

Administrator's Update for 8/22/12

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Earlier this month the Charlotte Stone Crabs hosted a six game homestand that began on Aug. 7. Total attendance at these games was approx. 6000, although two games were canceled due to rain. The regular season for the Stone Crabs ends on Sept. 2 with a home game here at the Charlotte Sports Park. Visit www.StoneCrabsBaseball.com for the schedule and more info—we have great baseball right here in Charlotte County.

GalTime visits Charlotte County

As a direct result of the April meetings with members of the media in Orlando, Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau coordinated the visit of the online publication GalTime.com on a three-day, two-night itinerary of Charlotte County. The online publication is a 'new media' magazine for women, an online destination, as well as a fast-growing social community. They create, aggregate and distribute original text and video content for women 18 and older. They have strategic partnerships with Fisher Communications and the nationally syndicated morning show, The Daily Buzz. The younger-focused morning program, which airs in more than 200 markets across the country, serves as a national television platform for GalTime, bringing the site, its contributors and advertisers to life in the form of daily segments designed to create 'buzz.'

During GalTime's visit the itinerary emphasized activities in the Englewood and Placida areas as the editor was interested in beach and family activities. Success of the visit was due to the generous support of Charlotte County's tourism industry which provided complimentary or discounted accommodations, attractions and meals. Earlier in the year a writer from the publication published an article about Punta Gorda as a tourism destination as a result of the October 2011 media familiarization visit.

Book signings at our libraries

Well-known Florida author Tim Dorsey will be visiting all of our county Libraries next week. The events are free and each visit will include a book signing and an author discussion. Mr. Dorsey will be at the Mid-County Regional Library at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 27. The other Library visits are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 28: Port Charlotte Library at 1:00 p.m.; Punta Gorda Library at 3:30 p.m.; and Englewood Library at 6 p.m. Call 941.613.3200 for more information.

Camps

This summer Charlotte County community services had a busy and successful summer camp with 713 children registered. The campers enjoyed activities, swimming, and field trips to area destinations. Now that we have transitioned into the school year, more camps are planned for school breaks including fall intersession at the end of October, Thanksgiving break, and winter break. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov or call 941.625.PLAY(7529) for more information.

South County Regional Park

The South County Regional Park gymnasium has been repainted and the floors have been stripped and waxed. The gym is ready for fall programming to resume, and activities are currently underway. Beginner and advanced pickleball, indoor soccer for ages 13-17 and dog obedience classes are just a few of the activities offered. In addition to the gymnasium, pool, and other amenities, South County Regional Park is home to a successful and popular community garden. The gardening season is currently coming to an end, and the park is currently accepting names for new gardeners. The beds are rented by the season. Call the park at 941.505.8686 for more information.

Last chance for the exhibit

There's just two weeks left to go and experience the latest exhibit at the Charlotte County Historical Center. The exhibit, "Port Charlotte: Then & Now" features original photos and newspapers telling the story of Port Charlotte's first years during the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibit and was put together by guest curator Lynn Harrell and includes General Development Corporation's real plat book and a scale model of the Mackles Brother's promotional "Lighthouse" shining its beam on model homes. The Historical Center is on 22959 Bayshore Road, Charlotte Harbor. Call 941.629.7278 for more information.