



Civic Chatline

Be Aware! Be Alert! Be Informed!
Founded in March 1962, CCCA is the Cape's oldest civic organization



Volume X Issue VIII

Remember to Vote September 15

August 2009

At the last Civic meeting May 26 Chief Rob Petrovich & Council member Eric Grill

CC Civic Association would like to express our thanks to Cape Coral Police Chief Robert Petrovich and Council member Eric Grill who were our featured speakers at our last meeting. We really appreciate the personal time that our city officials give up on behalf of organizations like Civic in order to help inform the public. We applaud them for their time and willingness in helping Civic disseminate information to the public. For Chief Petrovich he has spoken to Civic previously.



As we read in the news media since May, City Council has told the city manager to cut another \$10 million in spending from the budget earlier this year. Petrovich was forced to eliminate \$1.3 million from his \$35.8 million budget. Petrovich said he had already pulled out money for any new equipment — including police vehicles — and cut the training budget. "I'm decimated as far as I'm concerned," Petrovich said. This leads Civic to wonder if police cruisers can qualify for the federally funded "cash for clunkers" program.



For Council member Grill this was his first time since being elected in 2007. We hope that our City and County elected officials understand and are aware that Civic is willing to open our meetings to them anytime they feel the need to address our members and guests. It's been an open invitation.

EARLY VOTING

LEE COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES FOR THE 2009 PRIMARY ELECTIONS to be held:
September 15, 2009

- > Saturday, September 5, 2009, Tues. September 8th - thru Sat. September 12th prior to Primary Election
- > Monday thru Friday - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- > Saturday - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Cape Coral Branch Office
1031 SE 9th Pl.#3 - Cape Coral 33990
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Candidates Forum at Civic Tues. August 25

With elections now taking place every year, federal, state and county in even years and municipal elections in odd years, Civic once again will present its annual candidates forum. Once again former Council member Alex LePera has agreed to be the moderator and we thank her.

Civic has invited all of the candidates to the forum even though we will focus on those candidates who will be in the primary election on September 15. These will be the candidates for Mayor and City Council District 6. The two top vote getters in each of these races will then go on to face each other in the General election on Nov. 3.

In the mayoral election incumbent Jim Burch will face former two term mayor Roger Butler and political newcomers Stephen Lovejoy and John Sullivan. Robert Pizzolongo previously ran for mayor in 1996 when he received 5% of the vote in the Primary election. We apologize that Civic does not have a picture of Mr. Pizzolongo.

Mayoral Election



Burch Butler Lovejoy Pizzolongo Sullivan

In the District 6 race there is no incumbent running since Tim Day is term limited, meaning whomever is elected will be a new face on city council. Candidate Frank Antos previously ran for council in March 2005, he received 19% of the vote in the Primary election. Candidates John Cataldi and Kevin McGrail have not previously run for elective office in Cape Coral. The top two vote getters in the Sept. 15 Primary will



Antos Cataldi McGrail

face each other in the Nov. 3 general election.

There will be two other races that will be decided in the general election.

District 1 will pit Jim Martin against Marty McClain. District 4 incumbent Dolores Bertolini will face Chris Chulakes-Leetz. Candidates run in city wide elections.



Martin McClain Bertolini Leetz



Politics in Paradise

A look at bureaucrats and elected officials

Political Expediency?

It's been no secret that Council member Tim Day is often found in the PnP section of Chatline. Some people would question and ask why? Politics in Paradise has long featured comments by our bureaucrats and elected officials and Tim has said & done a lot of controversial things during his term in office.



Here's the latest which was reported in the New -Press on July 29 after council voted 4-3 to reconsider the SW 6/7 UEP. "There are people that are going to be so angry," Councilman Tim Day said. "She's not going to get re-elected." Bertolini's is one of three seats up for re-election this November, including the mayor's spot. Outrage building over the utility expansions, Day noted, could influence the election. So even if the council moves ahead with the expansion, the next group to take office could kill the project, throwing property owners, city officials and about 300 contractors into disarray. "It's getting more dangerous to start this thing up when it's getting close to an election," Day said. "You're looking at two months (from the Aug. 31 vote) and a new council is going to be sitting there."

CM applies for County Manager Position

OK so Terry Stewart has applied for the vacant county manager position. Many have said they can't blame him, especially when the 2009 city elections, has several candidates making the continued employment of this city employee a corner stone of their campaigns for election.



The desire to lay blame and vilify the City Manager, by some candidates and some council members, as being the root of all evil in this city is just plain wrong. We suggest that these people read and understand the City Charter and our form of government. We operate as a council/city manager form of government and the city manager works for council.

At a recent city council meeting, CM Grill brought the issue before council and asked Stewart why is he applying for the county manager's job. Maybe Mr. Grill forgot the unsatisfactory review he gave the city manager this year.

As of Aug. 17, Terry is on the short list. Congratulations!

Stilwell still in the news

On May 3 Don Stilwell, Lee County's longest tenured county manager was allowed to *resign without cause*. In the process he picked up a healthy severance package worth about \$125,000.+ from the taxpayers in salary, health benefits, accrued vacation and sick time, not to mention an extra week's salary while deciding how to "go out."



