

Administrator's Update for 8/24/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the redevelopment plan for the Medical District Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). They also approved the establishment of a redevelopment trust fund to gather money from within the district to help finance projects within the district. The fund will receive money from tax increment financing. The master redevelopment plan provides guidelines for the redevelopment of the CRA and was created with input from many citizens.

The BCC also approved a new sign code at last week's land use meeting. The length and complexity of the old sign code has been reduced and there is more flexibility in the new code for businesses to use their allocation for temporary signage.

New services available through our online permitting system are historical permitting reports. As a result of an increasing demand for easily accessible information, staff has developed and deployed two new permitting reports. These reports are designed to provide up-to-date information in two different formats, for use by the public. The first report gives details of all issued permits in the selected time frame and includes items such as permit type, addresses, contact details and contractor details. The second report focuses on Certificates of Occupancy issued in the selected time frame. Both reports are available in an easy to read PDF format or a downloadable Excel spreadsheet for further data manipulation. For more information, visit the Citizen's Access website at www2.charlottefl.com/citizenaccess or call 764.4158.

Earlier this month the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), in cooperation with the UF/IFAS Extension Service, hosted a FAC Regional Webinar Workshop on emergency management for county government. Attendees participated at six Extension office sites across the state via PolyCom teleconference technology. UF/IFAS Charlotte County hosted a site at the Extension office at the East Port Environmental Campus in Port Charlotte with Commissioner Selph and Commissioner Schaefer from Desoto County and Commissioner Deutsch from Charlotte County. The commissioners expressed an increased understanding of emergency management preparation as a result of attending this webinar.

As a direct result of June's marketing mission to Knoxville, Charlotte County hosted a travel writer on assignment for the Knoxville News Sentinel and another journalist of a nationally syndicated adventure and travel column earlier this month. The four-night itinerary provided an introduction to Charlotte County's diverse tourism amenities. Because of the County's partnership with Allegiant Air, the airline provided complimentary airfare from Knoxville into Punta Gorda Airport. Guiding and hosting journalists on organized trips helps generate positive editorial coverage and validates Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands as a vacation destination to potential visitors.

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS department has added a new piece of detection equipment called a "Masimo RAD 57" which checks carbon monoxide levels in the bloodstream. This piece

of equipment has been placed on our rehab unit and in each battalion chief's vehicle. All have been trained on its use. This is the cutting edge in personal protection for our employees and patients who have been exposed to the deadly by-products of combustion. These monitors will establish a baseline for treatment and monitoring all who have been exposed to carbon monoxide, and the earlier the detection the sooner we can start to treat the exposed patient the better the outcome. These monitors were purchased with grant monies and would have cost \$16,000 if we had to purchase them.

The Mid-County Library and the Port Charlotte Library are offering a new product: digital books. Digital books are housed in tiny packages called Playaways. With the addition of headphones, the playaway/books can be taken and played anywhere, such as riding a bike, gardening, walking, or exercising. The digital books can be checked out for three weeks and they free users from having to carry around multiple copies of CDs to hear a book.