

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Administration/PIO

### Community Development

#### Active 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 Board of County Commissioners (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 Notice to Proceed was issued for September 16, 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. 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. The construction bid documents are currently with the Purchasing Department for technical specification review. When the package is deemed complete it will placed on the Purchasing website with bidding information.

**Edgewater Drive Widening Phase Two** – This project will widen Edgewater Drive, between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard, to a four-lane arterial roadway, designed to better serve the central portion of the County and accommodate anticipated traffic growth in the corridor. The project will include replacing three bridges (West Spring Lake Waterway, East Spring Lake Waterway, and Sunrise Waterway) and improving five intersections, four of which will be roundabouts. Improvements include a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks/bike lanes, and landscaping.

100% design plans have been received and are under review, except for the Roadway Lighting and Harbor Boulevard signalization plans, which have conflicts with FPL facilities. Once the revised plans are submitted they will be reviewed; when the review is complete the package will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. Charlotte County Utilities' staff submitted Permit Applications for the construction of the proposed water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The BCC approved a change order to include a round-about in the design of the West Tarpon Intersection; the revised design requires a permit modification. Construction is estimated to begin in March 2014.

**GPC Bridge Rehab – Sheehan Blvd Over Yale Waterway** – This project will rehabilitate the existing Bridge on Sheehan Boulevard over the Yale Waterway. The existing Bridge was built in 1968 therefore the Bridge deck and rails are substandard. Sales Tax Funds will supplement MSBU Funds allowing for the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge. The rehabilitation will widen the structure to accommodate sidewalks, replace the bridge deck and install a barrier wall. 90% design plans have been received and are being reviewed. Construction is estimated to begin in early 2014.

**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.

The Pre-Bid Conference was held July 18, 2013 and the Bid Opening was held August 7, 2013. The construction contract is going before the BCC on September 10, 2013 to award and execute this project to the lowest

responsive, responsible bidder. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2013.

**Parkside – Aaron Street Sidewalks** – This sidewalk will be installed on Aaron Street from an existing sidewalk on Gertrude Avenue to an existing sidewalk on Harbor Boulevard. This design will link a large network of sidewalks that already exist and that are planned for the Parkside area.

This project is on hold until funding has been allocated.

**Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (US 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 1** – 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. Phase 1 of the Parkside-Harbor Boulevard Improvement project is complete.

**Tom Adam's Bridge** – Phase 2 of the Tom Adams Bridge Rehabilitation will replace the tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The proposed tender house will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the bridge tender's view is obstructed. Design consultants are preparing construction plans and permit applications.

The 60% design plans have been reviewed and the consultant has begun preparation of the 90% plans. Renderings from the Public Meeting held January 16, 2013 are available on the Project Status Updates Web site. Construction is projected to begin in January 2014.

**Traffic Signing & Marking** accomplishments from August 1 – August 27, 2013

- Herbicide = 7082 signs/guardrails
- Legends Installed = 372
- New Signs Installed = 22
- Marine Markers Repaired = 19
- Reflective Pavement Markers Installed = 627
- Road Striping = 274,371 Linear Feet (51.9 Miles)
- Signs Inspected = 5,869
- Signs Manufactured = 228
- Signs Repaired = 1,141
- Speed Studies = 16
- Traffic Counts = 33 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 7
- Maintenance of Traffic Reviews = 11
- Clipping = 32,358 Linear Feet (6.1 Miles)

## **Community Services**

### **Charlotte Sports Park**

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted a five (5) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the attendance: Wednesday, 8/21 (Doubleheader) – 278; Thursday, 8/22 – Rained out; Friday, 8/23 (Rain Delay) – 551; Saturday, 8/24 (Rain Delay/Game Cancelled) – 752; Sunday, 8/25 (Rain Delay) – 240.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 85 fans.

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted a meeting on Wednesday, 8/21, in the hospitality

suites at the Charlotte Sports Park from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The estimated attendance at this meeting was 30 people.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

V-I-C-T-ORY, that's the champion's battle cry! The Youth Basketball Championships were completed on Saturday. The atmosphere was charged as both spectators and participants cheered their teams on with hopes of a victory. Congratulations goes out to the 2013 Youth Basketball Summer League Champions: the Bulls (9-10 Division), the Heat (11-12 Division), the Pelicans (13-14 Division), and Syracuse (15-17 Division). The Harold Avenue Recreation Center Staff would like to thank all the participants, volunteers and their families for a job well done.

