

**Administrator's Update for 10/20/10**  
**By Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator**

Yesterday the Board of County Commissioners, Department of Energy representatives, and leaders from nearby local governments and businesses came together at the Clean Energy Roadshow. This event, held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda, focused on renewable energy issues and development in our region. By directly connecting local leaders with high level representatives from state and federal agencies, our region now has the potential of accessing resources and funding that is critical to implementing large scale energy programs and initiatives. The Clean Energy Roadshow is on a 50-state tour and chose Charlotte County to be the location for the Florida stop.

**Comp Plan Delayed**

The final implementation of the Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan was delayed last week by legal challenges. During the challenge period the Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan will not be in effect. As a result projects like the redevelopment plan for the medical area will be delayed.

**Boat Ramp Improvements**

The Butterford Boat Ramp area near Holiday Lakes has recently been upgraded. Improvements include adding shell parking surfaces and handicap parking. The Butterford Boat Ramp is a free boat ramp accessible off Marathon Blvd. that is used to access the canal system for freshwater fishing, canoeing and kayaking, and leisure boating.

**Historical Trail**

Our Charlotte County Historical Center is destination number 24 on the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage. The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage, Inc. is a Florida nonprofit 501(c)3 membership network of archaeological sites, history museums, heritage interpreters and county, state, and national. Its mission is to promote responsible site visitation and public education of Florida's Indian heritage. To view the destinations visit [www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org](http://www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org) and click "Trail Map."

**Design-a-Card Contest**

Our Charlotte County Library System has launched a Design-a-Card Contest, giving the community an opportunity to design a new library card. Three winning designs will be selected and printed on new cards that will be available beginning National Library Week in April 2011. Entry deadline is Dec. 4, 2010. For more

information and contest entry forms visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.com](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.com) and click "Library Pages."

### **Economic Development News**

On Tuesday, Oct. 12 the Board of County Commissioners adopted a revised Impact Fee Ordinance that contained several provisions designed to encourage Economic Development. The updated ordinance removes the requirement for Impact Fee payment for existing small businesses that are expanding, provides a deferment program for qualified applicants of up to 10 years for payment of Impact Fees, and creates an Installment Payment Program for qualified applicants to pay Impact Fees over a maximum four year period. This updated Ordinance adds another tool in the toolbox of incentives used to attract new and expanding companies to Charlotte County to create jobs.

Charlotte County Economic Development Interim Director Kay Tracy recently attended the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's 85th Annual Banquet and was appointed to the Chamber's Board of Directors.

### **Mitigation Strategy Approved**

Our Charlotte County Emergency Management Office has received final approval from Florida Division of Emergency Management and FEMA on the 2011-2016 Local Mitigation Strategy. The Local Mitigation Strategy is a guideline for natural and manmade hazard mitigation activities throughout the County. Approval of the plan is essential because the plan is the basis for receiving Federal mitigation grants, which can include significant funding after a declared event such as Hurricane Charley.

### **Radio Repairs**

Our Charlotte County Radio Communications Division has taken over the in-house repairs and maintenance program of mobile and portable radios. The Radio Communication Division has saved the various County Departments and other user agencies approximately \$40,000 in repairs and maintenance costs in FY 09/10 by performing the services in-house.