

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs had their annual Stars and Stripes celebration on July 3. Over 6,000 people came out to watch the Stone Crabs take on the Bradenton Marauders. A pregame concert featured the band Kettle of Fish. After the game, the sky lit up with a massive fireworks display. The Stone Crabs came out victorious 3-1. Their afternoon game on Independence Day was rained out, but not before the Stone Crabs got a 4-3 lead. The Stone Crabs then have a home game against Palm Beach. GO STONE CRABS!

Tringali Recreation Center

Salutations from sunny Englewood! It was another great week here in our part of the county. We kicked off our new program, "Tringali Twilight Theater" on Friday July 1 and the reception from the public was fantastic! The crowd was enthusiastic and boisterous in their love of Charles M Schulz' timeless characters. Did I mention we showed The Peanuts Movie? Anyway, we kicked off the evening with music as Joe Guerzo and his acoustic guitar played a 20-minute set of familiar covers, as well as a few original songs. The crowd seemed to enjoy the performance very much. Next, we engaged the audience with some Charlie Brown Trivia and it also proved to be entertaining. (Did you know Snoopy has 7 siblings? Can you name them?) The children loved challenging their minds almost as much as they did winning the prizes! Finally, we showed the movie and it proved to be a delightful and heartwarming choice. Popcorn, chips, candy and beverages were enjoyed liberally! All in all, it was a wonderful night and nearly all the patrons told us that they were looking forward to our next movie on August 5. Well that's it for this week. We hope you had a nice 4th of July weekend! Have another great week in beautiful Charlotte County!

South County Regional Park Pool (June 2016)

- 2,400 paid admissions
- 758 pass holder visits
- 305 Water Aerobics participants
- Charlotte County Blue Fins held 28 practices resulting in 840 "splashes"
- Staff spent an estimated 70 hours completing skill training updates including spinal specific skills and back boarding.
- 2945 summer camp swimmers from 12 different camps
- 70 attended our Moonlight Movie
- Summer Session 1 ran and completed with 49 participants in 11 classes and Summer Session 2 has started.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

PCB staff worked at the 4th of July BBQ Bash at Bayshore Park. There were an estimated 1,000 people coming through the park to enjoy music, games for kids, fun vendors and food vendors all before the fireworks show from across the harbor. The floor is beginning to take shape and our fingers are crossed everything continues to run smoothly and will be finished on time. In the meantime we have been as busy as ever working on contracts, phone calls, and general public services.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 6/29 through 7/5/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 487 paid admissions, was visited by 34 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted 3 private swim lessons and the pool was open Monday, July 4.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for July 4 –“Coffee in the garden”
- Green Team Meeting - Gamble Plantation, 3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton, FL – July 8

Natural Resources

Staff has been hard at work completing the requisite vegetative monitoring on FCT properties. This work is conducted annually. The data collected is used to determine the effectiveness of management efforts and also the direction of land management activities moving forward. The monitoring plots show change over time in the vegetative communities within each property.

Staff treated approximately 15 acres of exotics this week. This week staff focused on tropical soda apple, Caesar weed and Australian pine. These are all category 1 exotics and are highly invasive in our native landscape. The initial indications are 80% effectiveness on the tropical soda apple and Caesar weed treated on Prairie Creek Preserve. In addition to the in-house treatments staff also contracted approximately 200 acres to be treated on Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park. When possible staff can and will treat directly as a cost saving measure but on a larger scale staff will enlist the aid of an exotic treatment professional for control.

Staff responded to a request by FWC for information regarding gopher tortoise surveys. This request came from Michelina Dziadzio, Gopher Tortoise GIS and Monitoring Coordinator. This data was requested to update the population information on a statewide level.

Staff assisted in the Freedom Swim preparations at the request of CCSO. Staff installed “snow fencing” to discourage the public from parking their vehicles along SR 41 and from crossing 41 and thereby avoiding potentially dangerous situations.

One of our Sea Turtle Monitors has reported to us that in her area, Palm, Knight, and Don Pedro Islands (not including the state park) has over 470 sea turtle nests (as of 7/5/2016.) This is wonderful news considering we are only mid-season. Last year at the end of season this same area had about 420 nests total. This is turning out to be a busy year!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- A new ice machine will be installed at the Public Safety building. This machine will provide ice for the vehicle maintenance department staff.
- Light pole was ordered for parking area at Franz Ross Park lighting add-on.
- Awaiting bids for Charlotte County Sports Park Clubhouse parking lot sealing and striping project.
- At CARE facility, the installation of new kitchen cabinets is complete, work on the new counters is in progress.

Operations

Several facility parking lots had large potholes open up from heavy rain over the last few months. Facilities staff patched the smaller ones and asked Public Works to repair the larger ones. The parking areas at West County Annex, Cultural Center and Murdock Administration lots have been repaired.

Project Management

- Contractor is installing the storm water drainage pipes at Cape Haze Pioneer Park Trail.
- Received the architecture firms’ letters of interest for selection process on the Mid-County Library renovation.
- The consultants are completing the Airport Road Annex Master Plan for submission to the county for review and approval. The plan is expected receipt by July 8.

- The draft request for design services for South County Regional Park has been prepared.
- The draft design Request for Proposal for District 3 office is written and under review by sheriff's office and county staff.
- Interior lighting retrofit in the main rooms and in the back of house receiving area at the Charlotte County Event Center is about 95% complete. Existing metal halide high-bay lighting is being replaced with energy efficient LED lighting. This work is anticipated to be complete this month.

Human Services

The Senior Services Division mailed out their annual client satisfaction surveys this week to over 150 seniors receiving in-home elder care services provided through federal and state grant-funded programs. Survey results are expected later this summer.

All Charlotte County Veteran Services Officers now have Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards to allow them access to the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS.) VBMS is a tool that the officers use to view crucial information to assist veterans on past and present claims.