

## **Administrator's Update for 6/11/14**

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

Two south county parks have new concession stand projects which started on June 2. At Carmalita Park the concession stand will be located at the softball field area. The site was surveyed and the excavation of stormwater ponds has begun. The concession stand at South County Regional Park is for the soccer field area, where the site survey is completed and excavation will start soon.

### **Improved client tracking system**

Our human services department staff met with the Client Information Systems (CIS) coordinator in Charlotte County. The CIS Coordinator, employed by the Homeless Coalition and affiliated with the Gulf Coast Partnership, provides lead-agency software support for homeless programs and client tracking in Charlotte County. This past April, the Board of County Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Homeless Coalition to transition the 211 data base support to the CIS system. This process is scheduled to begin in July. The Human Services' Self-Sufficiency Program staff were trained on the system and will be using the client tracking system as they implement a new state grant for housing assistance for at-risk families with children.

### **Family self-sufficiency program**

One of the many programs and services coordinated through our human services department is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which assists families in developing plans to become economically stable. The program guides the families to seek opportunities, enabling them to thrive in the community. In just one week in May, four self-sufficiency intakes were conducted; one quarterly assessment was completed; and three goal outcomes were met. One client obtained skills and competencies required for employment; one client obtained access to reliable transportation; and one client obtained safe and affordable housing. Families interested in the program should make an appointment through the Family Services Office by calling 941.833.6500 or visiting the office at 1050 Loveland Boulevard, Port Charlotte.

### **Microtunneling update**

The U.S. 41 microtunnels and weirs project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, and the replacement of culverts and several weirs. Currently, the contractor has completed the installation of all drainage pipes and stormwater structures on the northbound and southbound U.S. 41 access roads at the Pompano Waterway. Utility work has begun along with the roadway restoration. The Pompano Waterway construction portion of this project is 80 percent complete and is on schedule. At the Elkcam Waterway, the first of three 84-inch microtunnels is complete. The contractor is currently preparing the second microtunnel launching pit and is scheduled to begin tunneling on June 16, 2014.

### **Snowbird Classic economic impact**

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau recently released the economic impact data for this year's sixth annual Snowbird Baseball Classic. The event was held from Feb. 14 through March 22, 2014, at various Charlotte County ballparks. The total economic impact from the 2014 Snowbird Baseball Classic is estimated to be \$9 million overall, with \$5.9 million in direct expenditures. This was the result of an estimated 7,749 spectators; 1,826 athletes; 126 coaches; 291 officials and media in attendance, with the average length of stay per party six nights. Twenty-four Division I and 24 Division III colleges participated in the tournament, playing on the ball fields of Charlotte High School, North Charlotte Regional Park, and South County Regional Park. A double-header was played at the Charlotte Sports Park, spring training home of the Tampa Bay Rays, between Auburn University and Indiana State University and University of Connecticut and Ohio State University.