

Administrator's Update for 3/19/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last Friday I attended the dedication of Rescue 4, a new ambulance at Fire Station 4 in Gulf Cove. This is one of two rescues that were approved last year and will be placed in service this year. Charlotte County Fire/EMS department strives for excellent response times—the additional units will reduce response times and occurrences of “Condition Red.” The department implemented “Condition Red” to identify when rescue operations fall to a level of four units with availability or below, county-wide. The impact of Condition Red on the safety of the citizens of Charlotte County caused great concern, and two additional units were approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The second additional rescue will be stationed at the city of Punta Gorda station 1.

Roundtable discussion on Comprehensive Plan revisions

The Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the BCC on July 20, 2010, and became effective on June 15, 2011. As the plan was implemented, it became apparent that some policies need to be revised in order to fulfill the vision established in the plan and to guide redevelopment and future development in the County. Proposed revisions to the Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan can be viewed online—visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Comprehensive Plan Revisions in the Hot Topics list.

A roundtable discussion and public input is scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m. on March 27, 2014 in Room B-106, Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Staff is seeking comments and suggestions from the public in order to successfully complete this revision. Input may also be e-mailed to Lynda.Lafferty@charlottefl.com.

Planning ahead

Recently the Charlotte County emergency management director and staff participated in an annual meeting with representatives of Florida Power and Light. These annual meetings are to discuss any necessary changes which might be required for critical facilities in case of a general power outage caused by a large windstorm such as Hurricane Charley. A power restoration priority plan was established with the electric utility, in order to assure that those needed facilities (hospitals, public safety sites, radio towers, etc.) are quickly returned to working order.

Community garden expands

A dedication ceremony is being planned for phase II of the community garden at the Family Services center in Port Charlotte. This phase added six full-size beds to the garden. The garden is a collaborative project between Charlotte County family services, Keep Charlotte Beautiful and Team Parkside. These six new beds were the result of an Eagle Scout project and funded by a grant from The Mosaic Company. To rent a bed at the community garden, visit the Family Services Center at 21450 Gibraltar Drive in Port Charlotte or call 941.235.0668.

Best spring training city

Voting ends March 24 for the USA Today and 10Best “Best Spring Training City.” Port Charlotte is on the list and we are near the lead in this race to be the best; please help by voting by March 24. Vote at www.10best.com — look for awards. Or visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the banner. Tell your friends and neighbors and help us be number one.