

## **Administrator's Update for 10/16/13**

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

The Charlotte County human services department collaborated with the United Way of Charlotte County and the Charlotte Community Foundation to compile the 2013 Charlotte County Community Needs Assessment. At the Oct. 8 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regular meeting, representatives from the three organizations presented the BCC with a summary of findings from the assessment. Whereas some of the data was sobering, there are numerous opportunities for the community to partner together and assist in improving the quality of life for all its residents. The community will be invited to future visioning and strategic planning meetings to identify and implement strategies for producing positive outcomes.

### **Recycling sand**

The Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) committee requested maintenance dredging of all main and access channels, including the Sunrise Waterway, for access to the Charlotte County boat ramps. This project went out to bid in the spring of 2013 and was awarded to Charlotte County Seawalls, Inc. of Port Charlotte on July 23, 2013.

The dredging of the Sunrise Waterway, leading into the Port Charlotte Beach Complex boat ramp, is complete. The community development engineering division, through coordinated efforts with the community services parks and recreation division was able to place all of the dredged sand on the critically eroded beach east of the fishing pier. The contractor is currently in the process of grading and sloping the added sand at the beach complex. This collaboration resulted in a cost savings benefit for beach maintenance by not having to import sand to nourish the beach, and also to the MSBU through reductions in material handling and trucking costs. The dredging portion of this phase of the project was funded through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The use of those funds was maximized through this coordinated effort.

The contractor will continue to dredge the rest of the project limits starting with the Beeney Waterway, and then dredge the mouths of the Elkcam and Gardner Waterway channels. The remaining dredged material will be temporarily placed on county property located on Lister Street awaiting movement to the Zemel Road Landfill to be used as top cover.

Updates of coastal and other projects are available at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left. If you have any questions regarding this or other coastal projects, please contact Charles Mopps, Project Manager, via email at [Chuck.Mopps@charlottefl.com](mailto:Chuck.Mopps@charlottefl.com).

### **Effects of the rains**

The heavy rains at the end of September affected areas throughout the county, including inside county buildings. Several locations experienced water leaks, including the elevator shaft at the Port Charlotte Library. Other damage included cracking and bubbling of the exterior paint at the Mid County Regional Library, caused by excessive moisture. Facilities construction and maintenance staff has completed all the necessary repairs inside the facilities.

Vegetation grew quickly in all areas from the excess watering, and right-of-way areas were in need of mowing before and after the rain. The rains came at a time when our new specialty mowing contract had just been approved. The prior contractor had difficulty keeping up with the required mowing in the previous contract. Even as the rains stopped, many of the right-of-ways were too wet to mow immediately without being damaged by the mowing equipment. These areas are now drying out, and the new specialty mowing contractor began mowing earlier this month. South county areas, US 41, Veterans Boulevard, and Kings Highway are all complete. The mid-county area is being finished this week and the contractor will move on to west county areas.