

City Employees Donate Nearly \$25,000 to United Way

Cape Coral City employees have donated nearly \$25,000 during the City's annual United Way drive this year. Each year, City Manager Terry Stewart encourages Cape Coral employees to participate in the United Way campaign and share what they can with those who are in need. Stewart sits on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades.

"The United Way organization provides support to many important services that aid our community," said Stewart. "Knowing we have a tough economy, I am grateful that our City employees were able to donate their money to this campaign."

Karen Ramos, from Economic Development, is the new campaign coordinator for the City for 2009. The total amount collected through May for the

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades from City employees is \$ 24,055. An additional \$337 was raised from special events, making the total \$24,392.

The City also had five "Keel Club" members this year. Keel Club members are participants who contribute more than \$1,000 through the United Way campaign. The City's Keel Club members are:

Terry Stewart, City Manager
 Connie Barron, Public Information Director
 Sheena Milliken, Budget Administrator
 Steve Pohlman, Parks & Recreation Director
 Bonnie Potter, City Clerk. ■



Cape Police Warn Residents to Beware of Lottery Ticket Scam

Cape Coral Police are warning residents to be suspicious of anyone who approaches them for assistance in cashing winning lottery tickets. Four residents in the past six months have been victimized by criminals who are using lottery tickets as a ploy to steal money and jewelry from them.

Lottery scams have been a problem for several years; however, with four victims in six months, Cape police want to remind residents not to fall prey to con artists claiming to have winning lottery tickets that they are either unable to

redeem or need assistance to cash.

All of the recent thefts in Cape Coral involved con artists working in teams, and three of the four incidents included a Hispanic female using the name "Diana." All four victims were women, and each was approached by the suspects at Cape Coral retail stores and asked to help cash a winning lottery ticket. The suspects made a phone call to a bogus lottery employee who told the victims that collateral was needed to cash in the ticket. The victims gave the suspects large amounts of money or jewelry totaling thousands of dollars. The victims were tricked into leaving their vehicles for various reasons, and when they returned, the suspects had fled with their property.

Police are advising citizens to be wary if anyone approaches them for a ride or asks for assistance in cashing a lottery ticket. Do not give money or valuables to strangers, and call the Cape Coral Police Department (9-1-1) if anyone asks you to do so. For more information on lottery scams, visit the Florida Lottery website at www.floralottery.com. ■

Swale Replacement Process

The City's Services Division maintains about 2,400 miles of swales throughout Cape Coral. The City has implemented a modified roadside swale design, which results in efficient water quality treatment prior to discharge into the primary drainage system. This pre-treatment of stormwater is important to the long-term protection of downstream rivers and estuaries. Aquatic wildlife and plants thrive when the streams, rivers and estuaries are healthy.

The existing primary and secondary drainage systems are crucial city assets. We must be able to direct stormwater runoff to the surrounding rivers and estuaries while protecting property from flood damage. At the same time, we must minimize the impact of the harmful pollutants associated with stormwater runoff on aquatic plants and wildlife.

In January 2008, a new swale repair process was started to increase productivity while reducing costs. This program has exceeded our goals and expectations. As a result we have been able to reduce the complaint response time from the original backlog of more than three years to less than six months. The swale program team continues to make adjustments to their techniques, with input from swale personnel and the public. We recently met with a concerned citizen who had some suggestions on how to improve our swales repair process. At the end of the process review, this citizen endorsed our current swale techniques as the most efficient.

The backlog of swale projects has been reduced by more than 60 percent and continues to decline since implementing this new process. Since January 2008, more than 1,000 swale jobs totaling more than 323,000 linear feet and impacting 1,500 home sites have been completed by the Services Division swale crews. In addition, a new process to minimize driveway restoration costs has saved the City more than \$148,000. ■

"On The Move" Continues to be Valuable Communications Tool

Council supports continued printing and mailing of newsletter to residents

The City's quarterly community newsletter continues to be a valuable communications tool for City staff and the residents. According to the 2009 Citizen Survey, about 78 percent of the community read the City's On The Move quarterly newsletter. This is excellent news.

In times of tight budgets and potentially significant changes on the horizon, it becomes even more important to communicate with the residents to let them know what is happening with their government. The newsletter and the City website are two excellent tools for providing key information updates to the community.

On The Move is published four times a year and typically is mailed in March, June, September and December. The newsletter also is posted on the City website at www.capecoral.net. ■