

Administrator's Update for 9/24/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Earlier this month Bob Hebert, housing and community initiatives manager, was invited to give a presentation on the Lakeshore Circle house project at the annual State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) conference sponsored by the Florida Housing Coalition. The Lakeshore Circle property is a special needs housing unit that was developed and constructed utilizing Neighborhood Stabilization III grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Located just inside the Parkside community redevelopment area, this housing unit provides four separate apartments and shared living space for tenants with special needs. The tenants share all costs including rent, utilities, and lawn maintenance. The residents have case management oversight that provides self-sufficiency development, financial management and daily life skills instruction. The Florida Housing Coalition has recognized this housing initiative as innovative with possible replication for other communities.

Permitting workshops

The building construction services division of community development recently held a workshop "Residential Roof Permitting 101" as a free refresher for contractors and all interested persons who submit roof permit applications. Attendees learned how to submit a successful roof permit application, how to avoid the most common application and inspection mistakes, how to navigate the Charlotte County GIS Geographic Information Systems (GIS) website and find product approvals and Notice of Acceptances (NOAs) online. The workshop was well attended, with about 50 participants, who were able to have their questions answered by a team of County staff. The slides of the workshop can be found at online on the community development department web page at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. A recording of the presentation will also be available online soon, along with details of the next free workshop, scheduled for Nov. 13, 2014, on windows, doors and shutters permitting.

Flushing hydrants

The flushing of fire hydrants is a normal part of the Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) maintenance cycle. When a fire hydrant is flushed, it is perfectly normal after the hydrant valve is opened for the water to be dark colored. The dark color happens because the water picks up bits of pieces of sedimentation from the pipes and has sat stagnant in the pipes from non-use. The flushing maintenance is important because the hydrants must have a highly pressurized flow of water when firefighters need it. Flushing helps rid the pipes of buildup and sedimentation that can inhibit this need. There is no need to be concerned that water is being wasted—the water becomes part of the water cycle again. Hydrant flushing helps ensure water is ready and available for everyone when needed.

Filming

Film crews from Los Angeles and Miami recently spent four days in Punta Gorda filming a public service announcement for the University of Florida's new social responsibility campaign, "For the Gator Good." The 30-second spot focused on families struck by Hurricane Charley, and how the University of Florida impacted their recovery. The spot will air during U of F football games. A 60-second version will appear online. The Charlotte County Tourism Office's Division of Film, Television and Digital Media assisted the crew with locations to film.