



March 2, 2011

# CITY OF COCOA BEACH "NEWS & VIEWS"

~ A publication for Cocoa Beach Citizens produced by the Cocoa Beach Public Information Office and inserted in *The Press-Tribune* as a public service ~



## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER by Dave Netterstrom

A common theme in today's news is government fiscal responsibility and I want to make sure Cocoa Beach citizens know their Commissioners are paying attention. Based on the tax dollars you are willing to give and other revenue sources, we are making sure your dollars are being efficiently spent and smartly allocated.

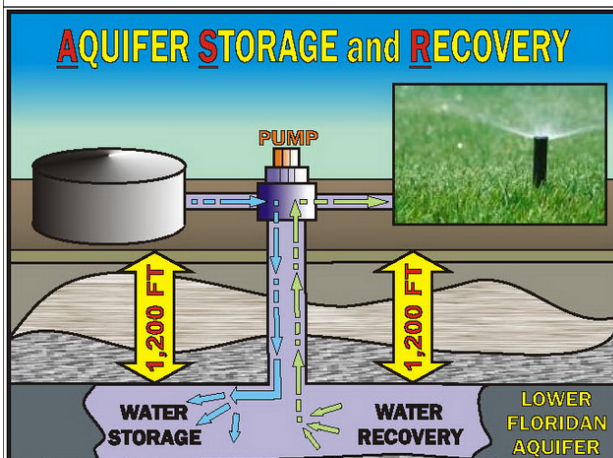
Our annual audit was recently presented and I'd like to make three comments: 1) Our city employees managed to spend over \$1M less than budgeted. Good job. We continue to either not spend or delay spending wherever possible. 2) Our overall financial health is good. We have very little debt and still have a 3 month emergency cash reserve. 3) We must proceed cautiously. Downward pressure on revenue and upward pressure on expenses continue. Spending delays can't continue and extra reserves from the economic boom are gone.

As Commissioners accountable to citizens, business and employees, and in the spirit of visibility, I'd like to list some of the important topics being reviewed within City Hall. Rather than keeping 2 fire stations, can we operate more efficiently by building one new station in a central location? To manage rising healthcare and pension costs, new benefit plans for new employees are being discussed. As a result of increased regulations, an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well is being considered. The vision for our downtown along with the CRA plans are becoming more defined. To help make the building department user-friendly, the permitting and business licensing processes will be improved. With a larger than expected loss last year, attention must be focused on the golf course. A time-out may need to be taken this year unless we find generous fireworks sponsors. And, probably the most important topic being discussed is the search for a new City Manager.

To help us make good decisions, please email, call or stop us around town to provide your input. As agenda items important to you come up, please come to the meetings. And, please don't forget to thank Chuck Billias for his 40 years of service! ~~~ Commissioner Dave Netterstrom

## ~ PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE ~

### ASR TEST WELL PROJECT PROPOSAL 10AM, MARCH 3, 2011 @ CITY HALL



The City of Cocoa Beach is hosting a Public Meeting on a proposal to construct a Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) test well within the Public Works Compound on Tom Warriner Boulevard. The diagram above is a very basic drawing of how the system works. The meeting will be held at 10AM, March 3, 2011 in the Cocoa Beach City Commission Room at City Hall.



## CITY MANAGER TENDERS RESIGNATION PAPERS ~ WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9, 2011

As noted in Commissioner Dave Netterstrom's article, the City's long-time employee of 40 years, including 13 years as the City Manager, Charles "Chuck" Billias tendered his resignation for November 30, 2011.

In an effort to develop procedures to find a suitable replacement for Cocoa Beach's top managerial position, the City Commission will be hosting a public workshop at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in the City Hall Commission Room.



## MARCH 2011

LEON "SKIP" BEELER—MAYOR  
KEN GRIFFIN—VICE MAYOR  
SKIP WILLIAMS—COMMISSIONER  
KEVIN PRUETT—COMMISSIONER  
DAVE NETTERSTROM—COMMISSIONER  
CHUCK BILLIAS—CITY MANAGER



## A "Well Done" Firefighter Training Exercise

Can you imagine being engulfed in a smoke-filled metal box at 400 degrees for twenty-five minutes? Now that the training period is over, City firefighters can readily say, "Bring on the heat! We're ready!"

The Cocoa Beach Fire Department spent last week training with a mobile "Flash Over" Fire Simulator. The Simulator is in essence, a rail-car-sized metal box that acts as a single-story structure with live-fire conditions complete with doors, windows and furniture. The mock building gave our Fire Department crews an opportunity to sharpen their skills by witnessing fire behavior, conducting victim searches and experiencing "real-time" scenarios.

"We were able to switch from a fire attack mode to a rescue mode" explains Deputy Chief GC Wine. "There is no other training that compares to real-time, live-fire evolutions." The Simulator belongs to Ft. Lauderdale's Safety Solutions Inc. and is unique because it is *mobile*. Most burn buildings and training facilities use liquid propane gas as their heat source, which some firefighters argue, is not a realistic approach to what they face in a structure fire. The recognition of a deteriorating interior fire usually means imminent danger or death and is one of the most valuable pieces of knowledge a firefighter can have.

According to Deputy Chief Wine, the cost of bringing the simulator to Cocoa Beach was less than half of what it would have cost to send our crews to remote training locations. "We are doing our absolute best to be good stewards of our budget, while providing top-notch training to the Department so we can serve the residents of Cocoa Beach with excellence."

Not just a medium rare training venture here, but one that can be characterized as a job "well done".