

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Paving Program

The County has about 2,200 miles of roadway and we can expect a 15 to 20 year life expectancy for paving so we should be paving about 100 to 120 miles per year. The Paving Program can only pave roadways where funding is in place to pave the roadways.

The County's Paving Program typically has two funding sources: 1) Gas Tax (a portion of the tax collected when vehicle fuel is purchased in Charlotte County) is used to build and maintain roadways within the county and 2) Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Street and Drainage Assessment, a non-ad valorem fee collected for each Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). The County collects about \$10 million in Gas Tax and we normally have about \$1.5 million available for maintenance. MSBU paving is dependent on available funds. Typically a Paving Program cannot be put into place until the residents in the District support a rate increase. Street and Drainage Assessments collected in one MSBU cannot be used in another MSBU, so if funding is not available then paving is not done, even if Engineering has recommended a Paving Program.

For years the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU deferred paving maintenance and the roadways continued to deteriorate. Fortunately, the District did approve a rate increase about ten (10) years ago and each year we have about a \$4 million Paving Program. Other Districts like Punta Gorda Non-urban do not have adequate funding and several roadways where pavement has failed continue wait for a Paving Program.

Once the funding is in place the Paving Program Project Manager, James Layport assesses each roadway to determine how the roadway will be resurfaced. The assessment is typically a visual inspection of each roadway, but when the surface distresses indicate a base problem we have to core the roadway to determine what corrective action is necessary for the base. With this information the Project Manager prepares a detailed Roadway Inventory Sheet, which is the basis of the Paving Program Contract. The successful bidder notifies the residents work on their roadway will be starting, they prepare the roadway, do any necessary base repairs, pave the roadway and restore the right-of-way.

Next year's Paving Program will be going to Purchasing in September so work can start in early 2014 and be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Monday, 6/10 (Rain Delay) – 254; Tuesday, 6/11 (Rain Delay) – 348; Wednesday, 6/12 – Rainout; Thursday, 6/13 (Doubleheader/Rain Delay) – 696. The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 93 fans.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Participation is on the rise at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Last week there was a 10% increase in registration for the summer camp and a 100% increase in participation for Drop-In Gym. In other news, participation in Trimmastics, Tae Kwon Do and Table Tennis continue to remain steady. Harold will be adding a new program this week called Bokwa. It is a cardio-fitness program set to music. The class will be introduced on Wednesday and will meet on Mondays from 5:15-6:00pm beginning June 24th.

### Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

For the week of June 9-June 15 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 24 attend the water aerobics classes and 314 paid admissions. The Recreation Center had three rentals with expected attendance of 220.

## **South County Regional Park and Pool**

For the week of 6-12 through 6-18-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 711 paid admissions, was visited by 111 pass holders and had 32 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 400 "splashes." The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 11 swim practices resulting in 600 "splashes." Summer Learn to Swim Session 1 continued resulting in approximately 100 "splashes." Charlotte County Special Olympics held 2 practices resulting in approximately 60 "splashes."

## **Oyster Creek Regional Pool**

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 785 paid admissions, was visited by 97 pass holders and had 119 water aerobics participants. 12 different camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 260 "splashes." The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes." Summer Learn to Swim Session 1 continued resulting in approximately 64 "splashes." The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office held their Jr. Law Academy summer camp June 12, where staff taught the campers water safety practices and basic rescue skills.

## **Libraries and Historical Division**

For all the summer gardeners out there, the Charlotte County Libraries have so much to offer! We have hundreds of books on every aspect of gardening-both indoors and outdoors. We cover vegetable gardens, container gardens and gardens for both new and experienced gardeners. Groundbreaking Reads is the Adult Summer Reading Club and there is a big focus on gardening. July 6th will be a program on "Floral Arranging", and July 13 the Master Gardeners will present a program on "Insect identification and Management". July 20, will be a program to make and take your own herb garden. You are welcome to join us in all of these free programs. They will be presented at the Mid County Regional Library on Saturdays at 10:00a.m. Stop by any Library this summer, beat the heat and enjoy a good book in a great place!

