

Administrator's Update for 3/16/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last Friday we hosted a joint meeting with the City of Punta Gorda. A presentation was given on the Burnt Store Road and Jones Loop Road improvements and the Charlotte County Sheriff's budget was discussed. The new director of Charlotte County tourism department, Lorah Steiner, gave a presentation about the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau (CVB). The CVB will be holding once-a-month coffee sessions to maintain contact with area industry partners.

Master plan underway

A review and analysis of the public information gathered at the two Medical District charrettes held last month has been completed. Staff is now beginning to write the Citizen's Master Plan for the community redevelopment area, the draft of which will be presented at the next public meeting at the Charlotte County Cultural Center on Aaron Street from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on March 24.

Title V permit

At the end of last month, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued a Title V Operational Permit renewal to the Zemel Road Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility. Also included was the renewal of the permit for the Methane Collection System, which includes the Flare which was completed in May 2010. Title V is a federal program designed to standardize air quality permits and the permitting process for major sources of emissions throughout the country. "Title V" is short for, Title V of the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments which requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a national, operating permit program

"Fit for Life"

The 2011 "Fit for Life" Senior Games are in full swing. Competitions will continue through March 20. With well over 400 competitors and entries in almost 1,300 events, we are excited to see an 18 percent increase in participation this year. Upcoming events include kayak races on Saturday, March 19 at Port Charlotte Beach Park in conjunction with the Kayak and Wildlife Festival held that day. View the schedule at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.

Master gardeners

The Charlotte County extension service 2011 master gardener training began March 8 at the East Port Environmental Campus on Harborview Road with Dr. Doug Caldwell. Master gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs and activities that draw on the horticultural research and experience of the University of Florida Extension Service. Charlotte County's master gardener program, along with similar programs in other counties in Florida, is directly linked to the University of Florida as part of its national Land Grant College charter. Anyone who enjoys gardening and has a desire to share their knowledge and skills in their community can be a master gardener. Candidates apply and are interviewed prior to attending an intensive, yet enjoyable training course on all aspects of Florida home horticulture. Master gardeners then volunteer the required amount of time in bringing our educational message to the community and are kept up to date with regular in-service training. Trips, tours and other special activities round out the experience, which is as social as it is

educational. Our 2011 class is currently underway and continues through May. For more information please call 764.4340.

Senior planning

Our senior services case management staff is working with the Area Agency on Aging to provide a new service "Nursing Home Transition Case Management." Staff is also working with other entities involved with the process including discharge planning teams at area nursing home facilities. The first case has been received and standards for processing future referrals will be developed.

Public Works update

To prevent erosion, installation of fabric form was completed around an outfall on Peace River Drive in Harbour Heights. Road crossing pipes were replaced in South Gulf Cove Section 1 to facilitate future road paving and major outfall ditches in Englewood East were cut. As part of the Piper Road Widening Project, over 1,000 tons of asphalt was placed on Henry Street which was re-opened to traffic on March 4.