

Administrator's Update for 11/21/08
By Roger Baltz

Our Board of County Commissioners has taken action in providing economic development incentives by approving an agreement with Southwest Land Developers Inc. that will fulfill the terms of a 2006 development agreement. The agreement reimbursed the developer for the construction of utility lines at the Airport Commerce Center. This 375 acre industrial center is located in the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP). Southwest Land Developers received reimbursement of \$314,330 for completing water and sewer lines that can be used by other developers in the Park and for providing an overall economic benefit to ECAP.

This past week the County announced another round of layoffs in Building Construction Services (BCS) Department. This brings the total number of eliminated positions in this department to 70 since October 2007. We have also closed our BCS satellite offices in Englewood and Punta Gorda. Until the construction industry rebounds, we will be closely monitoring the activity in this department and will continue to make adjustments as necessary.

Our Family Services Center coordinated the "Paint Your Heart Out Charlotte County" fall project. Over thirty community volunteers gave of their time for this worthwhile cause. Many County employees also volunteered. Two homes, both located along Normandy Blvd. within a targeted revitalization area, received a fresh coat of paint and improvements to their existing landscaping. All individuals whose homes are selected must meet certain eligibility criteria. They must own and reside in the houses and document a financial and/or physical hardship that would prevent them from accomplishing the improvements themselves.

Asphalt is going "Green". Our Public Works Department has initiated a pilot program utilizing Warm Mix asphalt. This asphalt is processed differently than the traditional Hot Mix by injecting an admixture into the asphalt at the processing plant. The admixture results in a fuel savings by reducing the heating component of the asphalt process. This asphalt has been placed in the Three Lakes area of Port Charlotte and on Airport Road in Punta Gorda.

Cape Horn Entrance Road Improvements have been completed. This project was comprised of constructing additional turn lanes on Cape Horn Blvd. at Burnt Store Road and a landscaped median for the Burnt Store Lake MSBU.

The Visitor's Bureau has been awarded a Bronze Adrian Award by Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International, a national organization for the tourism sales and marketing industry. The award is for the Visitor's Bureau's email marketing campaign called, "Our Good Nature."

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has issued a permit to place the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Low Pressure Sewer wastewater collection system into operation. CRA residents will soon be notified that service is available and will be able to connect to the new collection system. This project will help protect the environment by reducing the number of older septic tanks in this waterfront community.

Utilities Director Jeff Pearson and Commissioner Adam Cummings met with the Burnt Store Colony Homeowners Association to address questions regarding the Burnt Store Road widening project and utility infrastructure improvements in this area. Our staff meeting with community groups on a regular basis to provide updates on activities in their neighborhoods and to discuss other county issues.

Our Animal Control officers impounded a 10ft. Boa Constrictor that had become intertwined in a car engine. The snake was safely removed and transported to the animal shelter. Several news outlets featured this story. Apparently, snakes are big news outside of Florida.

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