



Civic Chatline

Cape Coral Civic Association founded March 1962.
CCCA pre-dates the city and is Cape Coral's oldest civic organization.



Volume X Issue VIII



October 2007

2 Parades, 2 Anniversaries

Civic salutes and congratulates the **Cape Coral High School** on their 27 "running" of their annual Home Coming Parade. The facility, staff and most importantly the students persisted and held fast that this parade would step off on time in spite of the heavy rain that preceded it. Magically the rain ceased about 10 minutes before the 8 pm start time. Way to Go Seahawks!



Civic congratulates the **Sons of Italy, Charles J. Bonaparte Lodge #2504** for continuing to keep this annual-Cape Coral event going that started in the mid 1970s. The parade has also affectionately become known by some as the "Throw Me Candy" parade.



This month the **Cape Coral Italian American Club** is celebrating it's 41st Anniversary. Congratulazioni al IAC. Sì, mangeremo un po'più di vino! (yes, we'll have some more wine)
The **German American Club** is celebrating their 22nd annual Oktoberfest. Glückwünsche zu GAC. Ist das Bier kalt? (is the beer cold)

Ord. 119-07 & 120-07 worthy of support

Two ordinances are being introduced this month that has to do with helping protect property values.

Ord. 119-07 has to do with the parking of vehicles on unimproved property in Single Family R-1 zoning. In case you haven't noticed the parking of a multitude of vehicles has become common place in the City of Cape Coral over the past few years. P&Z recently showed their support for this ordinance with a 5-1 vote.

Ord. 120-07 provides for the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code. This provides code enforcement with a more standard set of codes in assessing violations and determining when properties are not being properly maintained. P&Z voted 6-0 in support.

Civic 2008 Dues Due, well almost

It's getting to be that time of year again folks. If you paid your dues in the past two months, or from now and the rest of the year, your dues will be considered paid through 2008.

Avoid the last minute rush, dues are still only \$15.00/year/family. Please show your support of your Civic Association.

Also we are asking all Civic members with e-mail to please send us an e-mail so that our records are accurate and we can better serve you in the future. E-mail CapeCivic1@aol.com

Civic Survivors Night October 23

Your Civic Association on Oct. 23rd, from 7-9 PM will once again present what Civic has traditionally labeled our candidates "Survivors Night." The "survivors" are the top two candidates who emerged from the primary elections in each district. These 10 candidates are now being invited to participate in a debate to show why they should be elected to City Council in the **November 6, General Election.**

District 1:



Jim Burch



Thomas Hair



Pete Brandt



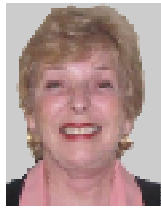
Walter Fluegel

District 2:

District 3:



Bill Deile



Lynn Rosko



Gloria Baron



Eric Grill

District 5:

District 7:



Chris Berardi



Derrick Donnell

At our last candidates forum over 250 people attended, so please plan to arrive early. The candidates from each council District 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 will be paired together. Candidates from each district will be asked questions regarding city issues and they will be given one minute for a response. Their opponent will then have a 30 second opportunity for rebuttal. In addition, time permitting; Civic will open the floor for question from the audience. We would expect that questions will be short, to the point and worded in the form of a question.



**On Tuesday November 6, vote early.
If you're from Chicago vote often!**



Politics in Paradise

A look at bureaucrats and elected officials

Then and Now

We wonder how many people remember a candidate running for mayor who said words to the effect; if elected I will serve a full four year term and possibly eight years as mayor, full time.



It seems our mayor has had a change of mind and now wants to be a County Commissioner. In order to accomplish this according to the mayor, he will be vacating his seat as of July of 2008.

Also according to the mayor, this means that Cape Coral will have an appointed mayor by a 7 member council.

Of course there is always another option which again according to the mayor, will cost taxpayers approximately \$150,000 to conduct a special election to fill a 16 month or so vacancy created when the mayor vacates his seat.

Too bad the Charter doesn't contain a penalty clause that fines politically ambitious politicians who refuse to finish their promised obligation to the electorate that put them in office in the first place. This sort of makes one wonder what promises will be made during his next campaign, about how he will serve, before having his sights on the next leap. After all, he did put in his name for appointment to Kottkamp's seat as Dist. 74 State Rep.

