

Administrator's Update for 4/23/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At yesterday's regular meeting the Board of County Commissioners approved our new public safety director. It is my pleasure to welcome Interim Chief Marianne Taylor to continue in the position as permanent Chief. For the past 14 years she has held the position of Deputy Chief with Charlotte County, and has worked for 27 years in the field. Please join me in congratulating her for this promotion.

Paving program update

The 2014 County Paving Program provides for the resurfacing of roads in greater Port Charlotte and in the road and bridge districts. Paving is now complete on Midway, Veterans, Toledo Blade, Rio de Janeiro, and Sandhill Boulevards. Shoulder restoration is complete on all streets and we are awaiting sod to be placed. The contractor has a new sod contractor who will begin placing sod next week and will work until the sod placement is caught up to the paving.

Work has moved into the Greater Port Charlotte Olean 1 area, and the contractor has performed all of the required base repairs in this area. Asphalt was removed from the streets that required it; these streets have been leveled with 75 pounds per square yard of asphalt leveling to protect the base until it has the final lift of asphalt placed.

The paving project is scheduled to be complete near the end of this year. Paving maps are available on our website. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Project Status Updates" in the Popular Links on the left.

SWFWMD permit issued

To further the marketability of the Murdock Village area, Charlotte County sought concept plan approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan as it pertains to stormwater management design and environmental concepts. Under the new Statewide Stormwater Environmental Resource Permit Rule 62-330.055 F.A.C., a redevelopment Concept Approval Permit is available for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area. This permit will provide Charlotte County with an assurance that for 20 years (the duration of the permit) the stormwater management design and environmental concepts, upon which the Conceptual Approval Permit is based, will meet applicable rule criteria for issuance of permits by SWFWMD for subsequent phases of the project. On April 11, 2014 SWFWMD issued the Conceptual Approval Environmental Resource Permit for Murdock Village.

Cookie House historical marker

The historical marker dedication for the Cookie House is scheduled for this Saturday at Cedar Point Environmental Park. Built in 1931 by the founder of the Bass Biological Laboratory and Zoological Research Supply Company, John Foster Bass, Jr., the building served as his personal office and laboratory near Gottfried Creek. The Bass Biological Laboratory inspired the Cape Haze Marine Lab, which eventually moved to Sarasota and later became the renowned Mote Marine Laboratory. The special log construction of the Cookie House is rare—this is the only known example in Florida. The house was moved to Cedar Point Environmental Park in a public-private effort to ensure its preservation.

The Cookie House is an important part of Charlotte County's history and the marker, one of thirteen historical markers in Charlotte County, is the final piece of the project. A brief ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26 at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood. The public is invited to this free event to dedicate the historical marker.