

## **Administrator's Update for 3/18/15**

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

Earlier this month Edgewater Drive closed to through traffic and is only for local traffic, which includes resident access, mail, school buses, resident deliveries and emergency services. To keep apprised of the project's progress and roadway/waterway status, visit the GOEP2.com website. This website has maps, including maps of the area's detours, and up-to-date traffic information. You can also sign up on the website to receive information via text. Our county website, [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov), also has traffic alerts on the home page.

### **Stump Pass**

Stump Pass Beach State Park has been included in Yahoo! Travel's World's Best Hidden Beaches list. Listed alongside beaches that are in destinations such as Brazil, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Stump Pass Beach is the only U.S. beach included in the list. This fantastic editorial placement was a result of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau responding to an editorial lead and quickly providing necessary content including a photo. Yahoo! Travel receives 270,000 unique monthly visitors.

### **SCADA upgrades and more**

The Charlotte County Board of Commissioners recently approved upgrades to a monitoring system that will benefit Charlotte County Utilities' (CCU) wastewater treatment facilities exponentially. CCU's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) program allows electronic monitoring that is acceptable to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency (FDEP). The program provides improved security protection and helps to better utilize staff. The monitoring system offers a more secure position against potential cyber-attacks, which could jeopardize water quality and service. SCADA also helps to staff the facilities efficiently—without the SCADA system, CCU would need to staff the smaller facilities 24 hours a day.

CCU's low pressure sewer work group recently completed the inflow and infiltration upgrades to all Low Pressure Sewer (LPS) systems within the Charlotte Harbor Lift Station 72 sewer basin. This is a test area for the LPS tank modifications that the CCU wastewater collection department has designed in order to reduce inflow and infiltration. Flows will be monitored through the rainy season and compared to last year's numbers in determining the effectiveness of the modifications.

### **LIHEAP update**

Our human services department received notification from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity of the 2015-2016 grant award for the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for Charlotte County. We anticipate receiving \$379,774.00 for this year's assistance, which will begin on April 1, 2015. It is expected that approximately 1,000 low income households will benefit with assistance for their energy bills from this program during this new grant cycle.

Earlier this month our family services division approved 38 Home Energy Assistance applications and 2 Crisis Home Energy Assistance applications totaling \$11,793.33 in benefits. The current 2014-2015 LIHEAP grant cycle ends March 31st.

### **Tweetups**

Social media continues to strengthen as a marketing tool and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau hosted two Tweetups during the first week of Tampa Bay Rays spring training games. A Tweetup is an event where people who use Twitter (and other social media channels) come together to meet in person. When sharing their experience they use a hashtag which pulls together social media posts, allowing followers of that hashtag to follow the conversation. The hashtag for these two events was: #RaysST15. The two Tweetups generated an estimated 1.8 million impressions on Twitter reaching more than 107,000 individual Twitter accounts. Participants also shared the experiences on other social media channels including Facebook, Flickr, Instagram and YouTube.