

Administrator's Update for 7/10/09

By Roger Baltz

Our Human Services Department received notification from Florida Healthy Kids Corporation that the County has been awarded a continuation for our Community Partnership Grant. This is a \$12,000 grant and will fund outreach activities, as well as, a contracted part-time marketing and outreach coordinator for the Family Services Center.

Work has started at the Family Service Center with the repair of the elevator shaft; this is part of a series of projects at the Center paid for by a grant of \$194,000.

Our Commissioners have directed that we proceed with the collection and evaluation of data for a potential central wastewater system in central Charlotte County, between SR 776 and Hwy 41. This area is currently under the managed septic tank program administered by the Department of Health because of the high land densities and impacts of older septic tanks on the harbor, canals and waterways. A report is expected to go to the Board within the next six months.

This past week, Growth Management staff made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on a portion of Smart Charlotte 2050. Under the existing Comprehensive Plan, many environmental and coastal policies were contained in one element, the Natural Resources and Coastal Planning Element. In Smart Charlotte 2050, this element has been divided into two separate elements, the Natural Resources Element and the Coastal Management Element. The Comprehensive Plan/Smart Charlotte 2050 is composed of a variety of elements that focus on specific development issues. Over the coming months each element will be presented to the Commissioners for review and comment.

The Southwest Florida Innovation Network met on Wednesday, July 1, in the Charlotte County Economic Development Office to discuss the Multi-Use Cyber-Infrastructure for a Regional Innovation Economy. The group discussed organizational tools, funding, regional approach, grant proposal development, and the status of grant materials. The organization has formed committees and Charlotte County will be represented in several key areas; economic development, technology, healthcare and education.

Our Natural Resources staff has begun mechanical restoration on the Rotonda Scrub-Jay mitigation area. This will assist with meeting our land management compliance as part of the Capital Habitat Conservation Plan.

We have begun posting environmental sensitive properties with boundary signs. This is part of an effort to provide greater security and protection of our conservation lands. These signs will also assist the Sheriff's agricultural deputy and the Florida Wildlife officers with enforcement.

Charlotte County Extension Services hosted a very successful State 4-H Rabbit Show. Youth from around the state brought over 100 rabbits for competition and participated in knowledge/skill contests.

Veteran Services staff presented a Veteran Resources Seminar to 125 attendees at the Cultural Center. They were provided with updates on Veteran Benefits; including Healthcare, Compensation Claims, Pension Plans, Burial Benefits, Medals and Discharge Papers.

Charlotte County has established a program to detect, prevent, and mitigate identity theft. This program, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in June of this year, is applicable to all customer accounts, including utilities and medical billing records. Included in this program are "Red Flag" alerts which warn the billing agency of suspicious activity so that we can work with the customer, local law enforcement, the Federal Trade Commission and the credit reporting agencies to provide information that is essential to protect the victim.