

Administrator's Update for 6/10/15
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The Charlotte County libraries and history division has been planning for the future, working on a library capacity plan that will help shape our future services and inform our decision-making process in the coming years, and also on a new long range plan for the Historical Center.

In conjunction with our consultants Godfrey's Associates, the libraries division has been conducting public meetings for the library capacity plan, building assessments, non-user telephone surveys, and data mining and analysis as part of the information gathering process. We'd like to thank those members of the public who have generously given their time to attend meetings and share with us their vision for our libraries' future.

Next steps for the plan include staff workshops conducted by the consultants, key stakeholder meetings, and assessing the current state of the libraries' technology resources, furnishings and shelving. Library staff will continue working closely with the consultants over the summer with the aim to present the finished plan to the Board of County Commissioners and the public in November 2015.

The Historical Center is also hard at work constructing a new long range plan. The Historical Center has been part of our community for over 40 years, from its beginnings as the non-profit Youth Museum of Charlotte County to the present. Now we need the public's help to blaze new trails for the Historical Center so that it can continue its vision to 'bring history to life' for generations to come.

Everyone is invited to attend the upcoming June meetings and join in as the community shares their thoughts, opinions and visions about the Historical Center's future growth. The first meeting will be held on June 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the historic Charlotte County Courthouse, 226 Taylor Street in Punta Gorda. The second meeting will be on June 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Boulevard in Port Charlotte. The third meeting will be on June 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Englewood-Charlotte Library, 3450 N. Access Road in Englewood.

EMS week and awards

May 17 through 23 marked this year's National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. EMS Week highlights public education concerning EMS, partnerships within the medical community and service to the citizens of Charlotte County. It is a forum to recognize those front-line personnel who make a difference every day providing skilled, compassionate care in medical emergencies.

Every year, in honor of National EMS Week, Charlotte County Fire & EMS joins our area hospitals to celebrate lives that have been saved through the efforts of our dedicated public servants. Last week Bayfront Health sponsored an awards ceremony at the Charlotte Sports Park that honored those who, over the last year, successfully resuscitated a victim of cardiac arrest or welcomed a new life into the world.

The Phoenix Award, named after the mythical bird that rises from the ashes to live again, is presented for successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest victim. This year Phoenix Awards were presented for 15 successful resuscitations. Though each of these awards is special, the highlight of the evening was the young 12 year old survivor of a cardiac arrest event who was reunited with his rescuers.

The Stork Award, presented to those who assist in the delivery of a newborn, was also very special this year. A single in-the-field delivery this year occurred as a 31-year department veteran and skilled Lieutenant/paramedic was retiring and about to go off-duty from his final shift. What a joyous way to end a career!

Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you to Charlotte County Fire & EMS and our medical professionals for their service to our community.