

**Administrator's Update for 1/26/11**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Over the past three weeks I had the pleasure to speak at several community group meetings. My main topic has been discussion of 2011 focus areas for Charlotte County. It has been a great opportunity to discuss these important topics and receive feedback from the community.

Recently our Dial-a-Ride transit service began testing new driver scheduled times that begin earlier in the day with a primary focus on accommodating employed workers. All the Dial-a-Ride buses have the new hours posted, which start at 6:30 a.m., and staff will continue to monitor demand.

Our community services department received approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails to commence construction of the Oyster Creek Waterfront Trail. The project is partially grant-funded and will connect Oyster Creek Regional Park and Cedar Point Park via a boardwalk under Placida Road.

On Sunday, Jan. 16, Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood hosted another community garage sale. Approximately 300 people attended the sale, which has vendor spaces inside and outside. The garage sales are free to the public; vendor spaces are available for a small fee. The community garage sale is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month continuing through April.

Tampa Bay Rays spring training begins next month at the Charlotte Sports Park and tickets are now on sale. Some ticketholders may see advertising promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination on the back of tickets. The Rays invited our Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau to place advertising on the back of 50,000 spring training tickets. The result is the Bureau's logo and an MS Tag which is a type of barcode users can scan with a mobile camera phone to learn more about the destination and find spring training specials through the bureau's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/charlotteharbor](http://www.facebook.com/charlotteharbor)). The bureau is also gathering spring training specials from County businesses.

The Charlotte County Library System has reinstated holds for almost all materials. The popular service had been eliminated during budget reduction from Fiscal Year 2010, but Library staff found efficiencies in other areas and we are able to reinstate the service. This service extends to new books, DVDs and music CDs. Library holds allow patrons to put a hold on books and materials that are currently checked out so they can be on the waiting list.

A series of public meetings for the Medical District Area Revitalization will be held Feb. 3, Feb. 17, and March 24. All of the meetings will be held at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm. The overall focus will be to further involve the public in the design of the master plan. The meetings dates and topics are as follows: Feb. 3, identify a shared vision; Feb. 17, identify specific plan details; March 24, review and fine-tune the plan draft.

Last week our building and growth management department demolished a condo building severely damaged by fire in Rotonda. This building has stood empty since the

fire and the county has worked with both the condo owners and their legal representatives to amicably facilitate the demolition of this unsafe structure.