

Collier County Government Annual Report





cover painting "Goodland, Florida" by Betty Newman Acrylic, 1994

about the artist

Raised in Chicago, Betty Newman moved to Marco Island in 1993. The artist specializes in various mixed mediums.

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There are more than 130 art. galleries in Collier County.

Arts and culture in Collier County reach approximately one million visitors and audiences each year.



ome to the Calusa Indians until the 1700s, and then to the Seminoles in the mid-19th Century, Collier County today is a dynamic community that seeks to balance the preservation of its heritage and natural resources with 21st Century sophistication and amenities.

Under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, 2005 was another rewarding and productive year. County government continued to provide essential services — including new roads, expanded water treatment facilities and new recreational opportunities — that meet the needs of a growing community. The community also demonstrated its self-reliance, compassion and character as we quickly recovered from the effects of the first hurricane to strike Collier County since 1960.

We invite you to read about the achievements of county government and learn how we strive every day to exceed our customers' expectations. We are privileged to serve you in this paradise of sun, surf and nature.

accomplishment and challenge



Donna Fiala District I



Frank Halas District 2 Vice Chairman



Tom Henning District 3



Fred Coyle District 4 Chairman



Jim Coletta District 5



his past year was a period of great accomplishment and challenge for the people of Collier County. We endured a year threatened by a record number of hurricanes but managed to achieve remark-

able progress for our citizens.

We continued the most intensive Infrastructure Development program in Collier County history. New water and sewer facilities will provide adequate capacity now and into the future. We made great progress on improving the limited road grid which exists in the western part of the county and turned our attention to the central area where explosive growth has overburdened our roads. We hope to develop a more conventional transportation grid there to avoid the difficulties encountered in the coastal areas.

Collier County received national acclaim for our Rural Lands Stewardship Plan. This plan, developed with the participation of environmentalists, developers and landowners, permanently preserved over 100,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land without trampling on private property rights. This plan will limit urban sprawl and assure future development is well managed.

Work began on the North Collier Regional Park that will include the Sun-N-Fun Lagoon water park. It will be the largest park in Collier County with amenities not found in our other parks. With water slides, a lazy river, swimming pools for children and adults, soccer and softball fields, and a children's museum and educational facility, this park will offer something for the entire family.

Collier County implemented a Storm Water Utility to begin addressing the flooding problems that have caused property damage and inconvenience for those residents living in floodprone areas of the county.

Collier County's Growth Management Plan, designed to ensure road capacity exists before construction is approved, showed remarkable results during 2005. Unfortunately, a new state Growth Management Act threatens to undermine the effectiveness of our plan and deprives us of the tools we need to manage growth at the local level. We are working hard to change this new state law.

The rapid escalation of property values in Collier County has led to an acute shortage of affordable housing. Middle income workers like teachers, health care workers, police officers, firemen and government workers are finding it increasingly difficult to find housing in Collier County. This problem is caused by market forces beyond the control of government, but we are working with the private sector to find solutions. Collier County approved over 2,700 affordable housing units for construction in just the past 12 months.

The acquisition of the Caribbean Gardens Zoo and surrounding environmentally sensitive land in November 2005 was the most significant land purchase in Collier County history. It preserves an attraction which has been a Naples landmark for almost 40 years and provides the opportunity to realize a long-held dream of creating a passive central park for the enjoyment of all citizens and visitors of Collier County.

Hurricane Wilma, while not devastating to the entire community, certainly caused isolated severe damage. I have never been more proud of this community than I was when I observed citizens and government employees working together to clean up after the hurricane. I was asked repeatedly by members of the national media, "Why was Collier County able to recover so quickly from a direct hit by a Category 3 hurricane while other communities have struggled for months and years?" There are many answers to that question including good building codes that are strictly enforced, good planning by our Emergency Operations Center, dedicated and hard-working government employees and the self-reliance of our residents.

The quality of a community is determined by the character of its residents. Emerging from the destruction of Hurricane Wilma, the people of Collier County showed the nation the value of character and self-reliance.

It has been a great honor to serve you as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners during a year of such great accomplishment and challenge.

Fred Coyle Chairman
Commissioner District 4



focusing on the future







Leo Ochs, Ir. Deputy County Manager

s we look back on 2005, we can take pride in our accomplishments and look forward with confidence to a bright future built upon fiscal integrity, the professionalism and dedication of our county employees and the visionary and ethical leadership of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The growth trends for Collier County continue to amaze us all and there is no sign that the influx of new residents will slow down any time soon. Managing growth responsibly and providing the essential services necessary to preserve our wonderful quality of life are significant challenges. This report details how we met those challenges during 2005 and is a blueprint for how we will continue to maximize our resources in order to realize our potential. We remain committed to exceeding the expectations of our cus-

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment of 2005 was the teamwork and community display of compassion and cooperation before, during and after Hurricane Wilma passed through our county in October, a historical event few will forget. Collier County was recognized by state and federal officials as a model for the rest of the country when it comes to hurricane preparedness and response. We will take the lessons learned from Wilma and build upon our successes as we get ready for the next hurricane season.

tomers — the residents and visitors of Collier County.

In 2005, Collier County Commissioners assumed a much more active role in state legislative affairs, especially following passage by the Florida Legislature of the Growth Management Bill

(Senate Bill 360) which jeopardizes Collier County's stringent growth management system. The BCC has drafted language to amend the bill in the 2006 legislative session that would allow Collier County to continue to have stricter concurrency requirements than the new state law requires.

An offshoot of the Senate Bill was the Governor's Impact Fee Review Task Force which evaluated the current use of impact fees as a method of financing local infrastructure and to provide recommendations to the governor and the legislature. Collier Commissioners worked hard lobbying the task force to retain home rule authority over local impact fees and to oppose recommending a cap on impact fees, which generated more than \$100 million in FY 05 for Collier County to help finance the critical infrastructure necessary to keep pace with growth.

For the first time in Collier County history, we have both federal and state lobbyists working for us to identify funding opportunities and new sources of revenue to assist us in answering the infrastructure demands we face. A lobbying visit to Washington D.C. helped persuade federal officials of the need for increased funding for Interstate 75.

