

**Administrator's Update for 5/22/13**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

From Hurricane Charley through the economic explosion and finally the economic crash, Charlotte County has been dealing with one disaster after another for nearly a decade. We have been working with the Board of County Commissioners and the Community to shift the from "crisis mode" to future growth and vision. We want to hear from citizens about what their vision is for the county.

At our budget workshop last week I asked commissioners to consider holding a series of public meetings to gather input on the 8 Focus Areas which the Board has adopted. Focus areas include public safety, economic development, quality of life, water quality, human services, efficient and effective government, fiscal and financial planning, and growth management. The Board has identified 60 goals and initiatives under the 8 Focus Areas. The Board agreed with our recommendation to hold workshops with interested parties around the Focus Areas. Stay tuned!

**Landfill permit renewal**

The Zemel Road Landfill Permit renewal has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to obtain a 20-year operation permit for the landfill. Previous permits were only valid for five years. Public works solid waste operations division has been working with HDR Engineering, the Solid Waste Engineer of Record, to obtain this expanded permit from FDEP.

**Pirate Harbor rock ledge removal**

During the maintenance dredging project of Pirate Harbor, rock ledges were found. Removal of the rock ledges is not considered maintenance dredging and required a new standard FDEP general permit in order to remove the rock. The county obtained all the permits for this work and the contractor has completed three rock areas and is at 50 percent completion in the fourth rock area. Construction is expected to be completed in late August 2013.

**Manchester lock education**

The Manchester lock educational program was required by the DEP as part of the Manchester lock system removal. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center has been contracted to provide water quality education to elementary age school children throughout Charlotte County. Elementary school class trips in the Alligator Bay Education program were conducted in mid-April. This is an ongoing, annual project designed to educate students and parents on water resource issues, and discuss what actions they can take to protect their community's natural water resources and the environment.

**Food drive**

Staff in the family services division and three youth volunteers recently participated in the 2013 Postal Carriers Food Drive. The human services department's food pantry received approximately \$5,000 worth of food from this community-wide event. Donations from the generous residents of Charlotte County will provide food to assist families during the summer months.

**Big Surf**

Earlier this month charlotte county community services hosted for the fifteenth year the "Big Surf" fishing tournament. This free event is a catch and release fishing tournament open to kids 3 to 12 years of age. There were 59 registered participants accompanied by parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. The young anglers are placed in two divisions, 3 to 6 years old and 7 to 12 years old and given a rod, reel and tackle box and goodie bag. At the end of the tournament each participant was treated to a cook-out and trophies were presented to the biggest (19 ½"), smallest (5"), most caught (10) and most unusual (flounder) fish in each age division.