

Administrator's Update for 3/6/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

In an effort to show support for countywide Purple Heart recipients and to acknowledge them for their courage, at the Feb. 27 regular meeting the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) designated Charlotte County as a Purple Heart County. Charlotte County is home to a diverse population that includes nearly 30,000 veterans and many of these soldiers having been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat. Our nation's oldest military award, the Purple Heart is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces.

Not only is our county now a Purple Heart County, but at the Feb. 12 regular meeting the BCC unanimously voted to have "Wounded Warrior Parking" signs placed in various county property parking lots. Our veteran services division organized the parking space designations, which will be the first in Florida. The courtesy signs will be in place by May 15, in time for area Memorial Day events.

Drainage maintenance

The public works department's maintenance and operations division has started a drainage pipe install on Peachland Boulevard near MacArthur Drive. This work is needed to address drainage issues and steep swales in the immediate area. Catch basins and driveways will be adjusted as needed to facilitate these drainage improvements. The work should be completed in approximately 4 weeks.

Paving in west county

In the west county area, the paving operation has been completed in Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Lakes with approximately 59,755 tons of asphalt placed. The contractor continues to work on restoration in both of these areas. Paving has begun in Gulf Cove and as of the end of February the contractor has placed approximately 22,065 tons of asphalt in this district.

Baseball and more at the Charlotte Sports Park

Charlotte County hosted the regional county administrator's meeting in the Charlotte Sports Park hospitality suites in February. This annual meeting gathers together county administrators from our southwest Florida area to share ideas, initiatives, and solutions. This is the second year in a row that Charlotte County hosted the meeting.

The Charlotte Sports Park recently hosted two baseball games of the Snowbird Classic Series. Division I and III college baseball teams from around the country travel to Florida to play in the annual Snowbird Classic during February and March. Games are held at various parks in our area, including four Charlotte County parks.

Spring training for the Tampa Bay Rays has begun at the Charlotte Sports Park. The public can attend games as well as open practices—attendance for the first four open practices totaled more than 1500. Attendance at the season opener game on Feb. 23 was 3758.

Use your eReader

On Feb. 27 the Mid-County Regional Library held a class on how to use an eReader device to access eBooks and bargain shop online for titles. The free class will be held again at the Mid-County Regional Library on Forrest Nelson Boulevard in Port Charlotte on March 14 at 5 p.m.