

Y^{Around} Your Community!

Volume 1, Number 2, 2005

Calendar of Events

May 30

Memorial Day Observance

9:30 a.m.

Naples Memorial Cemetery,
525 111th Avenue North, Naples

Presented by the Veterans
Council of Collier County

May 31

Birds Of A Feather

2 p.m.

Headquarters Library,
2385 Orange Blossom Drive
Presented by the Conservancy of
Southwest Florida

A look at the habits, behavior,
and migration of selected local
birds; includes hands-on activi-
ties. Call: 593-0177.

June 18

Volunteer Orientation

9-11:30 a.m.

Domestic Animal Services
7610 Davis Blvd.
Call: 530-PETS

July 16

Fruit Tree Sale

9 a.m.

Collier County Museum
3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples

July 30

Ice Cream Social

1 to 4 p.m.

Sugden Regional Park,
4284 Avalon Drive

Call: 353-0404

COLLIER COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS

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

Growth Explosion *Are We Ready?*

The projections are in. The baby boomers are coming. If the models are correct, and we believe they are, Florida and specifically Collier County are slated for some major population increases.

The latest predictions double our permanent resident population – showing a leap to 670,000 by 2030. Release of these figures has pushed growth to the forefront of all of our minds. Despite a lot of wishing to the contrary, moratorium is not an answer. If we declare one, the State of Florida will give us a limited time to fix the problems, and the financial burden will fall on the taxpayers. Our only hope to preserve our communities and our way of life lies in cool-headed planning, a willingness to make the tough decisions and focused implementation. There are no silver bullets. Oxen will be gored.

Here is the reality: We have the tools. We have the leadership. The issue is whether we have the gumption to roll up our sleeves and do what is needed. Today.

The critical issues are the ones we all deal with every day – land use, roads, transportation, landfills, support for our economy and housing for our work-

force. With the future closing in on us, these issues must be dealt with and faced in a way that solves the problems, not pushes them down the line.

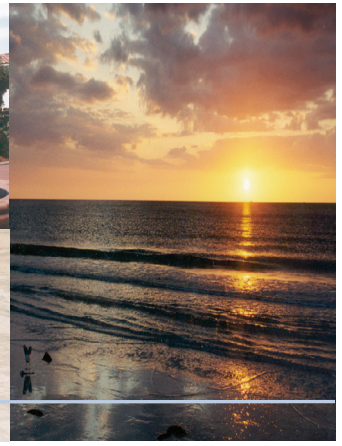
Here's my view of the county's requirements list to meet the coming demand:

- Fast-tracking and regional cooperation to get us improved roads, transportation networks, and innovative alternatives for moving people;
- Better land use planning and acquisition to accommodate needed rights of way and public services (like an additional landfill), development of Immokalee Airport as a functional free trade port to Latin America and Europe, and reducing commuter distances and times to shopping, work and recreation;
- Public and private accommodations to gain workforce and affordable housing close to areas where workers are employed;
- Better access to the Gulf of Mexico and other recreational alternatives, even if it means buying back lost access.

Huge choices need to be made. There are no easy decisions left. We all must do the right thing and do it now.

Frank Halas, Vice Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Around Your Community!



Hurricane Seminars

May 17

Golden Gate High School
7 p.m.

May 21

Coastland Center
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 2

Radisson Hotel, Marco Island
7 p.m.

June 9

Telford Center
7 p.m.

June 16

Lely High School
7 p.m.

July 7

Naples Philharmonic
7 p.m.

July 14

Immokalee Branch
Library
7 p.m.

Call 774-8000 for
information

Invasive Exotic Plant DVD Available

Many residents relocating to Southwest Florida may not be aware of the threat of invasive exotic plants. Community Development and Environmental Services Division staff has produced an instructional DVD that explains the invasive exotics common to our area. These exotic plants smother, restrict and invade natural plant environments and need to be removed. It is important to identify them in an early stage of growth to permit removal and eradication before infestation results. Copies of the DVD can be obtained by contacting Public Information Coordinator Lisa Koehler at 403-2327.

