

County continues to make hurricane recovery progress

Hector Flores

The county continues to make progress on hurricane recovery, with the completion this week of dugout and bleacher shades at Centennial, Harold Avenue, South County Regional and Carmalita parks, integrated shades at William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park and freestanding shades at Carmalita, Tringali, Deep Creek Park, Harold Avenue parks and Tringali Park tennis courts.

Projects currently in progress include South County Regional and Centennial parks playgrounds, the Centennial Park soccer complex, South Gulf Cove Park and Katherine Ariens Dog Park and Port Charlotte Beach Park. Projects that will start next week include Franz Ross and Rotonda parks, South County Regional Park picnic areas and soccer fields, Carmalita Park umbrellas and Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park playground and skatepark.

Facilities Management has turned over the Mid-County Regional Library to the Community Services Department's Libraries and History Division so staff can begin restocking materials, technology and furniture. A grand reopening will be held in April. More information on that will be provided as we get closer to completing restocking.

Shoreline renourishment has been completed at Bayshore Live Oak Park. Additional sections of safety fencing have been removed. The following areas of the park are now available for use:

- Additional greenspace
- Additional walking paths
- Additional unobstructed view parking
- Natural canoe/kayak launch area

Other areas and amenities will remain closed until permanent repairs are completed.

The County Commission on Tuesday approved a bid for Hurricane Ian navigable canal debris removal. Grant funding will be provided by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Honors

I have a couple colleagues who recently received honors from their trade associations. I like to celebrate these accomplishments because it underscores the county's commitment to professional excellence.

Community Development Department plans examiner Matt Mullin has been named Plans Examiner of the Year for 2025 by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Building Officials Association of Florida. Emergency Management Department Director Patrick Fuller was elected as secretary of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association board of directors at its recent meeting.

*Readers may reach Charlotte County Administrator Hector Flores at
Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.*