Affordable housing was recognized in 2005 as a crisis not only in Collier County but statewide. The high price of land and skyrocketing costs of construction materials are making it practically impossible for most middle-income families and professional workers to afford home ownership. A median priced home in Collier County is about \$500,000. The BCC took steps to expand the county's home-buyer assistance program and discussions are underway to address the need for "gap" housing in our community. Also, an amendment was added to the Consolidated Impact Fee Ordinance creating an impact fee deferral program for affordable housing.

The Communication and Customer Relations Department completed the 2005 Citizen Survey. Generally, Collier County residents are satisfied with the services and leadership provided by county government. 55 percent agreed, "County officials do

a good job running county government." Asked if things in Collier County are moving in the right direction or wrong direction, 62 percent of respondents believe things are moving in the right direction.

Six Land Development Code (LDC) workshops and eight LDC change hearings were held. Areas of interest were architectural and site design standards, authorizing early work permits, changes to the affordable housing density bonus program, streamlining the process for public potable water sources, sidewalks, implementation of the Transfer of Development Rights program and Planned Unit Development ghost units.

The East of 951 Horizon Study was drafted in 2005. The study consists of multiyear projections to assess the level of investment in capital and human resources needed at build-out. The goal is to balance the expectations of Collier residents living east of 951 for urban area levels of service for public facility, public safety and human services infrastructure against the associated costs. More than 600,000 residents eventually will call this area home.

The Community Development and Environmental Services Division (CDES) adopted an eight step customer service "Action Plan" to improve the processing and efficiency of land use and site plan applications. CDES provided building review and permitting, and zoning and land use petition services for approximately 4,900 land use activities and nearly 35,000 permitted activities. The division continued with Planned Unit Development monitoring and enforcement of noted deficiencies. Additionally, the Ave Maria Development of Regional Impact was approved by the BCC in July, 2005.

In 2005, the Public Utilities Division was involved in more than 243 water and wastewater capital projects with a budget exceeding \$263 million. The division completed the South County Water Treatment Plant eight million gallons per day (mgd) reverse osmosis expansion. Plans are underway for a 12mgd reverse osmosis expansion at the South County Water Treatment Plant with completion scheduled for 2007.

A new Solid Waste Collection Contract was finalized and prepared for October 2005 implementation. The contract will provide better control of future prices and performance standards. New 64-gallon residential recycling carts were distributed to 90,000 residents. The larger carts have already helped increase the amount of materials being recycled thus preserving valuable space at the landfill.

Three major road construction projects were completed in FY 05: Livingston Road from Vanderbilt Beach Road to Immokalee Road; Goodlette-Frank Road from Pine Ridge to Vanderbilt Beach Roads; and the improvements made along 13th Street SW. We continue to follow our Transportation Checkbook Concurrency initiative that ensures adequate road capacity is available as our population grows. New projects that began last year include the Golden Gate Overpass; Immokalee Road (U.S. 41 to I-75); Vanderbilt Beach Road; Rattlesnake Hammock; and Goodlette-Frank Road.

In an effort to improve traffic flow, the county continued to implement a computerized signal system that will provide for the coordination of more than 100 signalized intersections.

Five new Collier Area Transit (CAT) routes were added to the system serving the areas of Golden Gate City, North Naples, the City of Marco Island, Immokalee, and Vanderbilt Beach Road and Collier Blvd. A record 951,000 riders were served by the CAT system.

The BCC authorized the establishment of a stormwater utility that has a dedicated funding source to improve fresh water flow through the county. Fifteen projects were started and eight completed in 2005. In addition, the long-sought permit for the Lely Area Stormwater Improvement Project was issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Construction continued at the North Collier Regional Park that will include an exciting new water park that is scheduled to open in the summer of 2006. Our Parks and Recreation Department also earned national accreditation, one of only 55 agencies in the country to receive this significant honor.

Collier County assumed control of the Naples Depot making it the fourth property within our museum system. The historic depot will serve as a gateway to the county's other museum locations and provide a high-visibility site for the museum to serve its visitors.

Growth in the county necessitates additional government facilities to provide services. The jail expansion opened in August 2005. Construction is underway on the new courthouse annex and adjoining parking garage. Construction is also proceeding on the new North Collier Government Services Center on Orange Blossom Drive that will provide a convenient location for residents in the northern part of the county to conduct much of their business with county government.

As you can see, 2005 was another remarkable year of progress for Collier County. Space limitations prevent me from detailing each accomplishment. I invite you to read this 2005 Annual Report to better understand the efforts being made by the dedicated professionals in county government each day to preserve our reputation as the premier place in America to live, work and play. I believe you will agree that this report demonstrates the strength and fiscal stability of your government. I am proud to call Collier County my home and I hope this report gives reason for you to be proud, too.

Jul Mild

Jim Mudd County Manager

Administrative Services

s custodian and manager of more than 600 buildings and structures that total 2.5 million square feet, the Facilities Management staff has managed over \$250 million worth of capital projects in various stages. The Security Section is responsible for monitoring video surveillance from more than 300

cameras. Security measures were implemented that aided in confiscating 10,891 prohibited items at county facilities, scanning more than 638,000 visitors at the Collier County Courthouse alone.

Fleet Management maintained more than 2,400 vehicles and equipment items and completed 8,101 maintenance and repair work orders. Staff distributed 1.3 million gallons of fuel, maintained county fuel systems with no reportable spills, and auctioned 64 vehicles and 57 pieces of equipment with proceeds totaling more than \$484,500.

Grants Coordination worked to obtain \$27 million in federal, state and local grants. An additional \$21 million in grant funds were applied for and pending in fiscal year 2005. Awarded projects ranged from habitat restoration to transportation infrastructure improvements.

Information Technology staff operates the Board of County Commissioners' agency data network and applications, and supports and maintains over 1,000 computer workstations. IT manages a multi-agency telecommunications system, the countywide public safety radio system, the Geographic Information System, and safeguards the agency's electronic records and databases. The 800 MHz public safety radio system is the primary voice communication system used by all county and city law enforcement, fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel as well as county utilities and transportation crews. This public safety radio system supports more than 3,400 radios and is part of a regional and statewide mutual aid system.

