

## **Sunshine Lake and Sunshine Waterway algae removal begins this month**

### **By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

The Sunshine Lake water quality study was completed last year and recommendations from the study are being implemented under two separate contracts: one for algae removal and one for recharge wells. The bids for the algae removal were received in November and the recommendation presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the December 11 regular board meeting was approved. A pre-construction meeting was subsequently held and the contractor is expected to begin construction later this month. Work to install the recharge wells will not start until after the algae removal is complete.

A public meeting on the Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway algae removal project is scheduled for this evening, Jan. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Charlotte County Cultural Center on Aaron Street in Port Charlotte. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Health, and the construction contractor, Prolime Services, will be in attendance. At this meeting the contractor will go over their construction procedures, and representatives from FDEP and the Florida Department of Health will go over the latest water quality test results. For questions about the meeting please call 941.575.3661.

### **Youth program success**

One of the youths in the Civil Citation program was just awarded Student of the Month at a Charlotte County school. This youth comes from a family in crisis with many issues. When the youth began the Civil Citation program his grades were F's, D's and C's and now his school grades are all A's and B's. Despite the multiple challenges of his family life, the youth has excelled in the program and will graduate from the Civil Citation program as a success. Civil Citation is a diversion program included in the services of the Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) administered by our family services division. For youths in trouble who have never been arrested before, the sheriff's office can issue a citation instead of an arrest and refer the case to the NAB.

### **Library grant increase**

I am pleased to announce that the 2013 state library grant for Charlotte County libraries will be \$86,858. This is a sizable increase from the past two years. In 2011 the grant amount was \$76,085 and \$80,314 in 2012. The awarded amount is based in part on how many in-county patrons are being served, how many patrons are outside of our County, the amount of our local support and how much the State has to give. The money is used for the libraries' book and material collection.

### **Holiday good will**

Members of the Charlotte County tourism industry donated cans of nonperishable food at the annual Charlotte Harbor Hospitality Association holiday party. The donated food was given to Charlotte County Homeless Coalition to assist local families. Held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, the holiday party included a performance by the Charlotte High School choir and door prizes were donated by Charlotte County businesses to support the association.

This past December our veteran services division referred five needy veteran families to the Vietnam Brotherhood in time for Christmas. The Vietnam Brotherhood, working with the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, provided a Christmas dinner, clothing and toys for eight veteran families, including 19 children.

### **Government Academy deadline approaching**

This February we will hold the next Charlotte County Government Academy. The program is a unique opportunity to learn about the departments under the Board of County Commissioners, including public safety, community services, and public works. Government Academy consist of four workshops, be held on two consecutive Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and then from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 20. Applications are available in the lobbies of most county buildings, libraries, or online at [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov). The application deadline is approaching—Jan. 18 is the deadline. For more information, call Katie Ranson at 941.743.1386.