

Weekly Update from Administration for 10/26/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the commissioners held a strategic planning session at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. These sessions were held annually but will now be held more frequently to offer more opportunities for administration, staff and the commission to discuss timely issues and maintain focus. The sessions are very effective as a method of reporting back to the commission on requested projects and items tasked to staff over the recent months. More frequent sessions will increase communication throughout the organization. A wrap-up session will be held before the end of the year to finish the agenda from last week's meeting, and will include a discussion of funding priorities.

EDO around the globe

Our Economic Development Office (EDO) director Tom Patton recently spoke at the Suncoast Technology Forum luncheon in Sarasota. He joined representatives from Sarasota and Manatee Counties, who each spoke about economic development in their respective counties and how they are working to recruit technology based businesses.

Kay Tracy is in Brazil meeting with businesses who are interested in visiting our area and learning more about moving their business to the U.S. Kay will also be there to join Governor Scott and other Florida representatives when they arrive in Sao Paulo for the Enterprise Florida Business Expo and Trade Mission

New tourism bureau location

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau relocated to a new office last week in the Charlotte County Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle in Port Charlotte, in Suite B104. The bureau's new office will continue to serve as a visitor resource center for Charlotte County tourism information and workspace for tourism staff. The Bureau's telephone number 941.743.1900 and visitor information number 1-800-652-6090 remain the same, as well as their website www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com.

New Engine

Charlotte County Fire/EMS just put into service its first new four wheel drive fire engine. The vehicle is located at Fire Station 9 on State Road 31 in south Charlotte County. This engine will now allow the crews to better utilize the dirt roads that residents live on during both fire and EMS emergencies.

NAB analysis

Our Human Services Staff recently conducted an analysis of the 2010-2011 Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) program. The analysis identified 71 youth referred to the program. As a result of this juvenile diversion program, over \$12,000 in restitution was sanctioned to restore victims. In addition, 920 hours of community service was sanctioned to restore and improve neighborhoods, and 97.2 percent of all youth remained crime-free while in the program and for a minimum of six months after completing the program.

Sales tax sidewalk update

Sales tax (year one) sidewalk projects are in progress. The Boundary Boulevard sidewalk and the South Fairway Drive sidewalk are 95 percent or more complete. Construction on the Manor Road sidewalk has begun, and all work associated with stormwater has been completed. Construction on the Alton Road sidewalk has also begun, and several drainage structures have been installed. The Collingswood sidewalk will go before the Board on October 25 for bid award. The 90 percent plans for Florida Street have been prepared and distributed for staff review.

Amnesty at the libraries

The Charlotte County Library System will be having amnesty at all locations from Oct. 24 through Oct. 31. Overdue items may be returned without fines, regardless of how many items or fines you have. Drop off the materials at any Charlotte County Library book drop, or go into the library for a receipt. If you currently have fines, the fines can be waived by bringing in canned and nonperishable items, including pet food, to benefit the local homeless population and pet shelters. Call 941-766-READ for more information.