

Administrator's Update for 5/13/15
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Throughout many of our meetings there is often mention of the "Parks Master Plan." To find out more about the Plan and be a part of the process, attend one of the three public workshops that will be held next week for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Staff and stakeholders will discuss the purpose of the plan, the process and framework, and will talk about the local option sales tax park projects. There will also be an exercise to gain input on current and future park facilities. The meetings are all scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Tuesday, May 19, Tringali Park Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood; Wednesday, May 20, Harold Avenue Park Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Avenue, Port Charlotte; Thursday, May 21, South County Regional Park Recreation Center, 670 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda. For more information call 941.625.7529.

Even as we strive to improve the parks system, Florida Weekly selected Charlotte County community services department as the "Best Reason to 'Get up, Get Out, Get Active.'" Congratulations to staff for all of their hard work. To explore the myriad ways community services offers to get up, get out, and get active, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/CommunityServices and click The Guide.

Disaster Planning Guides available

Printed copies of the 2015 Charlotte County Disaster Planning Guide is now available at all public libraries and most government buildings. This guide is filled with life-saving information and includes the evacuation zone map. Multiple copies of the disaster planning guide are available for delivery to civic organizations, individual neighborhoods or churches by calling Charlotte County Emergency Management at 941.833.4000

Earth Day

Our Charlotte County solid waste division partnered with Keep Charlotte Beautiful, Goodwill of SWFL, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for an Earth Day Celebration on April 18. More than 15 environmental businesses and organizations set up at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Charlotte to offer environmental information to the public. Goodwill collected clothing and household items and provided a free document shredding service. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County displayed the winning entries of the Keep Charlotte Beautiful 2015 student calendar art contest as their monthly art exhibit.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful and the solid waste division also participated in an educational Earth Day event at Vineland Elementary School. Five classrooms participated in environmental activities including learning about converting waste to energy, composting, recycling, hazardous waste and other Keep Charlotte Beautiful programs.

Flushable is not always treatable

Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) crews have been working on pump stations throughout the county that have been clogged from customers flushing items other than toilet paper down the toilets or their drains. Along the 923 miles of pipes in our system, flushed items often become snagged or build up and clog pipes, causing lift and pumping stations to be impacted. If the items get to the treatment facilities, the machines are impacted because even small items can cause big problems for the high tech equipment. CCU spends approx. 288 hours annually removing debris from clogged waste water lift stations. The problem is so large that at just the East Port Wastewater Reclamation Facility, approximately 5,000 pounds of debris per week is removed prior to processing. This debris includes diaper wipes, cotton hygiene products, cleaning wipes, cloth rags and underwear bands. Items that are labeled flushable may not be biodegradable and treatable in our treatment facilities. "Flushable" just means it will fit in the pipes. For more information, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and from popular links select "Water and Sewer" or follow CCU on Facebook: Charlotte County Utilities - CCU.