

Administrator's Update for 5/11/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Two staff members and a local business representative attended the Gulf Coast Sustainable Economies Leadership Academy in New Orleans last week, by invitation. Nineteen teams from across the gulf coast participated in the academy. Team members included current and past mayors, CEOs, commissioners, and high-level representatives from non-profit organizations, cities and counties, and the private sector. The academy provided an opportunity to network with and learn from national leaders in the energy and sustainability sectors, and develop relationships with other Florida entities such as St. Lucie, Wakulla, and agencies from the panhandle. Our staff member Jason Stoltzfus represented Charlotte County in a two-person presentation on "Community Resilience and Restoration." The academy also provided a venue to connect with representatives from several Federal agencies and discuss ideas and strategies for addressing hurdles in our sustainability sector.

Tourism Development Plan

Our Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau is seeking members of the community who are interested in participating in the county's 2012 tourism development plan. Visitors to Charlotte County spend more than \$205 million each year and contribute \$19 million in sales tax revenues, which help pay for police and fire protection, road maintenance and other vital County services. Members of the community are invited to join one of 15 tourism teams which will focus on a specific area of tourism development. The teams will meet weekly at first and once a month beginning in late May through the end of August 2011. If interested in participating or learning more about the tourism teams, please contact Lorah Steiner, director of the bureau, at lorah.steiner@charlottefl.com or 941-743-1900.

Cemetery Repairs

Twelve concrete vault covers have been repaired by our Public Works crews at the Lt. Carl Bailey Cemetery in Punta Gorda. The repairs were necessary due to the impact of age and weather on the gravesites, and consisted of patching cracks, resetting covers and straightening headstones. The responsibility of maintaining the monuments and headstones are the responsibility of the family but some of the gravesites were so old that family could not be located. Our Public Works department took the initiative and accomplished the restoration work for the good of the community.

Solid Waste Outreach

Our Solid Waste Division participated in the Healthy Kid's Day event at the Charlotte County Sports Park held in conjunction with a Stone Crabs Game. Staff had a display that showed how single stream recycling works and received a huge response from children and adults. Prizes were awarded for participation in the "Wheel of Knowledge."

Green Building Webinars

At the end of April our building construction services division Green Building Program, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), hosted a webinar "The Cost and Benefits of Green Building." The session offered Continuing Education credits (CEUs) for LEED accredited professionals and registered architects. The sessions are free to USGBC members and interested citizens that do not need the CEUs. For others, the cost is \$15 to process the CEU documentation. This webinar was part of a

series of sessions on Green Building and Sustainable Development. The next webinar in the series, “LEED for Neighborhood Development: Strategies for Urban Infill & Brownfield Redevelopment,” will be held on May 25. Contact Julia Galofre, Building Code and Sustainability Specialist, at julia.galofre@charlottefl.com or 743.1215 for more information.