

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Active Construction Projects

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed on Harbor Boulevard from an existing sidewalk close to Midway Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Veterans Boulevard. Design includes crossings at Peachland Boulevard and Quesada Boulevard. This will also provide a link to the newly constructed sidewalk along Midway Boulevard as well as a link to future sidewalks in the Parkside area. This will be an integral part of a network of sidewalks planned for the Port Charlotte Area.

Construction began June 10, 2013 and the contractor is working aggressively on this project. Construction is underway from Veterans Boulevard moving southward towards Harbor Boulevard at this time. Directional bores under all side streets are being installed throughout the entire project. Approximately 300 feet of sidewalk and several driveways have been poured in June 2013. *PSA issued 6/10/13 – expires 12/09/2013: Construction of the Harbor Boulevard Sidewalk, from Veteran's Boulevard to Midway Boulevard, will begin on Monday June 10, 2013. To carry out this work, the contractor may need to shift traffic patterns. There will be traffic signs and flagmen present when needed and citizens are urged to use caution when traveling in this area. Sidewalk construction will continue through December 2013.*

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Rotonda Boulevard Sidewalks (East, North & West) – These three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West.

The Rotonda Boulevard sidewalks, East, North and West, were going to be grouped together as one project when they went out for bid however this plan has been modified; Rotonda Boulevards East and North will be advertised as a single project and Rotonda Boulevard West will go out separately as we are still working through some utility conflicts. The East and North sidewalk project package will enter the procurement process the first week of July 2013.

Sales Tax Year Three (Rio De Janeiro) Sidewalks – A sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Rio De Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard to a future sidewalk on Deep Creek Boulevard. Design includes a connection/crossing to a future sidewalk at Sandhill Boulevard. This is an integral part of a planned sidewalk network in the Deep Creek area.

An FPL Right of Way Consent Agreement is scheduled to go before the BCC for approval on July 23, 2013 granting temporary right of entry to the project site. Conditional approval to construct the project in a known scrub-jay area has been secured. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled June 27, 2013 and construction is projected to begin in August 2013.

Sales Tax Year Three (Sunnybrook) Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed from South Access Road to Boundary Boulevard and will connect to future sidewalks on Oceanspray and Gulfstream ending at a future sidewalk on Boundary Blvd as part of a Safe Routes to School Program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation.

A pre-bid meeting was held June 4, 2013 and bids were opened on June 19, 2013. We are asking the Board of County Commissioners to award the construction contract during their scheduled meeting on July 23, 2013. Construction is projected to begin in August 2013.

## **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: Sunday, 6/23 – 372; Monday, 6/24 – 284; Tuesday, 6/25 – 499.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 79 fans.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

Aloha `auinala (Good afternoon). Last week the campers escaped to the beautiful Island of Hawaii. During their stay they were the guest of Nani Pelekai, her younger sister Lilo and their pet dog name Stitch. During the course of their stay the campers were given an inside look on the culture and cuisine of the island. The campers were also given the opportunity to sing karaoke and see a volcano erupt. On the last night of their stay a luau was given in their honor. Before they departed they all said "Aloha `oe (Farewell to you)" and promised to return again soon. In other news, Trimnastics, Tae Kwon Do and Dog Obedience activities at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

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

For the week of 6-19 through 6-25-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 651 paid admissions, was visited by 121 pass holders and had 19 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 approximately 600 "splashes". Learn to Swim Summer Session 1 continues due to numerous cancellations due to weather resulting in approximately 80 "splashes". Charlotte County Aquatic staff held 2 Special Olympics swim practices resulting in approximately 70 "splashes".

50 Summer Camp kids and 10 staff members attended the first ever Lego Land field trip offered through Summer Camp. The trip was \$40 per child and included the transportation and admission to the park. Campers and staff traveled by charter bus to Winter Haven, Florida. The kids and staff had an amazing day! Staff will take the double the amount of children next summer.

### **Oyster Creek Regional Pool**

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 774 paid admissions, was visited by 102 pass holders and had 121 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer 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 concluded resulting in approximately 60 "splashes".

### **Libraries and Historical Division**

We are in the midst of the fun of the Youth Summer reading Program. Over 900 kids have attended a Summer Reading Program at one of the Charlotte County Libraries. They have held live spiders and alligators, been dazzled by magic tricks and will spend a fun day with dinosaurs. Everyone is invited and the programs are all funded by the Friends of the Charlotte County Libraries. Stop by a library today and join in the fun!

### **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for June 24th – "Slug weather – rain today, slime tomorrow"

Proposed 2014 Tree Event Meeting with Jim Fendrick – 10 am – June 24th

CED PolyCom Meeting – 1 to 3 pm – June 24th – I will have to miss the Manager's Meeting

Master Gardener Radio Show – June 25th – 10 am – WCCF – 1580

UF/IFAS - Country Store – FAC -Tampa Marriot Waterside - Staff Booth and Breakdown booth – June 27th

## **Facilities and Construction Maintenance**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

Approximately seven windows at the Justice Center have been reported to have window leaks when it rains. Staff has identified through water testing that the seals in the windows are deteriorated. This week these windows will receive a wet sealing process to seal and make them weather proof once again.

Public Works Administration Building remodel is now 98% complete.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool project proceeding with fencing ordered for the side entrance area.

Replacement of the Fibertite roofing for the Murdock campus, Building B lower roof will begin in August.

Franz Ross Park score tower replacement project started.

### **Operations**

We are working on a security concern at the Justice Center location by adding a second layer card access system at the entrance to Judges areas on third and fourth floors. This entails a new wall, second secured door, cameras, card readers, phones etc.

### **Project Management**

At Harold Ave Park project the HVAC ductwork is being installed in baseball field concession building.

A draft energy audit report prepared by Siemens was delivered to Facilities on June 12th.

Bayshore Park Restroom has siding being installed.

## **Tourism**

Dr. Stephen Leatherman, aka Dr. Beach, is America's foremost authority on coastal areas, and for over 20 years his highly-anticipated Top Ten Beach List has been unveiled each Memorial Day weekend, launching the best beach of the year into stardom. He makes frequent appearances on the Weather Channel – he's the former director of the National Hurricane Center – and has authored or edited 16 books on all things coastal.

Dr. Beach is very familiar with Charlotte County beaches, in April he included Palm Island as one of the six best beaches in Florida for an article in The Guardian (circ: 204,222). He has developed a concept for a reality television show, Buying Beachfront, and intends to shoot the pilot episode in Charlotte County, on Knight (Palm) Island. Last week (June 25) the County Commission authorized a \$79,000 sponsorship from the Charlotte County Tourism Department's budget, which is generated by the three percent tourist development tax levied on accommodation stays less than six months.

This sponsorship will go toward production of the pilot and a separate three-minute promotional video featuring Dr. Beach extolling the virtues of the county. Production will likely begin later this year.

The pilot will create multiple levels of economic impact to Charlotte County. First will be the money returning to the county to pay for production expenses: crew, lodging, equipment, supplies, services, etc. Next will be the publicity generated during the production and again when the pilot is scheduled to air. Typically a network will run promotional teasers several times an hour up to six weeks before a new show premieres. More publicity will be realized when the show actually airs. Finally, the show itself – with almost 22 minutes devoted almost exclusively to Charlotte County, will air to a national audience. The show will be re-aired multiple times, each time to a national audience, showing them in high-definition detail what a beautiful place this is to live and to visit. Each of these streams, either through direct spending during production, or revenues created from increased visitation as a result of frequent national exposure, will contribute to an increased economic impact on the county.