

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR January 16 AT 9:00 a.m. AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING, 2390 TAMiami TRAIL NORTH, 34103

PRESENTATION BY State Representative Kathleen Passidomo..

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIER COUNTY PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

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COLLIER COUNTY FREEDOM MEMORIAL

For several years we have watched reluctantly as work stalled on the Freedom Memorial, a cornerstone of the Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park on Golden Gate Parkway, East of Goodlette Road and near the Northern end of the newly opened Gordon River Greenway. Since breaking ground in 2009, intended to salute 9/11 victims as well as past and present veterans and first-responders, the project has encountered obstacles including the recession and the lack of federal tax-deductible status for would be donors.

Now, backed by new civic resolve and a lead contractor, Todd Gates, donating much of the construction work, the Freedom Memorial, designed by Naples resident Gerald A. Larue, is back in the spotlight and seeking donations to complete this work.

Located as it is at a key gateway to our communities it is to our collective undying shame that we have not yet found the wherewithal to complete this major memorial undertaking to the memory of the many men and women who have given their all to this country from our community.

There are three ways you can help:

1. Buying memorial pavers for \$100 and \$300 engraved with the names of

donors or loved one's to be installed as permanent parts of the Freedom Memorial.

2. Making donations. Donors of \$1,000 or more will have their names permanently engraved on plaques at the Freedom Memorial. The \$100,000 donation level is aptly named Hero.
3. Buying tickets or sponsorship to a February 20 patriotic presentation: - Remember, Respect, Honor—Forever! - at Freedom Park, to, officials hope and trust will put fundraising over the top. Tickets are \$250 and \$500, and include dinner at Schula's Steakhouse.

Please join this concerted effort to complete our own Freedom Memorial, a place to reverently remember the sacrifices made by so many members of our communities, a visible symbol of our community's patriotism.

For more information:

Phone 239-254-3169;

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Special points of interest:

- Freedom Memorial
- Community Challenges
- Picturesque Greenway

THE CCPC CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



2014 was an eventful year for the Collier County Presidents Council. It was a year of change and advancement.

We changed and clarified our purpose in bringing meaningful programs to our members, a mixture of prominent speakers and workshops all designed to provide meaningful information in a form that would be, and was, of material benefit to us all with the responsibility for managing our communities with an eye to best performance for least cost.

We commenced with a heavily attended public forum on the progress of Cable Television and the options available.

This was followed by a great review by Dr. Doug (Dougbug) Caldwell of the Florida Collier

County Extension Service, of the impact of invasive insects and their management.

February was a budgeting workshop followed in March by a presentation from Mr. John Cox, President & CEO of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce as our guest speaker.

April Mr. Nick Casalanguida, Administrator of the

Collier County Growth Management Division where he astounded us with the vast amount of County news he can drum up from memory and knowledge.

May followed with a workshop on lakes management and June brought the Collier County Task Force on Cybercrime led by Sherriff Kevin Rambosk, accompanied by Carrie Kerskie, a Cybercrimes Investigator, and Lt. Chad Parker of Collier County Sherriff's Office with responsibility for pursuing identity theft, an enlightening and helpful presentation.

Members are encouraged to share their successes and the things that perhaps did not work as planned.

Following a Summer sabbatical we resumed in September with presentations and interpretations of the many aspects of Legislative changes from the Community Advocacy Network (CAN) organization.

The remainder of the year is reported in this publication.

As I look forward, my feeling is that we lived up to our stated goals with outstanding programs and the challenge is to continue this trend and improve and expand the services we provide to our membership and to expand the Council membership from the many communities that have yet to enjoy the benefits of membership.

CHALLENGES TO OUR COMMUNITIES

We have witnessed the ongoing battle between an east side community and the insistent demands, twists and turns taken

by the Racetrac company in its attempt to install a massive gas station in close proximity to an established and vital residential community.

We are also witness to the fight the homeowners are having to establish their position which is basically to protect their homes from contaminants and loss of property values should the gas station be allowed to proceed.

As of this writing Racetrac have withdrawn their request for a zoning change and have modified their approach by reducing the proposed number of pumps to be built should this go through—and the battle continues.

It brings to mind a recent proposal where the county planned a Hazardous Material Collection site in front of an East Naples elementary school which was subsequently voted down by the County Commission after strenuous objection by many representatives from surrounding communities.

