

Editorial / Poll: Town-hall forum | Offshore drilling ... all benefit from dialogue

Staff Reports

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Thanks to everyone who made the Tuesday evening town-hall forum on close-to-shore drilling for oil and gas such a success.

They include our guest experts/panelists — Mike Stephen, Burt Saunders, David Mica and Susan Glickman — and timekeepers Chris Straton and Marjorie Joder of the League of Women Voters of Collier County. Our citizen audience, filling the community room of the new Daily News headquarters on Immokalee Road, was attentive and gracious and asked pointed questions about safety, global oil policy and supplies and how soon fuel and money could flow if exploration as close as three miles to our shores pans out.

People who could not attend or did not want to risk being shut out due to the venue's 150-person seating capacity because of fire codes could watch on the Web at naplesnews.com and still can see highlights there.

The newspaper and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, which co-sponsor these informational sessions, look forward to our next opportunity to connect with the public on a timely issue. That would be March 9, when another expert panel explores and answers public questions on Hometown Democracy, the nickname for Amendment 4, which will be on the Nov. 2 ballot and calls for referendums on variances to local master land-use plans.

Please consider being with us as we continue working on a higher level of public education and dialogue in Southwest Florida.