Risk Management recovered \$431,840 through a Subrogation Recovery Program that was implemented in 2002 to recover funds owed to the county as a result of damage to county assets. In addition, staff worked with the Collier County Healthcare Consortium to complete a request for purchase for Pharmacy Benefit Management Services that resulted in a savings of more than \$700,000 to the county with no reduction in benefit levels to employees. The Occupational Health Program continues to flourish and handled 62 percent of first injury claimants in-house.

- 18 properties were bought for 12 Conservation Collier projects, and seven lots of an ongoing project for the expansion of Bayview Park parking were also acquired.
- Real Estate Services completed 17 total land exchanges, sales, and easement grant transactions that produced an income of 8506,431. Staff managed 56 property leases that generated \$247,898 in revenue, prepared 107 property appraisals, reviewed 142 appraisals and prepared 41 project cost estimates.
- Purchasing negotiated more than 100 contracts totaling \$155.2 million with estimated savings of more than \$2.5 million.
- Human Resources hired 240 full and part-time employees and processed 8,200 applications. The department's Wellness Program continues to educate employees about unmanaged illnesses and has produced a savings in real dollars of approximately 8376,239 in preventable medical costs.
- The Occupational Safety staff trained more than 2,400 employees in FY 05. By using in-house training, it is estimated the county saved more than \$60,000 in training costs.

Community Development & Environmental Services

he Building Review and Permitting
Department issued 34,450 building permits
with 7,478 of those being residential permits,
which is a 43 percent increase over last years
number of issued residential permits. The
Contractor Licensing section issues licenses to
contractors as well as investigates complaints

about contractors. This past year, 3,870 licenses were issued to contractors and over 9,000 complaints were handled resulting in \$323,436 recovered for our residents and more than \$150,000 collected in fines against contractors.

The Engineering Department staff worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise and implement new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the coastal area. Staff continues to work with FEMA and our consultant to revise the maps for the six interior basins. Staff also reviewed and approved the construction documents and plats for 55 subdivisions this past year.

The Environmental Services Department continued to build artificial reefs off our coast. With the assistance of the Solid Waste Department and permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, more than 3,100 tons of cleaned construction and demolition debris were diverted from the landfill to the floor of the Gulf of Mexico as part of the county's artificial reef program. A total of nine reefs were created from Wiggins Pass to Marco Island. Additionally, staff continued working with the Listed Species issue, formed a Habitat Conservation Plan working group, and finalized the work plan for the comprehensive listed species management program.

Financial Administration and Housing (FAH) staff administered state and federal grants totaling \$7.6 million. Staff helped 183 low and very-low income households achieve their dream of home ownership through its purchase assistance program, and helped 52 very-low income households make necessary repairs to their homes through a residential rehabilitation program.

The Zoning and Land Development Review Department implemented process improvement initiatives through the permitting and land development review process, and continuously monitored Planned Unit Developments (PUD) and enforced noted deficiencies. Community Development and Environmental Services and Transportation Services Division staff inspected 105 of the 338 existing recorded county PUDs.

- Code Enforcement staff managed more than 30,000 complaints and conducted 15 separate community sweeps in various neighborhoods throughout the county in an effort to identify and educate residents about code violations.
- The Environmental Services Department's Conservation Collier program continued to buy environmentally sensitive lands. To date, the county owns 12 properties totaling 330 acres.
- FAH assisted Copeland citizens with community improvements through a concentrated Community Development Block (CDB) grant program. 8972.831.66 was spent in CDB grants during FY 05.
- Environmental Services continued to develop a revised Manatee Protection Plan.
- Comprehensive Planning successfully implemented the Rural Fringe Mixed Use District Transfer of Development Rights Program and approved the 2004 Annual Update and Inventory Report and accompanying amendments to the Growth Management Plans' capital improvement element.
- Private Utility Regulation staff was involved in monitoring water quality at Orange Tree Utilities. Through proactive involvement, staff kept utility customers informed regarding Orange Tree's conversion to a nanofiltering treatment system which eliminated the contaminants.

Management Offices

he Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) coordinated emergency response for Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma and was praised by state and federal officials for preparedness and response to Wilma, the first hurricane to make landfall in the county since 1960. BES continued to mod-

ernize its response equipment by acquiring a Mobile Command Center. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received the highest rating for a state inspection and the highest ever cardiac arrest resuscitation rates.

The Collier County Airport Authority secured a South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Conceptual Environmental Resource Permit for current and future development at Immokalee Regional Airport. Also secured was \$450,000 in federal grants from the U. S. Department of Agriculture for a surface water management retention pond, a requirement of the SFWMD permit for development of the Phase I area of Immokalee Airport.

The Communication and Customer Relations Department (CCR) overhauled its television production studio to increase the quality of the audio-video standards on Collier Television (CTV). 800 hours of live programming were broadcast on CTV. Staff launched an oral history project and identified WWII veterans for WWII Capture Living History, partnering with the Library of Congress to preserve the data. Staff created county government's first e-newsletter, Around Your Community!, to inform constituents of government programs and events.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) coordinated the issuance of \$96.3 million in gas tax revenue bonds for the most aggressive road construction program in Collier County history, \$167.2 million in capital improvement and refunding revenue bonds for government buildings, and \$32.8 million to acquire environmentally sensitive land. Commercial paper loan financing was approved for Vanderbilt Beach parking and for acquisition of Caribbean Gardens properties.

The Tourism Department (Greater Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau) set records for tourist development tax collections for FY 05 with an 8.4 percent increase. Staff received support from tourism industry partners and the community for a one cent increase in the tourist tax. Revenues generated will be dedicated to advertising and promotion of the area as a year round visitor destination.

