

Administrator's Update for 4/29/15

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

In 1985 Charlotte County adopted a Home Rule Charter government. The county is required to review the charter every six years through an appointed commission. At the April 14 regular board meeting, the Board of County Commissioners selected the 18 individuals to serve on the 2015-2016 Charter Review Commission (CRC). The organizational meeting for the CRC is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2015, in Room B-106 of the County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida. The meeting is open to the public.

Impact fee prepayment program

Developers and landowners should be aware that impact fees will be increasing on July 15, 2015. To lock in the current fee schedule, an Impact Fee Pre-Payment Program for commercial structures only began last week. The program is designed to allow developers and landowners that are in the planning stages of development the ability to pay for their impact fees now before the fees increase in July. Applications for the program will be accepted through 5 p.m. on July 14, 2015. The forms are online at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov – click on Impact Fees in the Hot Topics list on the left. For more information about the impact fees or the pre-payment program, please contact Shaun Cullinan, Planning & Zoning Official, by phone at 941.743.1922 or email at Shaun.Cullinan@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Veteran Services

Our Veteran Services staff strives to help in any way they can. Recently, staff worked with an out-of-state family to complete an "Aid and Attendance" benefit claim for a widow residing at an assisted living facility in Charlotte County. Documents were completed via phone, email and fax, and the paperwork was taken to the widow's residence for signatures. The appropriate paperwork was then scanned to our files and mailed to Veteran's Administration (VA) for processing.

Veteran Services staff also assisted a veteran who received notice that he had a debt with the VA from his estate because he had passed away. The Veteran assured staff that he was very much alive and still intended to keep his appointment concerning a compensation claim. Veteran Services staff called the VA to report the discrepancy and filed paperwork during the appointment to reinstate all benefits.

DeSoto canal bank restoration

The DeSoto canal bank restoration and stabilization project, phase 2 includes the continuation of bank restoration necessary to prevent future degradation along the west bank of the DeSoto Canal. The contractor completed all construction requirements in late March, two months ahead of schedule and under budget, and is in the final stages of closing out permits and submitting final paperwork.

BMX impact

Our tourism department reports that the numbers are in from the 2015 USA BMX Sunshine State Nationals held at Carmalita Park in mid-February. The event was a partnership between Charlotte BMX and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB). More than 600

riders participated plus 1,965 family members and spectators attended. The event attracted participants from 30 states and 10 countries. Over \$19,000 in tourist development tax was generated by 1,535 utilized hotel room nights. Organizers estimate this event generated approx. \$700,000 in direct expenditures for Charlotte County which equates to over \$42,000 in state sales tax. The Charlotte Harbor VCB and Charlotte BMX will submit a bid to host another national event in 2016.