

Administrator's Update for 1/16/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week I attended the local state legislative delegation meeting at the Charlotte County Cultural Center here in Port Charlotte. The meeting brought together county commissioners, staff, and representatives from the City of Punta Gorda, school board and area agencies to address the Charlotte County delegation, which included Rep. Ken Roberson and state Sens. Nancy Detert and Lizbeth Benacquisto. At this annual meeting, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Christopher Constance presented a list of issues to the delegation to prioritize during the upcoming state legislative session, with a focus on eliminating unfunded state mandates. The list is available on the Commission Office web pages at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Stillwater property

Our human services department staff has met with representatives from Community Assisted Supported Living (CASL) to discuss their time line for operations for transitional living for veterans. The Board of County Commissioners recently approved the lease with CASL and occupancy is expected this month. Various veterans groups, coordinated by the human services department's veteran services division, are working on site to clean up the yard and complete minor landscaping projects. Additionally, the veteran groups will also be working with the tenant to seek room furnishings for residents. Collaboration between the human services department and numerous veteran organizations has gone extremely well and efforts are expected to help make this facility a successful community operation.

Fire/EMS scores 100 percent—again

Last month the Charlotte County Fire/EMS airport rescue and firefighting (ARFF) operation was inspected and evaluated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This inspection is required by the federal government as part of the airport rating allowing Punta Gorda Airport to receive commercial passenger traffic. The inspection focuses on a number of the airport's operations; however, specific to Fire/EMS ARFF operations are the firefighting equipment and apparatus, personnel training records and time trials. Charlotte County Fire/EMS ARFF operation, under the coordination of Battalion Chief Larry Lippel, scored 100 percent for the third year in a row. The FAA Inspector complimented the operation and cited Charlotte County as a model operation for others to emulate. Charlotte County has worked tirelessly in improving the fire operations at the airport. In recent years we have reached out to other quality programs in an effort to improve our service to the citizens and visitors of Charlotte County. This inspection, like the years prior, is evidence that we have found a solid model for service.

Welcome

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) recently welcomed Mr. Chip Futch as the organization's marketing coordinator. Prior to joining the Charlotte Harbor VCB, Mr. Futch worked as chief technology officer and marketing director for H.B.N.C.S. de R.L. de C.V. in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and has an extensive background in visual design and commercial broadcasting. Mr. Futch's primary responsibility in our tourist bureau will be positioning Charlotte County as a tourism destination through marketing initiatives.

Music at the libraries

Libraries are quiet places by definition, but our Charlotte County Libraries come alive at night with music and theatrical performances. This past Monday evening classical guitarist Jane Rosenbohm gave a free concert at the Mid-County Regional Library. The concert was the first in a five-part series, each part a different type of music. The next concert, "Carol and Johnnie, Tribute to Silver Screen Cowboys" is Jan. 23 and will be a performance of classic cowboy movie songs. This is a free event sponsored by the Friends of the Mid-County Library; seating is on a first come, first served basis. The full listing of the music series, as well as an upcoming performance series and other events can be found on our website, www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov.