

Making progress on sales tax and recovery projects

By Hector Flores

Progress is happening on voter-approved 1% local option sales tax projects. The latest milestone is the groundbreaking for the Port Charlotte Beach Park recreation center and pool, which is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., Oct. 16 at the park at 4500 Harbor Blvd., in Port Charlotte.

The 20,751 square-foot recreation center will be elevated and designed for resiliency. It will feature flexible event and meeting spaces, a full-service catering kitchen, staff offices and outdoor amenities including a covered drop-off area and waterfront deck.

The community pool will be suitable for lap swimming, aerobic exercise, therapy, and other special events. The 5,765-square-foot pool house will have lockers, showers, storage and office space. A separate equipment building will protect the pool equipment. Designed with resiliency in mind the facility will be hardened and protected against future weather events.

For more information on both projects, including artist renderings, budget and construction timetable, visit <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects> and search for Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Port Charlotte Beach Pool.

Recovery projects are also progressing. Community Services recently hung a banner on the park perimeter fencing with details on the timing of amenities being restored, including the beach, bocce court, horseshoe pits, shelters and sidewalks. Construction is projected to be completed by the end of this year.

Community Services Director Tommy Scott updated the County Commission on Tuesday about the timetable for restoring amenities and access to sections of Bayshore Live Oak Park in Charlotte Harbor. Landscaping crews have limbed trees to remove damaged branches and cleared debris. A contractor began relocating fencing on Monday and additional parking areas, the amphitheater, the pavilion and the grassy area with horseshoe pits are projected to reopen by the end of September.

To watch the video of Scott's presentation that featured numerous photos of the damage sustained during hurricanes Helene and Milton, visit www.CharlotteCountFL.gov/CCTV. Click Video on Demand and then the link to the Sept. 9 commission meeting. You can navigate to the presentation using the agenda item: R3: Bayshore Live Oak Park Phase 1 Recovery.

Community Services Public Relations Manager Breanna Benevenga and Facilities Management Project Manager Lindsey Johnson recently launched a video series called Coffee & Construction. The first video in the series caught up with the ladies touring Mid-County Regional Library, which is being restored. Their tour featured a discussion on remaining work and glimpses of repaired areas of the library and new features that will be unveiled when it reopens. Johnson said construction is projected to be completed in early 2026, which will allow library staff to start restocking books, videos and equipment.

To watch the video, visit www.facebook.com/charcoparks. The video was posted Aug. 29.

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