



## Community Development E-News

Welcome and thank you for registering to receive e-news from the Community Development Department!

### Florida City Government Week (FCGW) October 18 - 24, 2009

The City of Fort Myers will be celebrating Florida City Government Week October 18-24. Please visit the city's website: [Click Here](#) to see a full schedule of activities including some for the entire family.

#### FCGW Activities specific to Community Development:

**Monday, October 19, 9 - 11 a.m. - Department Tours**

See the inner workings of the department and learn about each division's responsibilities.



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**Thursday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**Parks Clean Up Event - Volunteer Opportunity!**

Lend a helping hand to the Parks and Code Enforcement divisions as we clean up two neighborhood parks!

1. Billy Bowlegs Park at 951 Marsh Avenue (the most help is needed here) where we will be picking up trash, clearing overgrowth and painting the back stop and fences or
2. Fleischman Sports Complex at 1618 South Drive where we will be picking up trash and clearing overgrowth.

The City will provide tools, gloves, trash bags and water. Dress to get dirty! Contact Terry Pohlman at 321-7905 if you would like to volunteer.

**New 2008 National Electrical Code**

Effective October 1, 2009, all new permit applications that require electrical work must comply with the new 2008 National Electrical Code.

**Community Development Workforce Reduction**

The City of Fort Myers is operating with reduced revenues and consequently our Department has suffered a large workforce reduction making it necessary to change some operating procedures. As of October 1, 2009 our new office hours are: 7:30-11:45 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m. We are now closed for lunch from 11:45-1 p.m. From 11:45-12 we will complete the transactions of those in the lobby as of 11:45. While we continue to strive to provide excellent customer service, please note that lobby wait times may be longer than usual. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transitional period.

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**Website:**

[Cityftmyers.com/community](http://Cityftmyers.com/community)

**E-Services:**

[Pay Fees Online](#): pay fixed rate Business Taxes and Permit Fees.

[iView](#): View an Elevation Certificate, Permit, Business Tax or Code Enforcement Case.

### Department Reorganization

With the reduction in workforce, several changes have occurred. Most notably our **Development Services and Planning Divisions** have been combined into one division. Due to the slowdown in development, these two divisions were reduced from 12 employees to four employees. The remaining staff is working hard to cover the workload and provide the best service possible to our customers but regrettably there may be increased wait times for information. The following are the remaining staff and their specialty areas:

Nicole DeVaughn - Planning Manager  
321-7976 or 321-7992

Jared Beck - Principal Planner, Historic Preservation  
321-7977

Lyneé Rodriguez - Principal Planner, Development  
321-7993

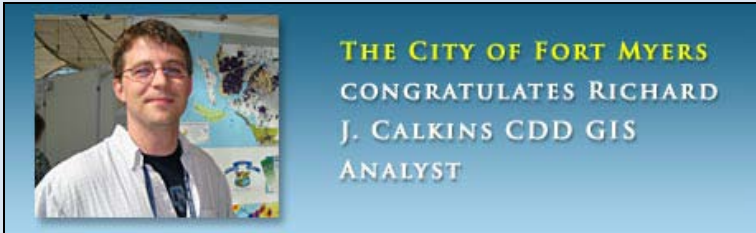
Cheryl Riccobono - Zoning Officer and Plans Examiner  
321-7994

**The Building Division** was also hit hard with cuts losing 11 of 30 employees. With the reduction, most inspectors and plans examiners are now pulling double duty spending half their day in the office conducting plan review and the other half in the field conducting inspections. The number of permitting and inspections support staff was reduced from eight to four so licensed personnel are being called in to issue permits from time to time as well.

Although the workload of **Code Enforcement** has increased due to the poor economy and a dramatic increase in abandoned and foreclosed properties, the division lost six staff throughout the year due to early retirement, attrition and lay offs. The staff has divided the city into new zones to be covered by the remaining six officers with support from the remaining two administrative staff. Two other administrative staff handle the Business Tax (licensing) program and all staff are being cross trained to cover all areas as needed.

**Housing and Real Estate (H&RE)** has been successful in securing various state and federal grants to assist with mortgage and foreclosure assistance, emergency repairs, rehabilitation and down payment assistance. H&RE lost one vacant position during the budget process.

We no longer have a dedicated front desk receptionist and have only one cashier so we fill in as needed with other staff. Again we appreciate your patience as we sort things out.



On his recent certification as a GIS Professional (GISP) by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). A GISP is a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional who has met the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as established by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). GISCI certification requires achievement in three areas: educational achievement, professional experience, and contributions to the profession.

The purpose of the GIS Certification Institute is to provide professionals who work in the field of geographic information systems with a formal process that:

- Allows them to be recognized by their colleagues and peers for having demonstrated exemplary professional practice and integrity in the field
- Establishes and maintains high standards of both professional practice and ethical conduct
- Encourages aspiring GIS professionals to work towards certification for the purpose of professional development and advancement
- Encourages established GIS professionals to continue to hone their professional skills and ethical performance even as GIS technology changes

The GIS Certification Institute is an independent, non-profit organization providing the GIS community with a complete certification program. GISCI offers a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession. **Congratulations Richard!**

**City of Fort Myers Community Development E-News:**

Our mailing address is:

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Our telephone: 239-321-7900

City Directory: [www.cityftmyers.com/contact](http://www.cityftmyers.com/contact)

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