

Administrator's Update for 5/12/10

By Roger Baltz

Employee Health Clinic Update

Our County employee health clinic was opened on April 15, 2009; we have two physicians on staff and a nurse practitioner, a nurse, phlebotomist and a medical assistant/x-ray tech. The clinic offers primary care services, prescription drugs, blood draws and lab services, x-rays, hearing tests, stress tests and occupation medical visits such as workers comp, drug testing, post offer physicals, all required testing for workers as well as hepatitis A and B shots, flu shots.

We have an estimated savings of \$3.84 for every dollar expended on the health center this past year through the end of March 2010. This model is operated on a no co-pay basis for the visit or the medications that are dispensed. The clinic is one of the budget strategies which was put into place to aid in keeping health plans cost down.

Regional Meeting

Assistant Administrators Kelly Shoemaker and Ray Sandrock and I attended a meeting of County Administrators from all over the Southwest Florida region which was hosted in Manatee County. We reviewed common issues, economic and budget concerns.

I also attended the Economic Development Working Group meetings in April. These meetings are hosted by our Economic Development Office and Commissioner Starr is our County representative.

Transit Data

Our Charlotte County Human Services Transit Division has designed a report to count rural ridership for Dial-a-Ride and Sunshine Ride. All rural addresses are being added to the Route Match software system for tracking. The ARRA-funded mobility coordinator is tracking rural ridership as part of the goal to enhance access to transit service. New ridership and customer referral incentive promotion service are also being tracked. At least 61 new riders have been recorded in the month of April 2010. Dial-a-ride trip counts have reflected an increase in both March and April 2010 over the same months in 2009.

Tag Invoice Efficiencies

With the help of our Charlotte County Information Technology Division, the Animal Control staff is now using new invoicing developed in SharePoint to produce the invoices that go out to local veterinarian clinics with regards to animal tag sales. An added feature of the new invoices is that they can be saved as PDF files and e-mailed to clinics instead of mailed.

Public Works

The contractor for the Piper Road Widening Project has placed over 31,000 cubic yards of material for the embankment. They have cleared a total of 36 acres and removed over 11,000 cubic yards of material for a drainage canal. The storm drain portion of the project began with installation of reinforced concrete pipe and drainage structures including some large end walls and head walls.

The Sunrise Waterway project has been awarded to Marine Contracting Group for \$25,020. This project was funded through FEMA for Tropical Storm Fay damages. The contractor started dredging April 28, 2010, and will have 30 days to complete the project.

A major component of the Landfill Gas Collection System, the skid mounted Blower Flare System arrived Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at the Zemel Road Landfill and was installed on its concrete pad. This candlestick flare will run 24 hours a day destroying methane gas which is a major greenhouse gas.

Single Stream Recycles More

Our Charlotte County Solid Waste Division has announced that our franchise hauler, Waste Management, is single-stream recycling using older rear loader trucks. This allows residents to recycle more plastics than before. Plastics with numbers 1 thru 7 can now be recycled and all the recycling materials (newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, etc.) can be commingled in a recycling bin—no need to sort into different bins.

Economic Development

Kay Tracy from our Economic Development Office (EDO) visited the Disney Entrepreneur Center (E-Center) in Orlando with Commissioner Duffy and met with Executive Director Jerry Ross. The E-Center is a unique public-private partnership dedicated to the development, growth and success of small businesses. Through a cooperative effort of a diverse group of business support organizations, the E-Center offers professional business assistance, quality educational programming and access to practical industry expertise. The EDO is considering implementing some of the ideas shared during the meeting.

Grants for Senior Assistance

An additional \$15,578 in State grant funds from the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida has been received by our Charlotte County Human Services Department. The grant is to assist frail seniors and their caregivers in Charlotte County with respite care and special needs subsidies. In addition, \$30,000 was also reallocated to provide seniors waiting for services with priority in-home care assistance.