

Administrator's Update for 6/16/10

By Roger Baltz

Lost and Found Animals

Our Information Technology (IT) Division assisted our Animal Control Division in devising a method to use SharePoint to track all the lost and found animals for the county online. This is a big improvement over the original method of using paper stored in a binder. Now animal control officers out in the field have access to this new library and can look up or add lost and found animals in real time. If you have lost a pet call Animal Control at 833-5690 or the Animal Welfare League at 625-6720.

Boom Training

Our Charlotte County Fire/EMS Marine Operations personnel recently attended a two-day course in Fort Myers on booming and spill control deployment. This will allow our Fire/EMS department to be ready if the need arises to assist in the deployment of booms to protect Charlotte County's shores.

Gateway

The second public meeting for the South County Gateway (City/County Overlay) project was held earlier this month at Edison College in Punta Gorda. Approximately twenty people attended the meeting. The purpose was to solicit input from affected property owners regarding a more consistent approach to signage, landscaping, and commercial design standards along common borders. Our County Growth Management staff brought a PowerPoint presentation that provided a basic overview of the project. City planning staff instructed the audience in the use of visual preference boards before they began individual table exercises. TEAM Punta Gorda had staff at each table to facilitate the discussions. The City has created a webpage dedicated to the project, which can also be accessed from our county website, www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.

Butterfly Garden

Assistant County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker, Commissioner Tricia Duffy and I attended the dedication ceremony for the Family Services Center Butterfly Garden project. This project is a partnership between Keep Charlotte Beautiful, Boys & Girls Clubs and the Family Services Center. The butterfly garden provides children served at the Family Services Center with an outdoor classroom that can be used for educational purposes and the garden also serves as a community revitalization project. Alex Harvey, an eight grader from Port Charlotte Middle School, designed and coordinated building the garden as a part of his Boy Scout Eagle Project. Many volunteers and several county departments

participated. Members of the Boys and Girls Club will maintain the garden and learn how to compost and conserve water through the use of rain barrels.

Baseball and Basketball

Our Charlotte Sports Park hosted the 2010 Comcast Baseball Tournament on June 3-6. Consisting of 24 teams and playing on three fields, this tournament had an estimated attendance of 700 people. Our Harold Avenue Recreation Center recently played host to 198 players and 400 spectators for the Summer Youth Basketball League Jamboree. The players participated in 20-minute games allowing them the chance to become familiar with the rules and regulations of the league. Regular Season games are scheduled to begin on the following Saturday with the season running for 10 consecutive weeks.

Make a Splash and Read

The Charlotte County Library System kicked off its 2010 summer reading program on June 5 at the Mid-County Regional Library. An estimated 400 children and their families picked up summer reading logs, enjoyed a performance by the Atlantic Coast Theater and participated in other activities. This summer's theme is "Make a Splash and Read." Summer programs at all County library locations began June 8.

Mosquito Traps

Staff of our Pest Management division attended a presentation by a German manufacturer who specializes in mosquito traps. Sample traps were set at a South Gulf Cove residence for testing purposes. The manufacturer is searching for a location for their U.S. manufacturing plant.

Swale Maintenance

Our Public Works Drainage crews have been working on swales in various sections of the County. Last week the crews corrected 5,200 square feet (SF) of swale grades on Sunnybrook Boulevard East and installed 40 linear feet (LF) of road crossing pipe in South Gulf Cove Phase 1 ahead of the paving program. The crews also corrected 1,280 SF of swale grades on Vantage Lane in Deep Creek, 8,600 SF of swale grades in the Northwest Port Charlotte area and 20,650 SF of swale grades on Poindexter Avenue in Tropical Gulf Acres. In addition, crews replaced 36 LF of road crossing pipe in the Harbor Heights area and cleaned 45,000 SF of various primary ditches in the South County Stormwater Unit.

ECONomical Summer Escapes

Our Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau has launched the ECONomical Summer Escapes promotion which is running now through Oct. 31, 2010. The promotion offers visitors savings, packages and giveaways when vacationing in Charlotte County and through nearly a dozen radio promotions, the destination is being promoted as a summer vacation destination. The Risk-Free Vacation Guarantee extended by area accommodations encourages travel to the area during the 2010 summer season. The strategy is intended to combat the reluctance of travelers to book their vacation in Florida during hurricane season. Details for both programs can be found at www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com.