- CCR received it awards from the Florida Government Communicators Assoc.; City-County Communications and Marketing Assoc.; National Assoc. of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors; and Public Relations Society of America.
- OMB received the 2005 Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 18th consecutive year.
- Tourism received top honors for its Paradise Coast commercial and won the top prize for TV ads at VISIT FLORIDA's annual Flagler Awards.
- BES staff received an achievement award from the National Association of Counties for Disaster Response Units used to distribute emergency supplies.
- The Medical Examiner's Office created the FLorida UnIdentified Decedents DataBase (www.FLUIDDB.com) used by families, national organizations, and law enforcement in searches for missing persons.
- Isles of Capri Fire Control and Rescue District purchased two fire engines, one with a FEMA grant of \$250,000.
- Ochopee Fire Control and Rescue District received a \$110,000 FEMA grant to add 20 Personal Breathing Apparatus, two Automated External Defibrillators and one Jaws of Life and \$26,000 from Division of Forestry for emergency radios.
- The Airport Authority secured environmental permitting and completed a 25-acre mangrove clearing project at Marco Island Airport. A new parallel taxiway at Everglades Airpark connects aircraft terminal parking with the north end of the runway.

Public Services

omestic Animal Services (DAS) pet adoption television show, Happy Tails, continued to help improve adoption rates and promoted responsible pet ownership, DAS found homes for 2,243 animals by also working with local and state rescue groups. Volunteerism increased by 15

percent, equaling 3,790 volunteer hours. The DAS shelter also served as a safe haven for pets whose owners evacuated during Hurricane Wilma.

The Health Department's innovative computerized "Self-Triage" program is recognized as a leading educational tool by the National Association of City and County Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control. The Refugee Health Program accounted for eight percent of the clinics served and produced more than \$215,000, while the dental clinic provided 6,453 services to a Medicaid population under age 21 and educated 7,500 children about oral health.

Everyday, nearly 5,000 visitors use one of nine facilities that comprise the Library Department and 2,858,545 items were distributed. Expansion plans include construction on the 32,000-square-feet South Regional Library in East Naples in FY 08.

57,000 visitors representing every state and 20 foreign countries went to a Collier County Museum this year. The Museum Department hosted a reception for 200 delegates from the Florida Association of Museums as part of the organization's annual conference. The department reached out to more than 10,000 students through school based lectures and field trips. The museum acquired its fourth property - the historic Naples Depot which will serve as a gateway to the museum system.

The Parks and Recreation Department began construction on the North Collier Regional Park and Sun-N-Fun Lagoon waterpark, scheduled to open in mid-2006. The regional park will attract national sport tournaments that will draw tourists and residents. The department maintained more than 1,450 acres of public parks for residents and visitors to enjoy tennis, softball, soccer, child-care camps, playgrounds, sailing, water access, Bicycle Moto-X and skating. Thousands attended Parks-sponsored events such as Snowfest, Halloween-Howl, Child Safety Fair, Country Jam, Senior Games and the summer Ice Cream Social.

The University Extension Services' master gardener volunteers contributed 7,000 hours of public assistance responding to more than 600 residential garden-related calls. Family and Consumer Science Housing faculty helped 28 families purchase homes through the Home Loan Program. More than 185 attended Home Buyers Workshops and 150 clients met with Extension professionals to determine their financial readiness for purchasing a home.

- The Health Department's immunization program gave 14,485 flu vaccinations in FY 05 and distributed state-allocated vaccines, resulting in a total of more than 22,000 vaccines. The School Health Program screened 52,920 for vision, hearing and scoliosis and completed 1,126 referrals through ease management.
- The Human Services Department helped those in need of prescription assistance and other lifestyle necessities. The Retired and Senior Volunteer program's 1,000 volunteers worked with nearly 100 non-profit organizations.
- The Library Department received a \$500,000 state Library Construction Grant for the Golden Gate Library in 2005. The W. R. Rose Foundation and William R. and Myrtle Rose donated \$500,000 to build the Rose Hall meeting noom at the Marco Island Branch. Nearly 600 children from nine library locations read 0,254 pounds of books in the Summer Reading "Read-a-Ton" Program.
- Museum volunteers contributed 7,207 hours of service to the county museum system this year.
- Parks & Recreation carned national accreditation and is one of only 55 in the U.S. to accomplish this prestigious standing. The skate park at East Naples Community Park reopened after the department assumed control of the operation.
- Veteran Services volunteers transported 642 veterans to Veteran Affairs medical appointments in South Florida, donating more than 2,000 hours driving to Fort Myers, Tampa and Miami.

hurricane wilma











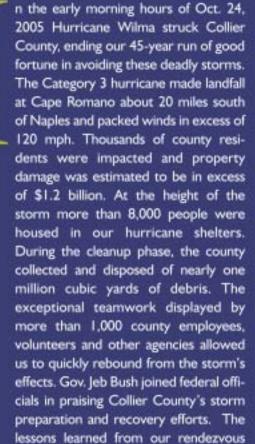












with Wilma will serve us well during

future hurricane seasons.





Public Utilities

he Engineering Department obtained final zoning from the Planning Board and the Board of County Commissioners to proceed with the design of the Northeast Water and Wastewater Facilities with completion of construction slated for 2009. The design for the 12-million-gallons-per-day South County

Water Treatment Plant Expansion was finalized with the construction scheduled for completion in February 2007.

The Operations Department developed a fully functional 10-year financial model that will be the foundation when determining optimal timing for external financing to execute the approximate \$1 billion, 10-year capital improvement program. Staff worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to obtain more than \$1 million in reimbursements for Hurricane Charley storm-related damage.

The Pollution Control and Prevention Department responded to 209 pollution complaints. Staff sampled and tested 52 surface water stations monthly and an additional 10 stations quarterly. The data generated provide longterm trend analysis to monitor the effects of land use and development on the county's surface water quality. Staff monitored more than 20 sites for groundwater and surface water quality as part of the pre-construction monitoring in Phase II of the Picayune Strand Hydrologic Restoration Project, a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program.

