

**Administrator's Update for 9/25/13**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

I am pleased to share with you that Charlotte County Veteran Services Officer David Donohew was honored last week with the "The Best Service Officer" designation by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1037. David gave a presentation of Veterans Administration benefits at the American Legion Post 113, at which time the Vietnam Veterans of America presented him with a plaque in recognition for all his work for veterans in Charlotte County. David and the staff at our veteran services office have helped so many residents with Veterans-related services and claims. I, and many others, are grateful for their excellent customer service.

**Rio de Janeiro sidewalks**

At the Sept. 10 regular meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved a contract with Owen-Ames-Kimball Company to construct a sidewalk on Rio de Janeiro Avenue from Deep Creek Boulevard south to Rampart Boulevard. This sidewalk project is part of the sales tax program approved through the voter referendum in 2008, with the sidewalk locations selected through a process including school board priorities, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) priorities, and public input.

This sidewalk is the final sidewalk project slated for the Deep Creek area. It will be approximately 9,100 feet long and 8 feet wide, serving both pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and is classified as a multi-use recreational trail (MURT). Along with the construction of this sidewalk, the existing drainage system will be realigned. This sidewalk will connect to previously constructed sidewalks on Deep Creek Boulevard, Sandhill Boulevard and on Rio de Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard.

The Notice to Proceed is scheduled Oct. 7, 2013. The construction schedule is very aggressive and is expected to be completed in approximately 100 days. Sidewalk construction will begin after the paving operation, programmed in the same area, is complete. Residents should see sidewalk construction activity in the area in early October.

The status of this and other construction projects are available at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links on the left. If you have any questions regarding the Rio de Janeiro Avenue sidewalk project, send an email to the project manager, John Elias, [John.Elias@charlottefl.com](mailto:John.Elias@charlottefl.com).

**eBooks available**

Earlier this month the Charlotte County Library system rolled out the 3M Cloud Library. Using this e-book service a library patron can download a book to their portable device or computer to read. This can be done from home, in a few minutes. At our website [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) just click Library in the Popular Links on the left to find the eBooks link. Patrons may also visit any library to register for the service—each branch also has a demonstration of the service available.

**Tourism conference and VISIT FLORIDA**

Last week staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau attended the 46th Annual Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism in Orlando and met with publication representatives regarding advertising opportunities for Charlotte County. Staff also met with VISIT FLORIDA's Insiders (who generate online content for blogs and social media) and learned updated information about tourism marketing trends and VISIT FLORIDA's marketing initiatives. Jennifer Huber of our Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau serves on the Culture, Heritage, Rural and Nature marketing committee for VISIT FLORIDA.