

County making progress on debris collection, facility openings

By Hector Flores

Charlotte County's hurricane debris contractor has surpassed 100,000 cubic yards of debris collected as of Wednesday. That's nearly six football fields of debris piled 10 feet high. Initial efforts were focused on construction and demolition debris, but vegetative debris collection began this week.

To monitor debris collection progress, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/debris to view a dashboard.

The Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., in Port Charlotte is open 24 hours a day seven days a week for county residents. Construction, demolition, vegetative debris, white good as and recyclables only. No perishable waste, such as household garbage, is allow. A driver license or some other proof of residency, such as a utility bill, is required. No commercial use is allowed.

Boat ramps has reopened at Ainger Creek Park, Butterford Waterway Park, Darst Park, El Jobean Boat Ramp, Harbour Heights Park and Placida Park. The Spring Lake Park boat ramp will be open until Nov. 11 when it will be closed for planned repairs. The boat ramps at Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park, Port Charlotte Beach Park and South Gulf Cove Park remain closed.

All recreation centers and pools, except Port Charlotte Beach Park and pool, are now open for regular operating hours and programming. Port Charlotte Public Library, Englewood Charlotte Library and Punta Gorda Charlotte Library are all open for regular operating hours. Mid-County Regional Library remains closed pending repairs sustained from Hurricane Ian.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Recovery Center is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m., seven days a week at Tringali Park Community Center, 3460 N. Access Road in Englewood. A multi-agency resources center is open at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall, 1441 Tamiami Trail, across the FYE store, to provide local and state resources to support recovery efforts. Hours of operation at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

For additional hurricane recovery information, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/storm.

Barrier islands meeting

The Charlotte County Facilities Management Department is conducting a feasibility study of accessibility to/from the bridgeless barrier islands. The purpose of this study is to seek input from residents and interested parties in the community to determine the need for additional modes of access for people, goods, and/or services between Charlotte County's bridgeless barrier islands and the mainland. These islands include Palm Island, Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island/Thornton Key.

A public meeting regarding the Bridgeless Barrier Islands Accessibility Study is scheduled for 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the Mac V. Horton West County Annex, 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood. Input and questions from residents are encouraged.

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