

## **Administrator's Update for 5/26/10**

### **By Roger Baltz**

#### **Methane Flare**

The methane flare at the Zemel Road Landfill is lit and functioning, burning methane gas collected from within the landfill refuse. Although invisible during bright daylight, at night there is a visible flame about 6 feet high. Progress continues and in approximately 90 days the gas-to-energy system will be attached to a gas turbine generator and we will be able to market electricity.

#### **Dredges Complete**

The Manchester North Maintenance Dredge is complete. The contractor has dredged all of the waterways and is cleaning all the spoil sites and clearing permits through Building and Construction Services. Some additional work is being requested by the Manchester and Ackerman Waterway Committees is also under way.

The dredging of Northwest Port Charlotte is also complete. The contractor has completed all the dredging and is working on clearing equipment and restoring all areas used. A final survey was conducted to determine the remaining material in the system and a reduction will be applied to the contractor on their final invoice. All areas utilized for off loading have been graded and seeded.

#### **Revitalization Workshop**

This week, our Growth Management staff, with support from AECOM (formerly Glattig-Jackson) and hospital business and architectural consulting firm Ellerbe Becket, presented a workshop for BCC. The group is working to complete the final planning task for the Smart Charlotte 2050 Plan process, a revitalization plan for the Hospital District. The team is facilitating formation of a public/private partnership resulting in the development of plans for the area as a multi-modal, mixed use district; policies to support the economic vitality of the area, especially focusing on the areas medical enclave; policies supporting aging in place concepts; and the creation of gateways. After a slide presentation, the Board posed questions regarding funding, priorities, and first steps. Feedback from the Board and comments from the public were mostly favorable.

#### **Animal Control Career Outreach**

Our Charlotte County Animal Control staff participated last month in the High School "High Tech" Program. This program allows students to explore various career opportunities. Our officers gave a presentation to students at Charlotte High School, and as a result, two of these students are will be "shadowing" an officer for a day.

## **Smoke Tests**

Our utilities department (CCU) will be performing smoke tests over the coming months, throughout the entire Charlotte County utility service area. Smoke Testing is one of the most efficient and cost effective techniques for identifying sections of sanitary sewer collection systems with inflow or infiltration problems. High capacity smoke blowers are placed on top of open manholes, forcing non-toxic smoke-filled air through the sewer pipelines. Any signs of smoke exiting the ground or buildings indicates a potential leak where stormwater could enter the sanitary sewer system. CCU will be issuing press releases two weeks in advance of testing each neighborhood, followed by placing door hangers on the front door of every building on the street to be smoke tested, at least 24 to 48 hours in advance. Further information will be released prior to implementation of the program.

## **Fishing Tournament**

The Tringali Recreation Center held its annual "Big Surf" fishing tournament at Englewood Beach Saturday May 15. Fifty children ranging in ages from five to fourteen years were able to pre-register to enter the free event. Certificates were awarded for the largest, smallest and most caught. Each participant received a rod, reel and tackle kit donated by Florida Fish and Wildlife. After the tournament the children were provided with a barbecue lunch and a raffle was held. The lunch and all raffle prizes were donated by the area merchants.

## **New Exhibit**

A new exhibit opened at the Historical Center on May 19 with a reception sponsored by the Historical Center Society. "Native American Plant Remedies" runs through Nov. 13. This exhibit combines original artwork from Blair-Murrah Exhibitions, featuring medicinal plants of the southeastern United States, with guest curator "Nature Dave" Mathewson's local artifacts and live plants from southwest Florida.

## **Unlicensed Contractors**

Our Code Enforcement staff recently took actions with regards to two separate cases involving unlicensed contractors. We encourage our citizens to only hire licensed contractors. Our Building Construction Services (BCS) department can provide information on contractor licensing. The phone number is 941-743-1202.