

Administrator's Update for 6/20/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At the June 12 Regular Meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the 2010 Landscape Maintenance Installation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The amendment assigns Charlotte County Public Works to the landscape maintenance responsibilities on SR 776 from Sunnybrook to San Casa. These maintenance activities will be paid from gas taxes.

Sports opportunities

Our Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau serves as our area's Sports Commission, therefore staff attended the Florida Sports meeting in Ft. Lauderdale June 7-8. This annual meeting provides the opportunity for all 21 Florida sports commissions to get together to discuss and be educated on the state of the sports industry in Florida regarding such topics as spring training, changes or updates to the grant program, the state's presence at national sports conferences including the National Association of Sports Commissions Symposium, U.S. Sports Congress, and the TEAMS Conference, as well as hosting opportunities for the Sunshine State Games and the Florida Senior Games (both owned and managed by Florida Sports). In addition, a very strong lead for Charlotte County was obtained at this meeting for hosting a USSSA Junior Golf Tournament in January 2013.

Florida Chamber meeting

Charlotte County Economic Development Office staff joined state business leaders and government representatives at an International Town Hall Meeting in Tampa on June 7 at the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held to discuss the fact that Florida faces a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform its economy by becoming a global hub for trade, logistics, and export oriented manufacturing activities. Questions were engineered to draw feedback on the following: What does Florida need to do to be more globally competitive? What are today's barriers? What needs to be done at the federal level to improved export finance coverage, and the removal of duplicate security regulations at our ports? New issues did surface, and feedback was well received by the Department of Economic Opportunity, Enterprise Florida, state educators, and other government representatives.

"Family Fun Skate"

Earlier this month Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Road in Englewood, hosted a "Family Fun Skate." The families skated in the comfort of the air conditioned gym while music played for their enjoyment. This new program will be offered from 1 to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. For more information call 941.681.3742.

Fire Pup campaign

The Charlotte County Fire/EMS department has just finished our National Fire Safety Council Fire Pup campaign for 2012. The department's representative from the National Fire Safety Council raised \$1,625 to help fund Fire/EMS public education programs. The program helps fund brochures, coloring books, stickers, and other materials to distribute to the public for fire safety and injury prevention education.

Aircraft familiarization training

Last week the members of the Charlotte County Fire/EMS Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting team (ARFF) went to St. Petersburg Airport to complete training on aircraft familiarization. St. Petersburg is home to Allegiant Airlines, Coast Guard units, and a reserve medical unit. Aircraft used for the training included Coast Guard C-130 transport planes, Black Hawk helicopters and the MD-88 passenger plane. All of these aircraft frequent Punta Gorda. Crews went over shut down procedures, approach and extinguish tactics and pilot, crew and passenger extrication and rescue. The occasion allowed great hands-on training in aircraft rescue and the ability to talk with the men and women who maintain and fly these aircraft. This training is one of thirteen areas of training required by the FAA every year.

LIHEAP increased

The Human Services department received notification from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity that Charlotte County's 2012-2013 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) federal grant allocation has increased by \$58,869. LIHEAP provides financial assistance to eligible low-income households with credit toward their energy bills to help offset the cost of summer or winter fuel consumption and to avert disconnection of service.