

## **County partners with sheriff and schools on speed zone enforcement**

By Hector Flores

The Charlotte County Commission on Tuesday approved a contract with a firm to install school zone speed detection safety camera systems on designated roads and in school zones to enhance student safety. The system will be operational in time for the fall semester.

The speed photo enforcement system is a partnership between the county, the sheriff's office and Charlotte County Public Schools. The system will be operational beginning 30 minutes before schools open for 30 minutes after schools close. The program will be funded by fines paid by violators.

With 24 schools, centers and a technical college and nearly 17,000 students within the district, enforcing speed limits, including the 15-mph school zone before and after school begins and ends, is logistically challenging. The photo enforcement system does not require deputies to pull over violators and potentially endanger students coming and going to school. Violation notices are mailed to the owner of the vehicle and can be paid online.

Charlotte County is committed to making our roads safe for everyone, but especially our school children walking or riding bicycles, skateboards and scooters to and from school. Over the summer as you travel, acquaint yourself with the schools in various neighborhoods. Signs are posted marking school zones. We will remind motorists as the school year approaches to be aware of the new enforcement system and drive safely at all times, especially in school zones.

### **Ribbon-cutting**

The County Commission has scheduled a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office District 4 facility for 8 a.m., June 3 at 25490 Airport Road, east of Punta Gorda. The public is invited to attend.

The facility serves not only as the District 4 headquarters, it replaces the training facility that was housed in the former county jail. The project was funded by the 1% local option sales tax approved by voters in November 2020.

### **Beach shuttle**

Beginning today, Charlotte County Transit will provide free park and ride service from Tringali Park to Englewood Beach only on Saturdays until further notice.

Saturday hours will be from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. with one bus providing service. There will be a one-hour break from 12-1 p.m. so there will be no 12 p.m. bus to the beach and no 12:30 p.m. bus to Tringali Park from Chadwick Park.

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