

Administrator's Update for 6/13/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At last Friday's joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and Punta Gorda City Council, an Interlocal Agreement was approved which will enable the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to restructure its existing debt for the Herald Court Parking Garage and Laishley Park facilities. This is a one-time extension to 2030, although all parties fully expect the CRA to sunset before then. It was agreed that all tax increment (TIF) dollars shall go to paying off existing debt and that no further projects will be undertaken. Furthermore, the parties agreed that no additional extensions of the CRA shall occur without the concurrence of the Board of County Commissioners.

"Read and Feed"

The Port Charlotte Library, in partnership with the Friends of the Library, is trying out a new program called "Read and Feed." The program is for children 18 and under to come to the library and enjoy a free hot lunch, spend time reading and enjoy the summer library programs. The library has partnered with the schools to reach the children of the Parkside community that may need lunch. Thirty-five children will be served in first-ever program.

Hedging

Last weekend the annual contracted vertical trimming (hedging) of roadside vegetation in Englewood East, Northwest Port Charlotte, Greater Port Charlotte, the Charlotte Ranchettes, Tropical Gulf Acres and Burnt Store Road was completed. This is a cost-effective method of trimming and mulching in-place of trees and shrubs growing in county right-of-way areas.

Mosquitos

With the start of the rainy season also comes the start of mosquito season. Our pest management division is fully engaged in evening adulticide (fogging) operations. Residents are encouraged to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active and drain all water-holding outdoor containers around the home. Residents can call 941.764.4370 to report problems with mosquitoes.

Biosolids

At the end of May the Department of Environmental Protection gave notice of its intent to issue a permit to Charlotte County Bio-Recycling Center, LLC, SYNAGRO, to construct and operate a new biosolids treatment facility. The facility will have a permitted capacity to receive and process up to 50,000 wet tons of biosolids annually into "AA" compost that can be resold back to agriculture and other industries. The facility will be located within our Charlotte County Zemel Road Landfill in Punta Gorda.

Hurricane Expo

Our Charlotte County emergency management office was well-represented this year at the annual Port Charlotte Town Center Mall Hurricane Expo on June 2nd. Emergency management's partners the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Volunteer Reception Center (VRC), and Amateur Radio (RACES) were also on hand to answer questions and sign up volunteers. At the expo it was standing room only to a packed crowd learning about the new evacuation zones (red, orange, yellow, green, and purple) as well as how to be prepared before the storm. If you do not

know what evacuation zone you are in visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click “Know Your Zone.”

All-Hazards Guides now available

The “2012-13 Charlotte County All-Hazards Guide” is now available at all county public libraries and many government offices. This comprehensive guide covers an array of subjects as we enter the 2012 Hurricane season, including the new evacuation zones by color and information on the new collar program with more than 9,400 brightly colored, vinyl markers installed on stop-sign and street-sign posts across the County. In addition to hurricanes, the All-Hazards Guide covers tornados, rainfall flooding, hazardous materials, pandemic outbreaks and the threat of terrorism. For more information on this free publication please call Charlotte County Emergency Management at 941.833.4000.