

## Cape Coral aims for the stars: City to register with Florida Film Commission

DENES HUSTY III • dhusty@news-press.com •  
April 6, 2010

**3:36 P.M.** — Cape Coral is trying to bask in the glare of the Hollywood spotlight.

By registering the with Florida Film Commission, the city wants to attract production companies to film feature movies, documentaries, television series and commercials, said Christy Vogt, Cape Coral's economic development coordinator.

The benefit would be all the goods and services spent by movie companies, Vogt said.

"They spend money on catering, hotels, rental equipment, transportation services and a lot more. It has a good effect on the local economy," Vogt said.

That can amount to "a couple of hundred thousand dollars a day for a feature film," according to movie industry estimates, said Lucia Fishburne, state film commissioner.

Local people are also often hired as extras for scenes and to help with the production of the film, Fishburne said. For filming the television series "Burn Notice" in Miami for example, "there are between 150 to 200 people on the set a day," she said.

Indeed, filming in Cape Coral "can have a positive effect on our economy. We'll see if the movie industry is interested in us," said Mike Quaintance, president of the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce.

Sales tax exemptions and other incentives are also available from the film commission to movie companies who film in Florida, Fishburne said.

In trying to entice Hollywood to come to Cape Coral and spend money, the city's scenery is a big plus, Vogt said.

For water scenes, Cape Coral has more than 400 miles of canals, plus the Caloosahatchee and scenic waterfront places like the Cape Coral Yacht Club and Cape Harbour, Vogt said.

"And we have plenty of wildlife, including bald eagles and burrowing owls," she said.

The Sunshine State is popular with Hollywood. In 2009, there were at least 36 films and more than 1,200 documentaries, television series episodes and commercials shot entirely or in part in Florida, which is popular with Hollywood, said Niki Welge, production coordinator with the Governor's Office of Film and Entertainment.

The way the system will work for Cape Coral is that the city as of Monday was listed on the Florida Film Commission's Web site at [www.filminflorida.com](http://www.filminflorida.com), said Welge.

Cape Coral's Economic Development Office is listed as one of 55 local film liaisons with the film commission, Welge said.

Movie producers may then call these offices directly for more information, Welge said.

Vogt said that she'll also post pictures and other information on the film commission's Web site to

Advertisement



**Get The Best Deal in TV Entertainment**

**ACT NOW TO SAVE**

**\$15**

**Per Month for 12 Months**

on our most popular packages!

**Call NOW: (888) 205-5130**

**Visit: [dishnetwork.com/bestdeal](http://dishnetwork.com/bestdeal)**

REQUIRES AGREEMENT. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

