

Administrator's Update for 9/15/10
By Raymond J. Sandrock, Interim County Administrator

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Department received approval to utilize \$16,365 of the FY09/10 EMS County Grant for the purchase of Carbon Monoxide (CO) monitors that will allow crews to check patients for elevated levels of CO in the bloodstream. The purpose of the grant is to improve the pre-hospital emergency care system through either training of implementing new procedures and processes. This process was added by our new Medical Director Dr. O'Leary and he has now made it part of the Department's Medical Protocols ensuring that Charlotte County is utilizing the latest technologies and equipment in the field.

Our Building and Growth Management Department has had its first applicant for the new Lien Relief program. The application is currently being processed and the appropriate reductions or release will be completed shortly. The Lien Relief Program, started on Sept. 1, aims to encourage property owners to bring properties into compliance with County codes. More information on the Lien Relief Program can be found at www.CharlotteCountyFL/BCS.com or by contacting the Building and Growth Management Department at 941.743.1201.

The three boards handled by the Building division of our Building and Growth Management Department (Code Enforcement Board, Construction Industry Licensing Board and Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals) have gone paperless. All the boards now receive their agenda packages on a flash drive and the department is making laptops available in the meetings for the board members to access their documents. This has been done in an effort to streamline the process and reduce both paper costs and staff overheads.

Our Charlotte County Community Services Department, formerly known as Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources, has moved its Administrative and Natural Resources offices to the Mid County Regional Library. This consolidation of space will allow for greater efficiency in management and operations. The Administrative offices will continue to offer parking passes for County operated beach and boat ramps.

Our Human Services Department received an additional \$5,000 in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) monies, which is American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for fiscal year ending September 30, 2010. This additional funding to Charlotte County from the Department of Community Affairs is part of a statewide reallocation of funds to assist eligible low-income individuals increase their access to benefits and enrollment in service programs.

This summer our Senior Services case management staff began processing applications for the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly program. This program is for households with low-income seniors whose electric service is

in threat of being shut off. As of August 31, 2010, 30 applications for assistance have been processed totaling \$7,387. As recognized partners with the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, our Human Services Department has already been able to generate an additional \$1,544 in grant funds as reimbursement for the staff time processing these applications.