

Y Around Your Community!



EVENTS

April/May

Hurricane Preparedness Classes
<http://www.colliergov.net/communications/News-releases/documents/0327hurricaneSeminars.pdf>

Summer Camp Ski Clinics
Sugden Regional Park
4284 Avalon Drive
Ages 5-19
Call: 325-7842

April 13
Internet Basics
10 a.m.
Naples Branch Library
650 Central Avenue
Call: 263-7768

April 12
How Money Works
6:30 p.m.
Estates Branch Library
1266 Golden Gate Boulevard
Learn the secrets to financial success
Call: 455-8088

April 21
Collier County Government Day
Coastland Center
10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Beach Restoration

One Collier County beach restoration project is officially completed and a major restoration project is underway. Commissioner Donna Fiala joined County Manager

(photos below). The sand is coming from an underwater borrow pit near Sanibel Island. The sand is transported by barge to a location about three miles offshore where it is then pumped through pipes onto the beaches. Coastal Projects Manager



Jim Mudd and other local officials at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March recognizing the completion of the Hideaway Beach restoration on Marco Island (photo at right). Hideaway Beach residents voted to tax themselves to pay for the 280,000 cubic yards of sand that was used for the renourishment. Collier County, through the Tourist Development Council, paid for the permanent structures to hold the sand on the beach.

The current renourishment project is adding 700,000 cubic yards of sand from Vanderbilt Beach south to the city of Naples beaches



Gary McAlpin reports the county is seek-

ing permission from state and federal agencies to extend the renourishment project until June, "The start of the project was delayed for six weeks while we waited for the go-ahead from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contractor is working around-the-clock to complete the renourishment and we will take extra care not to disrupt sea turtle nesting."

Around Your Community!



April 13 & 27
Medicare
2-4 p.m.
Naples Branch Library
650 Central Avenue
Free consulting and information
Call: 263-7768

May
Art Exhibit
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Museum of the Everglades
Featured artist Jackie Krause
Call: 695-0008

May 9
eBay Made eAsy
2 p.m.
Marco Island Branch Library
210 South Heathwood Drive
Everything you want to know
about eBay
Call: 394-3272

May 13
Hurricane Season Expo
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Extension Office
14700 Immokalee Road

May 13
Golden Gate Mini-Triathlon
8 a.m.
For ages 10 and up
3300 Santa Barbara Boulevard
Call: 353-7128

The countdown is underway for the opening of the new North Collier Regional Park and its showcase attraction – The Sun-N-Fun Lagoon water park. Admission prices for the water park are: \$5.50 for children less than 48 inches tall and \$10 for individuals 48 inches or taller. Sun-n-Fun Lagoon is scheduled to open in June. You can get updates about the park at www.collierparks.com.



Above is a recent aerial photo of the 212-acre park which, in addition to Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, will include a community center with an enclosed gymnasium, meeting rooms, fitness center with memberships for purchase, administration offices for the Parks and Recreation Department, a playground with a Calusa fossil dig, park ranger tours, an elevated boardwalk through the wetlands preserve area and two-and-a-half-miles of walking trails. The second phase of North Collier Regional Park, a sports tournament complex including five softball fields and eight soccer fields, will be ready in the Fall of 2006.



Around Your Community!



May 17
Hurricane Seminar
6:30 p.m.
Emergency Management
Lely High School

May 18
Cattle Wars
2 p.m.
Estates Branch Library
1266 Golden Gate Boulevard
Call: 774-6514

May 20
How to Market Your Business
9:30 a.m.
Naples Branch Library
650 Central Avenue
Presented by S.C.O.R.E.
Call: 263-7768

May 27
Hurricane Readiness Fair
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Lowe's of Naples
6415 Naples Boulevard
Call: 530-6281

Transportation Services Division
Calendar of Public Events
<http://www.colliergov.net/transadmin/pr/Calendarfor3months.htm>

Conservation Collier



BCC Chairman Frank Halas, District 2, cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the Cocohatchee Creek Preserve, during a March 9 ceremony. The preserve features a public trail and picnic area and is the first of the Conservation Collier properties to be opened for public access.



Lucy Angel performs at Country Jam

Country Jam

More than 5,000 people attended the 7th annual Country Jam Festival at Vineyards Park, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Featured artists this year included the Charlie Daniels Band, Neal McCoy, Emerson Drive and Confederate Railroad.

