

Administrator's Update
By Roger Baltz

Our Administrative staff, emergency management staff, and Commissioner Duffy met this past week with Congressmen Tom Rooney. Our Congressman took a tour of the new County Public Safety building located on Airport Road. The following day our staff also met with Congressman Connie Mack who also visited our facility. Our Congressmen were able to observe our new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is housed in the building. Our Congressional delegation has been very supportive of our County in dealing with a variety of issues which can be traced back to Hurricane Charley and have continued throughout our recovery over the past few years.

Our Growth Management staff provided a summary report to our County Commissioners regarding group III excavation (mining) operations in our County. These are the larger mining operations. In September of 2008 our County Commission adopted a new Mineral Resource Extraction land use category for these types of operations. We currently have 22 active Group III permits with a combined site acreage of 26,910.

I provided the County Commissioners with our quarterly Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) report. The report contains status updates on various projects underway in Public Works, Facilities, and Utilities. The report can be found on our County Web site at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com in the Administration section.

Our Public Works staff has completed a joint project with the City of North Port to complete the water control structure at Cheshire Waterway and Chancellor Boulevard. This project included installation of a 60-inch diameter concrete culvert pipe and construction of a concrete water level control box.

Florida Power and Light Services began an energy audit of 26 of our largest energy consuming County buildings this week. The process will continue for the next few weeks as all the buildings are completed. At the end of the process we will determine if there are viable capital projects with a projected payback in dollars and reduced energy usage that make sense for the county to pursue. Our County has established a goal of reducing our energy use by at least 15% over the next three years.

I would like to thank the Port Charlotte Moose Lodge 2121 for donating 40 "Tommy the Moose" stuffed animals to Charlotte County Fire/EMS. The beautiful stuffed animals are being distributed to all of the rescue vehicles and fire engines to be used to comfort children in an emergency. The funds to purchase the stuffed animals were raised by the Moose Lodge members.

Our Natural Resources Staff recently joined Charlotte County's sea turtle monitors to walk the beaches and take part in sea turtle monitoring duties. Participants observed sea turtle hatchlings making their way to the water, witnessed the excavation of nests,

and gained a greater understanding of monitoring responsibilities and protection measures. This is the time of year when hatchlings are making their way out of the nesting cavity and beginning their journey at sea. Natural Resources staff also assisted a group of sea turtle monitors to install a "turtle chute" in an effort to protect sea turtle hatchlings whose nests are in a precarious location on the beach. The directional tubing will help the young go in the direction of the gulf and not the lagoon.

New 2009 Aerial Photography is now available thanks to our GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Department. The 2009 orthophotography, which was flown by SWFWMD, has been uploaded and is available through the County GIS website at www.ccgis.com.

Our Growth Management staff gave a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on a portion of Smart Charlotte 2050. An update was presented on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Element as part of the informational phase of the project. This effort was designed to gather comments from the community and to fulfill requirements of public participation in the formation of the new comprehensive plan. During the next few weeks, we will highlight the progress of other elements.