

Administrator's Update for 12/5/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

As part of the National Recycle Week celebration, the Charlotte County solid waste division partnered with Waste Management to provide a free paper shredding event to the residents of Charlotte County last month. The "Shred-A-Thon" was well-received and a steady flow of vehicles kept the shredders busy. Over 1.5 tons of personal documents were shredded. The shredding company allowed the residents to witness the shredding process via a video monitor that showed their documents being dropped into the shredding blades and turned into confetti. This process gave the residents a feeling of security that no one could use or have access to their personal information. Due to the success of the event, we hope to be able to offer this service again next year.

New fire boat

On Monday the new Charlotte County Fire/EMS emergency response fire boat Marine 2 was christened in a ceremony at Port Charlotte Beach Park. Presenters included Commissioner Christopher Constance Chair of the Board of County Commissioners and Fire/EMS Chief Dennis R. DiDio. Marine 2 is a brand-new Boston Whaler equipped with Basic Life Support equipment, a fire pump rated at 1150 gallons per minute, and two 300 horsepower Yamaha outboard motors as well as other features. Operating out of Laishley Marina in Punta Gorda, Marine 2 will cover the upper Charlotte Harbor area and provide support to Marine 1 in the west county area, including the intercostal waterway and Gulf of Mexico.

Film production

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau has announced the hiring of Mr. Jerry Jones as the new Charlotte County Director of Film, Television and Digital Media. The primary responsibility of this part-time position will be to bring significant film production to Charlotte County by positioning us as a destination for filming movies, television shows and commercials. Mr. Jones brings 27 years of experience in the film and entertainment industry to Charlotte County. His most recent position was Director of the Missouri Film Office. The promotion of Charlotte Harbor as a film, episodic television and commercial location has the potential to bring additional revenue to Charlotte County. Because Charlotte County is considered an underutilized area by Film Florida, filmmakers who shoot here are eligible for an additional 5 percent incentive from the state.

Construction updates

Components of phase three of the Burnt Store Road widening project are underway. Charlotte County real estate services division has begun acquiring property along Burnt Store Road between the Lee County Line and just north of Zemel Road. In early November the design consultant provided 90 percent plans for review and comments. A meeting has been held with FPL and Century Link in mid-November to coordinate construction and discuss any impacts to their facilities. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin in May 2013.

The last layer of asphalt at the south end of Piper Road is scheduled to be applied within the next two weeks. This is the final element of construction to complete the Piper Road South project, which reaches from Henry Street to North Jones Loop Road. This project included waterline and sewer main upgrades and roadway lighting in addition to roadway improvements.

Sales tax sidewalks

The construction of the Capricorn Blvd. sidewalk from Rampart Boulevard to Sandhill Blvd. has been completed. This project and the connecting sidewalks were funded through the 2008 Sales Tax referendum. It is part of a network of sidewalks being constructed throughout the Deep Creek area as well as throughout

Charlotte County to provide pedestrian walking and biking facilities. The construction contract was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The Sandhill Blvd. sidewalk project, that starts at Rio de Janiero Ave. connects to the new Capricorn Blvd. sidewalk, is currently under construction and well ahead of schedule. Deep Creek Blvd. sidewalk that connects Rio de Janiero to Sandhill Blvd. is in Purchasing and will be going out to bid in the next few weeks.