The Solid Waste Management Department assisted in renegotiating solid waste collection contracts that introduced "single stream recycling," which allows residents to commingle recyclable items, and weekly curbside electronics collection. A mandatory Non-Residential Recycling Ordinance was implemented for businesses throughout the unincorporated areas of Collier County. Businesses that employ innovative waste reduction and recycling efforts are recognized through the Waste Reduction Award Program. The county's three recycling centers served 66,297 customers in FY 05.

The Water Department distributed 9.1 billion gallons of high quality drinking water, averaging 25 million gallons per day (MGD). A Maximum Day Demand for water occurred on Feb. 21, when the department supplied 30.882 million gallons of water in a single day. February set a new Maximum Month Average Day Demand record of 28.556 MGD. The Annual Consumer Confidence Report, distributed in July, indicated the drinking water supply met all federal and state water quality requirements and standards.

The Wastewater Department converted 5.9 billion gallons of wastewater to high quality irrigation (reclaimed) water. The irrigation quality system is rated first in Florida based on reuse gallons per day per capita, with an annual average of 13.6 MGD. The Wastewater Lab processed 12,800 samples and visited 490 industrial pretreatment customers.

- The 8-MGD South County Regional Water Treatment Plant Reverse Osmosis Expansion was placed into service.
- The 24.1-MGD North County Water Reclamation Facility Liquid Stream Expansion was operational in March 2005.
- Customer service provided to approximately 50,000 water accounts, 56,000 wastewater accounts, and 95,000 solid waste accounts.
- Inspected 497 petroleum storage tanks and 838 facilities that generate or have the potential to generate hazardous waste.
 Permits were issued to 163 trucks to haul sludge in the county. Sixty wastewater treatment plants were inspected.
- More than five billion gallons of high quality irrigation (reclaimed) water were distributed to 4,000 residential customers,
 19 golf courses, four county parks, and miles of roadway medians.
- Delivered 64-gallon recycling carts to more than 90,000 residents to introduce 'single stream' recycling. The County's recycling rate is about 30 percent.
- Expanded the South County Water Reclamation Facility capacity from 9.2 MGD to 16 MGD on schedule and under budget.
- Wastewater Collections maintained 13,392 manholes, more than 800 miles of underground mains/pipes, and 685 wastewater pump/lift stations.
- The Utility Billing and Customer Service Department answered more than 150,000 service calls and billing inquiries, collecting more than 8100 million.

Transportation Services

he Alternative Transportation Modes
Department's Collier Area Transit (CAT) system provided service to 951,601 riders in fiscal year 2005 – a 50 percent increase over 2004. CAT also increased circulation around Marco Island by adding new stops and placed into service Gillig transit buses to increase seating capacity. The new Immokalee Circulator brings CAT's fixed route system to eight transit routes countywide.

The Road and Bridge Maintenance Department resurfaced more than 22 miles of roadways and applied a new paving process called micro-surfacing on an extra 12 miles of secondary roads. In addition, crews completed 4,900 linear feet of stormwater drainage swale improvements and mowed 4,300 acres of county owned right-of-way along roadways and retention ponds.

Utilizing a Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved dedicated funding source, the Stormwater Management Department completed eight of 15 projects to improve fresh water flow through the county for approximately \$7.3 million. Staff secured \$2.77 million in state grants plus an additional \$670,000 to remove Australian pines around the county's canal system along Rock Creek, Neptune and Coronado canals in Golden Gate City. Staff secured a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, after a 14-year process, to begin the \$41 million Lely Area Stormwater Improvement Project.

With continued commitment from the BCC to build needed roadways, the Transportation Engineering and Construction Department completed another 35.6 lane miles. Another 33 lane miles in five additional projects are under construction and five other projects in design will add 39.5 lane miles to the county roadway network. Projects planned to start construction in 2006 include widening the two-lane County Barn Road to four lanes from Davis Boulevard to Rattlesnake Hammock Road; expanding a two-lane segment of Collier Boulevard to six lanes from Golden Gate Boulevard to Immokalee Road; widening a four-lane section of Immokalee Road from I-75 to Collier Boulevard to six lanes; building a new two-lane northern section of Logan Boulevard from Vanderbilt Beach Road to Immokalee Road; and expanding a two-lane segment of Rattlesnake Hammock Road to six lanes from Polly Avenue to Collier Boulevard.

To help move the increasing number of vehicles smoothly on our roads, the Traffic Operations Department continued to implement Phase II of the Automated Traffic Maintenance System, a computerized traffic signal system that consisted of installing 31 miles of conduit and rebuilding two intersections in Immokalee, using mast arms instead of steel wire. The system will coordinate more than 100 signalized intersections for more efficient and effective traffic flow.

- The Landscape Section landscaped more than 17 miles of roadway medians and roadsides along four roads with an additional 13.5 miles of landscaping designed for installation.
- The Pathways Section added sidewalks and pathways to all new arterial road construction. A special project in Immokalee added more than a mile of sidewalks connecting several neighborhoods with a state grant of nearly \$196,000. More than \$98,000 in additional funds were provided by the Immokalee Municipal Services Taxing District to complete the project. Fleven different pathway, greenway and sidewalk projects will start construction in 2006.
- The Transportation Planning Department and Metropolitan Planning Organization completed the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. the Comprehensive Pathways Plan, the 2005 Para-transit Plan and the 2006-2015 Transit Development Plan. Staff developed new road corridors including the Green Boulevard Extension, Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension, the Immokalee Master Plan road improvements, and alternatives east of CR 951. Staff also reviewed 323 site developments for consistency with transportation and concurrency policies and procedures.
- Numerous intersections in the county were upgraded with either new turn lanes or lengthened existing turn lanes. The installation of new traffic signals brought the total signalized intersections in the county to 170.
- The Golden Gate Parkway Grade Separated Overpass Project is expected to be completed by the end of 2006. For additional information, visit the following Web site: www.goldengateoverpass.com.

Clerk of Courts

rovisions in the Florida Constitution established the Office of the Clerk of Courts as a public trustee and set in place at the county level a system of checks and balances to serve the interests of the citizens. The Constitution provides that the Clerk shall be the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk of the County Court, county auditor, county comptroller/treasurer, county recorder and secretary/ex-officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Dwight E. Brock was elected Clerk of Courts in 1992 and continues to serve the citizens of Collier County in this capacity.

