

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

- Community Development staff meet with Babcock staff once a month. We met with them Wednesday and they expressed great appreciation for the service they were receiving from all staff, but especially from Maryann Franks. Tyler Kitson and Jim Pierce wanted to give her a huge hug, they were so grateful for all the help she has been providing on their Founders Square permits.
- Permitting accepted 91 single family permits this past month.
- We have hired an Environmental Code Compliance Officer (Gloria Walberg) and she has already made marked improvements in the community. She has brought years of knowledge and ability to the position created with the intent of bridging the gaps between enforcement, inspections, conservation and planning. We have already started receiving positive feedback from citizens.
- Katy Franks in Mapping and Special Projects Division of Community Development recently created a large display map that was used as evidence by the State Attorney's Office to help convict a repeat offender of narcotic sales. The attorney's Office expressed their gratitude in a congratulatory e-mail to Katy, stating her contribution was instrumental in obtaining a 4-and-a-half-year conviction on the case.
- We have hired a Licensing Officer, Jim Davis, dedicated to reducing the large caseload of expired permits.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlottes Sport Park hosted two Gulf Coast League games. One on Thursday, Tampa Bay vs Boston and Friday, Tampa Bay vs the Orioles with a combined attendance of 175. The Stone Crabs were scheduled home for 2 games plus a makeup game. The total attendance was 213 with one game being a cancellation due to rain.

Harold Avenue Park

This past Saturday, the Harold Avenue Youth Basketball Leagues' 10u, 12u, 14u, and 17u divisions held their Semi-Finals and Championship games. We had 16 teams compete for a shot at the title in their respective divisions. Congratulations to our champions: 10u- Red Storm; 12u- Louisville; 14u- Boston; 17u- Magic. Harold Avenue Recreation also hosted Port Charlotte Little League for their fall signups this past Saturday. This week we have been shut down for facility maintenance and staff training with the exception of Tuesday. On Tuesday Harold remained open as it hosted the elections as one of the voting locations here in Charlotte County. We also held our post-Summer League Coaches Appreciation night on Tuesday.

Tringali Park

This week, we are feverishly preparing for our last Super Mini Sports Music & Dance Camp session. This final date includes a recital and graduation ceremony on 8/31 at 5:30 p.m. Last week's session included a dress rehearsal. Although it didn't go off flawlessly, we are confident the kids will perform well when the lights go up for real. The camp, as a whole, has been well received by the parents and children alike. Most agree that adding Music and Dance programs to our list of available classes has been a positive for our community.

In other news, this Friday September 2, we will be showing the 3rd installment of our Tringali Twilight Theater series. This is a free movie showing in our Community Center at 7 p.m. every first Friday of the month. This month's showing will be "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day". Refreshments will be available for purchase. We hope you can make it down.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center

- Thursday, Aug. 25, 110 people attended the Public Safety Awards Banquet.
- Friday and Saturday we had a wedding and reception with 147 people enjoying the festivities.
- Sunday we facilitated a baby shower hosting 30 guests.
- Monday and Tuesday we set up and hosted the primary elections, including volunteers and voters, and we saw over 300 people.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for August 29 – “This dwarf shrub fits anywhere”
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – August 29
- 2016 CED IST - Straughn Center - Gainesville – August 30-31
- Master Gardener SC District Regional Conference - Manatee County - Charlotte County Attending – August 31

Natural Resources

This week staff responded to a reported wildfire at Oyster Creek Environmental Park. The fire consumed approximately .25 acres of palmetto understory and did minor damage to the kiosk. Lightning strikes and wildfires are a common occurrence in Florida this season. As temperatures climb and pressure differentials increase so do winds. This time of year those winds are moisture laden. This combination of air flow and humidity creates the storms we find common this time of year.

Staff completed the FCT reports for the environmental parks, Oyster Creek, Cedar Point, Ann Dever Regional, Amberjack, Buck Creek, Tippecanoe I and II as well as Charlotte Flatwoods.

On Monday, Aug 29th our contractor removed an abandoned vessel from Lemon Bay.

Parks

Parks has completed the rebuilding of the Harbour Heights butterfly garden. It will be turned over to the HH gardening club on 10/1/16.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- South County Regional Park restrooms and concession area painting has been completed.
- The painting is completed at Fire Station Eight.

Operations

Semi-annual generator inspections are being performed in August and into September. This is the second annual generator inspection to keep these units in working order and maintained per manufacturer's recommendations. The inspections also provide reasonable assurance that the generators will provide either full or partial power to the buildings and systems within the county when power is disrupted.

Project Management

- An Interlocal Agreement between the City and County for the South County Library site remediation has been drafted by the legal department and will go to the City at the next Council meeting. Once ratified by the City Council, it will come back to the County for Board endorsement (anticipated for the September 13 BCC meeting).
- Port Charlotte Beach seawall panels are installed and contractor is now working on the seawall cap.
- Cape Haze Pioneer Park sidewalks and curb work has been completed.
- Mid-County Library architect site visit occurred last week.
- Fleet renovation plans are expected to be completed by Sept 15, 2016.

- The restroom at Bay Heights boat ramp was delivered and installed. The contractor has excavated and leveled the drives and parking areas. The dock piles continue installation before the stringers and decking is installed.
- Jail Infirmary bid plans are complete with construction manager starting the bidding process. Staff is simultaneously reviewing for completeness of documents.

Human Services

The Together Charlotte steering committee; Human Services Department, United Way of Charlotte County, Health Department of Charlotte County, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care and the Charlotte Community Foundation hosted the first of three community conversations on health and human services to solicit input from citizens on what services are important to them, what issues are facing the community and what areas can be improved. The first conversation was held in Englewood on August 24. Two additional community conversations are taking place on September 7 in Punta Gorda and September 8th in Port Charlotte. Bill Little, former Health and Human Services director in Sarasota County, is facilitating the community conversations and four scheduled stakeholders meetings. Together Charlotte is working with government and community leaders and health and human services providers to create a foundation of improved coordination of services and collaborate efforts to meet the priority needs of our community.

Tourism

The Weston's wannaB inn was featured favorably in the German publication called America Journal. It's a contemporary, inspiring, go-to magazine for German-speaking travelers planning trips to the U.S., focusing on practical travel information and trip planning. Circulation: 38,500. This article is a direct result of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosting travel journalist Holger Jacobs and him staying at the wannaB inn last September. In addition to this article, the journalist generated previous articles about the destination and highlighted the area's ecotourism which is something German travelers actively seek out when planning a holiday.