It's bad enough to be remembered as the guy who got dumped for passing porn around from his computer but he then compounds it by looking for his unemployment check. What a guy!



May President's message August 2009

Dear Members & Friends –

I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer and have enjoyed the two month hiatus from Civic meetings in June and July! The current situation should spark your interest though and have you anxious to get back to the Civic meetings.

The meeting on August 25 will be a Candidate Forum and will feature those candidates running for Mayor, and District 6. Former council member Alex LePera will, once again, be our moderator for the forum and I would like to thank her so much for agreeing to do this! Once again the candidates will provide the baked goods and there will be an opportunity to meet and talk to them at the end of the meeting.

As with the previous election the topics upper most in my mind and I'm sure most of yours, will be the UEP, the budget and the tax situation. The Civic Executive Board is preparing questions they would like to have the candidates answer during the forum and we would like to have your questions as well. Time permitting there will be an open mike for questions from the floor, but we would like you to send us your questions in advance, if possible. This will enable us to have a variety of questions and avoid duplication. Questions can be sent to CapeCoralCivic@yahoo.com and we will get them into the program.

Regarding the latest status of the UEP du jour it is currently OFF, but standby there is another vote coming up at the August 31 council meeting to reconsider that vote. You may well want to plan to attend that Council meeting.

In September our speaker will be Steve Brown, Dist. 1 Board Member, Lee Memorial Health System. We are looking forward to hearing his presentation and, hopefully, finding out the plans for the Cape Coral Hospital. We are also hoping to learn where heart care and other specialties will be available for our members. Be thinking of the questions you would like to ask Mr. Brown at that meeting.

Then in October we are back to the Cape Coral City Election with a "Survivors Night". The meeting format will be the same as the Candidate Forum this month. So make sure you have the questions you would like the candidates to answer and send them to us at the above e-mail address.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the Candidate Forum on Tuesday, August 25, 2009!

Sincerely,

Treva M. Devers, President

"The Association is for the betterment of Cape Coral"

Remember to Vote Sept. 15

If you don't vote in the September 15, Primary Election your candidate might not be there for the November 3, General Election



SW 6/7 UEP to be considered again Aug. 31

Robert's Rules of Order: To Consider a Question a Second Time. (b) If a motion has been adopted, or rejected, or postponed indefinitely, and afterwards one or more members have changed their views from the prevailing to the losing side, and it is thought that by further discussion the assembly may modify or reverse its action, the proper course is for one who voted with the prevailing side to move to *reconsider* the vote on the question. **This can be done on the day the vote to be reconsidered is taken, or on the next succeeding day of the same session.**

Council Rules: Motion For Reconsideration. When a question has been decided, either in the affirmative or the negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted with the prevailing side to move its reconsideration, provided that such a motion is made either on the same day or on or before the next regular scheduled Council meeting. A member who did not vote on a question may also move reconsideration with the same time limitation.

As most of us are probably aware the vote on July 20 to move the UEP forward for N 1-8 (water only) and the motion not to move with SW 6/7 both failed on 4-3 votes.



The issue with SW 6/7 has been going on now for more than a year when on June 9, 2008 council voted 4-4. SW 6/7 has been voted on several times since last year when then Mayor Feichthaler cast the deciding vote to kill the project.

The controversy on SW 6/7 was extended once again on July 27 when under Administrative Discussion, Council member Bertolini made a motion to reconsider the vote from July 20th. Her, motion came after no one, at her urging, was willing to discuss what the consequences of the failure to move forward with SW 6/7 would have on the existing 53,000 utility rate payers or what alternatives council would suggest.

Now some would ask, why did she bring it back a week later? Technically the meeting on July 27th was an extension of the meeting on July 20 (which adjourned after 1 am). It was the same meeting. Cape Coral has often seen motions to reconsider even when they did not conform with the "rules."

Cape Coral PD Project Lifesaver

On a more upbeat note Civic would like to acknowledge Council member Bertolini's advocacy for Project Lifesaver.

This is a program designed to track and locate, via GPS, individuals who wander and become lost. Those affected are the elderly who are victims of Alzheimers and Dementia, even to the youngest in our community who are afflicted with Down syndrome and Autism.



There are no boundaries, and no one is immune. Because wandering is such a common symptom of Alzheimer's disease, anyone diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder is at risk of wandering at any time, even when wandering has never been a problem in the past.

For more Project Lifesaver information please contact:
Cape Coral Police Department
Martha LaForest, Crime Prevention Coordinator
239-242-3710 Mlafores@capecoral.net

Historical Tidbits

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status.. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell thus, someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer..

Now, whoever said History was boring !

Civic Chatline



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Cape Coral Civic Association

P.O. Box 152171

Cape Coral, FL 33915 - 2171



Next General Meeting: Tues. Aug. 25 @ 7 p.m. CC Yacht Club

Chatline is a publication of the Civic Assn. and intended solely for the education and enjoyment of its members
Civic Web Page: <http://www.capecoralcivicassociation.org>

2009-10 CCCA Board of Directors

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Dist: 1	Gloria Tate	gtate@capecoral.net
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Cape Citizen's Action Center: 574-0425
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