

**Administrator's Update for 12/28/11**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS department held their annual pancake breakfasts with Santa last week. The breakfasts were a big success, with approximately 400 people attending the Station 12 breakfast and 300 people at the Station 4 breakfast. These breakfasts with Santa events were sponsored by Fawcett Memorial and Englewood Community Hospitals. Children and adults of all ages attended and enjoyed breakfast and social time with neighbors and friends. Fire/EMS staff had a great time cooking and visiting with the community. Thank you also to Starbucks for sponsoring coffee for the event and Toys for Tots for donating toys for the children.

**Bicycle/pedestrian master plan**

Last week workshops for the bicycle/pedestrian master plan were successfully conducted. The attendance at the Carmalita Park meeting was 35 and attendance at the Cultural Center meeting was 17. These meetings were the second round of public workshops on this topic, which gathered public input on the plan. The final draft priorities will be prepared and posted to the County website for public review by Feb. 15, 2012. After a 30-day review period, a final draft plan will be put together and will be taken to the Board of County Commissioners in the month of April.

**Fast permit turnaround time**

Through better communication internally within the division and with the building division, zoning staff has reduced our permit turnaround time from an average of five to seven days to an average of two days. Staff continues to strive to turn around permits in a day or less. Some of this is being accomplished through the elimination of certain zoning reviews such as those for interior-only renovations-this eliminates one step in the permitting process. Staff is also continually working with the building division for efficiencies through better communication. We anticipate further improvements as building and zoning staff continue to refine processes and procedures in order to better serve the customers, both internally and externally.

**Baseball tourneys bring income**

Economic impact data has been calculated for the two USSSA Baseball Tournaments held in late November and early December at Charlotte Sports Park, North Charlotte Regional Park, and Harold Avenue Park. The two weekend tournaments generated an estimated \$283,699 in direct expenditures for Charlotte County. Forty-six teams participated with 512 athletes and 143 coaches. Approximately 1,080 spectators watched the games and about 290 hotel room nights were booked. The USSSA is in the preliminary planning stages for an April 2012 tournament, which is projected to attract 80 to 100 teams.

**Gifts for seniors**

During this holiday season our senior services division staff picked up 120 gifts for Charlotte County needy seniors. The gifts were donated by generous community residents through the NBC-2 and Perkins Restaurant annual Giving Tree Program. Senior services staff is delivering all the gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you Charlotte County!

**Sunshine ride presentations**

Recently our transit operations supervisor spoke to the residents of Villa San Carlos in Port Charlotte about the services and programs offered by the county's transit division. Topics included the Transportation Disadvantaged Program, known as Sunshine Ride, and how to schedule shopping trips and special destinations. Sunshine Ride is now working on a monthly calendar for Villa San Carlos and other facilities located in Charlotte County to inform residents that may not be aware of the Sunshine Ride schedule. A monthly schedule is expected to be available in late January. For more information on Sunshine Ride, call transit services at 941.575.4000, option 2.