

Administrator's Update for 9/10/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Elkcam Boulevard project, which includes a water main, reclaimed water lines, and additional water infrastructure between U.S. 41 and Midway Boulevard. The ceremony was held in McGuire Park, with Commissioners Tricia Duffy and Stephen R. Deutsch among the speakers marking the occasion. The Elkcam Boulevard project will include enhancements to the area in Parkside with a 10-foot multi-use path, shade trees on the west side of the boulevard and decorative trees on the east side.

An informational meeting for the Elkcam Boulevard project will be held tomorrow, Sept. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at The Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte. The contractors and staff from Charlotte County Utilities and Public Works will discuss the details of the project and what the businesses and residents can expect during the project. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for individual questions with the contractors and staff.

Local Option Sales Tax

Over the last twenty years, the one percent local option sales tax and has funded many projects throughout our 693 square miles. From Englewood Beach Park in the west, to phase 1 of Piper Road in the east, there are many projects in between that benefit residents and visitors daily. The one percent local option sales tax has funded refuge sites all around the county, ready to be used emergency situations. Road improvements and sidewalks are used daily and parks benefit all who use them or who know the value of green space. Through these projects, Charlotte County is a safer place to live and a sought-after residential location and vacation spot. We all benefit from helping the communities to thrive and flourish through new residents and visitors.

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 county projects have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners to receive funding from the one percent local option sales tax. For more information visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "1% Local Option Sales Tax" in the links on the left.

If your club, group or organization would like to hear more about the extension of the one percent local option sales tax, 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.

Do you have a library card?

The Charlotte County Library System is proud to announce that during the month of September 2014, anyone that signs up for a new library card will receive a certificate good for a free sunset cruise with the King Fisher Fleet at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda. These certificates must be used before Oct. 30, 2014 and reservations are recommended for your sunset cruise. Library locations and hours are listed on our website — visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Library in the links on the left.