## **Extension Services**

- Newspaper Article for June 17th – "Now Trending in Horticulture – flyers and flowers"
- 5235 The Point - Lemon Bay Point Drive Manasota Key - Landscape Site Visit – 10:30 am – June 17th
- Staff Appreciation Lunch – June 18th – 12 noon
- GI-BMP Training – June 19th – 8 am to 3 pm.
- Extension Staff Meeting – June 20th – 1:30 pm
- Freshwater Wetlands – FMNP- Laishly Marina – 6:00 pm – June 20th
- District IV - Green Team Quarterly Meeting – June 21st – 10 am to 3 pm

## **Facilities and Construction Maintenance**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

Public Works Admin. Bldg. remodel is 75% complete.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool stabilization project is still underway.

Public Works Lighting Bldg. exterior doors replacement is completed.

Englewood Annex impact windows are in and storefronts are on order.

Building B lower roof bids are out and due Wednesday 6/18/2013.

Family Services ADA bathroom remodel is underway.

Franz Ross Park score tower is in permitting.

Hathaway park re-decking is in Engineering.

### **Project Management**

The engineering design work has begun for the additional work requested by Transit.

Rough in plumbing has been installed for the softball field concession building pad for Harold Avenue.

The construction documents are being prepared for the Anger Fishing Pier and Parking.  
The construction documents are being prepared for the Historical Center Rehabilitation.  
The LED light fixtures for the Port Charlotte Beach pool and bocce courts will arrive on 6/19. A pre-construction meeting to coordinate installation

### **Fire/EMS**

Once a month, Charlotte County Firefighters donate their time to cook meals and serve them for the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Their contribution allows them the ability to serve their clients and residents at the homeless coalition. With this commitment they are helping the homeless in our community and the program and services they provide. Each month different firefighters volunteer and have been doing it for 2 years.

Charlotte County Fire / EMS has received donations from Peace River Hospital, Fawcett Hospital, Charlotte Regional Hospital, Dr. Asperilla and Dr. O'Learly the Departments medical director for 7 scholarships for Firemedic personnel to attend the EMS Conference called ClinCon in July. Attending these types of educational conferences helps our team to stay on the cutting edge and provide the most advance care possible to our citizens of Charlotte County.

### **Human Services**

Human Services managers participated in a department workshop on Friday, June 14, 2013 which focused on demonstrating the value of Human Services programs in Charlotte County. Real People, Real Stories, Real Investment will be themed in communicating with staff, customers, and the public. As part of the workshop, managers served lunch and interviewed senior participants at the Senior Friendships Centers' congregate meals program at Harbour Heights to hear their stories. Senior Friendship Centers is a non-profit organization which provides luncheon meals and social activities to eligible seniors at various mealsite facilities in Charlotte County. The majority of the funding for the program comes from federal grants under the Older American's Act through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Senior Choices for Southwest Florida.

### **Public Works**

Two sections of sidewalks were poured on Aaron Street between Coulton Avenue and Austin Avenue and the next sections are being prepared for installation on Aaron between Hepner Avenue and Gladis Avenue.

Maintenance crews completed guardrail replacement, and concrete guard rail post replacement for the Tom Adams Bridge. Another guard rail was replaced at Veterans and Torrington due to an accident. Two mini-basins were installed on the road crossing pipe at Aaron Street. Two catch basins were completed and approx. 3,000 linear feet of line and grade to blend in the swale area on Aaron Street between Coulton and Austin Avenues.

The Public Works Solid Waste Division received notice that the twenty year operational permit for Zemel Road Landfill was deemed complete which means the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be issuing a twenty year permit in the next couple of weeks, valid until 2033. The permit will acknowledge the future expansion area. The total Charlotte County owned facility consists of approximately 640 acres. The current Class I landfill footprint is 108 acres contained within a soil-bentonite slurry wall, and is estimated to have 18 years remaining for expected life. The Landfill is considering a 194.25 acre expansion in the future that would consist of a lined landfill subject to the rules of the FDEP at time of the construction application.

### **Tourism**

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a vacation destination provides a trusted third-party endorsement for potential visitors. Staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau attended the Atlanta Travel Media Meetup in Atlanta last week (June 12) to meet with and pitch Charlotte County story ideas to 20 members of the Atlanta-area media. Attending media represented a variety of local, regional and national print and electronic media. Staff returned with solid leads for potential story placement. The event was offered through the Southeast Tourism Society.