

Administrator's Update for 2/13/13

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

In early January, Charlotte County served as the site of the 2013 Sunshine State Association BMX State Qualifier hosted by Charlotte BMX. This is the third time in the past five years that our county has hosted the event. This year alone the event attracted 559 competitors along with approximately 1,400 family members. The visitors generated an estimated \$386,760 of revenues in the Charlotte County community and utilized more than 150 hotel room nights.

Laying the groundwork for film

Jerry Jones, director of film, television and digital media for the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau, was the guest speaker during the Charlotte County Hospitality Association last week in Port Charlotte. He shared with the group how film and television development has the potential to make a positive economic impact on a community and what a community needs to attract a film industry. He provided an update on how he's laying the groundwork for film production in Charlotte County, which includes creating a resource database for production companies.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful non-profit organization celebrated its 60th anniversary recently at its annual national conference in Washington, D.C. Our local Keep Charlotte Beautiful program was a President's Circle Award recipient for our outstanding program accomplishments in 2012. These accomplishments include a Distinguished Service Citation for work with the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. Keep Charlotte Beautiful also received recognition from the USDA's People's Garden Initiative for its efforts that benefit communities, build collaborations and practice sustainable gardening. Keep Charlotte Beautiful has been an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful for 11 years.

New playground open

Last week our community services department opened a new playground at Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park, 6941 San Casa Boulevard in Englewood. This is the first new playground to open in seven years. The playground is accessible and features areas for toddlers and school age children with swings, slides, climbing structures and a covered seating area. In the park, the playground is adjacent to the tennis courts, skate park, and restrooms.

Recent public works operations

In the greater Port Charlotte area, approximately 120 linear feet of pipe and backfill were installed on Berkshire Avenue and a guardrail system was installed on Loveland Boulevard at the new Rampart Boulevard extension. In the Deep Creek area, an outfall pipe and catch basin were completed and ready for sod on Ocelot Lane, and the flail mower made its way through most of Deep Creek and Harbour Heights. In south county areas, the outfall crew installed a catch basin and 140 linear feet of pipe on Bayberry Avenue and crews spread 140,000 square feet of hydroseed (grass seed and mulch) on Washington Loop Road and also prepped Deltona Drive for a pipe installation.

Elder care accountability

Charlotte County senior services division's case management staff hosted representatives from the southwest Florida seven-county service area to discuss the 2012-2013 shared in-home elder care vendor monitoring process. This process is for the "Community Care for the Elderly and Alzheimer's Disease Initiative" programs. A sub-contracted vendor matrix was developed and proposed by Charlotte County staff. During the meeting monitoring assignments among all agency participants were completed, form packages were shared, and on-site monitoring schedules were confirmed. Charlotte County staff will be completing nine on-site monitoring visits this year.