your Board intends to bring forward significant recommendations to the members for consideration. Any proposed changes will be announced in writing to the members prior to voting as opposed to announcing the change and voting at the same evening.

## Mack Announces Opening of New Cape Coral District Office

**January 31, 2007 -CAPE CORAL, FL** - Congressman Connie Mack (FL-14) today announced he is relocating his Lee County office from Fort Myers to Cape Coral. The office is expected to open on Thursday, February 1, with a grand opening on Feb. 20. This will be the first time that a Congressional office has been located in Cape Coral.



804 Nicholas Parkway, Suite 1  
Cape Coral, FL 33990  
(239) 573-5837 phone

## January 23, 2007 Installation of Officers and the Board of Directors



### From the Cape Coral Daily Breeze, 20th Anniversary Edition (1981) "Civic Association forum for people"

In the beginning there was a Taxpayers Association.  
In the middle there was the Civic Association.  
And now there is the mayor-council manager city government.

From 1962 to 1971, the Cape Coral Civic Association was the representative of the residents of Cape Coral. Faced with an unsympathetic and sometimes hostile county government, the Civic Association was the one outlet forum the people of Cape Coral had that exercised any functional power.

Born in March 1962, a splinter group of the old Taxpayers Association, the Civic Association first tackled the issue of whether to build a Cape Coral Bridge. The bridge, which seemed to many at the time essential to ensure growth in Cape Coral and prosperity for area residents, was the stage for a bitter fight between two factions of the Taxpayer Association.

Through the years the Civic Association has tackled problems such as the Cape Coral Bridge, a lighting district for Cape Coral, attempts to make GAC stick to their promises, and a civic center.

Charles Brady, a resident of Cape Coral since 1968, recalled the incidents surrounding the proposed civic center for Cape Coral.

"Tom Gray initiated the idea of a civic center at a Civic Association meeting," Brady remembered. He called the day in 1972 that Cape Coral voters rejected a \$600,000 bond referendum for a civic center "the sorriest day in Cape Coral's history."

"It was at the Civic Association that Charlie Blackburn presented the idea that Cape Coral should incorporate," Brady recalled. "All those people who thought incorporation was a good idea were asked to volunteer for committees to study the problems involved."

The Civic Association studied incorporation as early as 1963 and issued reports at the beginning of both 1964 and 1965 stating that incorporation was not the wisest idea at the time. It wasn't until 1969 that the organization fully endorsed incorporation and proceeded to "get the ball rolling" according to Brady.

The Civic Association's importance as a policy making body in Cape Coral diminished as the city government took over the day-to-day government. Membership in the organization declined as more people became more interested in a legal governing body.

"Up through my term we had a pioneer feeling," Brady was president of the Civic Association in 1972. "We had a large, active membership who could see the problems in Cape Coral and question those who caused turmoil. Once we became a city, the Civic Association was still fighting for things such as the civic center, and sometimes we had to fight for our own existence."

In the past few years we have become more of an information group," Brady said. "Strong discussions, like 600 people who participated in the discussion about the utility rate hike that GAC requested just don't surface anymore."

The role the Civic Association will play in the future of Cape Coral will be determined by the interest of the residents of Cape Coral. Brady feels there are many areas that the Civic Association, in a new form as a 'watchdog' for city government.

"I am definitely fearful that if we don't get industry in Cape Coral, our taxes will become prohibitive and our growth will stop," Brady predicted. "I don't agree with some of our city fathers that Cape Coral should be a bedroom city for Fort Myers."

# Cape Coral Civic Association

## *45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration*

### *a Catered Affair*

Entrée Choices

Chicken Cordon Bleu or Roast Beef

Dinner includes:

Tossed Garden Salad  
Ziti family style  
Vegetable & Potato  
Bread or Hot Rolls  
Anniversary Cake  
Coffee or Tea

### Where?

Cape Coral Italian American Club  
4725 Vincennes Boulevard Cape Coral  
(at west end of Big Johns parking lot)

### When?

March 31, 2007

6:00pm to 10:30pm

<u>Members</u>	<u>Non Members</u>
Each / Couple	Each / Couple
\$10.00 / \$ 20.00	\$15.00 / \$25.00

Entertainment By

Eric Malibu

Cash Bar Available

*Advanced ticket sales only. Limited seating. Proper attire please*

# *Cape Coral Civic Association*

## *Celebrating 45 Years of Community Service*

This year your Cape Coral Civic Association (Cape Coral's oldest Civic Association) will be celebrating its 45th Anniversary of community service. The Anniversary will be a *"Catered Affair"* with entertainment to be held at the beautiful newly remodeled **Cape Coral Italian American Club on Saturday, March 31, 2007 from 6-10:30 p.m.** Advanced reservations and pre-paid tickets will be required. **Proper attire please.**

Tickets will go on sale at the February Civic meeting. Civic has our Sponsors to thank for helping defray the cost for the dinner party. **It is our fondest desire that we have every Civic member and their friends attend this event.**

**To offer your support as a sponsor please call; Anniversary Committee Evan Bush 540-3340**

Civic would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Sponsors for their generosity. Through their donations Civic is able to provide a significant price reduction for our Civic members for this anniversary dinner in hopes that all will attend. Thank You All!

