

## **Administrator's Update for 7/2/14**

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

At last week's Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, the first Combat Wounded Veteran Recognition was awarded. The BCC recognized Walter R. Levasseur MSG, US Army Retired for his service to our country and his Purple Heart honor. The BCC will be recognizing Combat Wounded Veterans at their monthly fourth-Tuesday board meetings—the intent is to recognize those Charlotte County individuals who, in the defense of their country, sustained injuries from combat and were awarded the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart honor is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed.

To qualify, a veteran must have served during a war time period as set forth by the laws of the United States and must have received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained. The veteran must be considered a full time Charlotte County resident.

The nomination process for the BCC Combat Wounded Veteran recognition starts with a request form, completed and turned in to any member of the Charlotte County Veterans Council Executive Board for review by the fourth Tuesday of the month. A person can be nominated more than once. The nominations will not carry over and a new nomination form must be completed each month. Please call Charlotte County Veteran Services for an application or for additional information at 941.764.5579.

### **Accessibility Improvements**

Our facilities construction and maintenance department has been working on accessibility improvements to several parks and libraries. Work continues at East Englewood Park, Harold Avenue Park, and Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park/Oyster Creek Pool. Work on improvements at the Port Charlotte Library should begin this week, including improvements on the rear ADA ramp and functionality for book drop returns. Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park should be finished up by end of this week. The East Englewood and Harold Avenue locations have more intricate pieces such as landscape, asphalt, drainage, which will continue to be improved until final completion.

### **County Representation**

Jennifer Huber, Public Relations Manager for the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau, has been appointed to serve a one-year term on VISIT FLORIDA's Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature Committee. The committee composes of representatives from hotels, attractions and destinations and works with the state's tourism bureau to promote nature-based, cultural heritage and rural tourism.

At the recent Florida Association of Counties' Human Services Administrators (FACHSA) annual meeting in Orlando, our family services manager Emily Lewis was nominated to serve on the 2014-2015 FACHSA Board as Secretary.

### **Youth Summit**

The family services division of the human services department, in partnership with Drug Free Charlotte County, recently hosted the first meeting of the Youth Summit planning committee. Approximately 30 individuals attended, including 10 teens. The Youth Summit is one of the strategies of the Healthy Communities Healthy Youth committee's strategic plan. The Youth Summit is scheduled to be held in the fall of 2014.