

## **Administrator's Update for 8/6/14**

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

The C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road) widening project is now in the construction phase. The purpose of this project is to widen Gasparilla Road to a four-lane divided roadway, from S.R. 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project includes the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. This project is funded by the 2009 local option sales tax, road impact fees, gasoline tax and a state grant. This month, the contractor will mobilize equipment to the project site and begin clearing and installing silt fencing. Work will begin on the south side of the project, near Rotonda Boulevard East up to the bridge at the Butterford Waterway, with the installation of a new utility system.

### **Speakers available**

The one percent local option sales tax has funded many projects over the last twenty years, including the Gasparilla Road widening project I mentioned earlier that is now in construction phase. At the general election on Nov. 4, a six-year extension to the one percent local option sales tax will be on the ballot. 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.

Over 20 projects have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners to receive funding from the 1 percent local option sales tax. These projects include improved security features in schools, a west county headquarters for the Sheriff, and a Veterans memorial park. Information is now available on the County's website [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov)—click "1% Local Option Sales Tax" in the links on the left.

If your club, group or other organization has questions about the 1% local option sales tax extension, Charlotte County staff is available to speak at your meeting. The speaker can clarify information about the referendum and answer your group's questions. Call 941.743.1944 to arrange a presentation for your organization.

### **Show Us Your Charlotte**

"Show Us Your Charlotte" is a program developed by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau to encourage photographers of every skill level to submit photos taken in our county to [www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com](http://www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com). Each quarter, Visitor and Convention Bureau staff members select four photos as contest finalists based upon the quality of the photos and how well they represent and communicate Charlotte County's tourism offerings. The final decision on first and second place winners is made by the Tourist Development Council (TDC). Prizes awarded include gift certificates for local tourism related business and services.

The first winners of the "Show Us Your Charlotte" photography program were recently selected by the Charlotte County TDC. Ms. Patty Stefan of Port Charlotte won first place with a photograph of a Gilchrist Park sunset. Rick Fried with the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club was awarded second place with a photograph of kayakers paddling on Upper Shell Creek. Congratulations!