

THE JOURNAL



PENSION REFORM

Collier County's Tallahassee lobbyist, J. Keith Arnold & Associates, provides this update regarding pension reform legislation now being considered in the legislative session which runs through May 6.

Governor Rick Scott is on record stating that neither the House nor Senate versions of FRS pension reform go far enough – stressing that he would like to see a flat 5 percent defined contribution. The Senate passed its version (SB 2100), setting up a tiered system of retirement contributions. Employees would contribute 2 percent on their first \$25,000 in compensation. Further compensation up to \$50,000 would require a 4 percent employee contribution. Wages and benefits over \$50,000 would require a 6 percent contribution.

An amendment was approved that changes the contribution tiers for

elected officials to 3 percent for wages and benefits under \$25,000, 5 percent for compensations up to \$50,000 and 7 percent for compensation over \$50,000.

The House proposal calls for a flat 3 percent contribution for all FRS employees. It also ends the DROP early retirement program for state employees. The Senate version delays for five years the closing of the DROP program. The House bill increases the retirement eligibility for initial enrollees from age 62 to 65 or from 30 to 33 years of service. The Senate bill maintains the existing retirement age.

The differing pension bills are now in conference committees between the House and Senate. These committees are expected to begin meeting after the Easter/Passover break next week.

ANNUAL COLLIER COUNTY AUCTION

Collier County will be conducting its annual auction of surplus property and equipment at the Naples Airport, south of the terminal on North Road, on Saturday, April 30, 2011, beginning at 9:00 AM.

There will be a number of vehicles, (cargo vans, pick-up trucks, midsize sedans) along with furniture, file cabinets, and printers. All property will be sold as is and pre-registration is necessary prior to the start of the auction.

Atkinson Realty and Auction Inc. will be coordinating the event on behalf of the County. To learn more about the auction, or pre-register for the event go to:

<http://www.atkinsononline.com>.

If you need additional information, contact RhondaTibbetts@colliergov.net at 252-8940 or joydokey@colliergov.net at 252-8413.

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market is back. Check it out every Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the summer in the Facilities Management parking lot. The market offers fresh and organic produce, flowers, herbs, plants and more.



Collier Area Transit Celebrates 10 Years of Service

Collier Area Transit (CAT) recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with an open house and free rides on all bus routes for one day. Collier Area Transit began operations in February 2001 with seven buses traveling five fixed routes, six days per week. Within six, short years CAT's ridership exceeded more than one million passenger boardings per year utilizing 20 buses covering seven fixed routes with expanded service to include Sundays on most routes. At age 10, CAT continues to serve over one million passengers per year with 23 buses serving 10 fixed routes Monday through Saturday and eight routes on Sunday. When CAT started service, interested riders flagged the buses down to board since there were no bus stop signs, shelters or benches and now there are approximately 50 shelters and over 480 bus stops with signs along the 10 fixed routes.

CAT was able to add two new hybrid electric buses to its fleet last year with a \$1.2 million American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant. The new buses are more fuel efficient, quieter and lower in emissions than standard type buses. All CAT buses are equipped to handle wheelchairs and each bus has a bicycle rack on the front.

CAT route maps are available at area libraries, employment agencies, government office buildings, hospitals, Naples Area Chamber of Commerce locations and various area businesses and shopping centers. Route and fare information can also be obtained at: <http://colliergov.net/CAT>



EMPLOYEE SAVINGS & HEALTH FAIR 2011



The annual Employee Savings & Health Expo was held at the East Naples United Methodist Church. More than 25 vendors participated offering information on a variety of subjects

from investment planning to health insurance. Health screenings were also provided.

Collier County MedFlight Adds New Safety System

Collier County MedFlight has recently added a new safety enhancing system to their air ambulance helicopter. The new system provides both a visual and audio warning to the pilot of potential hazards to flight such as towers and if the aircraft is descending dangerously close to the ground. The Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning System or HTAWS is similar to what is available for commer-

cial airliners but has been modified according to Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board standards for use by helicopters. Ahead of an anticipated mandate by the FAA,



Collier County MedFlight is the first air ambulance in South Florida to implement this safety enhancing equipment.