The office of the Clerk is a complex organization that performs a wide range of financial management, information management and record keeping for the judicial system and for county government. In a study conducted by the Joint Select Committee on Judicial Personnel of the Legislature, it was calculated that the Clerk's office performs 926 different constitutional functions or duties.

During the past year, the impact of Revision 7 to Article V of the Florida Constitution brought major changes in the operations of the Clerk's office. Numerous hours of data collection, reporting, and budget development were added to an ever increasing case load. The Clerk's office processed 23,229 criminal court cases, 13,785 civil cases and 70,865 traffic cases. Through the diligent efforts of the staff, the office met 100 percent of the required performance measures for timeliness in processing these case filings.

Recognized by the National Center for State Courts as one of the most innovative fine collection programs in the nation, the Clerk's Collection Program continues to collect county fines at a rate of 80 percent within a three-year time period. The program met or exceeded the state required collection rates in the areas of circuit criminal, county criminal, criminal, and civil traffic. During 2006, the Clerk's office will initiate a Point and Pay program that will allow citizens to pay fines and costs via telephone, saving citizens time and travel.



- The Clerk's Office received for the 19th eonsecutive year, the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. In addition, the office received, for the third consecutive year, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from GFOA.
- At the end of fiscal year 2005, the Clerk's office returned \$3,642,275 in excess funds to the state, \$3,620,864 to the BCC operating account in unexpended fees, distributed \$12,585,104 in interest income, and processed 28,788 warrants.
- As the repository of Official Public Records, the Clerk recorded nearly 240,000 documents consisting of over one million pages of public records. The Recording Department implemented all of the modifications required by changes to Florida Statutes. An online system that provides citizen access to the documents in Public Records has proven exceptionally successful and the department continues to image historical records in order to add them to the online system.
- Visit www.elerk.collier.fl.us/ or call 732-2646 for information regarding the Collier County Clerk of Courts office.

Property Appraiser

he Collier County Property Appraiser, Abe Skinner, is one of five elected Constitutional Officers. His office is charged with the duty and responsibility to appraise all of the property in Collier County. This includes real estate and tangible personal property (the equipment, machinery and fixtures) of busi-

nesses. The Property Appraiser prepares the tax roll, but does not determine tax rates or collect taxes, nor does he create value. He only reflects the market sales activity between willing buyers and sellers.

In addition to appraising property, the Property Appraiser must administer homestead exemptions, determine property entitled to capped assessments and agricultural classification, determine the eligibility of certain religious, charitable, educational and municipal property for tax exemption, as well as administer widow, widowers and disability exemptions. The Property Appraiser also maintains current and up-to-date legal descriptions and ownership tax maps of all real property in Collier County.

The Collier County Property Appraiser is required by law to assess all property within the county each January 1. This task is closely monitored by the Florida Department of Revenue that, by law, establishes rules and regulations that must be followed by the Property Appraiser. In Collier County this means that the Property Appraiser determines the market value for nearly 245,000 individual parcels of land and buildings, including thousands of acres of citrus, pasture and farmland, as well as over 30,000 tangible personal property accounts.

For fiscal year 2006, the Property Appraiser's office submitted an assessment roll to the Florida Department of Revenue with a total market value of over \$78.2 billion and a taxable value of nearly \$61.5 billion. This was an increase of 19.9 percent in taxable value above FY 05, including new construction over \$2.1 billion.

In 2005, the average market value of a single-family home in Collier County increased to \$473,630 from \$398,228 in 2004. There has been an increase of 130 percent in the market value of property in Collier County since 2000. There were more than 3,000 new residential homes built in 2005, nearly double the number of new homes built in 1995. Furthermore, the average square footage of a new home has increased about 10 percent during the same period, and nearly one third of the new homes built in 2005 were greater than 3,000 square feet.



- Staff added a full call center to better manage telephone calls into the office. In the past year, staff answered 42.95i telephone calls.
- Seven locations opened for homestead applications during January and February for the convenience of new homeowners including Saturdays at the Coastland Mall. In addition, staff saved the county hundreds of thousands of tax dollars by investigating and removing fraudulent homesteads.
- 3.894 newly completed condominium units were added to the assessment roll with a total new construction value over \$963 million and there was an increase in overall condo assessments of nearly 19 percent. These parcels account for about 32 percent of the assessment roll, or nearly \$25 billion in value. In 2005, there were nearly \$8,000 condo and co-op units in Collier County.
- Staff returned over \$532,000 to the Board of County Commissioners and Independent Taxing Districts. The Property Appraiser's budget prepared and adopted fiscal year 2005 only increased a nominal 4.47 percent following a budget last year that had been reduced by 3.08 percent.
- Visit www.eollierappraiser.com for more information regarding the Collier County Property Appraiser's office or call 774-8141.

Sheriff



ollier County Sheriff Don Hunter and his staff persistently seek innovative ways to predict and react to the needs of this growing county. Staff continues to deploy creative approaches to combat crime, and as a result, residents continue to enjoy living in a county that maintains a low crime rate.

The agency accomplished numerous goals in 2005 including the completion of the Naples Jail expansion, a state-of-the-art facility constructed to provide for an increase in the jail's total rated capacity from 588 to 1,100 inmates. The older section of the jail is currently undergoing renovation to update and reconfigure the space for optimum use. Although the expansion of the Naples Jail Center has increased total inmate housing, the jail has already experienced an inmate population exceeding maximum capacity.

The Golden Gate Estates District was created in 2005 to provide service to approximately 35,000 citizens in rapidly developing communities east of 951. Nineteen members are currently assigned in the district to promote higher visibility and efficient patrol deployment. The district is temporarily housed within the Big Corkscrew Fire Department until a new facility can be constructed in 2007.

