

Administrator's Update for 7/23/14
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

At a special meeting on July 15, the Board of County Commissioners amended an ordinance set in May from an eight-year local option sales tax extension to a six-year extension and removed the justice center expansion from the list of projects to be funded.

If approved by voters on Nov. 4, the extension will run from Jan. 1, 2015 through Dec. 31, 2020 and is projected to generate \$18 million in annual revenue or approximately \$108 million over the life of the extension period. Information on the board-approved projects, projects funded by past local option sales tax, maps and more is now available on the County's website www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov—click "1% Local Option Sales Tax" in the links on the left.

With voter approval, counties in Florida have the option to add a local tax (in this case one percent, or one cent for every dollar spent) to the statewide six percent sales tax for infrastructure needs. These monies can be used for a wide range of capital infrastructure expenses. Sales tax is paid by residents and visitors alike, and provides an alternative to raising property taxes.

Floodplain

Staff from the building construction services division recently gave a presentation to the Charlotte Desoto Building Industry Association on proposed changes to the county's floodplain ordinance. The Ordinance is being re-written to ensure continuing compliance with the FEMA minimum standards and the Florida building code. The proposed changes are available for comment on the County website—visit the Building Construction department web page at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "2013 Proposed Floodplain Ordinance" in the links on the right or call Claire Jubb 941.743.1241.

Ms. Jubb also recently represented Charlotte County and spoke to the Punta Gorda - Port Charlotte - North Port Association of Realtors about floodplain management, flood insurance and the most recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Claire is a certified floodplain manager and Charlotte County's community ratings system coordinator and is available to speak with any local organizations about flood insurance, floodplain management or any associated topic. For further information call 941.743.1240 or email Claire.Jubb@charlottefl.com.

Charlotte Sports Park

Great baseball is happening at the Charlotte Sports Park throughout the summer. The sports park recently hosted several games of the Perfect Game Tournament with an estimated attendance of 1,400. The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League also held three games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The Charlotte Sports Park is the regular season home to the Charlotte Stone Crabs, who recently had a three-game home stand in early July. Next week is a four-game home stand against the Tampa Yankees, and there's only about a third of the regular season left to play. Get out and about and enjoy the summer, the park, and Charlotte County.