

Administrator's Update for 2/12/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The recent loss of the initial decision on the Rotonda II lawsuit was frustrating and appalling. There were so many differences between Rotonda I and Rotonda II but the judge did not acknowledge those differences.

What is next? Our special counsel is working towards a rehearing, maintaining that the court overlooked information in Rotonda II that would affect the final decision. If the reconsideration is not granted, the Judge will determine the method of how the damages will be measured followed by a jury trial to determine the final amount of damages.

It may take approximately eight to 12 months to come to a conclusion; at that point either side can appeal. Our website has substantial information available on these cases. Visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Rotonda Cases" in the Hot Topics list.

Whatever outcome of Rotonda II there may be, remember that we are the Charlotte County Government that successfully navigated through the economic effects of Hurricane Charley and through the most recent major economic decline since the Great Depression.

Senior services reaches goal

The senior services division of the human services department has released its 2013 outcomes report for the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (also known as Senior Choices of Southwest Florida). Of particular merit was that Charlotte County achieved 100 percent of its 97percent goal to serve adult protective services referrals within 72 hours. These are high-risk referrals received from the Department of Elder Affairs' Adult Abuse call registry for seniors threatened with abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Construction on entry features

The Rotonda West entry features project will provide new signs, including landscaping and lighting, at five locations throughout the community. Funding for this project is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit MSBU.

Construction bids were opened on Dec. 11, 2013 and the contract was awarded and approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 28, 2014. A pre-construction meeting is being scheduled with the contractor to issue a notice to proceed. Construction is projected to be complete 120 calendar days after commencement.

Happenings around the county

This is the sixth year that the Charlotte Sports Park will host spring training for the Tampa Bay Rays. The players will be reporting in starting this week and opening day is Friday, Feb. 28 here at home against the Baltimore Orioles. This is one of the most exciting times of the year! We look forward to the Tampa Bay Rays and the visiting fans here in Port Charlotte for spring training.

The fifth annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta took place this past weekend. Seeing the harbor peppered with the colored sails is a beautiful sight and a reminder of how important our harbor is to our lifestyle. We truly live in paradise.

The Mid-County Regional Library is hosting popular author Tim Dorsey at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb.18. This is a free event as part of a Florida Humanities Grant. Tim Dorsey is a Florida Author whose novels capture the outrageous and funny sides to Florida living. This program is part of a four part series on

Florida Literature at the Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte. For more information call 941.613.3166.