2004 Annual Report Available

The Collier County Government Annual Report 2004 is now available.

Copies can be obtained at public libraries or you can view the report online by

clicking here:

<http://www.colliergov.net/communications/documents/CC.ANN.REP.04.pdf>

County Offers Video Streaming of Channel 11/16

Collier County government's television programming can now be viewed on the World Wide Web by logging onto <http://tv.colliergov.net/>.

"This new upgrade allows those people interested in local government issues, who do not have cable or reside outside of the local cable network, to stay in touch with Collier County issues," said Director Barry Axelrod, Information Technology Department.

Established in response to the numerous requests received from constituents, District 5 Commissioner Jim Coletta is pleased with the upgrade.

"It wasn't long ago that many residents in my district did not have access to basic cable," said Commissioner Coletta. "With this significant improvement, people around the globe will be able to see our television channel 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The county's TV channel is carried locally on Channel 11, Comcast, and Channel 16, Time Warner. The county granted the streaming service contract to a San Francisco-based company, Granicus Inc., a leading provider of Internet broadcasting solutions for live and archived streaming of public meetings to the Web.



Around Your Community!



Camp Collier

Collier County is offering full-service summer day camps through the Parks and Recreation Department.



Camp Collier Elementary is for children grades K through five and eligible children must be five years old by June 1. Camp Collier Middle School is for older students, grades six through eight. Both camps

will provide unique experiences with daily activities, two field trips per week and interactive learning experiences. Camp Collier runs from May 31 through July 29. If you need additional care for your child during the first two weeks of August, Parks and Recreation is offering "No School Fun Camp" until school reopens. For more information about Collier County's summer camp programs click here:

<http://www.colliergov.net/parks/colliercountyp/press.html>

or call
353-0404.

Immokalee Road Update

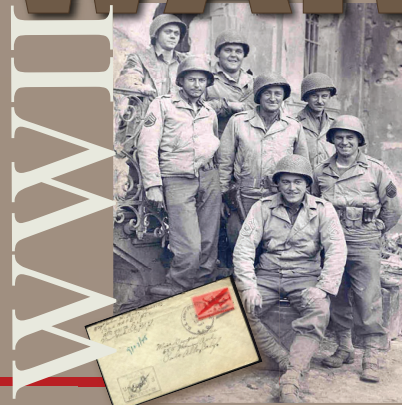
The Immokalee Road widening project is underway. The current four-lane road will be expanded to six lanes from U.S. 41 to Interstate 75. The 3.5-mile project contains three contractual milestones:

- Livingston Road to I-75 is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 15, 2005
- Airport-Pulling Road to Livingston Road is contracted to be finished in June 2006
- Airport-Pulling Road to U.S. 41 is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007

If the contractor doesn't meet the deadlines for substantial and final completion, financial penalties will be assessed on a daily basis. A design/build contract to widen Immokalee Road from I-75 to Collier Boulevard is expected to be awarded in late fall 2005.

