

Charlotte County update for 8/3/16

Sandrock elected to state county managers board

By Ray Sandrock, Charlotte County Administrator

I was honored to be elected to the Florida Association of County Managers board of directors for 2016-2017. My long-time involvement with the organization has allowed to me share successes and challenges with county managers and administrators from around the state and implement best practices when they benefit our county.

During the FACM's June conference, Charlotte County was selected to present an overview of the county's MSBU/MSTU structure, which is being looked at by many communities to address infrastructure funding in a fair and equitable way.

The FACM is affiliated with the Florida Association of Counties, whose president-elect is Commissioner Chris Constance. Our leadership positions with these two groups give Charlotte County a high-profile platform to influence statewide policies. Working with the FAC, FACM and other organizations, such as the National Association of Counties, is a key element of one of the board's strategic focus areas: efficient and effective government.

I look forward to serving on the FACM board this coming year and will provide future updates on how my involvement helps me better serve our community.

Zika update

In light of last week's announcement that the Department of Health confirmed 14 cases of locally transmitted Zika virus in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, I want to update residents and visitors about Charlotte County Mosquito Control's response to the virus.

In addition to monitoring confirmed Zika cases — 388 statewide, one in Charlotte County — the county's mosquito control division treated 27,891 acres last week and responded to 60 services requests. In addition, local monitoring efforts included taking 38 landing counts and setting 34 traps. The counts and traps give staff critical information about the types of mosquitoes prevalent here and in what quantities.

Mosquito Control Manager Scott Schermerhorn provided commissioners with an update on the Zika virus at last week's board meeting. In addition to the spraying and monitoring, Schermerhorn outlined the division's education and outreach efforts. One of the most effective ways property owners can help prevent mosquitoes from proliferating is to eliminate breeding areas by emptying containers such as birdbaths, water buckets, spare tires and other items that hold water.

For more information, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Zika Virus under Hot Topics.

DJJ meeting

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Christina Daly visited Charlotte County Monday to participate in a Civil Citation Program stakeholder meeting at Port Charlotte Beach Park.

The Civil Citation Program enables law enforcement officers to refer young offenders to programs known to be more effective at decreasing juvenile delinquency rates than arrest and incarceration, such as substance or mental health counseling, anger management or family counseling. The program is coordinated by Charlotte County Human Services and funded by the DJJ.

Commission Chairman Bill Truex and Sheriff Bill Prummell also attended the meeting, where they received presentations on the status of the Civil Citation Program and updates from private sector service providers. The meeting also included an informal roundtable discussion about ways to improve the program. We appreciate Secretary Daly's participation and look forward to working with her office to make Charlotte County's program successful.

Media tour

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau assisted a writer on assignment for a major retirement publication for an article about Port Charlotte. The bureau planned a day-long itinerary and accompanied the writer to businesses and organizations of interest to retirees. The publication has featured other Charlotte County destinations and the writer's visit is a direct result of a media familiarization trip the CHVCB hosted a few years ago. We expect the article to be published by the end of 2016.

Fan bricks

The Charlotte Sports Park is proud to offer Fan Bricks that give baseball fans the opportunity to become a permanent part of the Charlotte Sports Park team while also contributing to the annual enhancements of this facility. Bricks are installed three times per year and showcased outside of the Home Plate gate.

There are two sizes available, four inches by eight inches and eight inches by eight inches. Visit www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders or call 855-274-2574. Use the discount code of CSP50 for a 50-percent discount for a limited time.

Show your support for the Rays and Stone Crabs and help maintain Charlotte Sports Park's place as the country's best spring training facility, as named in the USA Today 2014 Readers' Choice Award.

Ray Sandrock is the Charlotte County Administrator. Readers may reach him at Raymond.Sandrock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.