

# COLLIER COUNTY PRESIDENTS COUNCIL C O N N E C T I O N

July 2011

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gulf Shore Association of  
Condominiums

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Administrator

## BIG CYPRESS BASIN BUDGET CUT

The South Florida Water Management District is the largest of the five water management districts in Florida. It has 7.7 million residents in sixteen districts in central and south Florida. The other four districts are: Southwest Florida WMD; St. Johns WMD; Suwannee River WMD; and Northwest Florida WMD.

In the Spring, Governor Rick Scott, to fulfill his campaign promise to stimulate job growth and the economy, signed into law a bill which will cut the property tax revenue received by the five Florida water management districts. As a result, Big Cypress Basin, formed in 1976 to serve local Collier County needs, will face a reduction of around \$4.3 million in revenue for the coming fiscal year.

Management of the Big Cypress Basin for SFWMD is shared by part of Monroe County. Together they "manage a network of 162 miles of primary canals, 46 water control structures, and four pumps providing flood control during the wet season and protecting regional water supplies and environmental resources from over-drainage during the dry season." (Big Cypress Basin profile) The Basin, with autonomy over its management, presently has a separate tax rate and budget, plus its own employees.

In preparation for submitting a budget by August 1, 2011, the Big Cypress Board adopted a preliminary tax rate 32% less than in fiscal year 2010-2011. The recently submitted new budget for the entire South Florida Water Management District indicates it will probably save about \$45 million in personnel costs and another \$58 million in operating costs when it is approved.

Despite discussion regarding fears Big Cypress Basin would lose its autonomy, its budget was approved on July 14, 2011 and has been forwarded to the West Palm Beach headquarters of the SFWMD for examination. Final votes on the budgets and the property tax rates for both entities will be reviewed by the legislative committee and Governor Scott in September.

If accepted, both budgets are scheduled to go into effect for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2011.

**Sandy Linneman, Editor**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**CCDC meetings are held from 9:00 am until 10:30 am**

**Friday, August 12, 2011**

**Friday, September 9, 2011**

**Friday, October 14, 2011**

**Collier County Sheriff, Kevin Rambosk**

**Collier County Supervisor of Elections, Jennifer Edwards**

**Florida State Senator, Garrett Richter**

### 2010 COLLIER COUNTY PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aqualane Shores Association

Ave Maria POA, Inc.

Banyan Woods Master HOA

Bear's Paw Country Club, Inc.

Berkshire Lakes Master  
Association

Briarwood POA

Calusa Bay Master  
Association

Champions of Lely Resort  
Condominium

East Naples Civic Association

Golden Gates Area Civic  
Association

Gulf Shore Assoc. of  
Condominiums

Harbour Drive/Gulf Shore  
Assoc.

Imperial Golf Estates

Island HOA

Kings Lake HOA

Lakewood Community  
Services

## THE 'RIGHT THING'

Sally Kirk, believing in doing the 'Right Thing,' has participated in the Longshore Lake Homeowner's Association in many capacities in the eighteen years she has been a resident.

Serving as President of the community's association for two years, she is now in her second year as Secretary. Her hard work and capable judgment also can be documented through her involvement as Membership Chair of Longshore Lake's 188 member Women's Club and as Committee Chair of its Landscape Committee for a number of years.

Sally is particularly proud of the year she was President of Longshore Lake when it was selected by the Community Association Institute as 'Community Association of The Year.' In addition, she feels a great deal of pride in the Fertilization Ordinance she initiated which cleaned up the 88 acre lake in the community.

Sally and her husband came to Naples for the same reasons so many of us have. The beautiful and clean environment, warm weather, low taxes, plus minimal crime and traffic held great appeal. Born in Washington, D.C. she had lived in northern Virginia and Maryland for most of her life before deciding to move to Naples permanently.

Considering her civic enthusiasm, she had a long and fulfilling career working as a Detective in the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C. Her focus was on high profile burglaries and, then, on 'white collar' crime. Sally's role gave her the opportunity to do the 'right thing,' always her first preference.

In her spare time (!) here in Naples, she trained at the University of Florida Extension Service to become a Master Gardener, a long time avocation. She has volunteered at the Naples Botanical Garden installing plants and loves to 'dig in the dirt.' She continues turn to gardening for enjoyment.

Sally believes in respecting her neighbors, and in following rules; truly a principled person. Despite her 'tendency,' she does say, to speak her mind, it is someone special whose priority remains to do the 'right thing'; no matter the cost.

