

Administrator's Update for 1/15/10
By Roger Baltz

New Technology for Paramedics

Our Fire/EMS operations have secured grant funding for the purchase of the latest technology in IV access, the EZ-IO Intraosseous Infusion system. In emergency situations where time is critical, the EZ-IO enables the paramedic to establish vascular access in less than ten seconds in many instances. This allows critical patients to receive lifesaving drugs and fluids quicker than with conventional peripheral IV placement.

Peer Analysis to Improve Service

Our Utilities staff recently began participating in QualServe, a voluntary program designed to help water and wastewater utilities improve all areas of their operations by focusing on continuous improvement of quality, efficiency, and customer satisfaction. Following a self-assessment survey to determine employee's perceptions on how well best practices are being applied to daily operations, a trained team of peer reviewers from other utilities across the nation will review CCU operations and offer their ideas of the best opportunities for improvement. A report summarizing the results of this analysis is expected to be completed by May.

Mosquito Control Efficiencies

In preparation for the upcoming mosquito season, our Mosquito Control division is calibrating spray equipment and increasing efficiencies through modifications to the fog trucks. The trucks' heavy platforms are being removed and the adulticide spray equipment is being mounted inside the trucks' manufactured truck beds. These modifications eliminate excess weight, which will extend tire replacement frequency and also improve gas mileage.

Volunteerism in Full Swing

As a participating organization in Disney's "Give-a-Day, Get-a-Disney Day" volunteer program, Charlotte County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department has received over 70 requests thus far, from county residents looking for opportunities to volunteer in the department. Disney's volunteer program is a year-long effort to get one million people to volunteer throughout the United States by Dec. 31, 2010. Volunteering for at least eight hours entitles the volunteer to a free ticket to a Disney Theme Park good for one day. Anyone wishing to volunteer at our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources facilities or for events or programs can register and sign-up for volunteer opportunities at www.disneyparks.com.

Tourism Focus

Our Tourism director, Becky Bovell, was the featured speaker for the Women's Council of Realtors kickoff meeting for the year. Her presentation covered Visitor Bureau operations, advertising and promotional initiatives. She also provided a snapshot of the area's recent infrastructure improvements and the positive impact they will have on tourism business in 2010.

Affordable Housing

Our Building Construction Services (BCS) department is working closely with our Human Services department in support of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The purpose of the NSP is to create jobs and repopulate abandoned homes from the foreclosure crisis by developing affordable housing for homeownership or rentals. One of our Building Inspectors is inspecting the condition of abandoned homes to determine what needs to be done to make them habitable, or if they may need to be demolished.

Economic Development

The Southwest Florida Economic Development Partnership has released materials for its Gorilla Marketing campaign. Our Economic Development Office (EDO) will ask area businesses and community organizations to display the window cards in their windows, on bulletin boards and in or near their display racks. As you can see from the following captions, some can be used in line with general retail shops, the tourism based businesses, restaurants, etc.:

- Shop around for a new location, too.
- Tan Lines. Bottom Lines. We're pretty good at increasing both.
- The Chef also recommends moving your business here.
- Move your Business here. Think of all the money you'll save on vacations.
- Bring your business to a brighter place.
- You could be on your lunch-hour. Not your vacation.
- Want to see a Great Performance? Move your business here.