

Administrator's Update for 4/2/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The votes are in and I am proud to report Port Charlotte and the Charlotte Sports Park were voted as "Best Spring Training City" for the USA Today and 10Best lists. Baseball fans, our county residents and visitors pulled together and we garnered more votes than any of the other 19 spring training cities selected to run for the award.

Winning accolades like this is a great feeling, enhancing a warm sense of community that is growing day by day. Our county is home to many people with different ideas, wishes, and opinions, so when we all come together on something it reminds us that we are all members of the same community. It is our diversity that keeps this area fresh, exciting, and now the Best Spring Training City!! Check out the results and more info on the 10Best list online at www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-spring-training-facility.

Professional baseball has been an integral part of Charlotte County since 1987, when the Texas Rangers held their spring training games here. In 2006 the Tampa Bay Rays signed a 20-year lease for spring training and in 2009 we also welcomed the Charlotte Stone Crabs Class-A Advanced affiliate team for their regular season play. It is no wonder that Port Charlotte was voted the "Best Spring Training City," because the Charlotte Sports Park has been a vital addition to our quality of life and attracts over 130,000 baseball fans annually. The Charlotte Stone Crabs home opening game is tomorrow night against the Bradenton Marauders—play ball!

Stormwater control structure

As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of our existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960s when they were originally built. One of the identified projects provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, at the Sunset Waterway. This particular structure will be replaced with three 8 foot by 10 foot box culverts to increase flow capacity. Construction is scheduled to begin May 19, 2014 and is projected to be complete in late September 2014. Forrest Nelson Boulevard between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle will be closed during construction. Public service announcements will be published and a signed detour will be in place in advance of the road closure.

Recreation

Last Saturday the Ichiban Bonsai Kai Club had their weekly meeting at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Their meetings are open to all, and are held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Bonsai is one of the wide variety of programs and groups at our recreation centers. Earlier in March community services hosted the annual Tropical Sunset Cocktail Party at the Port Charlotte Beach Pool. It was a beautiful evening with over one hundred people enjoying food and music. This is the fifth year for the event, and had the biggest turnout ever. Join your community at these events and programs and enjoy our beautiful county. Visit a library or park location for information about upcoming events, or visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Parks in the links on the left.