STAY CONNECTED WITH COLLIER COUNTY ON:



Commissioner Fiala Named Citizen of the Year by ENCA

District 1 Commissioner Donna Fiala has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the East Naples Civic Association (ENCA). The award presentation was made at the association's recent annual banquet.

Commissioner Fiala has been a resident of Collier County since 1974. She has served on the board of directors for a wide variety of civic and non-profit organizations including the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce, Naples Botanical Garden, Collier County Presidents Council, Greater Naples Civic Association, Golden Gate Chamber of Commerce, Council on Aging and the United Arts Council. Commissioner Fiala was also recently appointed to the Florida Association of Counties Board of Directors.

In addition to her recognition from the ENCA, the United Arts Council of Collier County recently announced that Commissioner Fiala was one of five leaders in the arts community selected



*Commissioner Donna Fiala,
District 1*

to receive the group's prestigious 2011 Stars in the Arts award.

Facilities Management Hosts Seminar

The Facilities Management Department recently hosted a Sheriff's office seminar on fraudulent documents. Within one hour after the seminar, Facilities Operations Center staff recognized what appeared to be fraudulent drivers licenses submitted by employees of a local construction contractor doing work for the county. Five individuals had come in to get their Contractor's ID Cards (as part of the fingerprinting process they must show their DL's).

Facilities staff called the Sheriff's Office who dispatched four deputies. The result? Three people were arrested on felony charges and were placed into custody.

Special thanks to Operations staff members Nate Jokela and Miguel Carbello for quickly identifying these documents and bringing it to management's attention. Additionally, a letter was sent to the Sheriff's office thanking them for the program and for their help regarding the arrests.

HOUSING, HUMAN & VETERAN SERVICES RECOGNITION

Collier County was among 14 communities across the country presented with the Gabe Zimmerman Award for Public Service during the 2011 National Community Development Association (NCDCA) Legislative and Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes communities which have used the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program or the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program in an exemplary fashion to better the lives of low-income people and neighborhoods.

"We feel so honored yet humbled for receiving this award which recognizes an outstanding Community Development Block Grant project - the Fun Time Early Childhood Academy," said Marcy Krumbine, director of the Collier County Housing, Human and Veteran Services Department.

Founded in 1961, Fun Time was housed in a double-wide trailer until Hurricane Wilma dealt a devastating blow to the aging structure in October 2005. A campaign to build a new 8,000 square foot facility received funding support from FEMA, Naples Children and Education Foundation, and the City of Naples while Collier County contributed \$275,000 of its CDBG funds.

"We are very proud of Marcy and her staff as the Fun Time project is a prime example of developing relationships, overcoming obstacles together and working cooperatively to achieve a common goal that benefits the residents," said County Manager Leo Ochs.



Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB takes home two awards from North American Travel Journalists Association

The Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau recently won two awards from the annual North American Travel Journalists Association (NATJA) 2010 Awards Competition – a Silver Award for a new Destination Video and a Bronze Award for the 2010 Visitors Guide.

“We are continuously working to create new message platforms to entice travelers to spend their time with us in Southwest Florida’s Paradise Coast,” said CVB Executive Director Jack Wert. “To have both our Visitors Guide and destination video honored by NATJA is a testament to the destina-

tion, as well as to the high quality of work and creativity from our staff and strategic marketing partners.”

NATJA is comprised of writers, photographers, and editors working in the travel industry. Its annual awards competition, now in its 19th year, honors the “best of the best” of both travel writing, photography and travel promotion submitted by travel journalists, travel magazines, public relations agencies and destination marketing organizations from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

BLIGHT PREVENTION

More than \$2 million has been expended by banks and lenders to eliminate code violations under Collier County Code Enforcement’s nationally-recognized Blight Prevention Program.