On the Move

More people are moving to Collier County from New York than any other state in the nation, according to an article in the April edition of *Florida Trend* magazine. Using data from the Internal Revenue Service, the magazine reports 19,060 new residents arrived in Collier County in 2003 and 2004 – 66.4 percent from other states and 33.6 percent from elsewhere in Florida. The top six states contributing new Collier County residents are: New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

COLLIER COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

Around Your Community!

Collier County Commissioners maintain offices
on the third floor at the Collier County Government Center
W. Harmon Turner Building 3301 East Tamiami Trail Naples, FL 34112
www.colliergov.net 239.774.8097



District 1
Donna Fiala



District 2
Frank Halas



District 3
Tom Henning



District 4
Fred Coyle



District 5
Jim Coletta

WWII Project Reaches Milestone



The Communication and Customer Relations Department's staff conducted its 100th interview for the WWII Capture Living History project with North Naples resident Charles W. Morse.

The project, which began in April 2005, seeks to preserve the memories of local World War II veterans so future generations can hear first hand the sacrifices made by the "Greatest Generation." The interviews are recorded and have been sent to the American Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress and are also available on the county's Web site at www.colliergov.net/communications.

North Collier Government Services Center To Open Soon

Construction continues on the North Collier Government Services Center at 2335 Orange Blossom Drive next to the Headquarters Library. The center is scheduled to open in June and will provide a variety of government services in one convenient location. Services include acceptance of water and sewer payments, issuance of beach



parking stickers, pet licenses and special event tickets for county park facilities and a community meeting room available for public use. The constitutional offices – Property Appraiser, Clerk of Courts, Sheriff, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections – will also be offering services. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Around Your Community!



Vanderbilt Beach Parking Garage Opens

The new Vanderbilt Beach Parking Garage opened in March. The three-level garage added 340 much-needed parking spaces for beach access. Parking is free for vehicles with beach stickers. Vehicles without beach stickers are being charged \$6. The garage is open from 7 a.m. until dusk. From March 4 to the first week in April, the garage provided parking for 16,199 vehicles, an average of 491 vehicles each day.



CAT Celebrates Five Year Anniversary

Collier Area Transit turned five-years-old in February and continues to grow. Ridership increased on all routes this past year, including the new Marco Express (from Immokalee to Marco) and the Marco Island Circulator, to more than 950,000 passengers in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2005, an increase of more than 50 percent over the previous year. Ridership is up another eight percent in the first five months of the current fiscal year.



Beginning this month CAT is offering more

frequent service for riders on the Immokalee Circulator (Blue Route) which serves both Immokalee and Golden Gate Estates, with the addition of Saturday buses. In addition, a new route is planned to serve Charlee Estates, an affordable housing community located on U.S. 41 east of Collier Boulevard.

CAT buses operate Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (depending on the route). Route information can be obtained by logging onto the county's Web site at www.colliergov.net, then select "Get Bus Information (CAT)" from the menu on the left side of the screen.



BCC Approves Employee-Benefits Package

The Board of County Commissioners recently approved enhancements to the employee-benefits package for county employees with the goal of attracting and retaining a highly-skilled workforce.



“We have outstanding employees and we want to keep them,” said County Manager Jim Mudd. “Unfortunately, this is becoming increasingly difficult

because of the high cost of living in Collier County and the aggressive recruiting tactics of the private sector that recognizes the talent within our agency.”

The BCC approved hiring bonuses for “hard-to-fill” positions, increased employee vacation time, increased the vacation buy-back rate from 85 percent of a person’s rate of pay to 100 percent and doubled the life insurance benefit.

“We think these are positive steps in our efforts to reward our employees,” Mudd added. “They demonstrate my commitment and that of the Board’s to show appreciation for our valuable employees.”

DAS Volunteers

Domestic Animal Services’ volunteer hours increased in March nearly 59 percent over last year’s hours. 55 volunteers served a total of 516 hours while during the same period last year, 35 volunteers served a total of 302 hours. To volunteer, call DAS Volunteer Coordinator Meryl Rorer at 530-6967.

Everglades Library To Reopen

The Everglades City Branch Library will reopen Monday, April 10 at 9 a.m., after having been closed since Hurricane Wilma. The library was housed inside Everglades City Hall which suffered extensive damage from the storm.

The Library will be temporarily located in a trailer about a block south of the damaged City Hall, along with the Tax Collector and Clerk of Courts offices, and will offer books, videos/DVDs and computer access.