

Administrator's Update for 6/15/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The Peace River Regional Medical Center/Charlotte Regional Medical Center and Southwest Florida College have each added two new bus advertisement wraps to Charlotte County transit division's wrapped busses. The large advertisements cover the sides of the bus and can be seen from far away. The Department's Transit Division receives monthly revenue for eight wrapped buses, which totals \$24,000 annually.

Charlotte Harbor CRA

The Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee unanimously approved recommending to the Board of County Commissioners the use of Charlotte Harbor CRA tax increment funds, in partnership with the county's Melbourne Bridge replacement project, to install sidewalks from the bridge to Chester Roberts Park and lighting on the bridge. This partnership, if approved by the Board, will further the redevelopment goals of the CRA by enhancing pedestrian access. The project would begin in the last quarter of 2011.

Tourism teams

More than 60 Charlotte County residents have volunteered to participate in one of 15 tourism teams that focus on tourism development. The Charlotte County Visitor and Convention Bureau held the kickoff meeting in early June to an enthusiastic group. The teams will meet several times over the next couple of months will then bring their tourism marketing recommendations and solutions back to the Bureau the end of August.

Let's Go Fishing

Charlotte County Community Services is hosting our first Let's Go Fishing Club. The Club will meet each Saturday in the month of June at Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park, 2400 North Beach Road, at shelter number 1. The fishing club is for children ages 5 to 12 and a parent or guardian. Registrants receive a rod, reel and tackle box supplied by Fish Florida. At the first Saturday, the activities centered on correct casting and safety. Children and parents then went out on the pier to practice their new skill. Each week are new topics. For more information call 681.3742.

Youth basketball

The summer youth basketball league has officially begun at Harold Avenue Recreation Center in Port Charlotte with a jamboree earlier this month. During the course of the day, the recreation center hosted 225 players and 450 spectators. The participants played in twenty-minute scrimmages, which provided the opportunity to become familiar with the rules and regulations of the league. The league will continue at 8 a.m. on Saturdays with 10 regular season games and a post season tournament.

Summer reading program

Our Mid-County Regional Library celebrated its annual summer reading program kick-off on Saturday, June 4, "One World, Many Stories" is the theme this summer. Families from all over Charlotte County

enjoyed a variety of activities celebrating the theme including food from around the world, face painting, juggling and clowns. Chefs for the day included Commissioner Chair Bob Starr, Commissioner Christopher Constance, Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, county administrator Ray Sandrock and community services director John Jackson. The chefs served cuisine from around the world to approximately 480 people. Food was donated by Golden Krust, Jason's Deli, CiCi's Pizza, Olympia Restaurant and Panda Inn. The summer reading programs are paid for by the Friends of the Library groups. The goal is to have children read for 20 minutes per day to encourage literacy. The kick-off was a very successful event, with a lot of parents commenting on how wonderful everything was. Over 500 children enjoyed the program, with 300 bags of incentives given out to children and all were gone in the first hour. For more information on the summer reading programs, visit your local library or call 613.3170.