

Port Charlotte Library reopens after renovation

By Hector Flores

The Port Charlotte Public Library recently reopened after a renovation project was completed. The work included replacing the carpeting on the first floor and stairways and the installation of new ADA-approved handrails. The entire first floor was painted and a new circulation desk was added. New book stacks were installed and reconfigured on the first floor, providing open space in the center area of the library to promote social distancing. The staff area on the first floor was also painted, carpeted and reconfigured for efficiency.

In addition to all your favorite books, magazines and newspapers, the library has audiobooks, DVDs and CDs. The library also offers programs for all age groups, including toddler music sessions, board game nights, youth and adult crafting, book clubs and more.

The library offers online holds and curbside, contactless pick-up. Visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov/libraries .

Port Charlotte Public Library is located 2280 Aaron St. in Port Charlotte. For information, call 941-764-5562 or email PortCharlotteLibrary@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Family Services Center

Phase 1 of the Family Services Center is set to open in the Parkside neighborhood by the end of September. The project was funded by the voter-approved 1% local option sales tax.

The Neighborhood and Intake Services Divisions will be the first to move in August and will quickly be joined by six other local organizations or agencies: The Boys & Girls Club, Charlotte Behavioral Health, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Florida Department of Health, Charlotte Alliance for a Safe and Drug Free Community and The Hearing Impaired Persons of Charlotte County.

The concept behind the 17,000-square-foot facility is to offer a shared vision, common intake process, defined, shared roles and collective outcomes that will ensure efficient, effective and successful delivery of services to county residents in need of support. Through collaboration, each organization will strengthen their individual missions and further the collective vision for a healthy, vibrant Charlotte County.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Sept. 1. The Family Services Center is located at 21500 Gibraltar Drive in Port Charlotte.

Mosquito control

Our Mosquito Control and Aquatic Weed Division is hard at work this summer spraying, testing and responding to resident reports about mosquito outbreaks across the county.

In partnership with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, division staff has performed 60 treatments of larvicide covering 7,234 acres or 11.3 square miles and 60 treatments on larvicide covering 673,385 acres or 1,053 square miles.

Staff also performed onsite landing rate counts in 460 locations and distributed 157 traps to identify mosquito types in various areas.

The division receives hundreds of calls and reports via the county's website and app about mosquito outbreaks. Staff responded to more than 600 resident inquiries and reports in July.

Residents can access information about mosquito control activities on the county website. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Departments, then Public Works. The site contains spraying maps and schedules, and tips for controlling mosquito outbreaks around your home. Remember the Three Ds: Dress, drain and defend. Wear light-colored clothing during mosquito season and long sleeves and pants, especially in the early morning and evening hours. Drain containers that hold water. Use mosquito repellent as directed on the product label.

Readers may reach County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.