

## **Administrator's Update for 6/18/14**

### **By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

The dredging for the northwest Port Charlotte waterways project is complete and the final as-built survey was conducted earlier this month. This project facilitated safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system connecting to the Myakka River navigation channel. This new channel, over one mile long, extends and connects three waterways to the Myakka River channel. The permitting agencies have been notified of completion and the placement of new channel markers has been scheduled.

### **Winchester Boulevard update**

The Winchester Boulevard South Extension project includes the construction of a new four-lane connector from Placida Road to the Charlotte/Sarasota County line, with a direct connection to I-75 via River Road within Sarasota County. As construction progresses, the final design and permitting of the intersection of S.R. 776/Winchester will occur and the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project. The project is projected to be complete in the summer of 2015.

Currently excavation is underway for the flood plain compensation pond north of S.R. 776 and west of Wilmington Boulevard. Trucks hauling the excavated material are using S.R. 776 and San Casa Drive as the haul route to transport the material into the Winchester Boulevard South construction site; the excavated material is being used as fill for the new roadway. Most the base fill is in place from Aloha Avenue to Concord Road on the new north bound lanes. The contractor is approximately 80% complete filling the new roadway between Aloha Avenue and Fruitland Road.

The contractor continues to install drainage pipes and structures for the new roadway; utility lines for both Charlotte County Utilities and Englewood Water District are being placed. FP&L, Comcast, and FP&L Fibernet moved all power lines that were in conflict with the new roadway. Excavation will begin soon within Oyster Creek Crossing in preparation for constructing the new box culverts.

### **Paving update**

The 2014 County Paving Program focuses on the resurfacing of roads in greater Port Charlotte and the road and bridge districts. The contractor recently finished the final course of asphalt in the Olean 1 area where restoration is now underway. The contractor moved back into the Elmira 1 area, completed the asphalt removal and began paving in this area. Paving in the Elmira 1 area should be complete in approx. two weeks, weather permitting. Pipe replacement is underway in the Peachland 3 area; paving will follow. The paving project is scheduled to be complete near the end of this year. Maps of the paving areas are available on the county website: visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click "Project Status Updates" in the Popular Links on the left.

### **Diverse Library services**

Our county libraries offer so many services that help residents in ways you would never expect. For example, the Department of Motor Vehicles is no longer providing print copies of the handbook for driver's tests. We are excited to provide a new website available in the libraries and on the library web pages that provides online copies and practice tests. The libraries are also offering a variety of summer programs for all ages—some programs are currently in full swing with more coming up. Visit a library or the library pages on the county website [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) for more information.