In January 2005, the Collier County Sheriff's Office received federal grant funds that led to the creation of a Human Trafficking Unit. The unit works to educate citizens, service providers, government and judicial agencies on how to identify Human Trafficking victims in our community. The Human Trafficking Unit spearheaded the creation of The Collier County Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Together the Human Trafficking Unit and the Coalition are making strides to expose and eliminate human trafficking from our community.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office became the host agency for the South Florida Alien Smuggling Task Force in 2005. This multi-agency task force involves agents from the Department of Homeland Security who conduct joint coastal defense marine patrols and human smuggling investigations between Cuba and the South Florida coastline. The Task Force operates from the designated federal satellite office at the Sheriff's Marco Island Substation.

Sheriff Hunter's office offers a variety of programs to educate the public in ways to improve neighborhood safety and learn about law enforcement presence within the community. Staff sponsors crime prevention programs, neighborhood watch, construction theft prevention programs, summer camps, youth programs, junior deputies and explorers.



- The Collier County Sheriffs Office offers free fingerprinting every Tuesday and Thursday from noon until 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Sheriffs Office, Building J. located in the Collier County Government Center at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples.
- The Sheriffs Office gun range is open to the public on the second and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until noon. A Civilian Firearms Safety Course is also offered at the range. Both the range and the course are offered free of charge. For information on either service you can call the range at 348-9186.
- The Citizens' Academy, a tuition-free, 34 hour course open to the public offers insight into all aspects of Sheriffs Office operations featuring presentations from members of the agency, opportunities to ride along with deputies and a visit to the gun range. Applications for the Citizens' Academy are available at the training facility, district substations and the Sheriff's Office Headquarters or you may call 793-9432.
- In 2005, the Sheriff's Office was awarded first place for their Click It or Ticket Florida eampaign, during the 2004 Florida Law Enforcement Challenge,
- Visit www.colliersherifl.org for information regarding employment, erime prevention, crime information, organizational structure, our history and more, or call 774-4434-

Supervisor of Elections

upervisor of Elections Jennifer J. Edwards and her staff are committed to setting high standards while serving the needs of residents, and are responsible for conducting elections as required by law, ensuring the integrity of the voter registration data base and assisting candidates and potential candidates with qualifying requirements, filing and reporting and providing voter lists. The office also contracts with municipalities to conduct their elections, promotes voter education and provides information and statistics on voter registration.

Year-round voter education outreach efforts, targeting all areas of the community, continued to provide a vast range of educational activities through involvement in community programs and events, speaking engagements, voter registration drives, voting machine demos, educational programs, promotional materials, mock elections in elementary schools, high schools and colleges, press releases and public service announcements. For the third year, the Supervisor of Elections Office conducted the Sunshine State Young Readers Award election in nine schools and 1,240 students voted for their favorite book. And, for the first time, elections were conducted in which 422 kindergarten through second grade students voted for their favorite book during the Florida Reading Association program. Such efforts have increased voter awareness, voter registration and voter participation.

In August, Ms. Edwards received the Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) designation, the highest professional achievement available to elections and voter registration officials. Of more than 21,000 elections and voter registration officials throughout America, she is one of only 320 who have achieved the CERA status. CERA courses range from ethics, to voter registration and elections law, planning, communications, and voter participation, among others. The intent of the program is to professionalize the management of voter registration and elections administration while promoting and preserving public trust in the democratic process.

Staff continued to process new voter registration application forms, distribute voter information cards within two weeks of processing completed registration forms and update voter records. On the average, staff processed about 1,200 new voter registration applications each month and made nearly 40,000 updates and changes to voter records. Staff also conducted the general registration process known as List Maintenance. This biennial process, required in election law with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was designed to protect the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of accurate and current voter registration records.

'05





- The office begins preparing and creating the framework for the election cycle a year in advance. Polling sites are secured and poll workers are recruited year round for the 2006 election year, for Election Day and during early voting. Throughout the year, the Elections Office encouraged civic clubs, organizations and businesses to Adopt-A-Precinct for the 2006 election cycle. In 2004, 33 of the 93 precincts were adopted through the program.
- The Florida Public Relations Association presented the Supervisor of Elections Office with two awards, a Golden Image Award and a Judges Award, for its tray liner/placement community outreach partnerships.
- The Elections Office is securing additional polling sites and changing existing sites as population shifts occur from continued growth in the county. Each odd numbered year, election officials scout potential sites to determine which sites meet the needs of the community and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Existing sites are revisited to verify ADA compliancy.
- Visit www.colliervotes.com for more information regarding the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office or call 774-8450.

Tax Collector

ollier County Tax Collector Guy L. Carlton has been accountable for the collection of the single largest tax collected in Florida, the ad valorem tax, and additional local taxes including occupational license taxes and those taxes imposed by state agencies. His office also collects the taxes generated from

visitors residing on a short-term basis. More than \$10 million has been collected this year and distributed to the Board of County Commissioners and other agencies to renourish and promote Collier County.

Throughout his 25 years of service to Collier County, Guy L. Carlton has remained the driving force in charge of budgeting, organizing, coordinating, planning, and implementing policies. Additionally, the Tax Collector's staff is involved with matters regarding the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Revenue, and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Implementation of the "Fast Title" service for on-the-spot title transfer for both motor vehicles and vessels is a successful alternative for taxpayers. This convenience is available at the main office located at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail in Naples. Similarly, occupational licenses, in conjunction with county ordinances, can be obtained at the Community Development and Environmental Services' building located at 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive.

The Clerk of Courts has a space in the Marco Island office to assist taxpayers with related transactions open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The City Hall satellite, with services provided though the courtesy of the City of Naples, operates from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Golden Gate office remains open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., providing a full service opportunity for related activities for both the Tax Collector's Office and the Clerk of Courts.

The Pelican Bay office, courtesy of the Fifth Third Bank, operates on the same schedule as the bank. The Greentree office on Immokalee Road operates from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., providing both tax collection and partial driver license services. Similarly, the Clerk of Courts offers availability and convenience. The Immokalee satellite office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tax collection has been streamlined to return \$62 million of unused fees to Collier County taxpayers. Service, pride, and integrity have always been the cornerstones of this office. Those qualities continue to exemplify dedication to the office and the taxpayers.





