

Charlotte County update for 5/25/16

## **Sewer smoke testing complete, repairs made**

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The Charlotte County Utilities Department recently finished a sewer maintenance project that included smoke testing two lift station basins in the Parkside CRA. Smoke testing is conducted as part of the evaluation of areas suspected to have inflow or infiltration problems. Smoke testing is an economical and relatively fast method for identifying the location of inflow or infiltration sources such as structural damage in sewer pipes or manholes and cross connections including roof leaders, foundation drains, yard drains, storm sewers, and undocumented/illegal connections.

Smoke testing is conducted to help determine which gravity sewer system components may require additional assessment through dyed water testing, closed-circuit television inspections, and manhole inspections. Smoke testing involves introducing a non-toxic smoke into the gravity system using mechanical blowers through manhole openings located in the public roadways and utility easements

The smoke testing generated a total of 81 discrepancies, with 33 private addresses in the Parkside CRA district found to have issues beyond the utility easement. These property owners have been notified and requested to make the necessary repairs. The majority of the repairs needed were broken clean-out caps, missing clean-out caps and broken/cracked PVC pipes. The repairs are important as they will help to prevent unnecessary stormwater inflow/infiltration and outflow/exfiltration into and out of the sewer system. The remaining 48 areas of concern were determined to be Utilities Department responsibility. All but three have been completed or are scheduled for completion.

### **Tourism luncheon**

Congratulations to Capt. Ralph Allen, owner of King Fisher Fleet, who was inducted into the Charlotte County Tourism Hall of Fame on May 12 during the annual Charlotte County Tourism Luncheon at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. More than 100 members of the tourism and business community gathered to celebrate culinary tourism.

Prior to a lunch prepared by SAVOR, local restaurants Farlow's On The Water, Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar & Grill, Peace River Seafood, Rum Bay Restaurant and Village Fish Market, served samples from their menus. Food Network's Retro Rad Chef Emily Ellyn gave the keynote address about the seven key ingredients that make a great foodie community. Radio personality Chris Kelly served as emcee.

Each year, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau conducts marketing, sales and promotional campaigns to increase awareness of and visitation to Charlotte County. In addition to generating economic contributions, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is also focused on developing soft adventure or eco-tourism, a low-impact industry enabling the county to preserve the invaluable natural resources that contribute to its ecological health, distinguish the area and draw visitors.

In 2015, Charlotte County welcomed an estimated 395,800 visitors and tourism generated an estimated \$345 million in direct expenditures and made an estimated \$526 million economic impact in Charlotte County. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the power of tourism.

### **Turtle nesting**

Turtle nesting season began May 15 and, right on cue, monitors discovered the first four nests of the season last week. Those nests found on Gasparilla Island will be joined by dozens more through the end of the season on Oct. 31.

It is illegal to disturb sea turtle nests or eggs. Sea turtles are protected by both the federal Endangered Species Act and the state Marine Protection Act. When nests are discovered volunteers mark them with stakes and caution tape, along with an informational flyer explaining the reptiles' protected status.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has a toll-free number — 1-888-404-3922 — you can call to report sightings of injured or dead turtles.

### **Infrastructure work**

As you have probably noticed, there are a number of infrastructure construction projects underway across the county. We appreciate your patience during inevitable traffic delays. To keep you informed of projects' progress and traffic disruptions, we have created a variety of information sources.

For the Edgewater Drive project, you can check for updates online at [www.goEP2.com](http://www.goEP2.com). For the Midway Boulevard widening, go to [www.MidwayUpdate.com](http://www.MidwayUpdate.com). For the Tom Adams Bridge tenderhouse replacement and bridge rehabilitation, go to [www.TomAdamsBridge.com](http://www.TomAdamsBridge.com).

Information on other Public Works projects are available on the county website. Visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click Project Status Updates under Popular Links. That page will soon include all Facilities and Utilities projects, including the East and West Spring Lake sewer installation. For now, for sewer information, go to [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click Utilities (Water and Sewer) under Popular Links or call 941-764-4300, Ext. 3.

*Ray Sandrock is the Charlotte County Administrator. Readers may reach him at [Ray.Sandrock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Ray.Sandrock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).*