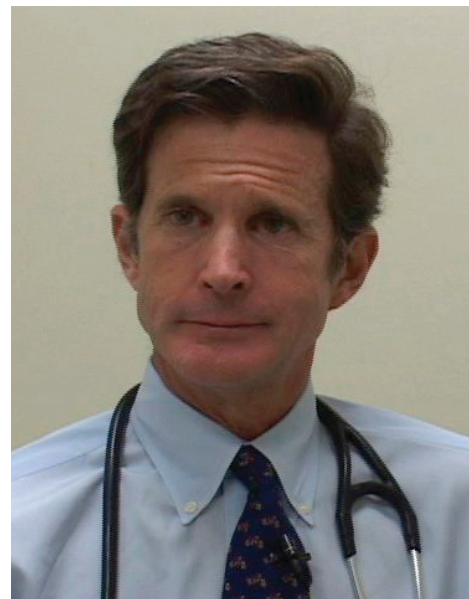
There have been more than 21,000 foreclosure filings in Collier County since January 2008. Code Enforcement has been proactive in its efforts to work with constituents and neighborhood partners to address the problems associated with foreclosures.

“When foreclosed properties are identified with code violations, our

investigators take a win-win compliance approach and resort to traditional methods only if banks and lenders do not take responsibility for their properties,” said Code Enforcement Director Diane Flagg. “The Blight Prevention Program is intended to help stabilize property values by keeping properties maintained by banking institutions through voluntary compliance.”

Banks have voluntarily abated 1,681 code violations through April 17, 2011 with abatement costs paid by lenders totaling \$2,083,925.

Health Care Hero



Collier Medical Director Dr. Robert Tober is one of nine individuals named a “Health Care Hero” by the Naples Daily News. The program recognizes excellence in the health care community. Dr. Tober was chosen by his peers in health care as the recipient of the Physician’s Excellence in Health Care Award. He was honored at a luncheon event held April 15 at the Naples Hilton.

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Now Open Weekends

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. through May.



Sun-N-Fun will be open seven days a week beginning May 28 through August 22.

CONGRATULATIONS

Tamika Seaton, Planning Technician with Collier MPO, is the recipient of Hodges University's 2011 Founder's Award – given to an outstanding graduate of the university. Tamika was honored at the school's annual Humanitarian Award Luncheon in March. Tamika earned a Bachelor's degree in Management in 2007 and a Master's degree in Management in 2009, both from Hodges. Tamika devotes much of her free time to the community through her work with the NAACP Collier County Branch and many other non-profit organizations. Tamika has worked for Collier MPO for four years.



The Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services recently conducted a compliance monitoring site survey of **Collier EMS** and found no deficiencies. In a letter to Chief Jeff Page, the state bureau's site survey of EMS concluded: "Your aircraft, vehicles and service records were outstanding. Thank you for being a role model of excellence as an EMS provider in the state of Florida." The state EMS office is responsible for the regulation of ambulance services.

Jennifer Smith, SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) Coordinator for the Tobacco Control Program at the Collier County Health Department, was recently awarded the "Bob Graham Distinguished Service Award" as a Community Supporter. This prestigious award is given to someone with a truly giving nature who has made the community college they support a better place. Only one Community Supporter award is given in Florida annually. Jennifer has helped students at Edison State College create a STRIKE (Student Tobacco Reform Initiative: Knowledge for Eternity) club. STRIKE members are dedicated to reducing the use of tobacco on campus and promoting a tobacco-free campus. Students and faculty from Edison nominated Jennifer and she was selected from a pool of several dozen community supporters throughout Florida.



Camp Collier 2011

Registration is underway for all summer camps offered by Parks and Recreation. Camp Collier offers a fun lively environment where children can play, connect and discover! Each week is a different theme. Children have the opportunity to attend weekly or enjoy the entire summer. Campers will take nature walks, play games, make arts and crafts, participate in different sports as well as take weekly swim and field trips.



Camp Collier runs June 13 through August 12 (No camp July 4th)

Monday - Friday • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

\$85/week • Discount for full 9 weeks (\$66/week)

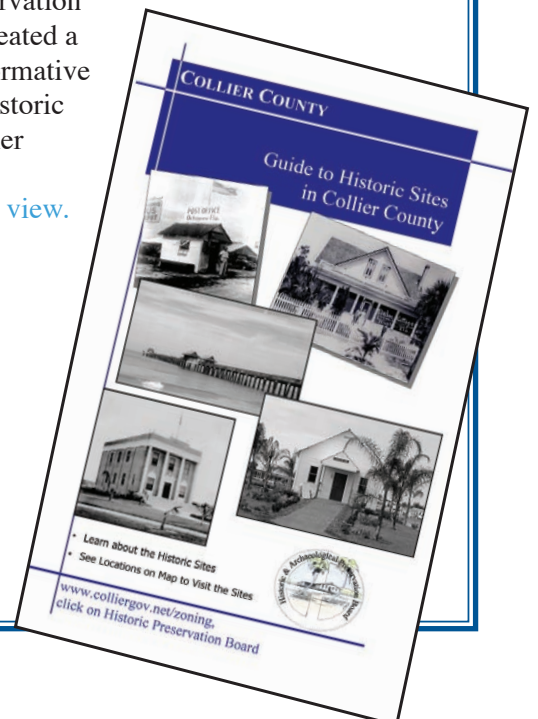
10 % discount for siblings (\$60/week)

