

**Administrator's Update to publish 1/29/2010**  
**By Roger Baltz**

**Commissioner's Strategic Focus**

This past week all of our County Commissioners, several members of our management team, and I participated in a goal setting session for the coming year. Our Commissioners identified the following focus areas for the coming year:

Public Safety  
Growth Management  
Water Resources  
Fiscal/Financial Planning  
Economic Development  
Human Services  
Quality of Life  
Efficient and Effective Government

Our staff will be aligning specific directional activities to the goals defined in each of these focus areas.

**Quarterly Capital Project Update**

We have updated our quarterly listing and timelines for several of our capital projects in the areas of Public Works, Utilities, Facilities, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. This past week the updated information regarding over 70 listed projects was posted to our County web site at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.com](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.com). The information can be found on the Administration department's web page.

**Road Widening Update**

Our Public Works department is nearing the end of the Toledo Blade Boulevard Widening Project. All work, including the street lights, will be completed on or before Feb. 12, 2010.

For the Aquí Esta Street Widening project, bridge demolition of the Venice Canal Bridge is now complete, as well as sheet pipe wall on the west roadway approach. The contractor is working on the east roadway approach. Piles are on order and should be delivered within the next three weeks, at which time the support pilings will be driven for the new bridge. Bridge work is on schedule and should be reopened to traffic as planned on June 1, 2010.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The new year marks the 75th anniversary of our Charlotte County Extension Service. Throughout the year we will be recognizing the County's first Agricultural Agent, Mr. N.H. "Doc" McQueen, who served Charlotte County for over 30 years. Mr. McQueen's legacy and the work of those who followed him continue to build on a successful programs and services provided through the County's Extension Office; Agricultural, 4-H and Sea Grant agents.

### **Traffic Safety**

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) chaired a Community Traffic Safety Team meeting where a large portion of the meeting was devoted to discussion of an advanced congestion management system. We will request that FDOT provide the necessary computer software to run the system with local parties providing a portion of the funding to implement the system. The system will be designed to reduce congestion on the area's transportation system in conjunction with the development of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

### **Visitors Guide**

The 2010 Charlotte County Visitor's Guide is now available through the County tourism office. The comprehensive award-winning guide helps the County communicate to prospective visitors all that there is to see, do, and where to stay in Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands. Approximately 85,000 guides will be distributed through local chambers, attractions, accommodations, Official Florida Welcome Centers, the Southwest Florida International Airport, and as a calling card at numerous tourism trade events. The guide is sent to all who request information on Charlotte County via phone, e-mail and the Internet.

### **Customer Transportation Survey**

Our Human Services Transit Division will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey during the month of February 2010. The federally funded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Mobility (Access) Coordinator, is expected to interview 100 Dial a Ride customers, 90 Sunshine Ride customers and ten subcontracted vendor customers. The survey is intended to assist in educating the public on the service provisions and provide constructive feedback on service improvements. Survey results are expected the end of March.