

Rotary Club of Inverness: A Facelift for Whispering Pines Park Rec Building



Special to the Pioneer
Members of the Inverness Rotary Club who worked on the project and members of the Inverness City Council and staff after the ceremony when a plaque was hung to let the public know who did the hard work. Additional plans are in the works for more work on the building that will require permits to be pulled. Daly & Zilch will be performing that work under contract with the Rotary in the near future.

Park building gets facelift

Rotary Club's efforts mean big changes at recreation building

The recreation building at Whispering Pines Park that hosts many organizations that need a place to meet has needed some repairs for some time, as it had become shop-worn due to the large amount of use that it gets.

That's especially true this time of the year when it houses the Summer

Camp Program for the YMCA of the Suncoast - Citrus County Branch.

With budgets tight for both the city of Inverness, which manages the park, and Citrus County, which financially supports the park, the money to repair the building has not been available.

So the Inverness Rotary Club came to the rescue.

The Inverness Rotary was involved in the creation of the park back in 1979 when then Rotary President Joe Brannen led the club

in helping to create what has become the one of the finest parks in the region. In recognition, the Rotary Club's emblem is imbedded in the two columns at the main entrance to the park.

Current Inverness Rotary President Rob Tessmer - after receiving approval from the city to undertake the facelift of the building - appointed Lace Blue-McLean an active member of the club to spearhead the project.

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Doug Lobel, a past club president, enlisted the help of fellow Rotarian Linda Daly, a member of the Central Citrus

Rotary, who happens to own a construction company with her husband (Daly & Zilch), to help create the project guidelines.

Those plans were then submitted to the Rotary District 6950 Simplified Grant Program. Ultimately, a matching

grant covered half the \$5,000 cost, with Inverness Rotary matching the grant dollar for dollar.

Members of the Rotary provided the physical labor under the watchful eye of the contractor that donated the supervision of new floor-

ing, cabinet upgrades and painting, to name just a few of the things completed by the Rotarians.

The final touch was the redoing of the entry walkway that led to the placing of a plaque on the wall to recognize the efforts of the Rotary.