

Administrator's Update for 8/15/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

On Tuesday, August 7, U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney visited Charlotte County to celebrate the re-dedication and re-location of the Purple Heart monument in the Veteran's Garden at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda. The Congressman also visited the County's Veteran Services Office at the new Human Services building on Loveland Boulevard and was provided a tour of the LEED-certified facility which also houses our county employee health center.

Donation for swim scholarships

This past weekend Charlotte County community services department gratefully accepted a generous \$1,000 donation to the Kid's Swim Lesson Connection from the Rotary Club of Placida. A ceremonial check was presented at the Oyster Creek Pool in Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park, Englewood. The Kid's Swim Lesson Connection was created in June 2007 in an effort to assist Charlotte County families in need provide swim lessons for their children. This donation will help and provide 44 scholarships to children for swimming lessons. To donate to the program or to apply for a swim lesson scholarship, please contact Marc Solomon, Aquatic Supervisor at 941.681.3743.

Englewood Charlotte Library

Construction of the Englewood Charlotte Library expansion is progressing. New transformers were connected and the FPL service into the existing library is operational. Air conditioning condensers were installed and are now operating. Recently the final building footer was installed, and the last section of wall was laid with the tie beam complete. Final completion date is estimated to be March 31, 2013.

Transit phones

Our transit division has a new telephone system that is more customer-friendly for Dial-A-Ride and Sunshine Ride patrons. Additional features of the new phone system provide the ability to generate reports for tracking the number of phone calls coming in and going out from operations and dispatch. In July there were a total of 9,472 phone calls tracked for Dial-a-Ride and 5,013 phone calls tracked for Sunshine Ride.

Children's artwork on display

Charlotte County students are proud of their community and an art program called "Through Child's Eyes" allowed many to paint, draw and write about what they love about the community. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau has compiled the artwork into two posters that now hang in the hallway at the Charlotte County Administration B Building entrance where visitors can read and see things to do during their stay.

Traffic safety

Our engineering and transportation staff attended a two-day workshop held by FDOT on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official's recently published Highway Safety Manual (HSM). The HSM introduces a science-based technical approach that takes the guesswork out of safety analysis. Using the tools developed in the HSM, transportation professionals can conduct quantitative safety analyses, allowing for safety to be quantitatively evaluated along with other transportation indicators such as traffic operations, environmental impacts and construction costs. The tools and techniques learned can be used to improve conditions and ultimately increase the safety for the Charlotte County motoring public.