

**Administrator's Update for 8/29/12**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Our code enforcement division has implemented a new "robo-calling" program to deter illegally-placed snipe signs. Snipe signs are the small, temporary plastic or cardboard signs typically posted along the roadways; however it is illegal to place a temporary sign in the right-of-way area. To discourage this practice, code enforcement is using an automated system to place repeated phone calls to the contact information on the sign, up to 3 times per day, to inform the business that the signs are a code violation. The calls will continue until the code violation is addressed. This program is not the first of its kind, and has been very successful in other Florida municipalities.

To display a snipe sign legally, an additional signage permit can be obtained from our zoning department. For the permit the sign must meet the proper size allocation and it must be placed on private property with the owner's permission. The permit may be obtained online by visiting [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and selecting Find Licenses and Permits from the "I want to" list. For questions about the permit or snipe signs call 941.743.1201.

With the hurricane season in full swing businesses with temporary signs should be aware that when a storm warning is issued in the county, all non-primary signs must be removed or otherwise prevented from becoming potential projectiles in accordance with Charlotte County Code 3-9-95 1.1.3(D)(3). The county code applies to any temporary signs, banners, flutter flags and any other type of removable sign.

### **Vehicle Machinery Rescue**

The Charlotte County Fire/EMS Special Operations Team recently conducted a 40-hour Vehicle Machinery Rescue (VMR) Course. This is a state curriculum and one of the five specialty training programs required to maintain our state response capability. All firefighters are currently trained to extricate patients from vehicles who may have become trapped as a result of an accident. VMR training takes this basic approach of vehicle extrication and applies it to larger vehicles and machines such as commercial trucks and heavy equipment. The training also covers the latest technology in hybrid and electric vehicles in addition to the latest techniques and equipment used in the industry. The training program was guided by Charlotte County Fire/EMS training division and conducted at Trademark Metal Recycling, who provided more than twenty vehicles for the team to use during the training.

### **Menzi Muck**

Our Charlotte County Public Works Department recently acquired two new Menzi Mucks; one replacement and one additional. A Menzi Muck is an all-terrain excavator used by public works to maintain the county's extensive stormwater drainage system. The unique design of the Menzi Muck allows each leg or wheel to be raised or lowered, extended or retracted, or moved in or spread out providing extreme maneuverability and remarkable flexibility, stability and safety in operation. The Menzi Muck can climb and work up, down and across very steep slopes. It can even operate in up to seven feet of muck and water. The public works department's fleet now has three Menzi Mucks, allowing for the annual cutting of backyard ditches and drainage rights-of-way in addition to the county's primary drainage ditches.

### **Mosquitos**

West Nile virus (WNV) is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and cases of WNV are at a 10-year high in the United States. The Charlotte County pest management division is actively monitoring its sentinel chickens for antibodies to WNV. In the past week Bay, Duval, St. Johns, Sarasota, and Walton counties have had positive tests while all tests to date have been negative in Charlotte County. Our pest management division is conducting nightly fogging missions and aerial spraying operations based on

monitoring data and, to limit future hatches, an intensive larviciding operation. To report problems with mosquitos call 941.764.4370 and press 4 when prompted.

### **Veteran services assistance**

Charlotte County Veteran services was recently successful in assisting a veteran and his family with housing. The family was facing homelessness when veteran services enlisted a partnership with several community-based organizations and the Charlotte County Veterans Counsel to help the family obtain safe and affordable housing. To contact veteran services call 941.764.5579 for the main office on Loveland Boulevard or 941.681.3716 to reach the Englewood office at the West County Annex on San Casa Drive.