

Administrator's Update for 7/14/10

By Roger Baltz

The County budget preparation process for our next fiscal year has continued to move forward. County-wide property value data provided to us indicates a roughly 14 percent devaluation. Our budget strategies to deal with this negative news has focused upon finding additional efficiencies to reduce current and future expenditures, delays of certain capital projects, and the use of our fiscal stabilization fund. Information regarding our budget process can be found on the County website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com on the Budget department pages.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Street Layer Data Cleaning work has been recently completed. The GIS street layer has been checked for address number consistency, overlapping address ranges, street integrity, consistencies on street segment and directions, unassigned address numbers and street geometry and related tables. This time-consuming effort has been done to make the street layer compatible for efficient 911 routing.

Our Senior Services and Housing staffs have relocated their offices in the South County Annex to allow for the move of Public Works staff to South County Annex and out of several leased trailers on Florida Street. Real Estates Services is also in the final stages of developing a draft lease for the temporary swing space needed by the West County Library staff. This space will be required in the fall of this year when the library expansion is set to start.

Animal Control Division staff gave a presentation to the United States Postal Services in regards to dealing with aggressive animals. The class consisted of roughly 30 postal employees. Our staff also recently attended the Charlotte County Natural Resources/Law Enforcement meeting. The discussion focused on ways to effectively enforce ordinances in regards to dogs on the beach that have a negative impact on local environmentally sensitive wildlife and marine life, such as sea turtle nests and shore birds. In attendance were members of the Charlotte County Natural Resources, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Game Commission.

For the month of June we had a total of 13 court-ordered volunteers carry out their hours to various departments within the BCC. The program to use these volunteers is off to a good start and we have received positive feedback from the departments involved.

Charlotte County Fire/EMS Special Operations Team has been working in conjunction with the Boca Grand Fire Rescue Department on equipment familiarization. This training will allow Boca Fire personnel to become familiar with the County Fire equipment during Mutual Aid Emergencies for Hazardous Material Incidents on the Boca Grand Island.

The Human Services Department has hired a new Assistant Veteran Services Officer, Christina Pellegrino. Christina will initially be working at the Veteran Services Office at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte.

The newly-created Charlotte County Sustainability Team met for the first time at the end of June. The purpose of the Sustainability Team is to initiate, coordinate and promote sustainability efforts and programs within all of our county departments and government offices. The team is composed of employees of many County Departments and Government agencies. The Charlotte County Sustainability Team will be hosting an educational forum presented by the F.D.O.T. on Alternative Travel Options. The forum will be held on August 5 in the Charlotte County Administration Building, Room 119 at 10 a.m. and is free to the public.

Our Charlotte County Public Works department has begun installation of the box culvert at Henry Street on the Piper Road Widening project. Recent rains caused construction challenges, but adjustments were made and 88 linear feet of a double barrel 4' x 7' box culvert is being installed. To date, over 72,000 cubic yards of material has been placed and more than 17,500 cubic yards of material has been excavated as part of a large storm drain system.

Other work underway by our Charlotte County Public Works department includes excavation on the north side of the Elkcam Waterway as part of the Midway Boulevard Widening Project. The old water control structure has been removed, steel was placed for the north footer of the Niagara Waterway control structure, the footer was poured, and finish was applied to the south walls of the structure. This work is to replace and up-size old water control structures before construction begins to widen Midway Boulevard. Traffic is being shifted between lanes as the work demands.