

**County's Paving Program  
Administrator's Update for 6/26/13  
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Charlotte County has about 2,200 miles of paved roadway. We can anticipate about a 15 to 20 year life expectancy for paving.

The paving program can only pave roadways where funding is in place to pave the roadways. The program typically has two funding sources: gas tax, which is a portion of the tax collected when vehicle fuel is purchased in Charlotte County, and Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) street and drainage assessment, which is a non-ad valorem fee collected for each Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). The county collects about 10 million dollars annually in gas tax and typically has about 1.5 million available for maintenance. In MSBU districts, paving is directly dependent on available funds—a paving program cannot be put into place until the residents in the district support a rate increase. Street and drainage assessments collected in one MSBU cannot be used in another MSBU.

Once the funding is in place the paving program project manager assesses each roadway to determine how it will be resurfaced. The assessment is usually a visual inspection of each roadway, but if surface distresses indicate a problem with the base, we have to core the roadway to determine what corrective action is necessary for the base. With this information the project manager prepares a detailed roadway inventory sheet as the basis of the paving program contract, which goes out to bid. The successful bidder notifies the residents that work on their roadway will be starting, prepares the roadway, does any necessary base repairs, paves the roadway and finally restores the right-of-way.

Next year's paving program will be going through the purchasing process in September so that work can start in early 2014 and be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

**Landfill permit complete**

The public works solid waste division received notice that the twenty-year operational permit application for Zemel Road Landfill was deemed complete. This means that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be issuing a twenty-year permit in the next couple of weeks, which will be valid until 2033. The total Charlotte County-owned facility consists of approximately 640 acres. The current Class I landfill footprint is 108 acres contained within a soil-bentonite slurry wall, and is estimated to have 18 years remaining in its expected lifespan. The landfill is considering a 194.25 acre expansion in the future that would consist of a lined landfill subject to the rules of the FDEP at time of the construction application. The permit will acknowledge this future expansion area.

**Serving the community**

Recently, Charlotte County Firefighters donate their time to cook meals and serve them for the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Once a month each month different firefighters volunteer for the opportunity to give back to the community and have been doing so for two years.

Earlier this month human services department managers served lunch and talked with seniors at the Senior Friendships Centers' congregate meals program at Harbour Heights. Staff enjoyed the opportunity to help out and to hear the seniors' stories. Senior Friendship Centers is a non-profit organization which provides luncheon meals and social activities to eligible seniors at various mealsite facilities in Charlotte County. The majority of the funding for the program comes from federal grants under the Older American's Act through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Senior Choices for Southwest Florida.