Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights
Published 5/28/19

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

Harold Avenue Park
For the week of May 13, Harold Avenue Regional Park hosted our regular scheduled programs such as pickleball, table tennis and open gym. The park hosted instructor led classes including Zumba, Clogging, a Pound class, and a Bonsai class held on Saturday, May 17. This was the last weekend before the official start of the Youth basketball league which will run through the rest of the summer.

Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park & Pool
For the week of May 13, Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Pool had 660 paid admissions, was visited by 202 pass holders, and 124 water aerobics participants.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center and Pool
For the week of May 13, Port Charlotte Beach hosted several yoga classes, a meditation session, a county Pool Operations training course, and a Sweet 16 Birthday Party. For the week of May 20, Port Charlotte beach hosted two yoga classes, a county training seminar on Sponsorships, a meeting for summer camp parents, and a High School Graduation party.

Natural Resources

Coastal Management
Least terns are nesting in the mitigation area of Palm Island Resort. A least tern hatchling was observed on May 17 in the colony to the north of the mitigation area on Palm Island Resort. A Roving Snowy Plover was found on May 17 just south of the mitigation area on Palm Island Resort. Additionally, two Roving Wilson Plovers were observed on May 20 on Boca.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for May 20 – “Green Shrimp Plant – Friend or Foe?”
The FNP State Office will conduct a quality Improvement visit during the week of May 20
Horticulture Department Meeting – May 20
2019 Master Gardener Training - Pesticide Safety – May 22
2019 Master Gardener Training - Home Turf – May 23
2019 Master Gardener Training - Venomous Creatures & Africanized Honeybees – May 24

Punta Gorda Public Library
Punta Gorda Public Library’s Pre-K Story Time had a visit from a local children’s author on May 15. Christine Ramondetta from Port Charlotte read her book, “The Marvelous Mister Moon,” to the children.

**History Services**

On May 14, Library Technician Joe Guerzo conducted an interview with Joe and Shirley Huckeby at their family home. Joe was born in Punta Gorda in 1935 and his grandfather, William L. Huckeby, was one of the very first settlers of the area. William Huckeby moved to Charlotte County from Kentucky around 1880 and established himself by running the most prominent sawmill in the area. On May 15, Program Coordinator Crystal Diff led a tour of Indian Springs Cemetery for the Genealogical Society. There were sixteen attendees who were treated to a historical tour that included stops at the graves of prominent residents such as turn-of-the-century Sheriff John Bowman and former Governor of Florida, Albert Gilchrist.

**Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

**Operations:**

The flag pole at William R. Gaines, Jr. Veterans Memorial Park was installed and the electric for proper lighting is going to be finished this week and ready for Memorial Day on Monday. The flag pole was donated, and county employees were able to install this in time for the holiday.

**Project Management**

The Board of County Commissioners approved the location for the new Fire Station #10 on Palm Island.

Kick off meeting for design of the new Port Charlotte Sailing Center will be this week.

Construction is finished at Tringali Recreation and Community Center with the purchasing and installation of the furniture, fixtures and equipment items remaining.

Pre-submittal meeting for Fire Stations #2 and #5 is scheduled for this week.

**Repair & Maintenance**

Facilities Work Order History for the week of May 12 through May 18: (75 created - 42 closed) FWO’s Closed: (0 Electrical/Lighting; 4 Plumbing/Irrigation; 5 HVAC; 13 Various Carpentry/Building Trades; 20 others).

**Tourism**

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Sports Foundation Annual Sports Summit in Destin, Fla., last week (May 20-21). In addition to networking with in-state industry peers and learning about updates and other information relating to the grant program, Sunshine State Games, Senior Games and other industry business and best practices, VCB staff had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with ten sports event organizers to learn about their events, destination requirements and upcoming hosting availabilities. Several leads were generated including Babe Ruth Baseball, NAIA Women’s Golf Championship, RussMatt/Prospect Wire Baseball, Tampa Bay Beach Bums Volleyball, Florida Flag Football and USA CRITS.