

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

We concluded our fifth roundtable discussion today in about an hour. We had good consensus on items, and as expected, not everyone is happy, but they were pleased with the process and the guidance from Dr. Kelly to keep the discussions productive. We will be doing a brief overview/discussion with the BCC at their October workshop, and will have one final discussion with the group at the he end of the month to discuss the workshop. We will then prepare for December P&Z and January BCC for transmittal, with adoption after receiving back DEO comments (February/March). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Community Services

Administration

The winter edition of The Guide is now available. The Guide is your comprehensive guide to all Community Services facilities, programs, and activities. You can pick up your copy at any Community Services facility including pools, libraries and recreation centers. The Guide is also available at the chambers of commerce.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted two Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League games, 9/29 and 10/3. There was also the Bocca Lupo Howl at the Moon 5K the night of September 30. The Howl at the Moon 5K had 550 runners participate.

Harold Avenue Park

This week Harold staff received the artwork for our Trunk or Treat event on October 29. Staff is hard at work printing and cutting handouts to be distributed to all schools here in Charlotte County to promote the event. Harold had a few rentals this past week. On October 4, St. Charles Borromeo rented the gymnasium for Volleyball Practice. Daughters at Play (DAP) is continuing to rent the gym, practicing throughout the week with games on Saturdays. We are starting to see an attendance increase with Pickleball and Table Tennis. The deadline for sign up is a week away for HAYBB and Harold Staff is sending out reminders to all parents and past participants and putting the finishing touches on preparation for the league.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 9/28 through 10/4/16, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 175 paid admissions, was visited by 34 pass holders and had 47 water aerobics participants.

Extension Services

- Freshwater FMNP - inverts - Lashley Marina in Punta Gorda – Oct. 6
- Master Gardener class - "Woody Ornamentals - Planting and Pruning" - Lee County Extension Training – Oct. 7

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- A purchase order has been issued to Norman Alexander for the South County Pool deck repair project. A pre-construction meeting is currently being scheduled.
- Loveland Water Treatment Plant door replacement is fifty percent complete.

- The Emergency Vehicle Repair Facility facade stucco repair work is fifty percent complete.

Operations

- The Turf Maintenance Contract expires December 31, 2016. Facilities is reviewing the scope and specifications and purchasing will put out to bid. Beginning this month the current contract reduces the cutting cycles from four cycles to two cycles and will be reduced further to one cycle for November and December.

Project Management

- Work for the clearing and grubbing at the future site of the South County Library was awarded to Environmental Underground, Inc. of Punta Gorda. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Oct. 6, 2016.
- The Interlocal Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County for site remediation of the South County Library was approved by City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled with the city to commence work for site remediation.
- The seawall cap is fifty percent complete at Port Charlotte Beach.
- The final asphalt paving was completed last week at Cape Haze Pioneer Trail.
- The ground clearing starts this week at Veterans Memorial Park. The Oct. 4, 2016 ground breaking ceremony for Veterans Park was canceled and will be rescheduled.
- McGuire Park has begun the permitting phase with Substantial Plans Review and Site Plans Review submitted.
- After the approval for the jail safety screening system last week, the contract amendment was processed with the construction manager. The sub-contractor completed a site visit and is starting the shop drawings.
- The asphalt paving and drives are completed at Bay Heights Boat Ramp. The curb was installed with sidewalks being formed for pouring.
- The under slab mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-in are underway at the Sheriff's District One office. The pond banks were stabilized with sod reducing the erosion through the raining season.

Human Services

Human Services enhanced its partnerships with community agencies to collaborate on new and existing programs for our residents. Family Services staff will represent the Department serving on the Family and Health Advisory Council through the Early Childhood Policy Council and Habitat for Humanity's Family Services Support committee. Joint efforts will strengthen the partnership for supporting families and encouraging participation in the Getting Ahead Program to assist families move toward self-sufficiency.

Family Services staff also partnered with the Health Department to conduct a Health Food Drive kickoff event at the Charlotte Academy. A class of first to third graders received a "5210" lesson (5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1-hour or more of physical activity, and 0-sugary drinks). The school children heard a story about compassion and giving and were provided flyers to take home with examples of healthy, non-perishable foods to donate. The recipients of the donated food will be childcare centers throughout the community that serve low-income families.

With new grant funding through the Community Services Block Grant, the Department's Family Services Division and Senior Services Division anticipate supporting 15 new vulnerable seniors needing in-home care assistance. These seniors are currently on a waiting list for services for other grant funded senior programs and will now have the opportunity to have the community support needed to help maintain them in a safe environment in their own homes.

Tourism

Last week the Charlotte County Tourism Office unveiled the county's new tourism marketing brand which has been approved by the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council and is designed to position Charlotte County as a top Florida destination for experiencing the outdoors. The new branding includes key components that emphasize the outdoor amenities that draw visitors to the county. These include: a new logo, a marketing message positioning Charlotte County as "The one Florida destination that provides all the best of Florida's coveted outdoor activities all in one place," the tagline "Our Best Side, is Outside, and the destination name "Punta Gorda \ Englewood Beach," with the additional geographic indicator: "The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast," continuing the destination's historic name while incorporating the mention of a unique visitor asset – island. The tourism office will also be using the web URL www.pureflorida.com to promote the destination.