

County earns employee wellness award

Administrator's Update for 9/23/15
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Charlotte County's Wellness@Work employee health program earned the Cigna Well-Being Award for "positively impacting the overall health and well-being of their employee population." The county program was selected among Cigna's clients in its South Florida region.

Wellness Coordinator Cassie Howard and Budget and Administrative Services Director Gordon Burger accepted the award at the 2015 Cigna South Florida Summit ceremony in August. The award lauded the county for creating a culture of wellness by allowing employees 12 hours per year to visit its onsite clinic for health screenings, sick visits and follow-up appointments. A total of 95 percent of employees have taken their health assessment and completed biometric testing. The county also offers wellness seminars to employees on a variety of topics throughout the year.

Cigna representative Maria Ardolino presented the award to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners at Tuesday's meeting.

Tourism record

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau is pleased to announce tourist development tax revenues collected during July 2015 totaled \$209,339. This is up 17.7 percent compared to July 2014, when collections were \$177,886. To date, fiscal year collections (October 2014 to July 2015) totaled \$3,205,532, which is up 19 percent over the previous year.

With the July collections, Charlotte County broke the record for tourist development tax revenues collected in a single fiscal year in the history of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau, with two months of collections remaining in the year.

Charlotte County levies a 5 percent Tourist Development Tax on accommodation stays six months or less in addition to the 7 percent sales tax. The first 3 percent is allocated for tourism promotion and marketing support and the fourth and fifth percent fund debt payments for the bond issued to pay for the recent renovations at the Charlotte Sports Park.

Comp plan roundtable

The Charlotte County comprehensive planning division recently held a Sept. 16 roundtable discussion to discuss revisions to the county's comprehensive plan. This is the first in a series of public events that encourage open dialogue between county staff and citizens. Participants included local land use attorneys, business owners and residents. Topics included revisions to the future land use and natural resources elements. The second roundtable discussion is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sept. 30 in the Building Construction Services Conference Room, 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte and will include topics relating to revisions to the urban service area boundary, TDU ordinance and wetlands.

HERE was here

Recently, the land information section was visited by HERE, a leader in navigation, mapping and location experiences, which is utilized by most GPS units, leading mapping software such as ESRI and various web-based applications. Charlotte County is one of the few counties in Florida that have been approved to make changes to their street and address database. We have formed a strong partnership with our local representative to improve mapping services to the citizens in Charlotte County.

Building permits

The building business is booming. Permit statistics show single family home permits in the county are up from 61 permits this time last year to 92. That is more than a 50 percent increase in single family permits.

Road closure

Saragossa Lane between Burnt Store Road and Trading Post Road will be closed to traffic through Oct. 6 while workers realign the portion of the road at the intersection of Burnt Store Road and Saragossa Lane. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. The Public Works Department reminds motorists exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction workers.

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