

Administrator's Update for 10/29/14
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) was recently notified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that the East and West Spring Lakes project has been accepted for grant funding in the full amount that was applied for: \$2,071,324. This funding is from the FDEP fiscal year 2015 TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Water Quality Restoration Grant Phase 2. In Phase 1, CCU received a \$599,670 TMDL grant from FDEP. An additional \$500,000 from a legislative appropriation for water quality improvements was also received.

For the FDEP grants, projects are ranked for funding based on the impaired status of the associated waterbody, the estimated pollutant load reductions the project is designed to achieve, the cost-effectiveness of the project and the percentage of local matching funds. Another important consideration is whether the applicant has a stormwater utility fee or other dedicated revenue source to continue effective stormwater management in the future.

Burnt Store Road update

The Burnt Store Road widening project (phase III) includes widening Burnt Store Road, between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road, to a four-lane divided suburban typical section. The construction includes stormwater management, drainage improvements, street lighting, six-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, and utility additions and relocations. Construction began earlier this year and is projected to be complete in September 2015.

Currently, the excavation of four ponds and the grading and sodding of swales continues. One pond has been completed and sod has been installed. Work is progressing on box culverts at the Clark Canal. The box culvert at the Bear Branch Creek is almost complete and backfilling continues on the east side.

The installation of four 54-inch drainage pipes is complete near the Zemel Road and Burnt Store Road intersection. Over 40 percent of the sidewalk sub-grade has been installed on the northbound side and concrete installation of sidewalk is 20 percent complete.

The contractor has placed and finished 10 percent of stabilizer and base on the northbound travel lanes and five percent on the southbound travel lanes. Crews are installing street lighting and fiber conduit on the east side of the project. FPL is relocating the poles on the east side of the project.

The construction will cause intermittent lane closures on Burnt Store Road, from Zemel Road south to Vincent Street, in both directions through late November 2014. In addition, a portion of Saragossa Lane, between Burnt Store Road and Trading Post Road, will be closed to traffic from Tuesday Oct. 28, through Friday Oct. 31. Flaggers and traffic control devices will be in place to direct traffic thru the construction zone, and detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the road closure. Motorists should remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

The Guide is here

Charlotte County Community Services has released "The Guide," your source to get up, get out, and get active in Charlotte County! The Guide is a 61-page publication distributed to all Charlotte County elementary school children, as well as the offices of the middle and high schools. A "must read" for everyone in Charlotte County, The Guide is filled with information about parks, libraries, pools, recreation center, programs and activities with maps to help you get there. Copies are free

and are available at any Charlotte County library, recreation center, pool, the Charlotte County Murdock Administration Center building, or the Chambers of Commerce.

Human trafficking

Charlotte County Community Services along with Harold Avenue Recreation Center staff hosted a Human Trafficking Awareness Open Forum on Sunday. This free, informative session was held to create an awareness of the dangers of modern day slavery. Representatives from four different organizations provided an opportunity to present pertinent information as well as speak to the participants individually. More than 30 participants learned from both professionals and a local victim, signifying that this is indeed a concern in our community. For more information on this topic call Shalonda Harris 941.627.1074.