

Administrator's Update for 11/24/10
By Raymond J. Sandrock, County Administrator

Approximately 150 citizens, veterans, and dignitaries attended the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Walkway on Veterans Day. Our community services department and VFW Post 5690 collaborated on the project. Charlotte County community services planned for the Memorial Walkway during construction of Phase II of the North Charlotte Regional Park by including a brick patio and concrete walkways. The VFW post made major improvements by providing and installing three flagpoles and seven granite monuments dedicated to veterans, each branch of the service, and POW/MIAs. The Veterans Memorial Walkway is located in North Charlotte Regional Park adjacent to the soccer fields.

The Stump Pass dredge and beach nourishment contract has been awarded and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22, 2010. The project is scheduled for completion at the end of March 2011.

The main entrances from CR 771 to the South Gulf Cove community have been completed. The entrance areas at Appleton, Ingraham, Keystone, and San Domingo Boulevards were designed with attractive sign features and landscaped in a Florida-friendly fashion, using reclaimed irrigation water. Royal palms and curbing further contribute to the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Open gym for pickleball has started on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood. Pickleball is a fun game that is played on a badminton court with the net lowered to 34 inches at the center. Players use wood or composite paddles and a perforated plastic baseball (similar to a wiffle ball). The game is easy for beginners to learn and it can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. The sport crosses generations and allows people of all ages to participate. Open gym for pickleball is Call 941-681-3742 for more information.

Our human services department staff received training on situations and required reporting of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation as it pertains their professional and personal environment. The training was organized through the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida. Emphasis was placed on observable behavior and protocol when protecting the elderly. All suspected cases of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation should be reported to the Department of Children and Families' abuse hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Earlier this month our parks and natural resources division staff released a rehabilitated green sea turtle named "Harry" back into the water in a quiet location in the area of Gasparilla Sound and Charlotte Harbor. Harry was found floating, unable to swim due to entanglement with fishing line, at the south mouth of Matlacha Pass. After a rehabilitation period at the Clearwater Aquarium, Harry was ready to go back into the waters.

Our community services department is sponsoring the "Mopar/AMC's in The Park" car and truck show on Dec. 5 at Oyster Creek Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Drive, Englewood. Over 250 Dodge, Chrysler, Plymouth and Jeep vehicles are anticipated to attend the event. The car show is unique in that the entry fee for participants is canned food, and sponsors will provide car show participants with lunch. Food donations will benefit local food pantries through the Murdock Baptist Church, East Englewood Church of Christ, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank. For more information visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.