**Learn about the goals of the County Master Mobility Plan to:**  
**\*provide more transportation choices**  
**\*expand location and energy-efficient housing choices**  
**\*improve economic competitiveness of neighborhoods**  
**at a Public Workshop to be held on:**  
**August 25, 2011**  
**Golden Gate Community Center**  
**9:00 - 11:00 am**  
[www.colliergov.net/mastermobilityplan](http://www.colliergov.net/mastermobilityplan)

## **HURRICANE SHELTERS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with regional planning councils around the state, has updated information contained in a new Southwest Florida Region Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. After the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the state had agreed to pay for this study to improve existing storm surge maps. By providing more accurate elevation figures, state officials are now able to determine which county storm shelters to recommend to residents as a hurricane approaches.

Even though evacuation shelters are frequently in schools, this new information will help determine the preferred shelters in each case depending on storm intensity, landfall, and angle of the storm. The Red Cross, providing disaster support and staffing the majority of hurricane shelters, will be advised by the county as quickly as possible to facilitate emergency assistance for county residents.

## **INTERNATIONAL ART PAVILION**

A new 65,000 square foot cultural arts venue, the NAPLES INTERNATIONAL ART PAVILION, has been created near the intersection of Immokalee Road at Interstate 75. The purchasers, David and Lee Ann Lester, owners of International Fine Art Expositions in Bonita Springs believe it will "have multimillion-dollar economic impacts on the community." The renovation of this older building has provided them with a large multi-purpose facility for events which can accommodate several hundred people.

Local hotels, resorts and restaurants are partnering with the developers to provide amenities for attendees. In addition, construction businesses needed to mount exhibits will also benefit from the diverse uses the venue will encourage by bringing additional jobs to the community.

It is hoped the enthusiasm already generated by the initial events this past Spring will be duplicated in the future.

## **NEW NAPLES PLAZA**

Naples City Council has approved preliminary plans to redevelop Naples Plaza. A large Publix store, employing 140 has been part of that property since 1962. The Naples Design Board had examined plans to demolish Publix but the Planning Advisory Board must approve the plans as well.

City Council will then take a final vote and return the plans to the Design Board for the final review which will include lighting, landscaping and parking. Other businesses in Naples Plaza are expected to participate in the remodeling of the shopping center.

## **2010 COLLIER COUNTY PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEMBERS (Cont'd.)**

Lely Island Estates HOA

Longshore Lake  
Foundation

Mandalay HOA

Moon Lake HOA

Moorings POA

Pelican Bay Foundation

Pelican Bay POA

Pelican Marsh (Foundation  
of)

Port Royal Association

Quail Creek Village  
Foundation

Residences at Pelican  
Isle (The)

Rivard Villas

Royal Harbor  
Association

Saturnia Lakes

Sawgrass of Naples

Village Walk HOA

Villas Raphael

**For Common Interest Ownership Communities –  
Legal topics relevant to organizations' concerns**

**AROUND COLLIER COUNTY**

The legal hearing regarding a planned Mini-marina which Comax Partners Limited Partnership Association Inc. has petitioned to build at the end of Gordon Drive in Naples, has been postponed until after September 1, 2011. Four floating docks, 170 feet long, were proposed to enable mooring three 55 foot boats, two 45 foot boats, two 35 foot boats and a 35 foot boat at the site.

Supported by the Port Royal Property Association, neighbors Bill Bindley and Joe Semrod, have challenged the safety and environmental impact of this project. The possibility of having an effect on the use of Gordon Pass for access to the Gulf of Mexico will be examined by the state Department of Environmental Protection before a permit is issued.

**PANTHER HABITAT UNITS**

Collier County taxpayers will benefit when Conservation Collier, the county's land preservation program, absorbs the cost of new Panther Habitat Units.

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service requires the offset of habitat loss in the form of Habitat Units sold. In the past, the county purchased the units from private mitigation banks for \$1,500 each. A reduced charge, \$372, is now possible because of the availability of qualified Panther mitigation property owned by Conservation Collier.

The Starnes Ranch, in northern Collier County, purchased by Conservation Collier in 2007 for \$5.3 million, did include a \$300,000 contribution from the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Trust. Since then, other property acquired by Collier County has created the opportunity for continuing discussion between Conservation Collier and the BCC regarding an equitable balancing of taxpayer's money and honoring the intent of voters. Many variables need to be examined first.

These initial savings, however, have the possibility of Collier County supporting management of the newly acquired land and, in addition, restoring plans for Panther mitigation property.

**NAPLES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

The new United States Customs and Border Protection office at the Naples Airport has serviced 253 clients in the six months since it was built.

Ryan Frost, Director of Naples Airport Operations, said the majority of those customers have been from Canada and the Caribbean.

For all but six of those flights, Naples was their final destination with at least 81 having Naples as the home base for their aircraft.