

Administrator's Update for 8/13/14
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Maintenance dredging is scheduled for this year in the Manchester, Ackerman and Hyattsville Waterways to provide safe navigation in the waterways. This project is located within Gasparilla Sound and the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. Construction began at the end of June and is scheduled to be complete later this year in October. Currently maintenance dredging is underway with two barges operating in the area; one is working in the Hyattsville Waterway and the second barge is working in the Ackerman Waterway/Lewis Creek.

Quesada Avenue

On July 31, a sewer main break occurred at Quesada Avenue near the Crestview Waterway. Charlotte County Utilities' (CCU's) crews reacted quickly and minimized the impact. A coordinated effort between the public works department and CCU is working on restoring the area. Currently the road has one lane closed. When the final restoration work occurs, the road will be reduced to one lane and crew members with flags will be managing traffic flow. Motorists should remain alert at all times and exercise caution when traveling through construction zones. Traffic flow should be returned to normal by the end of this week.

Youth basketball league

The regular season of the Summer Youth Basketball League came to a close last week. Over the course of the weekend 292 participants and approx. 700 spectators filled the gymnasium of the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. In addition to the regular games, ten players from Harold Avenue's league represented the program and competed in an All Star Game against ten players from the Punta Gorda Police Department's Jammers Basketball league. The game was exciting up to the last moment—although the Harold Avenue All Stars put up a good fight they fell to the Punta Gorda Jammers with a 3 point shot made at the buzzer. The coordinators of the Summer Youth Basketball Season would like to send a big shout out to the Harold Avenue Recreation Center's Youth Basketball League participants and to the Punta Gorda Police Department Jammers as well for a job well done this season.

Cigarette litter program

Keep Charlotte Beautiful has received a grant from Keep America Beautiful to expand the cigarette litter prevention program in Charlotte County. This grant specifically targets marinas and boat ramps. As a result of a survey conducted at Eldred's Marina and the Placida Boat ramp, it was determined that these two locations were good candidates to receive cigarette butt receptacles. Keep Charlotte Beautiful will supply additional receptacles for the Englewood Beach facility in the near future.

Big Belly

As a part of our contract with Waste Management, Charlotte County receives two "Big Belly" solar-powered recycling and garbage containers at no cost every year. The first two we received were installed at Bayshore Live Oak Park and the Englewood Beach facility. The two units we received this year were installed at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex and Englewood Beach. Big Belly trash containers are state-of-the art equipment. The containers are equipped with built-in solar-powered trash compactors and send electronic notifications to the service department when the unit is nearing capacity. The notifications save staff time and fuel by only servicing the containers when needed. We will continue to install future units in areas identified as the most utilized county facilities.