

Administrator's Update for 10/30/13

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At the Board of County Commissioner's workshop earlier this month the Charlotte County human services' transit division, along with Tindale Oliver and Associates presented the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) kickoff. The TDP is an overview for the scope of services to be provided by Charlotte County Transit. The plan will be completed in Aug. 2014. The TDP is a required 10-year strategic plan. The plan will ensure compliance with the current TDP rule, which was enacted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in 2007.

Bridge program

The Charlotte County bridge rehabilitation and maintenance program is a comprehensive project. As part of the project, five bridge slope pavements are scheduled to be replaced in the northwest Port Charlotte area: two slope pavements located on Eisenhower Avenue over the Cheshire Waterway, two slope pavements on Chamberlain Boulevard over the Markham Waterway, and one slope pavement located on Eleanor Avenue over the Ingersoll Waterway. All five bridge slope pavements will be complete by the end of this month.

The Harborview Road bridge project is to design and construct a replacement bridge over the DeSoto Canal on Harborview Road approximately 0.35 miles east of Rio de Janeiro Avenue. The new bridge will be constructed with a precast concrete deck and a temporary bridge with related structures. Construction will begin next month—Nov. 18, 2013. The contractor will begin with the construction of a temporary road and a temporary bridge in order to divert traffic for the demolition of the old bridge.

Healthy kids

Charlotte County community services staff hosted the fifth annual Healthy Kids Festival last week on the football fields of Franz Ross Park. Twenty-eight different organizations gathered together to provide pertinent information on health, wellness, and fun to families with children ages preschool to 8th grade. In addition to learning about how to improve their overall health and wellness, the participants were given the opportunity to participate in a One Mile Fun Walk. The walk participants were lead through a mile of fitness, laughter and sightseeing as they walked the nature trail and football fields at the park. The Healthy Kids Festival is an annual event during the month of October.

Distance skateboarding

This coming January the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor community redevelopment agencies, will host the International Distance Skateboard Association (IDSA) 8K. The event will be held in conjunction with the annual Hands Across the Harbor Event on Jan. 25, 2014. The longboard race, which is projected by the IDSA to attract 100 to 150 participants, is a new addition to the event which includes a 5K fun walk, an 8K competitive run, and a 10/20-mile bike ride. The longboard race is a timed event and will be staged from Bayshore Live Oak Park, with awards going to the top finishers in each category. Find more information at www.handsacrosstheharbor.com or www.active.com.