WAR

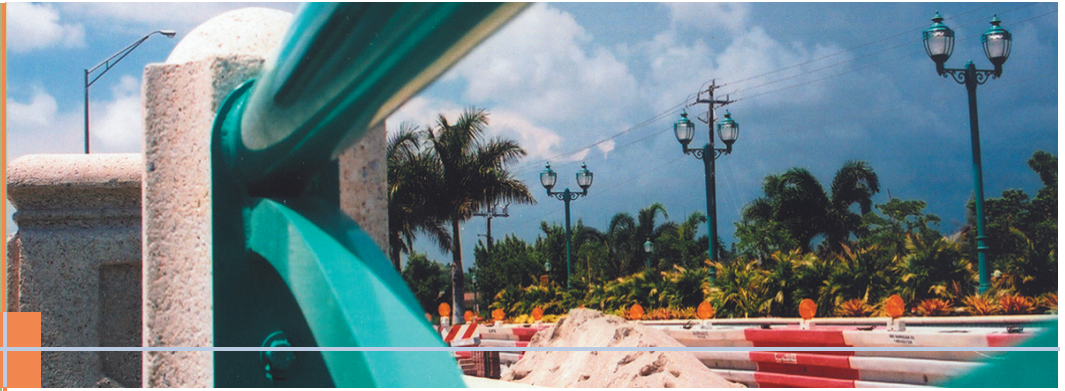
Capture Living History



Capture Living History

The Communication and Customer Relations Department is partnering with the Collier County Museum and Veterans Services departments to launch an exciting new project designed to capture the living history of World War II veterans who reside in Collier County. The three departments will coordinate interviews with World War II vets to record their war experiences on audiotape. The tapes will be permanently archived at museums and libraries throughout the county. For more information about this project, call 774-8308.

Around Your Community!



New Walking Trail Planned

More than 3.6 acres of land adjacent to Veterans Park is being converted into walking trails thanks to the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program.

In February, the county worked with a contractor to remove exotic plants from this property. Additionally, staff coordinated with the Sheriff's Office prisoner labor program to pick up trash, debris, and begin creating the trail system. The Environmental Services' staff expects the preserve area to be open to the public this summer.

The Conservation Collier program was established to acquire, protect, restore and manage environmentally sensitive lands for future generations.

County Conducts Bioterrorism Exercise

About 200 emergency personnel from 21 agencies participated in this year's bioterrorism exercise at the Naples Municipal Airport. The group trained in response to a simulated airline crash. Collier County's Bureau of Emergency Services, in conjunction

with the Naples Municipal Airport and a number of local response agencies, coordinated the day's events.



New East Naples Fire Station Opens

Emergency Medical Services and the East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District have opened a new station at 4375 Bayshore Drive. Station 22 houses a three-man advanced life support (ALS) engine company and an ALS medic unit manned by two EMS paramedics. The building and land are jointly owned by the county and the East Naples Fire District.

Around Your Community!



County Manager

Construction is proceeding ahead of schedule at the new North Naples Regional Park. This exciting new destination along Livingston Road just south of Immokalee Road will offer a variety of amenities for residents and visitors to our community.



structed that will include a shaded, sand-filled archeological dig. North Naples Regional Park will also provide administration offices for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Our new park will provide opportunities to host softball and soccer tournaments. A five-field softball complex and an eight-field soccer complex - each with its own concession, seating, shade, and state-of-the-art lighting and sound to minimize noise in adjacent areas - are being built. These facilities will draw tournament play from throughout South Florida, generate new revenue and alleviate the overburdened playing fields at existing community parks.

Five years ago, Collier County purchased 212 acres of land with the North Naples Regional Park in mind. Staff sought public input for priority amenities for the project and the result was a sweeping master plan to create a park that will have activity appealing to our vast population.



Jim Mudd, County Manager

In canvassing public opinion during park planning, the public overwhelmingly voiced the need for a regional water park facility. North Naples Regional Park will make that dream a reality with a lap pool, diving well, family pool, two children's pools, four tube slides, a lazy river and full concession.

The park will also feature numerous indoor facilities including a gymnasium, community center for aerobic and exercise classes, a complete fitness center, public meeting rooms and locker rooms. A unique playground area for children is being con-

In addition to the amazing variety of active recreation opportunities, the park will also offer a fitness trail and boardwalks through a wetland area surrounding 90 acres of preserve land. Parks and Recreation is removing exotic species from the wetland properties and over a period of years will plant natural habitat.

The goal of the park is to offer activities that appeal to everyone; bird watchers and ballplayers, tots and teens, families and retired citizens. We will keep you up to date as construction continues at the North Naples Regional Park which is scheduled to open in May 2006.

