

## **Administrator's Update for 1/23/13**

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

A public meeting was held last week at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce regarding the Tom Adam's Bridge rehabilitation project. Approximately 40 area residents attended. An architectural rendering of the new tender house and bridge rehabilitation design were on display. Design consultants and County staff answered questions. Design is projected to be completed this summer with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of this year.

### **County budget survey**

Our two-year budget process for fiscal year 2013/14 and 2014/15 is underway and last week we held two public input workshops. In addition, we are seeking citizen's input on our services via our annual budget survey available through Feb. 12. Visit the county website [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click the "Give Us Your Input" banner. There is a link to it on our budget department web pages as well or you can fill out a paper copy of the survey. Printed copies are available in county libraries, human services counters, and other county buildings.

### **Library Review**

Our Charlotte County Library System recently announced that we were the lead article "Public Libraries Come in all Sizes" in the latest edition of Public Libraries Online. [PublicLibrariesOnline.org](http://PublicLibrariesOnline.org) is the companion website to the bi-monthly print publication "Public Libraries," the official magazine of the Public Library Association. The article noted we have a "library system that has managed to thrive and remain quite relevant, even as some much larger library systems in other parts of the country have struggled. Clearly, Charlotte County's libraries are a model for how smaller communities can have libraries that are just as successful and responsive to customer needs as the nation's largest Library System." The Charlotte County Library system hosts almost 700,000 visitors a year and handles over one million transactions.

### **Improvement to the Gas-to-Energy system**

Two new flare blower motors have been installed on the Zemel Road Landfill methane gas collection flare skid. The flare is a component of the system, which collects methane gas from the landfill and converts it to electricity through a multi-step process. The two new blower motors will allow our solid waste division to increase the Standard Cubic Foot per Minute (SCFM) of the flare system from 1000 SCFM to 1300 SCFM. Presently the landfill generates 800 to 850 SCFM of methane gas. The expansion of the gas collection system in the near future and the newly increased SCFM could allow a third generator be installed for creation of more electricity and bring the electric generation plant up 3.8 megawatt-hours.

### **Maintenance around the county**

Public works maintenance crews have installed 160 linear feet of pipe and started work on a catch basin on Berkshire Ave. in the greater Port Charlotte area. Pipe repair has also began on Deep Creek Blvd. and on Explorer Rd. in Deep Creek. In northwest Port Charlotte two swale intersection conversions have been completed. Installation of pipes and asphalt will continue until project completion near the end of the fiscal year.

### **Englewood library expansion update**

The expansion project of the Englewood Charlotte Public Library is progressing. Inside, the flooring has been installed and the building fiber optics has been rerouted. Outside, entry sidewalks have been formed and poured and the architectural screen walls installed.

### **Media trip**

In an effort to gain editorial coverage about Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted five members of regional print and electronic media outlets during a four-day/three-night research trip highlighting the destination's many flavors. The itinerary included a visit to a Placida clam farm, a wading excursion with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, a cooking workshop and tour at Worden Farm, and a taste of Fishermen's Village. The trip also included visits to eateries serving locally harvested seafood and produce. The success of these media trips is dependent on the generous support of the County's tourism industry partners who host portions of the trip. Articles in magazines, newspapers and online provide a third-party endorsement of Charlotte County as a tourism destination and assists the tourism department to stretch its marketing dollars.