

Administrator's Update for 3/21/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At the Board of County Commissioners regular meeting earlier this month the Board approved new wind speed lines for Charlotte County. This is part of the implementation of the 2010 Florida Building Code that went into effect on March 15, 2012. If you need more information about the new wind speeds or the new codes please contact our community development department at 941.743.1201.

Rickardway urban wetland project

The coalition working on the Rickardway urban wetland project has met several times over the last few months. The coalition consists of representatives from the school district, IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences), CHEC (Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center), CHNEP (Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program), CD-BIA (Charlotte Desoto Building Industry Association), and the Master Gardener Program. The coalition is meeting monthly to brainstorm ideas to move the project forward and is planning an Earth Day event on the property for April 23. Students from Port Charlotte High, Murdock Middle School, The Academy as well as 4H and homeschooled students will receive education on exotics, view a demonstration of water quality testing, and participate in guided trail walks and an air potato round up, with prizes being given for the biggest air potato. Approximately 80 students are expected to take part in the event, which begins at 8 am and end around 11 am. For information contact Roxann Read, 941.764.4928.

Presentations

In celebration of National Women's History Month, Charlotte County community services will hold a special video presentation and discussion, "One Woman, One Vote." This free event will be held at the Charlotte County Historical Center, 22959 Bayshore Road in Charlotte Harbor on Friday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Florida's Civil War Voices is a unique living history interpretation marking the 150th anniversary of a watershed period in U.S. history—the American Civil War. This free event will be held Tuesday, March 27 at 2 p.m. in meeting room C at the Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. Port Charlotte.

Keeping Charlotte Beautiful

Keep Charlotte Beautiful held its twelfth annual Great American Cleanup in Charlotte County in early March. Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers work at the side of the road, in the gardens, on the beaches, parks or schools or any other place where they are needed to improve the appearance of the community. This year over 2,000 volunteers are expected to Keep Charlotte Beautiful, participating in events including cleanups, beautification and education projects as well as the popular student calendar art contest. Volunteers may participate in cleanup activities from March through May. For more information visit www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org or call 941.764.4390.

Pipe replacement

The pipe replacement portion of the Donalda/Orlando intersection drainage project is 35 percent complete. This project will alleviate the flooding in the area. Water currently flows down Donalda Avenue to an outfall on Torrington Street. Pipe is being installed on the north side of Donalda with line and grade on Orlando Boulevard tying into the new pipe. The pipe portion of the project should take another three weeks. The project has been estimated to cost \$350,000.

Tweetup

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau held a Tweetup earlier this month to raise the visibility of things to see and do in Charlotte County. A Tweetup is a gathering of users who utilize the popular social media channel Twitter and broadcast what they are doing in 140 characters or less and through photos and video to their followers. Twitter is also used as a form of marketing. The Tweetup's theme focused on spring training baseball and eight Twitter users and one travel journalist from Charlotte County and Tampa Bay participated in the day. More than 66,200 individual people with 349 tweets (posts made on Twitter) were directly made aware of what to see and do in Charlotte County during the Tweetup.