### **Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool**

For the week of August 18 –August 24 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 90 attend the water aerobics classes and 172 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 8-21 through 8-27-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 161 paid admissions, was visited by 121 pass holders and had 33 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim session 4 continue due to numerous cancellations for poor weather. Charlotte High School Swim & Dive held 8 practices resulting in approximately 400 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 9 practices resulting in approximately 500 "splashes". In addition, Charlotte High School held their annual back to school splash party 8-21 with approximately 200 students attending. Special Olympics was cancelled due to poor weather.

### **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool**

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 257 paid admissions, was visited by 107 pass holders and had 57 water aerobics participants. Learn to swim session 4 continues as staff tries to complete lessons cancelled due to storms. The Lemon Bay High School held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes". Lemon Bay High School held their annual back to school splash party resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

### **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for August 26th – "Yes, you can grow tomatoes"

Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) Conference, Ponte Vedra Beach – August 26th to the 30th - Betty and Ralph in attendance, Pam will be in the office.

### **Libraries and Historical**

September is " Library Card Sign Up Month" and Kingfisher Fleet in Punta Gorda is offering free coupons for their Sunset Cruise for each person that gets a new Library Card. It must be a new, first time Library card and coupons are located at each Library-Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, Englewood Charlotte and Mid-County.

Sunday September 8th is International Literacy Day-admission is waived for anyone who has a library card, a book checked out from the library or donates a new or gently used family friendly book at any state park in Florida.

176 Adult readers took part this year in our Summer Reading Clubs at the Charlotte County Libraries. The kids had so much fun that the adults asked to join in. The Friends of the Libraries gave funding for prizes and many local merchants donated great gifts and gift cards. Programs were offered weekly and the most popular one was "How to Make Refreshing Smoothies". A great time was had by all and this was our 2nd year offering this program. Join us next summer!!

## **Facilities Construction and Maintenance**

Repair and Maintenance      Take me out to the ball park, at least for a little longer. The regular baseball season is soon coming to a close. Fortunately for the Charlotte County Community we have the Rays and spring training to look forward to. Our technicians diligently work to keep the sports complex at tip top shape for your enjoyment and the overall enhancement of the game.

Three (3) water heaters two on the major league side and one (1) on the minor league side were not working properly so our technicians made the repairs, drained and internally cleaned them.

The lights and fan in the women's restroom was malfunctioning turning on and off and flashing. This was caused by a faulty motion relay. Upon the replacement of the relay and installation of new lamps in every fixture proper lighting and ventilation was restored.

What is one of the best things about going to the ball park, well ball park franks of course? Well, imagine the freezer at the commissary not working properly and endangering the serving of this delicacy. One might think this might be a simple fix. However, our HVAC technician found and repaired a faulty wire on the reset defrost clock, adjusted the CPR valve\*, vacuumed and recharged the unit and then went back to check and verify the temperatures to assure all was working correctly. Rest assured you may have your ball park frank and eat it to.

So, take me out the ball park, buy me some peanuts, cracker jacks, and a ball park frank and let me enjoy America's game.

\*CPR (crankcase pressure regulator) refrigeration valves are used in low temp freezers. It limits the amount of refrigerant allowed into the compressor keeping it from overload.

Operations      Starting this week Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department has Fire Sprinkler Inspections being performed at various buildings throughout the Charlotte County. These are inspections are conducted semiannual to insure our systems are up to Fire Code Compliance and in good functioning order at all times.

Project Management      Electrical Solutions will begin retrofitting the Sheriffs Administration office with LED lighting this week. The work will be done in several offices, common areas and the 911 call center.

As a result of grant money received, the parking lot previously paved with crushed shell was paved and re-graded. To increase security, fencing and better, more cost efficient lighting was added.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Connect Sports Marketplace conference in Milwaukee, WI, Aug. 22-24 which offered a combination of networking and educational sessions with over 150 national governing bodies and events rights holders in attendance. As a result of meeting one on one with more than two dozen event organizers, the Bureau received four RFP's as well as host site specifications from 11 other sports rights holders. In addition, further details were addressed in the process of securing both an IDSA Skateboard event (to be held in conjunction with the Hands Across the Harbor race in January) and a YBOA Basketball tournament being proposed for April/May 2014.

Charlotte County Tourist Development Council member Capt. Ralph Allen of King Fisher Fleet received three Excellence in Craft awards (first place) for his writing during the annual Florida Outdoor Writers Association conference held at Westgate River Ranch Resort last month (Aug. 20 – 24). Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the conference to reinforce relationships with outdoor communicators and remind them about the Charlotte County's recreation and tourism offerings. The conference included an exhibitor showcase, craft improvement and story maker sessions and an awards banquet.