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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CITY HALL

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As the elected representatives for the citizens of Sanibel, the Sanibel City Council unanimously voted to schedule a referendum for voter approval for financing and construction of a Recreation Center on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. The purpose of this brochure is to inform Sanibel residents of the facts related to the referendum. We urge you to educate yourself on the issue and exercise your opportunity to vote on Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

In response to citizen input we have focused on two major aspects of the proposed Recreation Center over the past quarter. First, the design was scrutinized to be certain that the facility meets our community's needs, but is not more than we need. In September we revised the plans to reduce the number of restrooms and modify the pool area.

Secondly, we have requested that other entities financially contribute to the project. To this end, we are very pleased to inform you that we have now received guarantees of \$3.2 million from Lee County and \$1.596 million from the School District toward the project. Additionally, over three acres of land has been contributed to the project by the School District through a 99-year lease.

Sincerely, *Carla Brooks Johnston, Mayor*
Mick Denham, Vice Mayor
Steve Brown, Councilmember
Jim Jennings, Councilmember
Tom Rothman, Councilmember

WHY NOT REHABILITATE THE EXISTING RECREATION CENTER?

- The **pool area is deteriorating**. The deck is settling, water **pipes are leaking**, the filtration system needs replacement. The pool is very labor intensive to clean and the pool heating and cooling systems need to be replaced.
- The **restrooms were demolished** two years ago **due to mold infestation**. Currently, portable restrooms and showers are being leased.
- The existing facility **does not meet current "best practices" for security** in public recreation facilities.
- The existing building was not designed to be air-conditioned and is **not useable by many residents for physical exercise during hot weather**. Retrofitting would be high-priced and not energy efficient.
- The gymnasium rubberized **floor system is bubbling** and, in the near future, will need to be replaced. The roof needs repair.
- The existing facility was built below current flood plain requirements and a **major renovation would be required to meet currently required F.E.M.A. flood elevation**.

WHO WILL USE THE FACILITY?

The facility is being designed to be used by citizens of all ages.

- **Our senior programs are full and overcrowded** due to the limitations at our Island Civic Center site. The **new Recreation Center will offer expanded recreation programming opportunities for Seniors**. There are presently over 550 active citizens in the Island Senior Program.
- Our children also need additional room space. **Our after-school and summer programs have waiting lists**.

HOW WILL WE PAY TO CONSTRUCT THE CENTER?

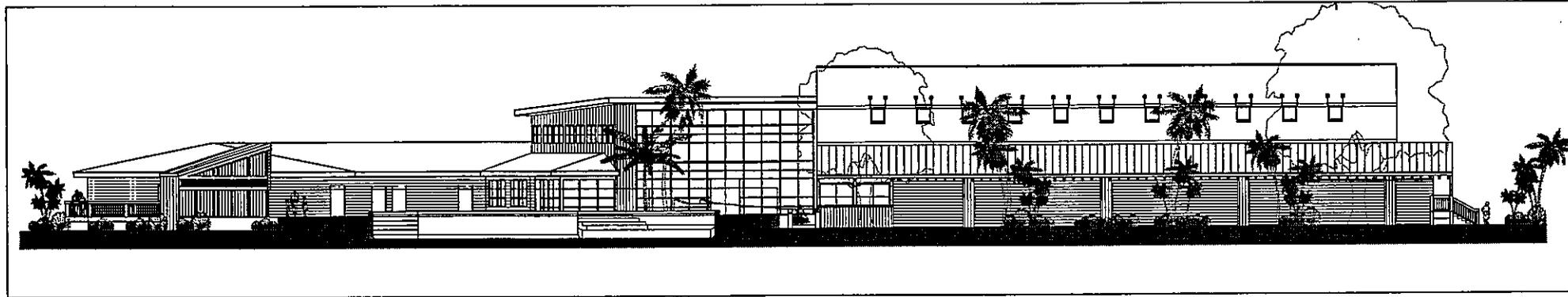
The securing of capital funds, **more than \$ 4.7 million from the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the Lee County School District**, toward the construction of the Recreation Center **reduces the total cost of the project to \$8.35 million**.

This means, if the bonds are approved, the cost to the average Sanibel residential property would be approximately **\$5.58 per month**, which is less than \$67 per year per household.

City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida
33957

PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER - SOUTH ELEVATION

Sanibel Captiva Road View



WILL THE CENTER BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE?

Yes. As part of the schematic design, an independent architect with expertise in sustainable design reviewed the plans. The **environmentally sensitive design features include natural lighting, windows to allow natural ventilation and solar panels.** The architect identified ways to improve environmental sustainability as a method of improving **long-term energy efficiency** and long-term cost. The end design reduces operating costs and is **consistent with Sanibel's commitment to the environment.**

The Recreation Center has been designed to be consistent with the Sanibel Plan, including **100% native vegetation** and a **shell parking lot.**

HOW MANY SENIORS AND CHILDREN DO WE HAVE ON SANIBEL?

According to the latest information available there are:

- **420 students at the Sanibel School,** plus high school students who attend school off-island, plus home schooled and private schooled children.
- **534 youth between the ages of 5 and 19** on the Island and **115 under 5 years of age,** according to the latest Census report.
- **2,427 seniors age 65 and older** and 2,173 residents of Sanibel between the ages of 45-64.

WILL THE CENTER BE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

Yes, including the exercise pool which is designed with zero depth **easy entry for those with arthritic and joint conditions.**

HOW CAN I TAKE A TOUR OF THE CURRENT RECREATION FACILITY?

The public is welcomed and encouraged to **tour the existing recreation facility,** to see **for yourself,** first-hand, why the city has determined that this facility is beyond its useful life. The Center is located at 3840 Sanibel Captiva Road.

If you would like a facility tour, please contact the Sanibel Recreation Department at (239) 472-6477 to schedule a tour.

HOW CAN YOU CONTACT US?

- E-mail at sancouncil@mysanibel.com
- Phone at (239) 472-3700
- Mail to Sanibel City Council, 800 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, Florida 33957
- Regularly scheduled City Council meetings are the first and the third Tuesdays of every month at City Hall, 800 Dunlop Road