

Sanibel considers adding Captiva to sewer system

The City Council on Nov. 6 asked staff to devise a protocol on how best to approach the issue of adding Captiva homes to Sanibel's centralized sewer system.

Captiva homes currently use septic systems. The number of septic systems on Captiva have been discussed in the past as a possible cause of water pollution. The Council has previously discussed septic systems as possible sources for water contamination.

While staff will develop a possible protocol, the Council agreed that it would work with Lee County, which governs Captiva. It was also decided that County officials should be the ones to approach residents on Captiva.

The Council also agreed that a thorough feasibility study would be necessary and should take into account whether adding Captiva to Sanibel's central sewer system would affect sewer service for current connections. The study would also consider if adding Captiva to central sewer would allow for more development on that island, thus causing impacts to Sanibel.

The Southwest Regional Planning Council recently passed a Resolution that calls for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue no future permits for package treatment plants or septic systems on barrier islands.