

## **Administrator's Update for 11/28/2008**

By Roger Baltz

This past week I had my first opportunity to meet with the Northwest Charlotte Homeowner Association. I presented some state of County information and answered questions on a variety of issues. I also attended and presented information at the Charlotte County Bar Association luncheon.

Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Skidmore, and I attended the Lemon Bay – Myakka Trail Scenic Highway 776 ribbon cutting at our Bay Heights Park. Many volunteers worked with County staff and other agencies very hard to obtain the scenic designation for State Road 776.

The Growth Management Department has received very positive feedback from the State Department of Community Affairs for meeting three State mandated deadlines for updates to the comprehensive plan and for the high quality of those products delivered. In March of this year the County adopted a State mandated update to the water and facilities element of the comprehensive plan. On Nov. 12 the capital improvement element was adopted by the County Commissioners a month ahead of the State mandated deadline.

The Carmalita Roadway and Drainage Improvements Project continues to make great progress. The project remains on schedule to be completed by early spring 2009. A major component of construction has been completed. The traffic signal at the intersection of Carmalita Street and Cooper Street was replaced with a mast arm assembly to provide a new lane configuration and greater wind resistance. Video detection will provide state-of-the-art actuation for vehicles on the approaches. The northern half of Carmalita Street has been paved and traffic will be switched to the new pavement soon.

At the request of the Harbor Heights MSBU, our Public Works Department has initiated construction and design specifications to install median landscaping in the Harbor Heights subdivision. Funding in the amount of \$50,000 has been allocated via the Native Tree Fund. No tax dollars will be used for this project.

Work has continued to move forward regarding building a new boat ramp in our County. Our Commissioners approved a lease agreement with the State of Florida to allow the development of the Cattedock Boat Ramp. The agreement will create a 2-lane boat ramp with a staging area, dock system, approximately 70 spaces, and restrooms. The project is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Our Mini-Transfer & Recycling facilities served 9,850 customers last fiscal year and helped in ensure their waste was processed properly. This program helps keep these potential hazardous materials from being buried in the County's landfill. The facilities accept electronic waste which includes computer, monitors and televisions and similar items as well as residents' un-wanted household chemicals. The e-waste items are sent to a contractor that dismantles the units. Some of the components, such as mercury and lead, are processed as hazardous waste; metals and plastics are recycled. The revenue activities at the County's mini-transfer & recycling facilities generated \$123,613 and helped off-set a portion of the facilities operating cost.

There are many benefits from recycling including helping to save landfill disposal space, thereby prolonging the life of the County's landfill facility.

Our Human Services staff and several of their family members participated in the annual Boy Scout Food Drive on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen organizations, including the County's Human Services Department, provide food to needy families in Charlotte County. The Human Services Department received 31 boxes of food donated by the residents of Charlotte County. Last year the Department provided food to 656 families averaging about 55 families monthly. During October 2008, the Department provided food to 99 households, almost doubling last year's monthly average.

The 18th Annual Symphony of Trees opens today (Nov. 28) and runs through Dec. 7 at the Charlotte County Historical Center. If you haven't attended before, this is a wonderful event that is a fitting opening to the holiday season. Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. The display is open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.