Before and After Camp - 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. • \$15/week

For more information visit www.collierparks.com

The Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board has created a new and informative "Guide to Historic Sites in Collier County."

[Click here to view.](#)



Process Improvement

SIRE Technologies recently noted Collier County's use of their system to track insurance certificates based on coverage schedules set forth on each certificate rather than by the date of the contract, the way it has been tracked in the past. This followed the work of a cross functional process improvement group led by Collier's STEP-UP Team that recommended an improved process and taking advantage of the available workflow system. They consequently avoided spending tens of thousands of dollars, as compared with purchasing a commercially available product. In addition, the team estimates a savings of at least \$40,000 in staff time that can be redeployed to other functions, improving the productivity of the county's workforce. "The issue of insurance certificate

tracking and its associated risk is one we have struggled with for some time. The result has exceeded my expectations in terms of functionality and certainly in terms of cost. We are very pleased," said Risk Management Director Jeff Walker.



Purchasing and Risk Management officials recognized that most proof of insurance certificates are valid for only one year, but many county projects take longer than one year to complete.

According to County Records Manager, Michael Cox: "This resulted in the potential for a lapse in required insurance coverage because vendors did not consistently ensure that their coverage was updated prior to expiration."

To solve this issue and eliminate associated risk, Collier County created a SIRE document cabinet strictly for insurance certificates. When a new certificate is added to the cabinet, the customized SIRE workflow is triggered. The workflow determines whether a project is still open and whether the related insurance certificate is about to expire. If both criteria are true, a system-generated email is automatically sent to the vendor 15 days prior to the expiration date. If the document is not renewed at that time, a second notification is sent five days prior to expiration.

"This change means we are further minimizing gaps in insurance coverage and are doing so in a simple, more cost effective environment," said Purchasing Director Steve Carnell. "Michael Cox and Brenda Reaves deserve a lot of credit for putting this system together."



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS

The objective of the program is to recognize significant contributions to the organization and/or community by Collier County staff. All full time regular non-supervisory employees who have completed the initial probationary period and have received a meets or better overall rating on their most recent performance appraisal are eligible to be nominated. Please complete all sections of the form (see below for web site address) and forward the nomination form to your Department Director.

A fellow employee, immediate supervisor and/or Department Director may nominate an employee or team.

Forms and information are available at: <http://cww2/human/operations/forms/>

DID YOU KNOW?

Electric costs at the Main Government Complex have declined 41 percent since 2007.

Avg. monthly electrical bill for 2007 \$112,728

Avg. monthly electrical bill for 2008 \$100,633

Avg. monthly electrical bill for 2009 \$ 96,016

Avg. monthly electrical bill for 2010 \$ 66,640

January Employee of the Month



Michael Gates, Environmental Health and Safety Specialist, Risk Management, was selected Collier County Government's Employee of the Month for January 2011.

Mike is assigned to the Public Utilities Division focusing his efforts on the Water and Solid Waste Departments. He was responsible for several large projects, including

revisions to the risk management programs for process safety management updating EPA and OSHA programs that mandate facilities, like water plants, to follow strict safety guidelines. These guidelines include detailed maintenance logs, reporting processes and daily functional controls.

"In carrying out the process safety updates, Mike quickly developed a long-term plan, organized functional teams comprised of plant management and maintenance staff and immediately began updating protocols," said Risk Management Director Jeff Walker. "Existing processes were streamlined and this complex program was made more user-friendly for the staff responsible for performing these tasks, thanks to Mike's efforts. By completing this project with existing staff, the county was able to save more than \$20,000 in outside consulting fees. Mike is an outstanding employee whose performance reflects well on county government."

