

Administrator's Update for 3/26/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Staff from the building department recently gave a presentation at the Palm Island Homeowners Association on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The presentation included information on the recent changes to the NFIP program. The presentation was well received by the attendees; if your group would like to learn more about flood insurance and the recent legislative changes, please contact Claire Jubb at Claire.Jubb@charlottefl.com.

County Libraries

The good news this week from the Charlotte County Libraries is that we have received our "State Aid for Libraries" grant for fiscal year 2013-2014. The grant award of \$91,728 is used for library materials. Over the past two years we have added new materials in services such as "Hoopla," a service of streaming movies and music, and the "3-M Cloud" which is an e-book service. Books, dvds, music cds, books on cd, and many other types of materials are purchased with this grant money, as well as library supplies and furniture. This year's grant was an increase of \$4,870.00 over last year's grant.

Charlotte County Libraries serve our community well—in February the libraries had 67,084 visits. In addition to a wide variety of materials, programs and special series are offered. At 6 p.m. on April 8 will be a free film "Steamboat Bill Jr." followed by discussion; this is the last in a series of classic and contemporary films at the Mid-County Regional Library. Once a month at the Mid-County Regional Library and the Punta Gorda Public Library teens meet in an "advisory board" to discuss materials and events that they would like to see at the libraries. There are many community events like this that are ongoing. Stop in sometime and discover all the materials and services that are offered. You can find all the locations and hours on our website; visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Library in the links on the left.

Bird Sightings

Birding is a popular activity for Charlotte County residents and visitors. To make it easier for birding enthusiasts to check species off their list, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has provided the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau with the "eBird Trail Tracker" widget which displays bird sightings from the last seven days, including a map. Data is user-generated which allows users to record birds they see, keep track of their bird lists, explore maps and graphs, and contribute to science and conservation. Find the widget and more information at www.charlotteharbortravel.com/birding.

Dredging possibilities

Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, staff is in the process of adding the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel to the previous contract. This project was originally presented to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in 2003/04; however, at that time FDEP did not view this project favorably and it was removed from the original contract. Recently it was determined that dredging the Pirate Harbor Access Channel may be viewed by the permitting agencies as "acceptable" and will require a standard general permit to dredge 2,300 feet of the access channel that was not covered under previous permitting.