

Administrator's Update for 2/19/10

By Roger Baltz

Water Treatment Expansion

The County has now completed the water treatment expansion for our Burnt Store Road plant. The plant has been expanded to be able to treat up to 3.6 million gallons per day. A new 500,000 gallon ground storage tank was built as part of the expansion. This plant uses reverse osmosis to treat water obtained from seven wells.

Reverse osmosis is accomplished by applying a pressure to a concentrated solution forcing the pure water to flow through the membrane to the dilute side of the membrane leaving the salts behind. Reverse osmosis rejects between 96-98 percent of salts, color, bacteria, viruses, and other chemical compounds normally present in well and ground water systems.

West County Permitting Office Open

Our Building Construction Services (BCS) permitting office in the West County Annex in Englewood is now open one day per week. The office is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and staffed to answer questions, take payments, accept applications for licenses and permits, take in code enforcement and licensing complaints, and issue "over the counter" permits. Staff is also available to answer questions about the new online service "Accela Citizen Access," and to help register contractors for the online system.

Our BCS staff also met with the property owners of Gulf Cove to discuss code enforcement procedures, illegal dumping and the new grass ordinance. The meeting was well attended by approximately 40 people.

South County Gateway Underway

The first public meeting for the South County Gateway project was held last week at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from affected property owners regarding a more consistent approach to signage, landscaping, and commercial design standards along common borders. Staff from our Growth Management department gave a presentation that provided a basic overview. Representatives from the City of Punta Gorda, as well as numerous members of TEAM Punta Gorda worked with the individual table groups on visual preference table exercises.

Regatta

The Inaugural Charlotte Harbor Regatta took place Feb. 5-7 and saw eight different classes of boats compete during this one-design sailing event. Despite challenging weather, 65 vessels registered to participate in the races with sailors

hailing from all over the country including New England, the Carolinas, and California as well as the Cayman Islands. Several launch points throughout the county were utilized including Fishermen's Village, the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, the Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center, and Port Charlotte Beach Park.

Government Day

Our annual Charlotte County Government Day event is Saturday, Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Town Center Mall. Look for our booths in the cinema common area. Staff from various departments will be on hand to answer your questions and talk about County programs and services.

Solar Power and New Lighting a Possibility

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) unanimously approved our Facilities department's project recommendation for application for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant. The ARRA grant is specifically an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block competitive grant to be used for converting Fire Station number 12 to solar power and to replace the lighting at nine sports fields with energy efficient lighting.

Libraries

The Friends of the Port Charlotte Library hosted a general membership meeting on Feb. 9 at the library. New president Don Leslie spoke about how the Friends support the library. The program featured folk singer, storyteller and auto harpist Adam Miller. Mr. Miller entertained and educated the audience about the history of the oral tradition of folk music and stories.

Piper Road Improvements

Our County Commissioners have approved the bid for construction on the Piper Road project. Currently planned is the widening and relocating of Piper Road, which will serve as a major route, enhancing transportation facilities west of I-75 including Charlotte County Airport and the surrounding commercial area.