

Administrator's Update for 2/9/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the first of three public charrettes for the Medical District Area Revitalization was held at the Charlotte County Cultural Center on Aaron Street. The meeting was well-attended, with public input and discussion on the master plan for the area. Two more charrettes will be held at the Cultural Center, Feb. 17 and March 24, both from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

County budget

Our budget process for fiscal year 2011/2012 is underway and last week we held two public input workshops. In addition, we are seeking citizen's input on our services via our annual budget survey available through March 1. Visit the county website www.CharlotteCountyFL.com and click "Give Us Your Input" or fill out a paper copy of the survey. Printed copies are available in county libraries, human services counters, and other county buildings.

Landfill inspection

Last month the Florida Department of Protection (FDEP) inspected and passed the Zemel Road Landfill for solid waste compliance with their operations permit. The facility is inspected at least four times a year, and FDEP can choose to inspect the landfill at any time. The Zemel Road Landfill operations permit has 16 general permit requirements and 38 specific permit requirements.

Severe weather education

The Charlotte County emergency management division has been helping deliver information about the "New Kids Get a Plan" website to elementary schools. Letters to parents and stickers for the students with the web address www.KidsGetAPlan.com have been provided. The website is a partnership between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and IDEAS company and provides educational materials about severe weather hazards for students, parents, and teachers. Administrators and teachers were excited about the new addition and the department will continue to do this with subsequent school presentations.

Recycling

Keep Charlotte Beautiful received a grant of 200 recycling containers from the Dream Machine recycling initiative, created by PepsiCo in collaboration with Keep America Beautiful, Waste Management and Greenopolis. The recycling containers will be placed in local schools and other locations that are not currently capturing the plastic bottles and aluminum recycling products. The containers will help Charlotte County to meet its recycling goals, reduce the amount being sent to the landfill, and support Keep Charlotte Beautiful's mission of engaging individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. The containers and locations are being coordinated by Keep Charlotte Beautiful and our Charlotte County solid waste division.

Recently our solid waste division and Waste Management gave a recycling presentation to over 200 members of a local homeowners association. The presentation covered the entire process that led to the current method of commingling all the recyclables together in recycle bins. The residents also got an overview of the steps from curbside collection to the Waste Management Reuters processing facility in Pembroke Pines. Any group interested in scheduling a presentation can call 941-764-4348 to request a speaker.

Piper Road project

The Piper Road widening project is progressing. Florida Power and Light completed relocation of their light poles along Piper Road from the Peace River distributing plant to the Charlotte Speedway. Installation of the sewer force main for the entire project has been completed and is operational, totaling over 15,790 linear feet of sewer main. Henry Street will be closed from Florida Street to Golf Course Boulevard for the next few weeks to accommodate intersection improvements at Piper Road, including storm drain installation.

Recreation

On Friday, Jan. 28 our community services department partnered with the Charlotte County sheriff's office and Shuman's Black Belt Academy to host a Self-Defense for Women Course at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Ten instructors and two officers instructed eighty-five women between the ages of 19 and 81 years old the proper way to handle themselves when under attack.

South County Regional Park Pool hosted the Charlotte County Blue Fins swim meet on Saturday, Jan. 29. Over 145 swimmers and their families attended the three-day meet. Also on Jan. 29, the Charlotte Sports Park hosted the "Great Garage Sale" in the main parking lot. Thirty-five vendors participated and estimated attendance was 700 people.

For a listing of community service's activities and programs, visit the county website www.CharlotteCountyFL.com and click "Recreation Activities" under Resident.