

**Administrator's Update for 4/17/13**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

At the end of March, the Board of County Commissioners approved a change of the name of our Employee Health Center to the Bob Pryor Health Center. Bob was the project lead for the health center—the initial analysis and evaluation started in 2007 with the goal of determining if the county should implement an employee health center. At that time this was a new concept and there were not many other public entities with health centers.

After conducting significant research and analysis, Bob realized the outcome could result in significant financial savings and balanced the risks of self-insurance. The health center opened in April of 2009 and it has been an extremely positive experience, with an 85% utilization rate and a savings of over \$5 million in claims so far. Moving to self-funding and offering a wellness program to employees has saved \$3 million more so far. For our employees, having the health center and wellness program means saving money on copays for visits and on prescription purchases, as well as helping us to keep employee contributions flat.

Overall the project is an excellent example of how government can find creative solutions that reduce spending yet maintain or enhance services. I am especially proud of Bob's work with the health center concept, which has now made us, Charlotte County, the models that other organizations around the state look to as an example.

**Access Charlotte**

The latest edition of Access Charlotte is now airing on CC-TV, our government access television station, and is also available on-demand through the CC-TV web pages at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov). Produced in-house, Access Charlotte is a quarterly magazine television show that presents topics of timely information on the county's services and events. This latest edition includes segments on the enterprise zone, the new fire boat Marine 2, our partnership with Affordable Bio Feedstock, a new playground, and more. The show will air several times each week on CC-TV which can be found on Comcast channel 20 or on 97 in some south county areas. Homeowners associations and other groups may request a complimentary DVD of the show to play at meetings and help group members learn about Charlotte County events and services by contacting Matthew Philpit, CC-TV Manager, at 941.623.1090.

**Award for Innovation**

Wayne Sallade, director of Charlotte County emergency management, recently received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Public Awareness. The award was presented at the National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana at the end of March. The award recognizes the innovative program of evacuation zone markers on street signs and stop signs around unincorporated Charlotte County. The four colors of the 9,400 reflective collars indicate risk to storm surge and are announced when evacuations are ordered by officials. A video of the evacuation zone markers as well as tools for determining your zone are available on the Emergency Management web pages at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

**Owner's Manual**

The Charlotte County Owner's Manual was recently updated and is available for downloading from [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov). Go to the "Public Information & CC-TV" department page and click "Owner's Manual" on the left. The Owner's Manual is a 20-page booklet that provides community information about Charlotte County and City of Punta Gorda government departments and services, as well as listings for transportation, parks, hospitals, and museums. It is an essential guide for both current and new residents of Charlotte County.