

Administrator's Update

By Roger Baltz

Our Building Construction Services Department (BCS) has received the official word that our CRS Verification score puts us well into a Class 5 rating. Under the ISO Community Rating System (CRS), flood insurance premiums are adjusted to reflect community activities that reduce flood damage to existing buildings, manage development in areas not mapped by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), protect new buildings beyond the minimum NFIP protection level, and help insurance agents obtain flood data, and help people obtain flood insurance. There are 10 CRS classes, ranging from Class 1 with the greatest premium reduction to Class 10 (no premium reduction). Currently, there are only four communities in the U.S. with a rating better than Class 5.

The Apollo Waterway Drainage Control Structure project on Chancellor Boulevard has been completed by our Public Works department. This project was comprised of removing three 150-foot dilapidated 72-inch diameter metal drainage pipes and replacing them with three 72-inch diameter concrete drainage pipes. Chancellor Boulevard is now open to traffic.

The County Landfill had its quarterly inspection from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This inspection was to verify that the Landfill was operating within its permit requirements. FDEP found the Landfill to be in compliance with its operating permit and no issues were identified.

Our Landfill mulches vegetative waste (yard trimmings and landscape debris) by hiring a contractor to shred these materials. This Volume Reduction service contract recently went out for bid. The low bid resulted in a 10.5% reduction in price per ton, with an estimated annual saving of \$16,094 for the Division. The contract will go before the Commissioners at their Sept. 22, 2009 regular Board meeting.

Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department has received a grant for \$100,000 toward the construction of trails and boardwalks connecting the Oyster Creek Regional Park and Cedar Point Park. This grant is part of the National Trails Program and is administered by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Matching funds for the grant will be coming from Park impact fees.

We dedicated the third city-county historical marker at the site of the first Punta Gorda Bank in Punta Gorda. The marker is the tenth to be installed under the Charlotte County Historical Marker Program. The program recognizes historic resources, persons and events that are significant in the areas of architecture, archaeology, Charlotte County history, and traditional culture. The markers increase public awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the county, encourage historic preservation, and enhance the enjoyment of local historic sites.

The County Animal Control staff received word from the Seminole Feeding Company that they will supply free feed for horses that are confiscated for cruelty or neglect. This

could save the department a minimum of \$500 in feed costs throughout the year and possibly more depending on the number of cases encountered.

Growth Management staff made a presentation to the County Commissioners on portions of Smart Charlotte 2050. Planner II Steven Ellis presented an update to the Intergovernmental Coordination Element (ICE). The ICE element describes the working relationships Charlotte County enjoys with other jurisdictions and agencies, as well as the mechanisms for maintaining those relationships with a transparency not found at other levels of government. Transportation Planner Venkat Vattikuti followed with an update to the Transportation Element as part of the informational phase of the project. The purpose of this element is to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods and people throughout Charlotte County through a variety of modes of transportation. During the next few weeks, staff from Growth Management will continue to highlight the progress of other elements as well.

Human Services Department and Solid Waste Division employees participated in the Englewood Pioneer Days event held on Labor Day. Human Services staff provided information on services available to residents, including Veteran services, the Kid Care Insurance program, Affordable Housing services, Financial Assistance services and Transit services. Transit staff used this opportunity to collect public input regarding a possible fixed route in the Englewood area.