

Weekly Update from Administration for 10/19/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last Friday we celebrated the startup of the generators at the Zemel Road Landfill Gas-to-Energy project. The two generators use the methane gas from the landfill to produce enough electricity to power 4000 homes. The project is a public/private partnership with Lime Energy. Commissioner Christopher Constance, Project Manager Roger Lescrynski and I spoke, as well as Eric DuPont from Lime Energy. Future plans include the possibility of expansion to a third generator.

Power Women

Congratulations to Assistant County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker and Tax Collector Vickie Potts for being two of twelve leaders recognized as "Power Women." The cover story of the October 13-19 edition of Florida Weekly is titled "2011 Charlotte County Power Women" and includes the stories of twelve women in the Charlotte County area.

Economic Development Workshop

Southwest Florida businesses that want to apply for the \$2.5 billion in federal funding available annually for research and development of new technology and products are invited to attend a how-to-apply workshop on Nov. 4, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee. Regional economic development organizations, including our Charlotte County Economic Development Office, are sponsoring the workshop to encourage innovation and business expansion. The workshop is geared toward entrepreneurs and small business owners (primarily American-owned with fewer than 500 employees) and anyone interested in learning how to access this funding to start or expand their business. For more information call Lee Kotwicki at 309-1200, ext. 110.

Disc Golf Course Reopened

Our disc golf course, "The Preserve," at North Charlotte Regional Park officially reopened to rave reviews earlier this month. A tournament was held, sponsored by a local club. The previous weekend, club members and others contributed over 40 volunteer hours in a final cleanup work day to ready the course for play.

Veterans Services Update

Our veteran services officers recently completed the semi-annual Florida Department of Veteran Affairs training and recertification course. Certification is required by the state in order for officers to provide benefit assistance to county veterans. Our veterans services division has three locations: Port Charlotte, Englewood, and Punta Gorda. Veterans needing assistance should contact the main office in Port Charlotte at 941.764.5579.

Veteran services staff member Sandi Campbell donated her time to provide caregiver support to veterans traveling to Washington D.C. under the Honor Flight program to view the WWII Memorial. This is Sandi's eighth trip as a volunteer. The Honor Flight program is a network of volunteers that transport veterans to visit their memorials. More information is at the Honor Flight website, www.honorflight.org.

Networking for Events

In early October, Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau staff attended the Travel, Events, and Management in Sports Conference and Expo, which provided educational sessions on relevant topics as well as various networking opportunities. As part of the program, the Bureau met one-on-one with sixteen event organizers to discuss the potential of Charlotte County hosting their events. Several strong leads were generated with a variety of organizations including the Professional Disc Golf Association, Super Series Baseball, Pro Hydro Tour, American Strongman Corporation, and several others. In addition, the American Bicycle Association and Hero Rush committed to include Charlotte County in their RFP process for their next round of upcoming events.