

Administrator's Update for 11/11/15

County, city sales tax projects well underway

By Ray Sandrock, Charlotte County administrator

About a year after Charlotte County voters approved a six-year extension of the 1 Percent Local Option Sales Tax, 85 percent of the projects are underway. In an update presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday and to members of the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council last Thursday, Capital Projects Manager Travis Mortimer reported that pre-design, design and permitting work are progressing on a dozen quality of life, infrastructure, public safety and education projects.

Among the projects already in the design and permitting phase are new recreation centers at Ann Dever Memorial Park and North Charlotte Regional Park, the South County Community Library and Archive, the Veterans Memorial Park, McGuire Park, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office District 1 headquarters, the West County Annex replacement and the medical wing expansion at the Charlotte County Jail. Design work and right-of-way acquisition is underway for the Piper Road North extension and design is progressing on the Olean Boulevard widening in Parkside.

Past sales tax project recently completed or currently under construction include the Winchester South Corridor extension, Midway Boulevard, Burnt Store Road, Edgewater Drive and Gasparilla Road. Work on Midway, Burnt Store and Gasparilla will be completed in 2016 and Edgewater in 2017. We're pleased to note that the Winchester South project was completed under budget.

For information about sales tax projects, go to www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Hot Topics."

CC-TV survey

Charlotte County's television channel CC-TV features a diverse lineup, including government meetings, historical and educational shows, fitness programs and news about current and upcoming events.

To learn more about what viewers want to see on CC-TV, we're conducting a content survey. The brief poll is available online at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. Just click the survey banner at the top of the page or click on "CC-TV" under "Popular Links" in the home page menu. Viewers may also pick up printed surveys at county libraries or in the lobbies of county facilities. They will also be available in the Sun newspaper.

Please take the time to fill out this survey, which will be used to guide future CC-TV programming decisions. We want to know what you watch and what you would like to see on CC-TV, which can be viewed on Comcast channel 20 (channel 97 in some areas south of Punta Gorda) and CenturyLink Prism TV channel 96. Viewers may also stream CC-TV live on their computers, smart phones and wireless devices via the county website. It is also available live using the free Charlotte County FL app, which can be downloaded from your device's app store.

Boxing

Sugar Bert Boxing Promotions has officially awarded Charlotte County the right to host one of their regional championship qualifiers June 10-12, 2016. The event, which will be held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, is projected to attract 400-500 boxers representing both genders and all age groups and weight classes, and more than 1,100 family members and coaches.

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau will work in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Boxing Club and other community entities to provide logistical and financial support for the event, which will generate a significant economic impact during a slower time of year for tourism. The agreement with SBBP also provides the county rights to host the event again in 2018 and 2020.

Edgewater Roundabout

The intersection of Midway Boulevard and Edgewater Drive reopened Monday featuring a new roundabout design in place of traffic lights.

Traffic studies have shown that roundabouts improve motorist safety by reducing speeds at intersections, giving drivers more time to spot and react to other vehicles and pedestrians. According to the state Department of Transportation, roundabouts can result in up to an 82 percent reduction in severe crashes and a 44 percent reduction in overall crashes.

For information about the Edgewater project, go to www.GoEP2.com, email Info@GoEP2.com or call 941-62-GO-EP2.

Ray Sandrock is the Charlotte County administrator. Readers may reach him at raymond.sandrock@charlottecountyfl.gov.