

Administrator's Update for 11/4/15

## **Charlotte County recognized for livability survey**

By Ray Sandrock, Charlotte County administrator

Charlotte County was named a finalist in the International City/County Management Association National Research Center's 2015 Voice of the People Award for Transformation in Foundations of Livability.

"Based on responses from the National Citizen Survey, residents of Charlotte County report high levels of improvement with foundations of livability compared with all other participating jurisdictions. The National Citizen Survey reports resident opinions and satisfaction with local government and services with a scientific, representative sample approach. Results are then used to inform budgeting, performance measurement and program planning," the association stated in its letter informing the county of its finalist status.

The county surveyed 1,200 households in 2014. Eighty-two percent of respondents said Charlotte County was an excellent or good place to live, with higher ratings for safety, public services and the environment. Nine out of 10 said Fire/EMS services, garbage collection and recycling were excellent or good. Ninety percent said they planned to remain in Charlotte County for at least another five years and 86 percent said they would recommend the county to others.

## **Transportation award**

The Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board won the 2015 Outstanding Coordinating Board Award given by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at its 23rd Annual Training and Technology Conference in Daytona Beach on Oct. 28.

The award recognizes the 17 Charlotte County LCB members as local area transportation experts who provide mobility leadership in the community. Several LCB members have served as stakeholders during the preparation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. Other members assisted in the development of the Charlotte County Community Needs Assessment Plan, the Ten-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Charlotte County, and the ongoing Community Health Improvement Partnership through its subcommittee on access to health care. LCB members were successful

in promoting “Try Transit Day” with Charlotte County Transit, local medical organizations and assisted living facilities.

Congratulations to the board members on this recognition for their ongoing efforts.

### **Hands Across the Harbor**

The Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda community redevelopment agencies invite residents to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hands Across the Harbor Half Marathon Bridge Run, Ride and Roll. The event is scheduled for Jan. 30, 2016 and features a half marathon, 5k competitive run, 13.1-mile competitive longboard race as well as 5k fun walk and 13.1-, 20- and 30-mile bike rides.

Proceeds from Hands Across the Harbor benefit the education programs at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Registration is available online at [handsacrosstheharbor.org](http://handsacrosstheharbor.org).

### **Halloween party**

More than 1,700 children participated in the recent trick or treat event at Tringali Recreation Center. The free evening, supported by local businesses and organizations, featured Halloween-themed decorations, music, face painting, games and treats. A local performing arts school staged a “flash mob” dance routine.

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