

Administrator's Update for publication 11/27/09
By Roger Baltz

Our Public Works crews have completed several maintenance projects around the County. Seven tons of asphalt was used to repair various roads, one catch basin was installed on Madison Street in Harbour Heights, and 36 square feet (SF) of sidewalk was repaired in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU. Other maintenance completed includes over 19,000 SF of drainage maintenance throughout the County and over 35,000 SF of primary ditch maintenance.

Our Code Enforcement staff was invited to be guest speakers at the monthly Southwest Florida Roofing Contractors Association (SWFRCA) meeting. The meeting was attended by roofers, local law enforcement and other state agencies. The SWFRCA had positive comments regarding our code enforcement processes and invited Charlotte County to attend future meetings.

Last week our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Department hosted a Regional Child Passenger Safety Technician Update at Fire/EMS Headquarters. Representatives from Collier, Lee, Sarasota and Manatee Counties attended. We were able to obtain the instructor free with a promise to assist in a future regional class, so this course was at no cost to Fire/EMS. This meeting provided community and regional partnerships that are needed to serve our residents.

Charlotte County has been awarded a Bronze Adrian Award by Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMIAI), a national organization for the tourism sales and marketing industry. The award is for the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau's "Summer Escapes" marketing campaign, which had the goal of raising awareness and encouraging visitors to vacation in Charlotte County during the summer. Through the partnership of area tourism businesses and the airlines who donated hotel stays, attraction passes, restaurant vouchers, and flights, the campaign was an inexpensive way to promote and encourage summer visitation to the area.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) Regional Cross Country Meet. Approximately 800 people attended this event which featured 18 boys and girls high school teams and 334 participants.

Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) titled "Effective Management Approach to Water, Wastewater, Reuse and Fire Prevention...A New Era, A Bold Approach." CCU introduced the 10 Industry best practices of an effectively managed utility, then demonstrated how they were meeting or exceeding each category. Primary opportunities for improvement were identified, as well, giving the BCC some ideas of new frontiers that could be explored. At the conclusion of the

presentation, CCU indicated that a third party efficiency study would be performed by a team of independent utility experts within the American Water Works Association, in order to explore benchmark performance indicators between CCU and similar neighboring utilities in the areas of customer relations, organizational development, business planning, management and operations.

Congressman Vern Buchanan held a Town Hall Meeting at our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood. Two hundred citizens turned out to hear the congressman talk on health care and on the economy. This is the twelfth in a series of town hall meetings.