

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Administration

Charlotte County Community Services has been awarded a grant from fitness equipment company ExoFit Outdoor Fitness for McGuire Park and Kiwanis Park. The grants match funds budgeted for the installation of outdoor fitness equipment that will be installed as part of the McGuire Park redevelopment in Parkside, and replacement of aging circuit training equipment at Kiwanis Park. The outdoor fitness equipment will provide park users the opportunity to get healthy and maintain active lifestyle while enjoying the outdoors. The equipment is durable to withstand the harsh environment while being used in an unsupervised park environment.

Charlotte Sports Park

A Pro Style Baseball Tournament was held on 10/22 & 10/23. All the back fields were used all day on both days. There were approximately 800 people on site throughout the tournament.

Harold Avenue Park

This past week at Harold Avenue we had our 10u, 12u, and 14u skills evaluations and drafts for our Fall/Winter Youth Basketball Leagues. Staff has been busy compiling rosters and sending out information to coaches and parents. On Tuesday evening Harold Avenue held its officials meeting for the upcoming season. This week Wellness @ Work began running Jazzercise on Monday evenings at Harold Avenue. Daughters at Play (DAP) is continuing to rent the gym, practicing throughout the week with games on Saturdays. St. Charles Borromeo Boys and Girls Basketball teams continue to rent our facility for their boys and girls basketball teams. We have our first annual Trunk or Treat event coming up on the Oct. 29 and staff has been busy locking in volunteers, stuffing bags, and ensuring that everything is in order.

Tringali Park

Our Good News this week begins with our successful event held on Saturday, Oct. 22, Trick or Treat Down Spooky Street. We had over 400 kids and adults in attendance. We had over ten different vendors who dressed up and handed out goodies to the families. Our very own Jill Taylor and Chelsea Love were a hit with their impromptu face painting table providing many different spooky designs for the kids. We also had a special performance by Joy Estaris' Intro to Dance class. They performed on stage for the very first time and did a fabulous job dressed up as zombies. The decorations, music, and creative staff costumes created the perfect Halloween atmosphere for the families to enjoy their safe Trick or Treat experience with us.

We had a very successful conclusion of the Super Mini Sports Basketball session led by Chris Stephenson. Chris is also in charge of our Adult Men's basketball program that started this weekend. The Wood, as it's been dubbed, had a strong turn out and is a huge step forward for the basketball community in Englewood, especially with our youth Orlando Junior Magic Basketball program beginning shortly. We look forward to continuing our program development with more targeted basketball programs for the community.

Some of our upcoming events and programs that we're looking forward to are our seasonal Garage Sale, Jazzercise, and Drop in Line Dancing. Our first Community Garage Sale is being held on Nov. 6 at Tringali Recreation Center and we are almost completely booked as of today. We look forward to a great turn out and our patrons are very excited. Jazzercise is also starting Nov. 2 and will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. We have been getting questions about this program since September and they are looking forward to it starting up again. A new program we are offering is Drop-in Line Dancing. It will begin on Monday, Nov. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Punch Passes will be available and we are very optimistic about this new program.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 10/19 through 10/25/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 60 paid admissions, was visited by 26 pass holders and had 23 water aerobics participants. The pool was closed 10/18 through 10/21/16 for annual maintenance and staff training. During the week, the pool buildings were painted inside and out, planters re-done, pool deck pressure washed and deck furniture cleaned. Lifeguard staff also renewed their certifications in Emergency Oxygen Administration and Blood borne Pathogens.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Oct. 24 –“Luffa – for the bath and the table”
- CED Meeting – Conference Call – Oct. 24
- Master Gardener Radio Show - WCCF-1580 – Oct. 25
- GI-BMP Training – Oct. 26
- Charlotte County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting – Oct. 26
- GI-BMP Train-The-Trainer Program – Oct. 27
- Extension Staff Meeting – Oct. 27
- Native Grass Workshop Planning Meeting – Oct. 28

Natural Resources

This week staff worked diligently to construct and position race course obstacles. This year will be the 5th consecutive annual Tippecanoe Trail/Mud Run. This event is very popular with the community and has grown each year.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- The main entrance and rear parking area seal and stripe at Charlotte Sports Park is scheduled for Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, 2016.
- Public Works headquarters break area screen enclosure is in the design phase. Construction is slated to begin mid Nov. 2016.

Operations

- The Elevator Control Modernization at the Justice Center will begin the first week of November and will take approximately one hundred ten days to complete the six elevators at this location. The current controls are no longer being supported for service. It is necessary that we upgrade these controls to new in order to maintain safe and working elevators.

Project Management

- Tree removal and grubbing was completed at the South County Library site. A pre-construction meeting was held with the City of Punta Gorda for the site remediation with work anticipated to commence in Jan. 2017.
- Port Charlotte Beach floating dock is in place and the sidewalk work continues.
- The building slab was poured and the concrete masonry unit walls are being laid at the Sheriff's District One facility. Charlotte County Utilities requested sanitation connectivity instead of previously approved septic field. Staff and contractor are diligently working on item to ensure building on-time completion.

Tourism

Punta Gorda / Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Connect Florida conference in Orlando last week (Oct. 25-27) which offered a combination of networking functions and one-on-one

marketplace appointment sessions with a variety of association representatives, third party meeting planners and sports event organizers. As a result of meeting with approximately two dozen meeting planners or event organizers, the Bureau received five RFP's along with tentative agreements for five site visits to be conducted within the next few months.