- Satellite offices are a vital network of support and communication. Collier County requires offices from the Everglades to Immokalee, to meet the unique needs of the communities.
- To continue the high level of service, a satellite facility opened in the Shops of Eagle Creek in East Naples, providing services to one of the fastest growing areas and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- The Airport-Pulling Road Driver License Office sets records serving an average 400 citizens per day and breaks new ground in administering and issuing the Florida Drivers License. All testing is done at this facility only.
- The cooperative efforts of the Tax Collector, Clerk of Courts, and Sheriffs Office have maintained the highest level of security and professionalism. In fiscal year 2005, the team at Airport-Pulling Road enabled law enforcement personnel to make 56 felony arrests, 403 misdemeanor arrests, and issue 608 citations.
- All offices of the Tax Collector provide notary services when related transactions require specific documentation. Language translation services are also available.
- Visit www.colliertax.com for more information or call 774-8171.

collier county at a glance

As one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, Collier County has a permanent population of more than 300,000, with the peak season population expanding to nearly 442,000. The county's land area covers 2,025.5 square miles.

Historical Population Numbers Housing Units, '02 160.844

2,883 1930 1940 6,488 1950 1060 38,040 1970 1980 85,971 1990 2000 251,377 2005 307,242

Average Resident Age 41.7

Median Family Income \$65,000

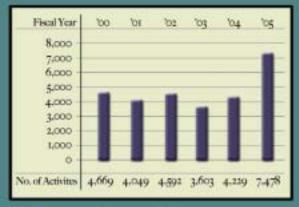
	Oct '04	Sept 05
Labor Force	136,962	142.592
Employment	131.134	137.243
Unemployment	5.387	5-349
Unemployment F	late 43	3.8

Collier Area Transit Ridership

FYO	97-571
FY '02	324,037
FY 03	475,820
FY 04	627,824
FY 05	951,601

Voter Registration Statistics as of Dec. 31, 2005

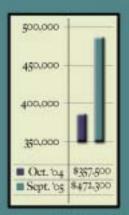
Republican	94.125
Democrat	43,401
Other	6,815
Nonpartisan	35-520
Total	179,861



Building Review & Permitting Annual Issued ResidentialPermits



All Types Building Permits Issued



Collier County Median Sales Price Single-Family, Existing Homes



Collier Country Transportation Five Year Work Program FY '05/'06-'09/10



phone directory

Collier County Board of County Commissioners

774-8097 • www.colliergov.net/bec/

Airport Authority • 642-7878 • www.collieraviation.com

County Attorney's Office • 774-8400

County Manager's Office . 774-8383

www.colliergov.net/countymgr

Pelican Bay Services • 597-1749

Administrative Services • 732-2700

Facilities Management • 774-8380

· www.colliergov.net/facmgmt

Fleet Management • 793-5655

Human Resources • 774-8460 • http://jobs.colliergov.net

Information Technology • 774-8794

Purchasing • 774-8407 • www.colliergov.net/purchasing

Risk Management • 774-8461

Community Development and Environmental Services.

403-2400 • www.colliergov.net/commdev

Building Review and Permitting • 403-2400

www.colliergov.net/bldgrev

CDES Operations # 403-2400

Code Enforcement • 403-2440 • www.colliergov.net/codeenf

Comprehensive Planning • 403-2400

www.colliergov.net/compplanning

Engineering 403-2400

www.colliergov.net/engineeringservices

Environmental Services • 403-2400

www.colliergov.net/environmental

Financial Administration and Housing • 403-2330

www.colliergov.net/osh/

Zoning & Land Development Review • 403-2476

http://www.colliergov.net/zoning

Management Offices • 774-8999

Bureau of Emergency Services • 774-8000

www.collierem.org

Emergency Medical Services • 774-8459

www.colliercountyems.org

Collier Information Center (CIC) • Hurricane Number 774-8444

Communication and Customer Relations • 774-8848

www.colliergov.net/communications

General Information/Switchboard • 774-8999

Office of Management and Budget • 774-8973

www.colliergov.net/budget

Tourism • 403-2384 • www.paradisecoast.com

Public Services • 774-8468

Domestic Animal Services • 530-7387 • www.collierpets.com

Health • 774-8200 • www.doh.state.fl.us/chdcollier

Human Services • 774-8154

www.eolliergov.net/humanservices

Library • 593-3511 • www.collier-lib.org

Museum • 774-8476 • www.colliergov.net/eemuseum

Parks and Recreation • 353-0404 • www.collierparks.com University Extension • 353-4244 • http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu

Veteran Services • 774-8448

www.colliergov.net/veteranservices

Public Utilities • 732-2575

www.colliergov.net/pud

Engineering Services • 530-5335

www.colliergov.net/engineeringservices

Pollution Control • 732-2502

www.colliergov.net/pud/d/pollentrl

Solid Waste Management • 732-2508

· www.colliercountyrecycles.com

Utility Billing and Customer Service 403-2380

www.colliergov.net/pud/d/ubcs

Wastewater Department • 594-1731

www.colliergov.net/pud/d/wastew

Water Department . 530-6245

www.colliergov.net/pud/d/water

Transportation Services • 774-8192

www.colliergov.net/transadmin

Alternative Transportation Modes • 774-8192

www.colliergov.net/transadmin/atm

Road Maintenance • 774-8924

www.colliergov.net/transadmin/roadbridge

Stormwater Management • 774-8192

www.colliergov.net/stormwater

Traffic Operations • 774-8192

www.colliergov.net/transadmin/traffic

Transportation Engineering & Construction Management

774-8192 • www.colliergov.net/transadmin/tecm

Transportation Planning/Metropolitan Planning Organization

- 774-8192 www.colliergov.net/transadmin/planning
- www.colliercountympo.com/

Collier County Constitutional Officers

Clerk of Courts • 732-2646 • www.clerk.collier.fl.us

Property Appraiser • 774-8141 • www.collierappraiser.com

Sheriff • 793-9300 • www.colliersheriff.org

Supervisor of Elections • 774-8450 • www.colliervotes.com

Tax Collector • 774-8172 • www.colliertax.com



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