

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

The Community Development bake sale held Friday, December 11th raised over \$351 bringing our overall fundraising for the year to over \$1000! We will be able to give gifts to dozens of needy children and the elderly.

Community Services

Administration

Charlotte County Community Services held a public workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 16 regarding the Don Cerbone Memorial Skate Park. Staff presented a list of potential items that could replace equipment that was removed that had deteriorated. The meeting resulted in good communication with users of the park. A report of the outreach effort and options for funding will be provided for consideration.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

It is a bittersweet day here at Harold Avenue as we say goodbye to our part-time recreation specialist Falin Daniel. Falin was offered and accepted a full-time recreation specialist position at the Sports Park! While we are sad to see her go we wish her the best of luck in her new position. And while Falin is on her way out, we are welcoming in our newest employee Danielle Bishop to our Harold staff! Youth Basketball has their last practices and games before they go on their winter break. The kids have been working very hard this season, so they deserve a little rest. Table Tennis has seen an increase in participants. There are some very talented players that show up every week, which makes for some exciting competitive matches.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Pool

Santa's Candy land was a huge success. The doors opened Saturday at 4 p.m. for kids with disabilities to give them a chance to enjoy the event without it being too overwhelming. The doors opened to the general public at 5 p.m. and kids and parents flowed through the doors for the next 3 hours! We estimate at least 650 people came through the door. There were visits with Santa, making wish lists to drop into Santa's mailbox, 5 different carnival games, a library table with lots of fun activities, and an ornament table to make Rudolph, a snow man, or snowflakes. Kids of all ages and their parents all seemed to have a good time. I received many compliments from individuals as they left with goodies in hand. Then on Dec. 16, McDonald's had their Christmas party. There were 80 people in attendance. They had an exciting time with lots of prizes for their employees. We have a couple events booked over the next weekend, heading into the long holiday weekend.

For the week of 12/9 through 12/15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 133 paid admissions, was visited by 84 pass holders and had 168 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park Pool

For the week of 12/9 through 12/16, South County Regional Park Pool had 41 paid admissions, was visited by 89 pass holders and had 61 water aerobics participants. We were closed 12/9 through 12/13 for annual maintenance where an extensive list of cleaning and maintenance jobs were underway. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 240 "splashes."

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Dec. 14 – “Wild dates in Charlotte County”
- Babcock NOPC - P&Z Conference Room – Dec. 14
- Staff Christmas Lunch – Dec. 15
- “Common Holiday Plant Care” – Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association –Dec. 15
- GI-BMP Training– Dec. 16
- Friends for Extension Annual Meeting –Dec. 17
- UF/IFAS Self-Evaluations due – Dec.18

Historical Center

The Charlotte County Historical Center presented a Christmas on the Harbor program for 103 fourth grade students at East Elementary. This program was based on the 1876 Howard family diary entries and their first Christmas in the Charlotte Harbor area.

Human Services

Family Services staff coordinated and participated in tenant safety training at the Family Services Center (FSC). Dee Hawkins from Charlotte County EMS provided lessons on using a fire extinguisher and how to safely evacuate the building in case of emergency. The training culminated in an actual fire drill with fire engines dispatched to the FSC. FSC staff, tenants and clients received an excellent rating for a safe and timely evacuation.

Family Services Manager, Lori North, was interviewed by a baccalaureate nursing student who is writing a report on Primary Prevention and Access to Care in Charlotte County for her field experience. Topics discussed included the need for wraparound case management services, strong community partnerships and a unified Health and Human Services Master Plan. The student was also referred to other staff and partners for additional information.

Public Works

Maintenance & Operations (Dec. 9 – Dec. 15, 2015)

A total of 46 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, and asphalt repair.

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| Drainage line & grade: | 13,800 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,040 SF in Deep Creek |
| Small pipe install: | 48 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 24 LF in Deep Creek |
| Menzie ditch cutting: | 92,420 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater 160,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 39,000 SF South Charlotte Stormwater |
| Boom mower: | Cut 91,841 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 12,770 CY in Englewood East |
| Culvert cleaning: | Cleaned 32 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 3 culverts in Grove City Cleaned 2 culverts in Lemon Bay |
| Asphalt repair: | Utilized 11.99 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County |
| Debris removal: | Removed 12,740 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County |

Landscaping Services

Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: Manasota Key; South Gulf Cove; Grove City Park; US 17 medians in Cleveland; US 41 Revitalization phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway; Melbourne Street Bridge and all county-owned fenced retention ponds.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 4,149
- Landing rate counts taken: 4
- Traps set: 2
- Service requests: 9

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 23
- Sites inspected: 3
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau recently selected Aqua Marketing & Communications for public relations services and Navigant Marketing for social media services. The agencies are tasked with developing strategic public relations and social media marketing campaigns, respectively, to assist the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau meet marketing goals and generate national and international awareness for the destination. To familiarize themselves with the destination in order to assist in developing campaigns, representatives from both agencies participated in a four-day, three-night educational trip coordinated by the Bureau. The visit included meetings with various tourism representatives and experiencing attractions, dining, and outdoor amenities. Agency representatives will continue to visit the destination throughout the year.