

**Administrator's Update for 12/10/14**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Our two-year budget process for fiscal year 2015/16 and 2016/17 is underway and we are seeking citizen's input on our services via our annual budget survey. The survey is available through January 30. Visit the county website [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click the "Give Us Your Input" banner. There is a link to the survey in the Hot Topics list on our home page as well, or you can fill out a printed copy of the survey. Printed copies are available in county libraries, human services counters, and other county buildings.

**Thinking outside the box**

Operations staff within Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) continues to be conscious of saving money and ensuring quality. Recently staff at the West Port Reclamation Facility needed a new auger for the influent rotary drum screen. Staff priced a direct replacement from the manufacturer for the unit, but ultimately contracted a local fabrication shop to install a stainless steel replacement. The installed unit will produce a cost savings of approximately \$9,000 in comparison to the manufacturer's replacement price. Not only was there a cost savings, but staff found a superior product and used a local business, too.

**Swimming options**

The Port Charlotte Beach Pool and South County Regional Pool have been closed for renovations and repairs since November. Both are scheduled to reopen Jan. 15, 2015. Work has been progressing ahead of schedule at the Port Charlotte Beach Pool and the community services department anticipates re-opening ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline.

In the interim, Charlotte County community services department has arranged for the Port Charlotte High School swimming pool to be open 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays as an alternative location while the South County Regional Pool and Port Charlotte Beach Pool are closed for renovations and repairs. County pool pass holders are required to produce their passes at the gate, and for other users regular county pool admission fees apply. The Port Charlotte High School swimming pool is located at 18200 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte.

Swimmers can also visit Oyster Creek Regional Pool located at 6791 San Casa Dr. in Englewood to participate in regularly scheduled water exercise classes, lap swimming or recreational swimming.

**Pancakes**

The annual Santa Firehouse Pancake Breakfasts are coming up soon. Put on by Charlotte County public safety department and the Fire/EMS division, as well as area sponsors, the holiday events welcoming the community into the firehouses for firehouse and apparatus tours, fire safety education, and a great social time filled with fun and excitement. Santa and his helpers will be there too. Breakfast ends when the food is gone, but each child will have an opportunity to talk with Santa.

This year's breakfasts are scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 22 at Fire/EMS Station #12, 2001 Luther Road in Deep Creek and 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Fire/EMS Station #4, 13600 Marathon Rd. in Gulf Cove. For reservations please call 941.833.5600 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.