

Administrator's Update for 7/29/15

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Patrons of Charlotte County libraries can now enhance their language learning with access to Rosetta Stone. The Rosetta Stone program can be used to learn a new language, enhance ESL learning as non-native English speakers, or brush up on a language for travel. The program uses the proven and popular immersion method to learn 30 languages, and is now accessible in the library or online through the Charlotte County libraries website.

Library patrons can also take advantage of available mobile apps that enable learners to reinforce their language learning wherever they may be. Visit the Charlotte County Libraries website to learn more about accessing Rosetta Stone — www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Library in the Popular Links.

Food for Fine\$

On March 17, 2015, the Charlotte County libraries started a new initiative called Food for Fine\$ that partners each library branch with a neighborhood food bank to collect food donations in place of library overdue fines. This initiative helps bring patrons back into the library and helps those in need at the same time. For each donated canned good, non-perishable food item, or pet supply the library will remove one dollar off of the patron's library overdue fines.

Food for Fine\$ has been a remarkable success. In the first three weeks patrons donated over a 1000 items of food. The word spread and our four libraries are now bringing in over 3000 food donations a month. Residents are clearing their fines by returning with arms loaded with donations for the food banks, and other patrons are bringing in food just to donate or to help pay off balances for those not in a position to donate. Thank you to all for helping the community. Food for Fine\$ continues at all Charlotte County libraries, it is not too late to donate and clear your fines.

Pet rescue sticker

Yesterday the Charlotte County Save Our Pets sticker was launched in a joint effort between Charlotte County Fire/EMS, Charlotte County Animal Control, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Peace River K9 Search and Rescue Association. The pet rescue sticker was created to address the issue of identifying pets in a residential home during an emergency.

In an emergency, responders face the challenge of knowing if and what type of pet is in the home. For example, in a medical emergency when the only resident is transported to a hospital and may not return right away, animal control personnel will provide the proper assistance to the pet's owner for the care of the animal.

The pet rescue sticker is made with durable materials, printed with bright colors and very visible both day and night and should be placed on the upper right-hand portion of the front door so it is easily seen by emergency personnel. Stickers are available at the Charlotte County Public Safety Complex, 26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda (call 941.833.5600) or at the Peace River K9 Search and Rescue Association website www.prsar.org.

Fisheries forum

The Charlotte Harbor Fisheries Forum was started by partnership of local Florida Sea Grant agents and Mote Marine Laboratory to identify the needs and status of fisheries in detail at the local level, helping communities provide quality, collaborative and sustained feedback to

government agencies and researchers. The forum meets monthly in open meetings where anglers and anyone interested in Charlotte Harbor's fisheries can share knowledge and exchange ideas.

The next Charlotte Harbor Fisheries Forum will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, at the Laishley Marina, 120 Laishley Court, Punta Gorda. This meeting will focus on educating forum participants on the state of water quality, seagrasses and macroalgae, with information provided by three speakers: Judy Ott from Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Melynda Brown from FDEP Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves, and Eric Milbrandt from Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.