

Administrator's Update for 11/28/12
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Charlotte County Utilities just received a letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) announcing that our Charlotte County Burnt Store water treatment plant was selected as one of 13 drinking water facilities to receive a 2012 Plant Operations Excellence Award from FDEP. This award is in recognition of outstanding treatment plant operation, maintenance and compliance. The Burnt Store water treatment plant uses reverse osmosis technology, in which membranes are used to remove excess minerals, salts, and other impurities, to provide potable water to the Burnt Store service area. This plant exemplifies some of the best water treatment and conservation solutions the state has to offer.

The FDEP excellence award acknowledges the plant as having a spotless record of monthly bacteriological reports, having at no point breached upper limits of any potential contaminants, keeping a constant record of the number of days/hours spent at the facility, as well as displaying expertise and innovation in the maintenance of the facility. This is the second time the Burnt Store water treatment plant has been recognized by the state with this award; the first award was given in Dec. 2008. The award will be presented to staff at a ceremony in Dec. in Tallahassee.

Trail Run and More

On Nov. 17 the Inaugural Tippecanoe Trail Run was held at Tippecanoe Environmental Park. Community services staff carefully constructed both a 5K and a 10K slippery obstacle course at the park. Over 250 people from Charlotte County and the surrounding areas participated. In order to qualify for the awards, the competitors had to complete all of the obstacles during the run through the trails, negotiating muddy tires, sand runs, culvert crawls, a see-saw obstacle, and hurdles. At the conclusion of the race the participants were treated to a freshly cooked pulled pork lunch.

The Tippecanoe Environmental Park is adjacent to the Charlotte Sports Park, which hosted the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival on the same day. Fifty exhibitors educated children and adults with games and displays about the Florida environment. Native animals were on display for everyone to see. The Nature Festival supported a Kids Fishing Clinic where 76 youth were educated to become responsible fishers. The children learned about regulations and conservation, as well as proper safe equipment handling techniques

At the Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood, Charlotte County community services department hosted the annual Old Fashion Fall Festival and the annual Turkey Shoot. The festival had an admittance charge of canned food for the Charlotte County human services food pantry. With an attendance of approximately 125, the food bank donations were a huge success. The festival offered free games and a kidz zone for children and vendors offered food, arts and crafts, a bungee jump and a bounce house. The Turkey Shoot was also well attended; participants received a coupon from the Englewood Winn Dixie for a turkey.

Baseball prep

Spring training is approaching soon after the holidays. The Charlotte Sports Park maintenance preparations are underway for the upcoming Tampa Bay Ray's spring training season. The stadium restroom floors have been painted and maintenance to the locker rooms in in progress. An aerator for the sports park's irrigation pond will be installed next week. Tampa Bay Ray's spring training tentative schedule begins Feb. 23, 2013.