

Administrator's Update for 12/18/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The County Administration Center U.S. 41 Holiday Tree was lit on Friday, Dec. 9. This evergreen was badly misshaped by, yet survived, the 2004/2005 hurricane season. This tree is frequently pruned and reshaped, but it continues to grow in an unshapely manner. Last year a suggestion was made by lighting division technicians for a cable wheel to provide more symmetrical appearance for the holiday lights.

This year Charlotte County facilities construction and maintenance department technicians constructed and installed an extension wheel with eight cables for the tree. Facilities department staff and lighting division staff worked together in two lift trucks installing the numerous strings of energy-efficient lights. The suggested and implemented plan is now a success. The guide wires have better attachment points for the lights which look more uniform when lit. The teamwork, help, and cooperation of all involved exemplifies the Holiday spirit. Please enjoy the colorful and festive results of our "elfin magic" while you are in the Murdock area.

High quality performance in senior services division

A "Technical Assistance" session was recently held at the Area Agency on Aging for SWFL in Fort Myers. Representatives from surrounding counties' senior services programs, including Charlotte County, met with staff from the Department of Elder Affairs. Issues discussed included dual enrollments of clients in programs, client choices and prioritization for services.

At the meeting it was noted that Charlotte County human services' senior division has 100 percent data accuracy compliance. Our area overall (Charlotte, De Soto, Hendry, Glades, Lee, Sarasota, and Collier counties) has the highest data accuracy rate (99.5 percent) within the State. Further kudos went specifically to our case manager, Donna Robichaud, for file organization, presentation, thoroughness, and substance of client file case notes. Her notes will be used as best practices examples in statewide trainings for client file case notes.

Water control structure replacement

As part of the water control replacement project in Greater Port Charlotte, a stormwater structure located on Forrest Nelson Boulevard ("SUN 3.65") at the Sunset Waterway crossing, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will be replaced. The construction contract will be advertised for bid in December 2013 with construction projected to begin in April 2014.

The results of a drainage study previously conducted determined that the existing structure is undersized. It was recommended that the SUN 3.65 structure be replaced with three eight-foot by ten-foot box culverts which would increase the flow capacity. In order to carry out this construction, Forrest Nelson Boulevard will need to be closed at this location (projected in April 2014) requiring vehicle and pedestrian traffic detours. Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will remain closed for approximately 115 days during construction. A public service announcement will be provided in advance of the road closure.

The status of stormwater/drainage and other engineering projects is available online at our website, www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. Click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left. If you have any questions regarding this water control structure replacement or any other stormwater project, please contact the Project Manager, Karen Bliss, at 941.575.3642 or via email at Karen.Bliss@charlottefl.com.