

Administrator's Update for 10/27/10
By Raymond J. Sandroock, County Administrator

As we are now ending the first month of our new Fiscal Year, I am very optimistic about the year ahead for Charlotte County. As an employee of Charlotte County and as a citizen I am proud of how we have successfully overcome the challenges of both natural disasters and economic challenges both which were out of our control. We are not out of the woods yet, but we have framed a financial plan that we believe will enable us to navigate through the next few years. We have some exciting economic interests that have the potential of providing substantial jobs and a positive economic impact to Charlotte County. The Medical Arts Community Redevelopment Agency will create an area that will attract new business and enhance residential areas promoting livability and mobility in this central Port Charlotte Area. The Tampa Bay Rays and the Charlotte Stone Crabs had exciting seasons which leave us with anticipation of their seasons soon to return to Charlotte County. Punta Gorda continues to develop as a special gem to both visitors and residents. West County with its beaches and natural beauty remains a treasure. Charlotte County is really a special place.

Prescribed Burn

Several of our Community Services staff members met with representatives of the Florida Division of Forestry for prescribed burning at Tippecanoe Environmental Park. The preparation work has begun, which includes fire line prep and mechanical vegetation reduction. In the coming weeks, staff will be conducting the prescribed burns for habitat restoration and the reduction of vegetative fuel.

Spring Lakes Area – Sewer Pilot

At the request of Administration, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to move forward with reviewing alternatives to conventional septic systems in the Spring Lakes area of Port Charlotte. The State Legislature passed Senate Bill 550 this past June which goes into effect in Jan. 2011. This bill will require properties with failing septic systems to install enhanced replacement systems at significant costs. Our goal is to evaluate an alternative central sewer system at the lowest possible cost to our Charlotte County residents to include an affordable financing program.

Bermont Road

Representatives of our Public Works Engineering Division met with Halfacre Construction to finalize the design and permitting scope of service with respect to the Bermont Road Improvements project. This project is to mill, resurface and make feasible safety improvements from US 17 to SR 31. Design of the improvements should be started this month.

Fire/EMS Update

An agreement has been signed between our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Division and Little Gasparilla Fire Rescue Inc. to provide fire protection on Little Gasparilla Island. This will now allow the Island Fire Rescue to provide both fire and Advance Life Support services to all residents of the Island.

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Division has received four new Massimo RAD-57 CO Detectors. This new and innovative monitoring equipment provides accurate readings of the levels of carbon monoxide in a person within seconds. Fire/EMS can now be very pro-active when monitoring patients and personnel who have been exposed to any byproducts of combustion, motor or engine exhaust, and fires. These monitors were purchased with grant monies by the State. The monitors will be in units strategically placed throughout the County.

Revised Plan

In preparation for the land swap and potential water park, the Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan. The amendment provides greater flexibility in plan implementation and a revised concept plan. The revised plan and concept plan is posted on the website and can be reviewed at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/MurdockVillage.

Community Garage Sales

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, was the second of the season's Community Garage Sales at the Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood. Approximately 250 to 300 people attended the sale. The inside vendor area was full; the outside vendor area had only a few unused spaces. The Community Garage Sales are free to the public and are held on the first and third Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 2011. For more information call 941.681.3742.