Mike is a member of the state of Florida's Local Emergency Planning Committee and is obtaining the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager designation. He has worked for Collier County since 2009.

February Employee of the Month



Tona Nelson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation, was selected Collier County Government's Employee of the Month for February 2011.

Tona is responsible for organizing and updating the Parks and Recreation Department's standard operating procedures. Her efforts helped enable the department to receive re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Parks

and Recreation Agencies. This designation is only held by 90 agencies around the country and, thanks to Tona's hard work and organizational abilities, the department received a perfect score on its evaluation. She also assisted with the efforts that led to the department receiving the Florida Recreation and Park Association's Agency Excellence Award in 2010.

"Tona is an invaluable member of the Parks and Recreation team," said Parks and Recreation Director Barry Williams. "In addition to supporting the leadership team, she also provides assistance during the budget process and develops informational packets for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings. Tona also helped develop the Parks and Recreation newsletter which is used to communicate information to the department's employees."

Tona has worked for Collier County since 2003.

35 Year Service Award



Tim Billings, GMD- Operations celebrates 35 years of service with the Board of County Commissioners.



25 Year Service Awards



Frank Terilla, Wastewater and James (Mac) Hatcher, Engineering & Environmental Services celebrate 25 years of service with Commissioner Donna Fiala.



Greg Tavernier, Water celebrates 25 years of service with Commissioner Jim Coletta.

15 Year Service Awards



(Not in order) Anthony (Tony) Asaro, Code Enforcement; Howard Brogdon, Water; Natalie Goodwin, Library; Nancy Gundlach, Comprehensive Planning; Luis Trujillo, Water; celebrate 15 years with Commissioner Donna Fiala.



Theresa Potter, Building Review & Permitting celebrates 15 years with Commissioner Jim Coletta.

10 Year Service Awards



(Not in order) Ophelia Allen, Parks and Recreation; Doug Caldwell, University Extension; Marlene Foord, ASD- Grants; John Motz, Wastewater; Amanda Townsend, Domestic Animal Services; Gary Troy, Risk Management; Louisca Vazor, Road Maintenance; Katherine (Katie) Whittier, Human Resources celebrate 10 years of service with Commissioner Donna Fiala.

10 Year Service Awards



(Not in order) *Alexander Blanco, Road Maintenance; Connie Demes, Water; Bung-Orn Dinprasuratsatya, Library; Bob Galliher, Water; Horace Grant, Road Maintenance; Ken Kinaszczuk II, Water; Wendy Klopff, Housing, Human & Veteran Services; Alfredo Lopez, Wastewater; Pam Lulich, Alternative Trans Modes; Anita Martindale, Domestic Animal Services; Bala Sridhar, Utilities Finance Operations; Teri Wides, Human Resources; Carolina Valera, Comprehensive Planning* celebrate 10 years of service with Commissioner Jim Coletta.

5 Year Service Awards



(Not in order) *John Beckman, EMS; Magaly Bowman, GMD-Operations; Joshua Brycen, EMS; Elizabeth Cervantes, Parks & Recreation; Anthony Chiaradonna, Jr., Water; Colleen Davidson, Code Enforcement; Shari Ferguson, Parks & Recreation; Kathleen Gunter, Utility Billing & Customer Service; Jennifer Havens, EMS; Shidan Hemmat, Library; Kenneth Kovensky, GMD-Operations; Kerry Runyon, Parks & Recreation; Zenaida (Zena) Sellers, Housing & Human Services; Lori-Ann Sugarman, Fleet Management; Jennifer (Jen) Waldron, Code Enforcement;* celebrate five years of service with Commissioner Donna Fiala.



(Not in order) *David Buchheit, Gateway/Bayshore CRA; Ray Coriano, Parks & Recreation; Matt Creeger, Information Technology; Lyne Flaherty, Library; Carmelo Gomez, Code Enforcement; Kevin Lauper, Water; Mark Martin, Road Maintenance; Latoya Phillips, Water; Jerry Shukes, Facilities Management; Michael Waite, Utility Billing & Customer Service; Jeff Wright, County Attorney* celebrate five years of service with Commissioner Jim Coletta.