

Administrator's Update for 8/11/10
By Roger Baltz

Abandoned and Vacant Property Program

The Abandoned & Vacant Property Registration Program went into effect on Aug. 1, 2010. The application and registration process for this program is being handled by our Building and Construction Services (BCS) department. The registration fee is \$150 per year and the program is mandatory for all abandoned and vacant homes and commercial buildings in Charlotte County. Criteria for such properties and an application form can be found online at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/BCS.

Paving Work and Entry Signs

The paving on Edgewater Drive from approximately 275' west of Elkcam Waterway to US 41, and Bayshore Road from north of Glass Lane to Vick Street has been completed. This past week roughly 763 tons of high density asphalt has been placed on Edgewater Drive and 219 tons of regular surface asphalt on Bayshore Road. The post construction restoration of swales and shoulders has begun on Edgewater Drive and Bayshore Road, and the paving contractor has moved back into Greater Port Charlotte (GPC) to complete the paving in that District. The paving process in GPC should be complete by the middle of next week with the restoration continuing for another week.

South Gulf Cove Entry Features work has also continued. The entry sign structures have been completed and rough-in for the irrigation and lighting has begun. The anchorages for the signage have been drilled. Ornamental trees have been planted and curbing has been installed on each roadway leading into the neighborhood.

Public Safety

County staff from our Emergency Management Division, IT, GIS, and Public Works met with City of Punta Gorda staff to discuss a proposal to place brightly colored reflective collars on stop signs across the City and the County that will identify various storm surge zones. This will more clearly alert residents as to their vulnerability to this deadly component of hurricanes.

Beach Concessions

Negotiations are being held on concession services for Englewood Beach. This is for a firm(s) or individual(s) to manage and operate Mobile Concession Services at Englewood Beach. It is the intent of the County to require the successful proposer to operate a mobile food, drink, and/or sundries concession and rental recreation equipment concession and be

responsible for equipping the mobile food dispensing unit(s) at Englewood Beach.

Manasota and Sandpiper Key

In response to issues raised by the public and encountered by County staff, our Growth Management staff is proposing revisions to the Manasota and Sandpiper Key Zoning Overlay. The revisions are an effort to make the overlay easier to understand and use by practitioners and to allow more flexibility in development for property owners. Problematic areas of the overlay are being revised, such as loosening restrictions on the location of fencing and addressing the building height/side setback discrepancies.

The revised zoning overlay is on the county's website for review and comment, using the online comment software developed recently to gather public input for the county's new comprehensive plan. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com and click "Manasota and Sandpiper Key Community Planning."

Government Academy

Applications are being accepted for Charlotte County Government Academy, a unique opportunity to learn about the departments under the Board of County Commissioners. The Academy will be held 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in five workshops on Wednesdays in September at various locations. Applications are available in the County Administration Center, libraries, or online at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com. The application deadline is Aug. 16. For more information, call Katie Ranson at 941.743.1386.

Water Rescue

Our Fire/EMS Special Operations Team is training with Florida's Urban Search and Rescue System, Florida Task Force 6, in Urban Flood and Swift Water Rescue. This 40-hour certification program is being provided at no cost to Charlotte County. The program comes at a good time as we enter the height of hurricane season and the increased potential for storms and floods.