

## **Administrator's Update for 5/22/2009**

### **By Roger Baltz**

The Aqi Esta Drive improvement project is moving forward with construction of drainage work beginning this week. Residents are urged to be cautious when driving near this construction area.

Our County has received \$196,000 in grant funds to renovate the Family Services Center. The projects include installation of an expanded fire sprinkler system, as well as various structural upgrades to the facility. Work is expected to start within the next few weeks. The Family Services Center is home to a variety of non-profit agencies that support the needs of children and families.

As of April 30, 2009, the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority reported 32 days of combined water storage remaining in their wells. Rainfall in the Peace River basin is 16.2" below normal for the past 12 months and the river flow was 92% below the historical average for April. Charlotte County Utilities is receiving 1.5 million gallons per day of supplemental water from Englewood Water District in order to offset shortages with the Authority. Charlotte County is working very closely with SWFWMD on multi-prong conservation efforts and has been recognized by the District for being the model of conservation in the region.

A reminder that hurricane season starts June 1 and that now is the time to begin preparations. Copies of the new hurricane guide are available at County facilities and other public venues. Our residents are also encouraged to subscribe to our emergency messaging system, Charlotte Alert, to receive bulletins directly from our Emergency Operations Center. Visit our website at [CharlotteCountyFL.com](http://CharlotteCountyFL.com) to sign up.

Our County Commissioners approved a new Green Building Ordinance this past week. The ordinance is strictly voluntary and recognizes the County as a more sustainable community. Under the ordinance those who choose to participate may receive non monetary incentives.

Growth Management staff updated our Commissioners on the progress of two comprehensive plan elements currently being updated for Smart Charlotte 2050. Topics covered were the Public School Facilities Element and the Infrastructure Element. While there are no major deletions from this element, there are several new initiatives including incorporating environmentally sustainable Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, promoting green infrastructure, and exploring master stormwater planning to increase the efficiency of our stormwater systems.

An Open House was held at our Environmental Campus as part of our "Going Green" week-long recognition. MPO, Utilities and Environmental Services employees shared information with the public and offered displays regarding their programs and services. Residents were also able to take advantage of free document shredding.

The annual Florida Frontier Days Festival at Bayshore Live Oak Park, held earlier this month, was well attended. The Festival, sponsored by the Charlotte County Historical Center and the Historical Center Society, featured artisans, programs and games of the Florida frontier period.

Veteran Services staff attended the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs/County Veteran Service Officers Association required recertification examination. All three of the County's Veteran Services Officers passed the exam and have been re-certified to assist our citizens with issues relating to military service.

Charlotte County employees were recognized by the United Way at the completion of their yearly fundraising campaign. Charlotte County Government was highlighted as #2 of the top ten companies in dollars raised. These funds stay in the community to benefit local non-profit agencies.