

Administrator's Update for 6/27/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

I am happy to report that we recently received a higher score for our online transparency from the Sunshine Review organization. Since the launch of our new county website this past spring, www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov, the Sunshine Review re-elevated our previous grade of a C and elevated it to a B. The Sunshine Review organization analyzes government websites and grades the level of transparency. Websites are graded on an array of criteria, including proactive disclosure of budgets, meetings, contracts, and many other aspects common to government organizations.

Although we are pleased to have improved our score, we are striving to increase that further to the highest grade possible. I invite you to explore our dedication to transparent and open government and the Sunshine Review information by visiting our website www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and selecting the "Transparency" link at the top of the page.

Tourism coverage in Orlando and Tampa

As a direct result of the April meetings with members of the media in Orlando, Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau staff hosted TV reporter Scott Fais on a three-day, two-night itinerary of Charlotte County last week. Mr. Fais is a reporter with Central Florida News 13 and Tampa Bay News 9 "Florida on a Tankful" in the Orlando and Tampa markets. During his time spent here, Mr. Fais filmed several stories which will air on the 24-hour news stations later this summer and into the fall season. These new pieces will reach a wide audience and help raise awareness of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands as a tourism destination in the Orlando and Tampa Bay markets. Our county's coverage will continue beyond the fall as well—Mr. Fais is planning two return visits later this year.

Lead agency

Senior Choices of Southwest Florida recently notified our human services department that the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners has been awarded "Lead Agency Designation" for the administration of three programs through June 30, 2018: Community Care for the Elderly; Home Care for the Elderly; and Alzheimer's Disease Initiative. These state-grant funded programs are authorized through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and provide in-home elder care services to frail seniors.

Food drive

Charlotte County Fire/EMS has joined up with H.E.L.P to replenish Charlotte County food pantries. This network of food pantries assists over 15,000 families every month. All sixteen Charlotte County Fire Stations have collection boxes and H.E.L.P is asking for donations of peanut butter, jelly, cereal and toilet paper. The food drive will culminate at the July 30 Stone Crabs Baseball game at the Charlotte Sports Park, where donations will also be accepted and ticket proceeds also benefit the drive. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click News for more information.