These are just examples of possible ways your President's Council can assist Community Associations to fight such incursions—if your association is a member by representing all member associations in expressing collective opinions and positions to the County Commission who ultimately have to make the hard decisions.

You can fight the battle on your own or utilize the strong support and voice available to you by becoming a Presidents Council member

RECENT PRESENTATIONS



Mr. Dennis (Duke) Vasey, Chairman of the Collier Water and Soil Conservation Commission was our Guest Speaker at our October 10 Meeting.

Mr. Vasey is an impressive speaker and dedicated to water conservation as his presentation showed.

His subject at this meeting was Lake Erosion and how to prevent it occurring. He presented his impressive personal background, a discourse on how and why he became chairman of the Collier County Soil and Water Conservation Committee which displayed the origins of his dedication to the issue of water conservation.

Lake erosion is a problem on all lakes throughout the county to a greater or lesser degree. With the high rainfall in the 2014 Summer many lakeside communities experienced unusual flooding as the retention ponds and lakes did their job of absorbing the excess runoff, as they are designed to do. Whilst the waters receded they left a soft residue which wave action and wind took advantage of and erosion resulted.

Mr. Vasey expressed his experience that erosion can be controlled. He stressed most people with lakeside lots were not inclined to take the most efficient action which is to populate the shores with Littoral Plantings yet such a process has spectacular effect not only in preventing erosion but also an acknowledged and proven ability to ensure the high standards of water quality we should all be aiming to achieve in our lakes. He stated that careful selection of littoral plants can in fact beautify lake shores even as it does its work on maintaining water quality standards. He expressed his great concern that as our population grows the water quality suffers without strong action which he ensures is the standard in his community. A great and informative presentation.

Membership in the Collier County Presidents Council is open to representatives from any Collier Community Association. A small annual fee assists the council in presenting these many programs of benefit to communities.



Our November guest speaker was retiring County Commissioner Fred Coyle. Commissioner Coyle thanked the Collier County Presidents Council

for inviting him to speak before the council. Mr. Coyle commenced to describe his career beginning as a U.S. Army Colonel and decorated Viet Nam veteran through his years beginning in 1998 as an elected Naples City Council member through his appointment by Governor Bush as a Collier County Commissioner. He has served multiple terms as a Collier County Commissioner. He highlighted his accomplishments while serving as Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency, member of the Community Planning Organization, and as a liaison to both the County Productivity Committee and the Green Space Committee. He proudly described his work as one of the principle architects of the County's plan to more effectively manage growth. Mr. Coyle asked if there were any questions. He was asked and answered all questions. When asked what he does going forward, Mr. Coyle concluded that going forward he is retired. He added that this would be his last official act as a commissioner because as of November 18, 2014 he will no longer be a commissioner!



At our December 12, 2014 meeting our guests were the executive of the Community Association Institute (CAI) led by Mr. Rob Samouce, President; Robert Podvan, Executive Director (outgoing); Howard Ames, Executive Director (incoming). They presented the motivation and actions of the CAI in dealing at the legislative level on all matters concerning community management and representing community association interests as a support body.

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We're on the web!

www.colliercountypresidentscouncil.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE

You may have noticed all the recent activity along the Golden Gate Parkway between Airport and Goodlette Roads on the South side of the road. You may have also noted a west-bound cut through the median on the North side of the Parkway which enables a left turn into what is now open as the Gordon River Greenway.

Drive down this roadway to reach an ample parking area then be prepared to take a picturesque stroll over the Gordon River and along exquisitely designed parkway right here in the middle of Naples.

Ultimately, this Greenway will join the planned Baker Park with a unique opportunity to enjoy natural, green surroundings here in the heart of

Naples.

Baker Park is the subject currently of sticker shock as estimated costs are hugely in excess of those planned, largely due to the park site being established on top of an earlier horticultural landfill with all the risks associated with subsidence and collapse. The Gordon River Bridge and boardwalks cost \$2.4 million and was not included in the original budget and there is much ongoing discussion into the design and content of the park as it develops.

We will see many city meetings before these problems can be resolved but even at its minimum the ability to enjoy a nature walk from Golden Gate Parkway through almost to US41 east is a huge plus.

Naples City Council cap their contribution at around \$7.5 Million, the rest coming from donations.