

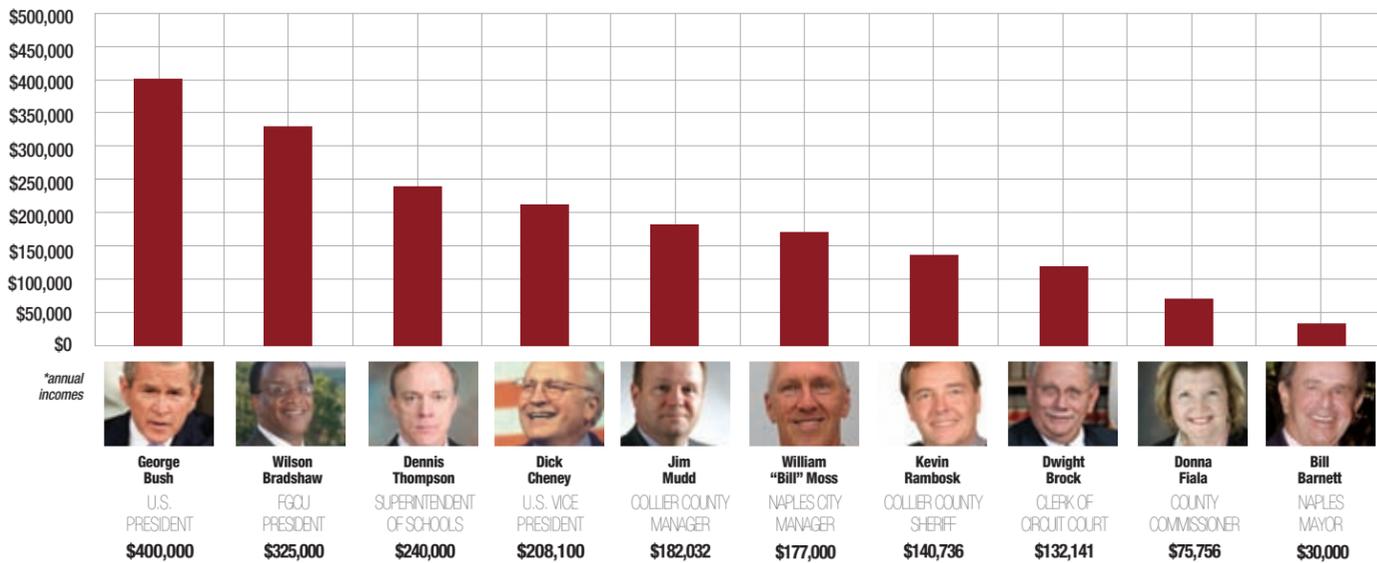
NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY™

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WHO'S MAKING WHAT

>>inside:
List of what you're paying public officials.
A8

The lowdown on what you are paying your public officials

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

So you think your government officials are getting rich.

You think they're hauling in the big bucks and working bankers' hours.

You think, perhaps, that every time you see litter in the park, or no cop to catch a speeder, or the county manager shaking hands and grinning at a public function, or a building going up where you don't want it (or a building not going up where you do want it), somebody's not manning the helm of the ship of government.

Well, maybe. But not likely, say the

top officials in county and city government here. The demands of their jobs almost universally require long hours (50 or 60 is ordinary and sometimes on the low side), tightened budgets, a reduced staff and the competing needs now of almost 350,000 residents, according to county estimates.

True, they get paid for it, and paid well by many standards. Most of them make more than twice the personal per-capita income of people working in Collier County. That figure was cited at \$49,492 in 2005, according to U.S. Census statistics, which ranked Collier at 37 among the top 50 counties in the United States (almost 4,000 counties exist from sea to shining sea).

A North Carolina study in 2007 showed a median family income in Collier County of almost \$70,000, with

SEE MAKING, A8 ►

Postage gets its due at New England Stamps

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Stamps are a form of history, and as such have generated millions of hobbyists worldwide who collect them for their tiny windows on the world of dinosaurs, movie stars, TV shows, wars, space exploration, ducks and hundreds of other things.

Some of the most rare or sought-after stamps are worth big money to collectors. But philately, the practice of collecting and studying stamps, is a dwindling hobby. And even serious philatelists say making a living at buying and selling stamps takes an unusual level of expertise and dedication.

That might be why New England Stamps is the only full-time stamp business in Southwest Florida. Inside the office at 4987 Tamiami Trail East in



EVAN WILLIAMS/FLORIDA WEEKLY
Gary Hausin and his father, Robert Hausin, owners of New England Stamps in Naples. The business was started in 1893.

Naples, millions of postage marks from all over the world are archived in a collector's paradise, each waiting for the right person to seek it out.

New England Stamps was started in Boston in 1893. The current owner, Robert Hausin, 65, bought the collection from the estate of the original owner, who died in 1986 after moving his stamp store to Naples in the 1960s.

Mr. Hausin said he ended up with all the stamps because he was the only one who wanted to continue the business.

"Everybody wanted to buy the inventory, but nobody wanted to keep the store open," he said. "It's about the oldest stamp company in the U.S. I'd hate to see it close."

His son, Gary Hausin, 38, is also an owner and works at the store full time.

SEE STAMPS, A15 ►

INSIDE



Setting the stage

Going behind the scenes with set design for 'The Goodbye Girl.' **C1** ►



Naples Harbor Yacht Club

Celebrating the RedSnook tourney and other events. **16, 19 & 21** ►



The kangaroo club

Catching up with relief zookeeper Breanne Bain in the trenches at the Naples Zoo. **A6** ►



Learning the ropes

When business times are tough, a team adventure can help re-energize colleagues. **B1** ►

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

COLUMN A2
OPINION A4
15 MINUTES A6
NAPLES' HISTORY A10

HEALTHY LIVING A18
BUSINESS B1
NETWORKING B6 & 7
REAL ESTATE B9

ARTS C1
EVENTS C6 & 7
SOCIETY C16, 19 & 21
CUISINE C23

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2008

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