

Administrator's Update for 7/22/15
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Our human services department was recently notified that with the start of the new state fiscal year July 1, 2015, Charlotte County was awarded a total of \$740,890 in grant funds for in-home elder care services under the Community Care for the Elderly, Alzheimer's disease Initiative and Home Care for the Elderly programs. Program participation referrals for frail seniors and their caregivers are received from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Southwest Florida. For more information on these programs or other senior services, call Charlotte County 211 (dial 2-1-1) or contact the AAA Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1.866.413.5337.

Charlotte County was also notified of the award of annual State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) grant funds for fiscal year 2016. The total amount expected to be received is \$808,578. Funds include parameters set for special needs and possible homeless prevention programs. Allocation of funding is based on the County's Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) and recommendations of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC).

Burnt Store Road Phase 3 update

The Burnt Store Road phase 3 project will improve Burnt Store Road between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road. The project includes the widening of the road to a four-lane, divided suburban section, as well as stormwater management components, drainage improvements, street lighting, 6-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, and utility relocations and additions. Construction is projected to be complete in November 2015.

The excavation of all ponds is complete. Grading and sodding of swales continues on the west side. Work is progressing on the box culverts; two of the three box culverts are complete and backfilled. Work is scheduled to begin on the final box culvert after the next traffic lane shift scheduled mid to late August.

Approximately 99 percent of the utility pipe and 88 percent of the drainage pipework has been installed. Over 94 percent of the sidewalk sub-grade has been installed on the northbound side. The contractor completed the stabilizer and base on the northbound travel lanes and is now placing stabilized sub base on the southbound travel lanes. The first and second course of asphalt has been paved on the northbound lanes, and another 1,500 feet of asphalt has been paved on the southbound lanes.

Crews have installed street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project; this portion of the project is nearing completion.

Traffic has shifted to the east side of new roadway and the speed limit is reduced to 35 miles per hour. The entire project length is a NO PASSING zone; please use extreme caution when traveling in this area.

Sod and scoreboards

Summer is time for some maintenance at sports fields in our community services department facilities. New Bermuda grass sod has been installed at Franz Ross Park football field and at the football game and practice fields at Carmelita Park. The sod will need a few weeks to fill in and root, but the overall installation is complete.

New Bermuda grass sod is being installed on three of the five fields at South County Regional Park in Punta Gorda. Once the new sod has rooted in and the fields can be opened for use, the remaining two fields (fields 1 and 3) will receive new sod.

Repairs to all scoreboards at Harold Avenue Recreation Center have been completed and everything is working as it should.

Restaurant week coming this fall

Under the leadership of the Englewood Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Englewood Chamber's Tourism Assembly, Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau and Visit Sarasota County have been working together to launch the inaugural restaurant week called Let's Eat, Englewood, a "culinary adventure without breaking the bank." Scheduled for Sept. 25 through Oct. 8, local restaurants will offer two-course lunches and three-course (or more) dinners at very reasonable prices. This is an opportunity for locals to try area restaurants and it also encourages visitors to visit the destination during what is traditionally an off-season part of the year. Visit LetsEatEnglewood.com for additional information.