

Maintaining a clean and safe county for everyone to enjoy
Administrator's Update for 4/16/14
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Our facilities construction and maintenance department coordinates several building Fire Sprinkler Inspections at our county locations. These inspections are currently in process and are required every five years. This is one of many requirements we do to follow the National Fire Prevention Association Code and for keeping our Life and Safety Systems up-to-date and functionally safe. The five-year inspection plan requires the system to be thoroughly checked for functionality and more. Checks are done to insure there are no unseen obstructions within the actual piping of these systems. The contracted service company must physically take apart sections of pipe and inspect for these hidden from view obstructions. If any are found, then necessary repairs are made.

Swales, basins, and mosquitos

Last week public works drainage crews completed over 34,000 square feet on line and grade. "Line and grade" means the roadside swales were cleaned out with heavy equipment. Crews also completed over two miles of shoulder repair, primarily on Edgewater Boulevard between Midway Boulevard and Flamingo Boulevard. This work provides for a safe recovery area off of the paved portion or "shoulder" of the road in the event a car veers outside of the travel way. This work not only serves to make the roads safer but also protects our paved surfaces. If water is allowed to lie next to the road or on the road shoulder it will deteriorate the road and the underlying base, greatly reducing the road's useful lifespan.

A public works outfall crew completed a highly complex basin removal and repair on San Cristobal Avenue just north of Rampart Boulevard. This work consisted of repairing a deteriorated vertical 24-inch riser that tees off larger pipe. The pipe was very deep underground. After the 24-inch riser was replaced it was then armored and a new basin was constructed.

The public works customer assistance investigators received well over 100 calls, which resulted in over 90 requests for service that ranged from brush removal to removing debris in the right of way areas. Although the majority of services needed were drainage related due to the recent rains, our grapple truck removed 14,720 of illegally dumped debris in county rights-of-way.

The recent rain events not only increase the drainage efforts but also triggered pest management maintenance. Mosquito control staff used a helicopter to treat 2,040 acres of state salt marsh lands for mosquito larvae.

Cleaning up

In late March at the Florida International Air Show, the partnership between Charlotte County solid waste division and Waste Management ensured that recycling and garbage was handled in an efficient and professional manner for the approximately 40,000 attendees. This year the recycling containers were changed to those currently used by residents in Charlotte County to reinforce the identification of yellow tops used for recycling in our community. To further promote recycling, the organizers of the event requested that all beverages be served in recyclable containers.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers provided ash receptacles for the Florida International Air Show. The receptacles were purchased for events through a grant that Keep Charlotte Beautiful received from Keep America Beautiful. The Cigarette Litter Prevention grant provided pocket ashtrays to be given to smokers and Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers passed out more than 400 pocket ashtrays to smokers during the event.