More Vacancies on Council?

Unlike the Mayor's announcement, rumors have surfaced again about Council member Day who is thinking of running for the Supervisor of Elections position in 2008. Day previously made his desire known about four years ago and has rekindled this thinking after the SOE reduced the number of Cape Coral voters recently. We heard another council member with a math background has a similar desire for that seat but has since changed his mind so he claims.



Politicking in Paradise

As we all know the Civic Association is non-partisan and our city elections are supposed to be as well. It is rather distressing to see at least one candidate blatantly campaigning under a partisan banner as if somehow this is confirmation of a fiscal conservative. Yet, the majority on council who have approved the recent budgets, are of the same party.

More Politicking in Paradise

The failure of council as a whole to pass recent proposed legislation, that if passed by the voters, would have placed certain spending restrictions on city government by Charter. Specifically; Ord. 112-07 (Excess Revenue in the General Fund), 123-07 (Undesignated Reserves) & 124-07 (Annual Rate of Increase in General Government Operations Budget).

While Civic supports limiting government spending, the fact remains that there is nothing to prevent council from enacting any spending limitations contained in the ordinances as a policy. It does not need to be in the Charter to limit spending. If a council member really wants to exhibit fiscal responsibility he has ample opportunity and the right to convince a majority of council to do likewise! There is nothing to prevent council members from rejecting any budget that they determine to be excessive. *Others have!*



October President's Message

Dear Friends and Members,

It's hard to believe it is October already. The weather is cooling and becoming drier. I have been noticing more and more cars with out-of-state license plates recently. Must be "season" is arriving.

Along with our snow birds returning, we face our imminent general election on November 6th. As my daughter is turning 18 on the 29th of this month, this will be her first election to vote and she is really excited about casting her first ballot.

My family has always taken this civic privilege very seriously. As the daughter of immigrants who arrived here from war-torn Europe post WWII, I was raised with the philosophy that America is the land of opportunity and here we can be whatever we want to be, as long as we are willing to work for it. My parents came from former communist block country, Estonia, where they lived under great oppression and could not even admit disagreement with their government without risking their lives.

Now half a decade later, America is still the land of freedom. But freedom isn't free. Our military stands ready to defend us on foreign and domestic soil and our government still needs good men and women to make laws that will protect us without curtailing the freedoms we enjoy.... From our nation's capital to Cape Coral City Hall, we still need dedicated individuals to make policies that are fair and just. We have the opportunity in a couple weeks to elect those who will represent our interests in Cape Coral City Council.

The August primary whittled our choices down to just two candidates per race. The general election will decide who our Council members will be. There are five seats (which is the majority) up for election. This means that our local governing body has the potential to look and act dramatically differently from the existing group.

You will have the opportunity to meet these candidates face-to-face, once again at our October 23rd candidate debate at our meeting. Questions will be presented by the moderator as well as the public. Candidates can then differentiate themselves from their opponent as they explain their positions and ask for your vote of confidence.

Please do attend our meeting this month, so that you can cast a more informed ballot. Elect those candidates who most closely represent by word and deed, the leadership you believe our city needs. On the evening of November 6th, we will find out what you decided!

Make sure you mark your calendars to attend the October 23rd Cape Coral Civic Association meeting at 7 pm sharp at the Yacht Club Main Ballroom. We also ask that you remember your Civic membership. We are still only \$15 per family per year. If you haven't already joined or renewed please do so at the meeting this month. We need your support to continue offering these informational programs. Call 540-3340 for more information about the Cape Coral Civic Association.

See you at the meeting!

Leelo Bush, President

Cape Coral Civic Association


"The Association is for the betterment of CapeCoral."

City of Cape Coral Web Page; "Government"

The City of Cape Coral operates under the Council-City Manager form of government. City council members are elected at large from seven districts. The mayor also is elected at large and is the eighth member of council. The mayor presides over council meetings. The City Council enacts ordinances and resolutions, adopts the budget, comprehensive plan and land-use regulations. The Council appoints the City Manager and City Attorney, as well as the members of all boards and commissions. The City Manager hires all department directors and oversees the day-to-day operations of the city.

