Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park
The Charlotte Sports Park is deep into preparations for the upcoming 2019 Spring Training Season. Facility maintenance and seasonal staff hiring is under way.

Harold Avenue Regional Park
This week at Harold Avenue Regional Park we held open gym Monday through Friday mornings. We also held open gym in the evenings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Pickleball was held Monday through Friday afternoons. With the children back in school, South County has re-opened for pickleball and the crowds here at Harold Avenue Regional Park have lessened a little. Table tennis played Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Table Tennis players are happy to be back on their regular schedule after things were mixed around for the holidays. In addition to open gym we also held youth drop-in basketball on Tuesday and Thursday evening. After taking a break for the holidays we resumed our Youth Basketball League with practices Monday through Thursday evenings. Week 7 of games was held on Saturday. Players were excited to get back into the gym and were ready to compete with only two regular season games remaining before the playoffs. Intro to Sports held their second week of classes on Friday evening. During this second class children worked on running drills with the agility ladder as well as worked on their passing and receiving the football. Bonsai also held their weekly meeting on Saturday morning. For rentals in room A our Zumba instructor came in and held class on Monday and Wednesday evening. She also held class on Saturday morning. Students worked up quite a sweat during the Pound Class she instructs a few Fridays per month. Clogging started a new session of classes on Thursday there were full classes for her Thursday evening classes.

Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park-Pool
For the week of Jan. 8 through Jan. 14, Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Pool had 163 paid admissions, was visited by 247 pass holders, and had 86 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Bluefins swim team had five swim practices resulting in approximately 20 “splashes”.

Port Charlotte Beach Park and Recreation and Pool
The week of Jan. 7 was a slow week at Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center. On Jan. 8 we hosted a meditation class with 21 people in attendance. On Jan. 9 we hosted a monthly neighborhood watch meeting. To round out the week we hosted a Christmas Potluck with approximately 160 people in attendance. The week of Jan. 14 we will house a Board of County Commissioners Administrative Workshop, a fundraiser, and a surprise retirement party.

Extension Services
- Newspaper Article for Jan. 14 – “Beware (but do not fear) the skeltonizer!”
- Manager’s Meeting - Recreation Center at NCRP – Jan. 14
- Gulf Coast Beekeepers Association – Jan. 15
- Lunch Meeting - Ft. Myers – Jan. 16
- GI-BMP Training – Jan. 17
- East Port Campus Partners – Jan. 18
- Government Day - South Gulf Cove Pavilion – Jan. 19
- Home and Garden Show Display - Event Center – Jan. 19-20

Land Management
This week staff completed the Shell Creek Preserve draft management plan. This plan will detail the direction and goals for land management at Shell Creek for the next 15 years. Staff spent several days hauling base material to Prairie Creek Preserve. This base material will be used to repair the existing easement access road.
The access road was heavily damaged by seasonal storms in 2018. The flood waters created by these storms exceeded the capacity of several culverts, several were in disrepair, along the access road. Due to the frequent and heavy storm activity emergency repairs were made to provide access to the preserve but additional repairs were required to facilitate access for all vehicles.

**Port Charlotte Public Library**
Port Charlotte Library hosted its monthly Everyday English Café on Jan. 10. Along with enjoying informal conversation, the 22 attendees learned about the new Everyday English Literacy Program, where native English speakers and English Language Learners will be paired to improve communication and assimilation skills. This coaching program is spearheaded by the Hispanic Council of Charlotte County in partnership with the Libraries and History Division.

**Englewood Charlotte Public Library**
The monthly Cooking with Chef Warren program was held on Thursday, Jan. 10. Chef Warren packed in another full house as he shared dozens of kitchen tips, cooking hints and humorous anecdotes about the joys and challenges of Mediterranean cooking for two. Chef Warren ended the presentation with a cooking demonstration, preparing a healthy Mediterranean entrée that anyone can replicate in their own home in less than 15 minutes.

**Punta Gorda Public Library**
On Jan. 10, our Library Laboratory participants learned all about kinetic energy while having marshmallow contests. There was a lot of laughter while the kids had fun learning about the science of energy. Gerry DeWitt, Certified Zentangle Instructor, taught the Zentangle Method at the Punta Gorda Library on Saturday Jan 12, 2019. The Zentangle Method is an easy to learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns.

**History Services**
On Jan. 10, Program Coordinator Crystal Diff, along with one volunteer from our Historical Voyagers, led about
half a dozen adults on the History Quest Walking Tour. This tour informs the public of how our geocaching program works while providing a glimpse of the rich history of Punta Gorda. Also on Jan. 10, Joe Guerzo conducted an oral history interview of John F. Bass IV in Englewood. John is the grandson of John F. Bass Jr. who founded the Bass Biological Laboratory in Englewood in the 1930’s. Mr. Bass provided a firsthand account of his family’s work there with renowned scientists such as Dr. Eugenie Clark as well as provided aerial photos of the Bass complex.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Operations
Charlotte Sports Park Fire Mitigation project is wrapping up and expected to be finished by end of week. This will provide enough time to allow for any last-minute items to be put back in place before the Tampa Bay Ray's arrive for Spring Training in two weeks or so. Remaining carpet, ceiling tiles and new lighting going in this week. A full cleaning detail will follow for completion.

Project Management
On Jan. 8, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Guaranteed Maximum Pricing (GMP) for Phase II of the Justice Center Renovation/Remodel project. On Jan. 22, a supplementary amendment will go to the board for approval, which will include the expansion of the entry pavilion.
A Pre-Commencement meeting is scheduled for the Port Charlotte Beach Parking, Lighting and Stormwater renovation on Jan. 23.
The ribbon cutting ceremony for the South County Regional Park Recreation Center Expansion was held Jan. 16 at 3:30pm. The expansion is part of the Recreation Center Remodel Sales Tax project that also includes Harold Avenue Regional Park and Tringali Park.
Work to repair hurricane damage at Live Oak Point Park has started.

Repair & Maintenance
Facilities work order history for the week of Jan. 6 through Jan. 12: (48 created - 14 closed) FWO's Closed: (0 electrical/lighting; 2 plumbing/irrigation; 3 HVAC; 5 various carpentry/building trades; 4 others).
Annual scheduled maintenance was completed at the Cedar Point Environmental Park Cookie House. Maintenance included exterior pressure washing, painting, and sealing mortar and logs.

Tourism
The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau staffed a booth at the Travel & Adventure Show, a consumer and travel professional trade show, held Jan. 12-13 at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Chicago, IL. Approximately 900 of the Bureau’s 2019 Visitor Guides, along with area attraction and
accommodation brochures, were distributed to the attendees over the two-day event, which typically draws nearly 25,000 people from the Greater Chicago area. In addition to information regarding our attractions, events and lodging properties, staff promoted Allegiant’s service to PGD via Rockford and other upper Midwest destinations.