

Administrator's Update for 9/29/10
By Raymond J. Sandrock, County Administrator

We are excited that the Clean Energy Roadshow has chosen Charlotte County to be the Florida location for their 50-state tour. The invitation-only event will be held at our Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda on Oct. 19. The one-day event focuses on renewable energy issues and development specific to the region on each stop of the tour. Attendees include local, state and national government and stakeholders such as the Blue Green Alliance, the Sierra Club, and the Clean Economy Network.

The primary purpose of this event is to directly connect leaders from local governments, educational institutions, and key energy sector businesses with high level representatives from state and federal agencies. This will give our region the potential to access to resources and funding that are critical to implementing large scale energy programs and initiatives. Open discussion between agencies is facilitated through a series round-table meetings and presentations.

The Clean Energy Roadshow will be followed by the County's Green Futures Expo & Energy Options Conference on Nov. 12 and 13 (Friday and Saturday), which is also held at the event center. This event is developed for the public with a goal of providing information, resources, and awareness about alternative energy options. Find more information at our website www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.

New CRA

On Tuesday Sept. 21 the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the creation of a Community Redevelopment Area surrounding the two Hospitals in central Port Charlotte. The CRA district consists of approximately 1000 acres of area and lies between Midway Blvd. and US 41 and is bordered by the Morningstar and Fordham Waterways. The designation is the first step in the revitalization and redevelopment of this central area. County planners, along with area stakeholders, will now begin the process of creating a redevelopment plan for the area. The plan will focus on economic and social growth as well as creating livable and safe neighborhoods.

Piper Road

Piper Road construction continues with the majority of storm drain work completed, which ensures that the road base can remain dry during construction. A large portion of the embankment is complete and the sub-base layer is being constructed. Also installed is the potable water line, which will be tested over the next several weeks, and then hookups will occur.

Lien Relief Program

Our Building and Growth Management Department received its first lien payoff under the new Lien Relief Program. The program helped a citizen facing foreclosure to payoff liens for a fraction of the amount owed, making a sale of the property possible and preventing the foreclosure. The Lien Relief Program aims to encourage property owners to bring properties into compliance with County codes. More information on the Lien Relief Program and the Abandoned and Vacant Property program can be found at www.CharlotteCountyFL/BCS.com or by contacting the Building and Growth Management Department at 941.743.1201.

Aircraft Rescue Training

Charlotte County Fire/EMS Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Team continues to train and perfect their skills and tactics in order to better serve our community. This training provides knowledge of equipment, tactics and familiarization of the Charlotte County Airport and the aircrafts it may encounter. Recently the Department conducted a training scenario which focuses on a Rotary Aircraft returning from a routine patrol crash. The Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Team was tasked with determining the make and model of the aircraft, determining the proper response, identifying levels of fuels on board, number of occupants, the occupant's injury status, and possible entrapment of the occupants. Team members were also tasked to identify the hazards on the aircraft, the safety issue for the area and the salvage and overhaul of the toxic gasses and fumes. This type of training helps identify deficiencies in policies and operational procedures that can be corrected and improved on for the future if we were to be called upon.