

Administrator's Update for 5/15/13
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce hosted a town hall meeting at the Charlotte County Cultural Center in the Parkside area of greater Port Charlotte. This was the third meeting in a series of three and was well attended with more than 50 citizens in the hall at the cultural center. I'd like to thank the chamber for facilitating these three events, which provided question and answer forums for local government and the community.

Engineering around the county

The Newgate Waterway in Englewood has several large silt deposits and overgrown vegetation within the limits of the water line. This accumulated material is causing an adverse impact on the stormwater conveyance system and needs to be removed. Design is underway and consists of determining how much sediment needs to be removed as well as defining access points and the means and methods of construction for The Newgate Waterway Spoil Removal project is funded by the West County Stormwater Unit MSBU. Draft plans are expected in early May.

The greater Port Charlotte drainage control structure replacement called for six structures to be replaced. Three of these are in the Little Alligator Basin area and have been complete and the roads are open to traffic: Bachmann Boulevard at the Dorchester Waterway and at the Morningstar Waterway, and Quesada Avenue at the Haverhill Waterway. Also in the Little Alligator Basin is the structure at Forrest Nelson Boulevard and Sunshine Waterway, for which the design phase is 100 percent complete. Two structures on Peachland Boulevard, at Fordam Waterway and Niagra Waterway, which are in the Fordham Basin, are also at 100 percent of the design phase. Construction for the last three drainage control structures is anticipated to begin this fall.

Kids Camp Scholarship Fund

Recently the Southwest Florida MOPAR Club presented the community services department with a check in the amount of \$627 dollars for the Kids Camp Scholarship Fund. The money was raised at a car show in April at Muscle Car City in Punta Gorda. The funds will provide almost four scholarships for camp attendees in need. Call community services administration with any questions about available scholarships or how to donate to the fund at 941.625.PLAY (7529).

Snowbird Classic impact

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau recently released economic impact data for the fifth annual Snowbird Baseball Classic. The collegiate tournament was held in February and March at various Charlotte County ballparks. Overall, the tournament generated an estimated \$5.1 million in direct expenditures as a result of 5,796 participants, spectators and members of the media staying within Charlotte County. The average length of stay per party was six nights. A total of 23 Division I and 17 Division III colleges participated in the 2013 tournament. The 2013 tournament was played on the ball fields of Charlotte High School, North Charlotte Regional Park, and South County Regional Park. Two games were played at the Charlotte Sports Park. The tournament has grown over the years and games were also played at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota.