

Administrator's Update for 3/13/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week we had two major brush fires; one in the east county Bermont Road area and the second in the west county Rotonda area, with a total of over 560 acres affected. Charlotte County Fire/EMS and surrounding area fire departments worked together with the Department of Forestry, Charlotte County Sherriff's office and the Red Cross to bring the fires under control and protect homes and property. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved whether on scene or called in to cover stations during the event. Job well done!

Senior Games

The Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games kicked off this past weekend and events are scheduled through March 17. The Senior Games focus on athletic competition, camaraderie and recreational opportunities for seniors 50 years of age and older, regardless of residency. Competitions are divided into age groups and include many activities including tennis, pickleball, bocce, golf and more, held at locations throughout the county. The annual games are sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation and serve as a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championships. Visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov for more information or call 941.625.PLAY (7529).

Youth Camps

We are now in the second week of Spring Break Camps being held at the South County Regional Park and South County Pool on Cooper Street in Punta Gorda. The day camp is available during most scheduled school breaks at recreation center locations. Summer camp offerings are extensive this year and registration opened at the end of February. The summer program includes field trips and swim lessons, and limited scholarships are available, too, for those who qualify. For more information call 941.505.8686.

Drainage and sidewalks

On Little Farm Road in the south east county area, we are in the early stages of a project to design and permit culverts that will replace the concrete swaled portion near the end of Little Farm Road. Weiler Engineering is conducting the survey and research for this project, and the 60% design plans are scheduled to be complete by the middle of April. Weiler is working very closely with South Florida Water Management District in order to get this designed in a way that can be permitted.

The Deep Creek Boulevard sidewalks project was awarded to General Contracting Services and construction began in mid-February. Clearing and grubbing operations have begun as well as temporary erosion control. This construction is on Deep Creek Boulevard from Sandhill Boulevard to Rio de Janeiro Avenue, and may affect traffic patterns. There will be signs and flagman present when needed to shift traffic. This project is expected to be completed in June.

Library reopening

A month from now we will be celebrating the grand opening of the Englewood Charlotte Library and Archive, 3450 North Access Road, Englewood. The ribbon cutting is at 10 a.m. on April 13 and the library will remain open until 2 p.m. that day. The library has been completely redone and a special archival area was included in the project. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the opening—there will also be tours of the library and kids programs and crafts. Regular library services will be available as well.