

Charlotte County update for 8/17/16

Army Corps tours Manasota Key erosion sites

By Ray Sandrock, Charlotte County Administrator

Staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Tuesday inspected areas of Manasota Key where worsening erosion led the County Commission to declare a local state of emergency. The tour was followed by a brief presentation and discussion at Tringali Park where U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney and his staff joined the Corps staff, as well as Commission Chairman Bill Truex and Commission Vice Chairman Christopher Constance.

Last month, we hired an engineering consultant to create a local 10-year beach renourishment plan for Manasota Key. This followed the December establishment of a municipal services taxing unit. The county allocated funds from the BP oil spill settlement to cover the \$1.5 million cost of producing the 10-year plan. A previous study of the issue estimated the cost of the actual beach renourishment would be \$24 million to \$26 million. Our staff is working with the Corps to determine what role it could play in addressing a long-term solution to the erosion.

Cycling guide

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau recently published the Charlotte Harbor Cycling Guide featuring county and city cycling routes as well as annual rides, local cycling clubs, bicycle shops and information about Team Punta Gorda's free bicycle loaner program.

The guide was developed with input and assistance from members of the cycling community and funded in part by a grant from Visit Florida, the state's official tourism marketing agency. The guide are available at the tourism office at 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-104, Port Charlotte. The office is open between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2-1-1 review

Reviewers from the National Alliance of Information and Referral Systems last week performed a site visit of the county's 2-1-1 call center. The site review is the final step in the multi-year re-accreditation process, which is required every five years. This is Charlotte 2-1-1's second re-accreditation since its inception in July 2005. The site review included a luncheon with community leaders. The reviewers said they were impressed with the community partners' coordination and support for 2-1-1 services. The final report is expected in September.

Outreach meetings

The Community Development Department held a pair of recent outreach meetings to solicit public input on potential changes to the county's transfer of development units policy and sign code.

On Aug. 5, the department hosted its second TDU roundtable, which was attended by 21 people. Staff received many valuable suggestions, comments and concerns, which will be

incorporated in the third roundtable set for 1 p.m., Friday in the Building Construction Services conference room at 18400 Murdock Circle in Port Charlotte.

On Aug. 10, the department hosted its second roundtable meeting to solicit comments regarding the existing sign code. Approximately 15 people attended the meeting, where staff presented some proposals, such as criteria for temporary signs and other minor changes. Staff will review all comments, including feedback from an online survey, and schedule another roundtable meeting in the near future to finalize proposed sign code revisions.

Back to school

South County Regional Park held its second Back to School Bash of the summer on Aug. 6. Free school supplies, bicycle helmets and car seats were distributed to participants in need. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office gave out more than 220 backpacks. Eighteen vendors offered goods and services to the more than 400 people who attended.

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