

Administrator's Update for 3/27/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Earlier this month I attended the grand opening of the Stillwater Home for Veterans. Located at 21350 Stillwater Avenue in Port Charlotte in the Parkside area, this county property will become a group residential center for Charlotte County Veterans that are homeless or at risk of being homeless. We have partnered with Community Assisted Supportive Living Inc. (CASL), with CASL assuming all costs to operate and maintain this facility in the first term of the lease, and intent to purchase the property by the end of the first year of operations. Many thanks to the all the local Veteran organizations that have come forward and provided donations to furnish the Stillwater Home.

Conversations

Recently Charlotte County human services, the United Way of Charlotte County, and the Charlotte Community Foundation hosted a "Community Conversation" event with invited leaders and the public to discuss and prioritize the health and human needs in Charlotte County. Approximately 75 attendees including four County Commissioners participated in this event. Results of the meeting will be included in a comprehensive community needs assessment document, which is currently in progress. A final needs assessment report will be completed by the end of this summer.

"Fit for Life" Senior Games

The 2013 Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games have concluded. This year approximately 393 seniors participated in more than 12 different Olympic-style sporting events, including tennis, cycling, and track and field. The "Fit for Life" Senior Games focuses on athletic competition, camaraderie, and recreational opportunities for seniors 50 and over. The "Fit for Life" Senior Games are sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation and serve as a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championship. A big thanks to Charlotte County community services recreational staff for providing a wonderful experience for this year's participants.

Tweetup

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau held a Tweetup earlier this month to raise visibility of things to see and do in Charlotte County during the Tampa Bay Rays' spring training. A Tweetup is a gathering of people who use the popular social media channel Twitter and broadcast what they are doing in 140 characters or less and through photos and video to their followers. Twitter is also used as a method of marketing. The Tweetup's theme focused on spring training baseball and 12 Twitter users from Charlotte County and Tampa Bay participated in the day. Activities included a biking tour of our Tippecanoe Environmental Park and a spring training game at the Charlotte Sports Park, which coincided with Cal Ripken, Jr.'s book tour visit. More than 602,190 impressions were viewed by 28,300 individual Twitter users through 167 tweets (posts made on Twitter) about Charlotte County. Users also used other social media channels such as Instagram and Flickr (photo sites), Vine (a video site) and Facebook.

Easter events

Earlier this month a breakfast with the Easter bunny was held for the third year at Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood. Over 70 attendees enjoyed a pancake breakfast and children were able to make a craft and participate in a coloring contest for an Easter basket. Entertainment was provided by Ms. Suzanna and her Baby Doll Ballet, a class offered at Tringali Recreation Center. The 49th annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for this weekend, March 30 at the soccer fields of North Charlotte Regional Park in Port Charlotte. Visit the website CharlotteCountyFL.gov or call 941.627.1074 for information.