

Administrator's Update for 4/10/13

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the first of the Wounded Warrior parking signs were installed at the human services department and health department complex located on Loveland Boulevard. The Board of County Commissioners approved this project in February, which provides courtesy parking spaces at designated county facilities and parks for our brave soldiers who were wounded while serving our country. A total of 40 signs have been commissioned to be installed by summer. Community volunteers, including public works staff members, have agreed to install the signs.

In the days after the first signs were installed, our Veteran Services Officer David Donohew sent me this story: "I was going out front when I noticed a man taking a picture of the newly installed wounded warrior signs. I approached him and identified myself and told him about the signs. George, a 100% disabled Vietnam Veteran became emotional and hugged me and shook my hand. He was so proud of the sign and said he was going to send the picture to all his friends showing them what Charlotte County has done for Veterans."

I'd like to thank all veterans for their service to our country, and a big thank you to veterans services staff for all of their initiatives and hard work that help make Charlotte County a great place to live.

Library grand opening

This Saturday is the grand opening of the Englewood Charlotte Library and the new archive. The space has been doubled from just over 7,000 square feet to just over 14,000 square feet and there are many new services for library patrons. Some of the new features include a state-of-the-art computer lab with 20 public computers and room for laptops, a new space just for teens and a new children's room. The grand opening will include family activities including a drum circle and crafts for the children. Tours of the library will also be available and the special new archive area will be open for public viewing. Everyone is invited to this free event on Saturday, April 13—the ribbon cutting will be at 10 a.m. and the event will continue and the library will be open until 2 p.m. at 3450 North Access Road, Englewood.

Animal control achievement

Congratulations to our Charlotte County animal control division for being awarded the 2012 Outstanding Cooperative Team Achievement Award by the Florida Animal Control Association. The award is reserved for agencies that exceed normal expectations through teamwork and dedication. Charlotte County animal control was recognized for its landmark year in which 29 people were formally charged with crimes related to animal cruelty or neglect. These charges were based on criminal case packages filed by animal control with the state attorney's office.

Charlotte County animal control division was further recognized for the establishment of an Animal Care Trust Fund which should be completed sometime this year. The fund allows animal control to offset the high costs of veterinary medical care that are often associated with criminal cruelty and neglect cases.

Bayshore Road sidewalks

Construction is underway and about 60 percent complete on the Bayshore Road sidewalks, from U.S. 41 (south) to Edgewater Boulevard. The contractor will be pouring the last of the sidewalk in the next two weeks. Final steps after the pouring is completed include final grading and sodding. The contractor may need to shift traffic patterns—there will be signs and flagmen present when needed. Please exercise caution when traveling in this area. Construction is expected to be completed in June 2013.