

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Construction Projects

Bridge Rehabilitation & Maintenance Program – This project represents a comprehensive maintenance program for Charlotte County Bridges. The two year program provides for cyclical maintenance of Bridges and will range from minimal Bridge maintenance to complete Bridge replacement (to be budgeted separately). Currently, three (3) bridges in Northwest Port Charlotte are being reviewed for Slope Pavement repairs/replacement: Bridges 014040, 014047 and 014052.

The BCC approved the award of this contract to Quality Enterprises on July 23, 2013. This project provides for the replacement of five Bridge slope pavements in Northwest Port Charlotte: Two slope pavements located on Eisenhower Avenue over the Cheshire Waterway, two slope pavements located on Chamberlain Boulevard over the Markham Waterway, and one slope pavement located on Eleanor Avenue over the Ingersoll Waterway. The preconstruction meeting is scheduled August 15, 2013.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Burnt Store Road Widening Project Phase Three – This Project consists primarily of engineering design and plan preparation services for the widening of Burnt Store Road, between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road, from a two-lane undivided rural typical section to a four-lane divided suburban typical section. The Project will be comprised of determination of alignment, evaluation of typical section alternatives, stormwater management and drainage improvements, application of access management standards, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, a signalized intersection, (may include street lighting) and utility relocations, additions, and adjustments. Charlotte County Real Estate Services is in the process of acquiring property along Burnt Store Road between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road.

County staff is currently reviewing Construction Bid Documents and anticipates the construction package will be forwarded to the Purchasing Department in August 2013 for preparation of bid solicitation.

Harborview Road Bridge Over DeSoto Canal – This project is to design and construct a replacement for the DeSoto Canal Bridge on Harborview Road approximately 0.35 miles east of Rio de Janeiro Avenue.

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid conference was held July 18, 2013 with bid opening scheduled August 7, 2013. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2013.

Parkside - Elkcam Boulevard Multi Use Path – The Community Development Engineering Division will oversee the Design, Project Management, Inspection Services and Permitting of a 10' multi-use sidewalk with street (shade) trees along the west side of Elkcam Boulevard and decorative trees on the east side. Charlotte County Utilities will construct this project.

The County is currently seeking an Environmental Resource Permit from SWFWMD. The construction and landscape plans are 100% complete pending SWFWMD approval.

A change order was previously added to include landscape design including street trees, irrigation, and associated design specifications. Charlotte County and Johnson Engineering staff met with the Parkside CRA Tree Committee and the following trees were chosen: Street trees - Live Oak, Sweet Gum & Sycamore. Decorative trees: East Palatka Holly, Fringe Tree & Walter Viburnum.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (US 41 to Olean Boulevard) – This project is to conduct a Road Feasibility and Traffic Study (Phase 1) followed by design of roadway improvements (Phase 2) to Harbor Boulevard from US 41, including gateway, to Olean Boulevard. The design will include multi-use paths, curb and gutter, wayfinding, and other amenities.

On July 23, 2013 the Board of County Commissioners approved the Harbor Boulevard Improvements project.

The improvements will consist of a four lane divided roadway to include a 16' – 20' raised median this will provide safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. Currently staff is negotiating with the design consult for the scope and fees for the project.

### **Traffic Signing & Marking accomplishments from July 1 – July 31, 2013**

- Herbicide = 750 objects
- Legends Installed = 154
- New Signs Installed = 5
- Marine Markers Repaired = 27
- Reflective Pavement Markers Installed = 2,847
- Road Striping = 338,274 Linear Feet
- Signs Inspected = 10,208
- Signs Manufactured = 286
- Signs Repaired = 2,331
- Speed Studies = 11
- Traffic Counts = 34 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 10
- Video Detection Counts = 2

