

## **Administrator's Update for 6/5/13**

### **By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Last month Memorial Day events around the county reminded us to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Our Veteran services office staff and staff from other departments participated or assisted in the many events that were held, including Purple Heart and Memorial Day remembrances at Veterans Garden in Laishley Park, and special Memorial Day services at Fisherman's Village, the American Legion Post 110, and at the Vick Street Manor in Port Charlotte.

A very special event was held on the Saturday of the holiday weekend: the El Jobean Community League's annual pre-Memorial Day celebration. As part of this year's event, Commission Chair Christopher Constance, Commission Vice-Chair Stephen R. Deutsch and Commissioner Bill Truex assisted the community league in officially renaming the former El Jobean Park to "Randy Spence Park" in honor of the community hero that had dedicated countless hours to both the community and the park. A new park sign was installed, as well as a large rock that will have a bronze plaque installed honoring Randy Spence. The event was attended by over 200 people to honor our fallen veterans.

### **Sidewalks**

At the last Board of County Commissioners meeting in May the Harbor Boulevard sidewalk project was awarded to General Contracting Services. This sidewalk will be installed on Harbor Boulevard from an existing sidewalk close to Midway Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Veterans Boulevard, and includes crossings at Peachland Boulevard and Quesada Boulevard. An integral part of the sidewalks in Port Charlotte, this will provide a link to the newly constructed sidewalk along Midway Boulevard as well as a link to future sidewalks in the Parkside area. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 29 with construction planned to start June 5, 2013.

Sidewalk projects funded by the one-cent sales tax referendum funds include Gulfstream Boulevard sidewalks and Sheehan Boulevard sidewalks. One sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard at Snow Drive and connect to Sea Mist Drive. The design includes a connection to a future sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard. A critical design element to this project is a pedestrian bridge over the Sea Mist Waterway, for which a permit application has been submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Review of the pedestrian bridge piling is underway. Design is on schedule and should be completed this month, with construction projected to begin in August of this year.

The Sheehan Boulevard sidewalk project will be connecting an existing sidewalk on Peachland Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Noble Terrace. This design includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk at Alton Road, as well as pedestrian facilities added to the bridge on Sheehan Boulevard. The community development department is working with Charlotte County Utilities to include water facility improvements in conjunction with this project. Although the projected construction start is August 2013, this project may move into construction prior to that date.

### **Summer Reading Kickoff**

The Charlotte County library system, a division of the community services department, presented its annual summer reading kickoff program last weekend at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall. Multiple performers entertained audiences throughout the day, and library staff handed out reading logs and presented information about upcoming programs. The theme for this year's summer reading program is "Dig into Reading." The Charlotte County library system features summer reading programs for all ages—youths, teens and adults. Participants in summer reading programs will have opportunities to win prizes. Information on the programs is available on the library web pages at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and at all the county library locations.

### **Weekly Highlights**

Learn more about what Charlotte County is working on by reading our weekly department highlights. We have begun posting a compilation of department accomplishments online on a weekly basis. The PDF document is posted on Mondays and is available on [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) — visit the Administration department pages and select "Weekly Department Highlights" from the Reports & Publications menu on the left.