### *Gold Sponsor Level \$500.00*

- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. "Anonymous" (Civic Members)
- ◆ Bergermann & Seliger Law Firm
- ◆ Zak's Fine Jewelry
- ◆ Will Stout, Realmark Development

### *Silver Sponsor Level \$250.00*

- ◆ Former Mayor, Arnold & Barbara Kempe
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Evan Bush

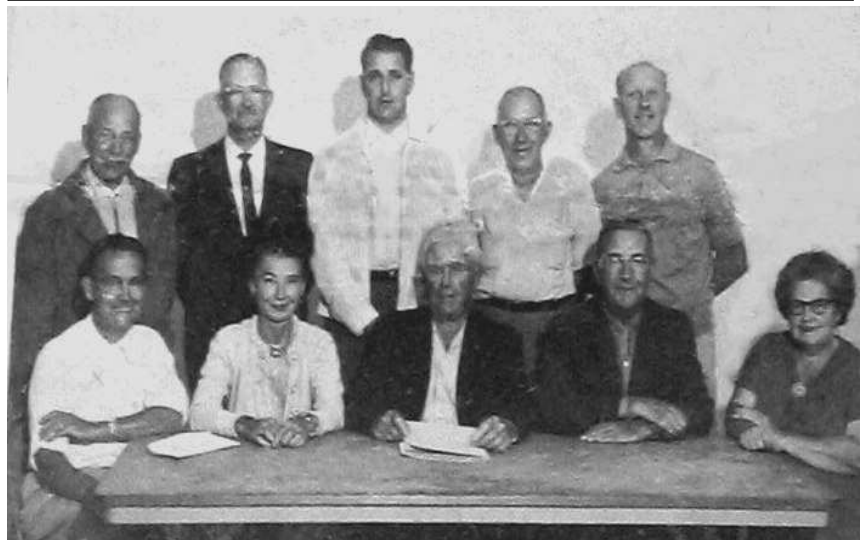
### *Bronze Sponsor Level \$100.00*

- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Gene Wolfe
- ◆ Bugs Be Gone Pest Control
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Sal Grosso
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Ralph LePera

*Cape Coral Breeze*, Thurs. April 5, 1962 (at that time the *Breeze* published one day a week).

Cape Coral Civic Association first election took place on Monday April 2, 1962 following an organizational meeting held on March 1, marking the beginning of the *Cape Coral Civic Association*.

**Cape Coral Civic Association  
First Board of Directors April 2, 1962**



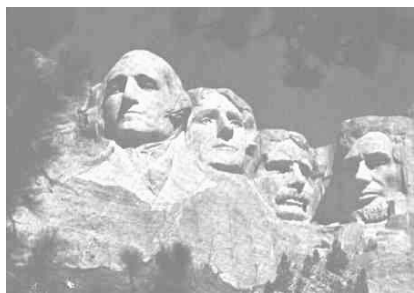
**Left - Right Seated: John E. Mc Ewen; Lt. Col. Kathleen McClure; Verne J. Schlegel; Edward Jay. Standing: Fred Hulburd; Col. W. N. Thomas; Donald Graf; Ed Quirk and Fred Luffen.**



**Cape Coral Civic Association**

**P.O. Box 101606**

**Cape Coral, FL 33910-1606**



***Next General Meeting: Tues. Feb. 27 @ 7 p.m. CC Yacht Club***

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

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

***CCCA Board of Directors***

***Phone: (239) 540-3340***

**e-mail: [cccivicassn@aol.com](mailto:cccivicassn@aol.com)**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Leelo Bush</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>(vacant)</b>
<b>Ex-officio</b>	<b>Ralph LePera</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Frank Perry</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Rillie Hickey</b>
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Ricky Pistone</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Lyndia Bradley</b>
	<b>Evan Bush</b>
	<b>Diane Dramko</b>
	<b>Bill Fekety</b>
	<b>Jane Longo</b>
	<b>Nick Tomacelli</b>
	<b>Art Vitale</b>

**City Council member directory:**

Mayor:	Eric Feichthaler	898-8524
Dist: 1	Tom Hair	547-0437
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	Chris Berardi	574-0437

**Council email: [council@capecoral.net](mailto:council@capecoral.net)**  
**Cape Citizen's Action Center: 574-0425**  
**Council Office Phone: 574-0437**  
**City Web Page <http://www.capecoral.net>**