

Administrator's Update for 12/18/09  
By Roger Baltz

Each year our County establishes State and Federal legislative priorities. These priority issues are submitted to our legislative delegation for their information and requested assistance. Twenty one priority State statements have been approved. You can view the details on our County web site under the Commissioners section at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.com](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.com).

### **2009 Florida Animal Control Officer of the Year**

We have received word that Charlotte County Animal Control Officer Reannon Juergensen was chosen as the 2009 Florida Animal Control Officer of the Year within the state of Florida. Each year, the Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) chooses one candidate to receive this prestigious award. It is an opportunity to be recognized amongst her peers for her outstanding achievements. She will be featured in the FACA Newsletter (Statewide) as well as various local media sources.

### **Affiliate Program Approved**

Our County Commissioners approved the launch of the new Family Services Center's Affiliate Program. This program will allow small, regional or volunteer-led non-profit organizations to establish "virtual" offices at the Family Services Center and will also allow current Family Services Center tenants to utilize back office services such as copying, faxing and scanning at an additional fee. This program will generate additional revenue for the Family Services Center while helping non-profits reduce their administrative overhead costs.

### **Tax-Exempt Recovery Zone Bonds**

Recovery Zone Facility Bonds are now available as part of the \$12M in tax-exempt financing that the federal government has made available to Charlotte County businesses. The bonds can be used within Charlotte County for capital improvements to an existing facility or for construction of a new facility. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2010 and will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Businesses interested in the Recovery Zone Facility Bonds can access the application through our Charlotte County Economic Development Office website. Visit [www.FloridaEDO.com](http://www.FloridaEDO.com) for application packages and more information.

### **Combined Training**

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS department has combined training with the DeSoto County, Boca Grande, Englewood and Punta Gorda Fire Departments. The Ariel apparatus operations training for ladder companies was funded by a

grant from the Florida State Firefighters Association. Six of our Fire/EMS employees attended this week-long training.

### **Solid Waste**

The Solid Waste Division put out to bid the scrap metal contract for the Zemel Road Landfill. This bid is unique as the Division sells the scrap metal thus generating revenue for the County. The winning bid came in at higher than the current contract. The Division is estimating in generating about \$25,000 in revenues with this bid.

Extension Services has begun a series of Palm Education Sessions at the Environmental Campus on Harbor View Road during December regarding Palm Selection and Palm Planting, Aftercare and Pruning, Palm Disease, Disorders and Nutrient Deficiencies. The program will include participation by Dr. Tim Broschat, Palm Specialist with the Fort Lauderdale Extension.

### **Public Works Activity**

Our Public Works staff have established a temporary off-load site for the Balboa Waterway and the northern waterways as part of the Harbor Heights Maintenance Dredging Project. In addition, all of the Como, Christopher, Flamingo South and Knox Waterways have been dredged as part of the Manchester North Maintenance Dredging Project.

### **Green Assistance Provided**

Our Building Construction Services (BCS) department staff assisted Lee County's Sustainability office and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) with the Managing Climate Change with Sustainable Initiatives conference and expo at the Southwest Florida International Airport Training Center on Dec. 4, 2009. The event encouraged unification of efforts in Southwest Florida to be more sustainable and to grow as a greener region.