Thoughts on Charter Referendums for the November Ballot

NO. 1 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE ANNUAL SALARIES FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL: This proposal amends the Cape Coral City Charter to provide that the Mayor shall receive an annual salary that is equivalent to \$600.00 per week; Council members shall each receive an annual salary that is equivalent to \$500.00 per week; and that salaries of the Mayor and City Council shall be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Shall the above-described amendment to the Charter be adopted? **Civic responds:** This question is quite basic, do you want to pay your elected body more money? Realize that currently the mayor and council are paid on the basis of the number of registered voters. Recently, the Supervisor of Elections removed almost 20,000 registered voters from the rolls which will amount to a significant pay cut. Since the Mayor and Council represent all citizens of the city we don't agree that their pay should be based on the number of voters, however on the other hand there might be five totally new council members whose "job performance" has yet to be assessed. Also, at a recent forum all but one candidate answered NO to wanting a pay increase!

NO. 2 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS DELETING CERTAIN OBSOLETE PROVISIONS AND CLARIFYING OTHER PROVISIONS: **Civic Responds:** We don't see a problem with this. 

NO. 3 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE LEASE OF CITY-OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY: This proposal amends the Cape Coral City Charter to provide that leases of City-owned residential property of 15,000 square feet or less for terms of twenty-four months or less shall not require an ordinance. Shall the above-described amendment to the Charter be adopted? **Civic Responds:** The change is good, however, this probably shouldn't have been in the Charter to begin with.

NO. 4 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATING TO CITY BUDGET LINE ITEM VETO POWER FOR THE MAYOR AND POWER OF CITY COUNCIL TO OVERRIDE SUCH VETO: This proposal amends the Cape Coral City Charter to provide the Mayor with the power to veto line items in the City Council to override such veto with a two-thirds vote of the City Council. The chief purpose of this proposal is to provide the Mayor with a means to exercise control over the expenditure of City funds. Shall the above-described amendment to the Charter be adopted?

Civic responds: Cape Coral's City Charter is almost 40 years old and we have done without this provision that essentially gives one elected official more voting power than another. Since the Mayor and City Council are the policy makers and set the budget, veto power in the hands of one individual should not be necessary. This also appears to be the first step by some to establish a strong mayor form of government which seems to be somewhat less democratic than what we have currently.

NO. 5 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT ABOLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: This proposal amends the Cape Coral City Charter by deleting language that limits the number of terms for the Mayor and City Council members. If this proposal is adopted, there will no longer be term limits for the Mayor and City Council members. Shall the above-described amendment to the Charter be adopted?

Civic responds; Cape Coral elected officials are the only elected officials in Lee County whose terms are limited by law. This happened in the early 1990s when city council terms were changed from two year unlimited elected terms to two four year consecutive terms maximum. If you believe in the power of your vote and that you can limit anyone's term by not re-electing them then you'll vote yes on this amendment. On the other hand if you believe terms should be limited by law, essentially limiting your choices of whom you can vote for, then you will vote no on this issue.

NO. 6 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS: This proposal amends the Cape Coral City Charter to decrease the number of signatures required for an initiative or referendum petition from fifteen percent (15%) to five percent (5%) of the total number of qualified electors registered to vote at the last regular City election. Shall the above-described amendment to the Charter be adopted?

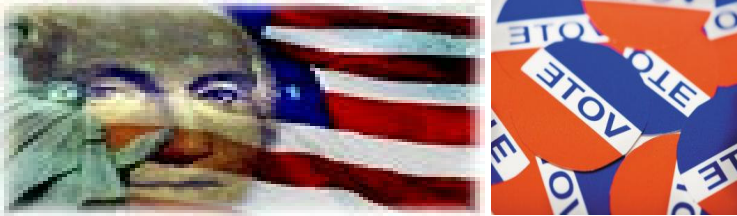
Civic responds; A few years ago the voters increased this requirement from 10% to 15%. Civic can't recall the last time there was a petition initiative to place something on the ballot. So why bother? If you believe we need to make it easier for the voters to initiate a petition to put something on the ballot then you would probably want to vote yes.

Please note: Civic opinions provided herein regarding these issues are only to help promote thought on the issue so that we can all be more knowledgeable voters.

Civic Chatline



Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Informed!
Cape Coral Civic Association
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Remember to Vote November 6

Next General Meeting: Tues. Oct. 23 @ 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>

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Dist: 7	Chris Berardi	574-0437

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