

## **Administrator's Update for 5/27/15**

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

Last week our community services department concluded a series of three public workshops to discuss the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The meetings were held at Tringali Recreation Center, Harold Avenue Recreation Center and South County Regional Recreation Center. Weiler Engineering and Tindale-Oliver & Associates presented the planning framework, including guiding principles and key themes that outline the basis for service excellence in implementing the Master Plan. Workshop attendees participated in exercises that served to help prioritize these ideas, and the attendees also provided comments to further refine them. As a result, several changes were identified including adding health and wellness as a guiding principle and moving a reference of the Neighborhood Framework from the mission statement to the guiding principles.

Attendees were asked to answer specific questions about the parks and recreation system, such as what do you want to see added to the park system, what needs to be improved, and what recreation programs would they like to see added. One of the items that has come out of the meetings is the tremendous upsurge in pickleball which is creating greater demand and use for tennis courts. As such, parks and recreation is looking at ways to afford all users with adequate space for the increased use, both through management of existing courts and development of new courts.

Those who missed the public workshops can still be part of the process by exploring the plan online and providing comments. Visit the Parks and Recreation Master Plan website, [www.CCParksMasterPlan.com](http://www.CCParksMasterPlan.com) or visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click the Master Plan banner. The website includes a survey, the presentation, and the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions.

The consultants will be preparing a draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and additional public meetings will be scheduled in July and August. The final plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption in October. Once adopted, the Master Plan will guide County staff in the development of its capital improvement program.

### **Tourism Hall of Fame**

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau hosted the annual tourism lunch and 2015 Charlotte County Tourism Hall of Fame ceremony earlier this month at the Englewood Event Center. The focus was celebrating Charlotte County's tourism industry and ecologinomical values. "Ecologinomical" means that something protects ecology with the purpose of preserving the economy. Capt. Marian Schneider, who operated Grande Tours for more than 25 years, was this year's Hall of Fame inductee. The inductee was selected (from a list of nominations) by a panel of judges composed of representatives from various aspects of the regional tourism industry and each geographic area of Charlotte County. Visit the Charlotte County Tourism Hall of Fame at the Charlotte County Murdock Administration Center, next to room B-104, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

### **Human Services report available**

Our human services department has published its first annual "A Year in Review" report. The report, "Real People, Real Stories, Real Investment" covers the services provided by the department and also includes testimonies from real people receiving services and the impact on their lives and the community. The report can be accessed on the Human Services home page on [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov)—click the "2014 - A Year in Review" link in the Publications list.