### **Replacement of the Harborview Road Bridge over the DeSoto Canal**

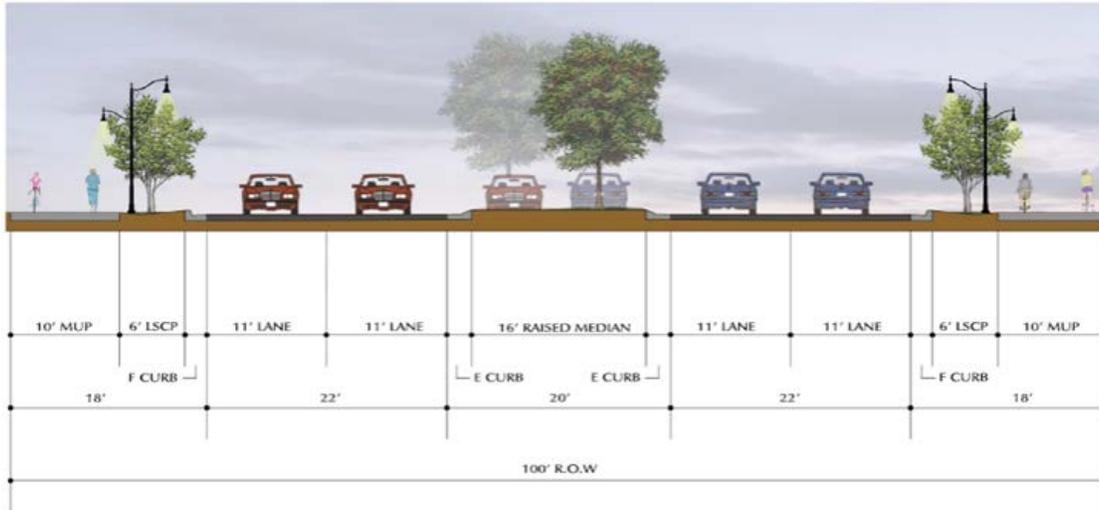
The bridge on Harborview Road (crossing the DeSoto Canal) was built in 1965 and is functionally obsolete. This bridge is located between an Elementary School and a Church near the entrance to Harbour Heights. A chain link fence was added to the old bridge for pedestrian safety, but the new bridge design includes up-to-date pedestrian safety measures including traffic barriers and sidewalks. Approach slabs are features in the new Bridge that the old bridge does not have. Approach slabs connect Bridge decks with the adjoining roadway to provide a smooth transition between the roadway and the Bridge deck.

This project is currently advertised for bid. It is the intent of Charlotte County to secure the services of a Contractor to construct a replacement concrete structure on Harborview Road over the DeSoto Canal, replacing bridge structure 014017, with a precast concrete deck bridge and a temporary bridge with related structures.

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4 LANE TYPICAL CROSS SECTION (ALTERNATIVE #4)



## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Monday, 7/22 – 286; Tuesday, 7/23 – 946; Wednesday, 7/24 – 532.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 130 fans.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Dribble it, Pass it, We want a basket! Week 8 of the Summer Youth Basketball League was completed on Saturday. In this highly competitive league there are only 2 undefeated teams. There is one undefeated team in the 11-12 and 13-15 age brackets. With two weeks remaining in this season it is still anybody's game. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league consists of 10 regular season games and a post season tournament. League practice hours are held inside of the Harold Avenue Recreation Center Gymnasium from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Games are held on Fridays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

For the week of July 21 – July 27 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 48 attend the water aerobics classes and 250 paid admissions. The Recreation Center rental facilities remains closed to the public while new floors are installed. The office remains open.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-24 through 7-30-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 586 paid admissions, was visited by 111 pass holders and had 43 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approx. 500 "splashes." Learn to swim Summer Session 3 continued with 52 students participating in 11 different courses. Staff held one Special Olympics practice resulting in approximately 30 "splashes." One practice was cancelled due to poor weather. Moonlight Movie number 2 was held and 110 people attended. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 10 swim practices resulting in approximately 600 "splashes."

Summer Camp 2013 ends on August 2, 2013. Overall it was a very successful and fun summer with only a few minor incidents. Staff is preparing for the end of fiscal year 2012/2013 and working on planning and programming for the Fall season. The Punta Gorda Police Dept. is wrapping up their free summer youth basketball league "The Jammers" on August 3rd. They have been using the recreation as their home base for the duration of their season.

## **Oyster Creek Regional Pool**

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 840 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 72 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 250 "splashes." Learn to swim Summer Session 3 continued with 11 students participating in 3 different courses. Moonlight Swim number 2 was held and 174 people participated. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes." Lemon Bay High School began their conditioning by holding 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 40 "splashes."

### **Extension Services**

- Newspaper Article for July 29 – "Pigeon peas are not for the birds"
- 3rd Quarter Business Meeting – Community Services – Mid-County Library – July 29
- Extension Staff Meeting – 3 pm – July 29
- East Port Campus Partners to discuss Facility Items – 9 a.m. – August 2
- 4-H Congress – Gainesville – July 29 to August 4

### **Libraries and Historical**

Charlotte County Library and Historical Division have had an amazing year celebrating "VIVA FLORIDA 500", with over 30 events that we have already celebrated. "Florida in the Civil War; Skirmish on the Myakka" is another opportunity to help us celebrate 500 years of Florida history. This was a little known skirmish between Union forces and the south Florida home guard units. October 30, at 2p.m. come and enjoy this presentation at the newly renovated Englewood-Charlotte Library, 3450 North Access Rd, Englewood, Fl. For more information call the Charlotte County Historical Center at 941-629-7278.

On 9/4/13 the Libraries will be celebrating their new e-book collections and new kiosks in each library location to select titles from. Our collection will debut with about 25,000 titles with more added monthly. Titles may be selected online or in the libraries at the kiosks at no charge. This collection of titles is focused on leisure reading and staff will be available to assist with any questions. Come visit a local library and see what is new!

The library survey is very important to help us plan for the future of libraries in Charlotte County. We have had over 2,000 people step forward and fill out a survey either online or in one of our libraries. The survey can be completed by picking up a bright yellow survey at the library or filling it out on our website. We want to hear from all of you as we focus on the next five years.

We are always in need of volunteers and we have something for every interest. The new historical Archive needs volunteers to help process and receive materials. The Historical Center on Bayshore Rd need volunteers to process and digitize materials to preserve our history. All of the County Libraries need help, shelving, making phone calls, in our book stores, greeting people and many other tasks. We would love to have you come join us! Call 941-613-3201 or visit any library or the Historical Center.

## **Facilities and Construction Maintenance**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

The month of July is coming to a close but our technicians continue to work hard to keep our parks clean, safe and in prime condition. Our plumbers were recently at The Oyster Creek Park in Englewood doing necessary maintenance in the restrooms at the Skateboard Park and technicians were at Carmalita Park in Punta Gorda repairing door hinges. Similarly the parking meter at Ainger Creek Park in Placida needed and received some repair as it was not accepting coins.

Our technicians' expertise was needed at the Charlotte Sport Park on El Jobean. As is often the case with outside doors in the summer and rainy season, the door to the clubhouse stuck and had to be slammed shut. Our guys were out there correcting the problem so that door opens, closes, and locks correctly. It was also reported that the elevator in the clubhouse had standing water. The technicians removed the water, found the source and corrected the problem. We repaired a loose railing in section 101 and the water in the first base concession.

Have you driven down Bayshore Road lately and seen all the improvements and additions? The new playground is great and is already seeing a lot of use. The new restroom near the playground is now open and aesthetically pleasant to the eye. At the Historical Center, the technicians replaced the mail post and box.

The pools and surrounding buildings in Charlotte County are always maintained at the highest level. Our technicians recently repaired a leak under a sink in the Oyster Creek Park Pool Building in Englewood, repaired a pump at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex Pool and made repairs on the faucets in the women restroom at South City Reg. Park Recreation Center.

Our technicians always respond quickly and efficiently to maintain the beauty of all of our county's parks and pools. Thanks guys for your continued efforts and hard work.

### **Operations**

Charlotte County Sheriff Office fire suppression bid was won by United Fire and is in scheduling.

### **Project Management**

As part of our ongoing energy efficiency program, Phase III of the Sheriff's Administration LED lighting retrofit will begin the week of August 5th.

### **Public Works**

A Maintenance & Operations crew installed new bicycle racks at nine school bus stops located throughout South Gulf Cove as requested by the Advisory Committee and paid for by the MSBU.

The mid-County drainage crew completed the line and grade on Skylark Lane from Gentry Avenue past Garfield Avenue in the Greater Port Charlotte area. The south-County shoulder repair crew finished 2.4 miles on Washington Loop Road. The drainage crew cleared 12,000 square feet in Deep Creek on Santarem Circle and Yachtsman Lane, and replaced 24 feet of drive pipe on Yachtsman Lane.

The Municipal Service District Representatives met with MSBU Advisory Committees from the Northwest Port Charlotte Street & Drainage district and Mid-Charlotte Stormwater Unit district.

### **Tourism**

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination assists the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in stretching its marketing dollars. The Bureau hosted five Florida-based travel and food journalists during an educational media familiarization trip July 29 – Aug. 1. The trip's theme focused on the County's culinary aspects including food production. The Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside hosted the group and activities included a buggy tour with Babcock Wilderness Adventures, a sunset cruise with King Fisher Fleet, visits to the Charlotte County Jail to learn about the aquaculture program, Waterworks Bee & Honey Farm to view the beekeeping operation, Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary during feeding time, a hands-on cooking class with Pies & Plates and of course, dining in some of the area's best eateries. Although the journalists are Florida-based, they write for regional and nationally read publications.