

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

Charlotte County Community Development has been successful in maintaining its current rating under the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. This tri-annual review assesses how well the local Building Department enforces the building codes. The rating given to the jurisdiction has an impact on the cost of homeowners insurance in the County. Ratings vary from 10 to 1 with 1 being the highest, Charlotte County is rated at a grade three for both residential and commercial construction and is above the average for both the State and nationwide.

## Active Construction Projects

Buena Vista Waterway Maintenance Dredging – (Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway MSBU) The Contractor began dredging the Sunrise Waterway. The sand from that area will be added to the beach at the Charlotte County Beach Complex. Upon completion they will dredge the mouths of the three other canals and temporarily place the dredged material on County property located on Lister Street which will be trucked to the landfill.

Desoto Ditch Bank Stabilization – Subsequent to clearing the canal banks, it was discovered that the slopes had degraded resulting in erosion. Design and reconstruction of the slopes is necessary to prevent future degradation. Construction of the northernmost 300' of the ditch was completed March 1, 2013 prior to Florida Scrub Jay nesting season. Construction resumed on the north end in August and began with Gopher Tortoise relocations. The completion date is Feb. 1, 2014.

Northwest Port Charlotte Exterior Channel Dredging – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system and connecting them to the Myakka River navigation channel. Construction began July 17, 2013 and will continue through Jan. 2014. Dredging is underway in the Apollo Waterway and the Main access channel.

Rampart Boulevard Improvement Project Phase 2: (Kings Hwy to Kings Gate Entrance) – Construction continues east of the intersection to Kings Gate entrance. Traffic has been switched to the new west bound lanes while the contractor works on the east bound lanes. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2013.

South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping – (South Burnt Store Street and Drainage MSBU) This project is to provide beautification and enhance entries to Burnt Store Lakes, including installation of landscaping and decorative lighting at the request of the property owners within the South Burnt Store MSBU. Trees have been planted and the light boxes are forthcoming. Contract is for 150 days with a completion date of Dec. 5, 2013.

## Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – The purpose of this project is to widen CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from SR 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Charlotte County received the 60% Bridge design plans for review. Permitting and design is projected to be completed in early 2014 with construction beginning in the summer of 2014.

Gardens of Gulf Cove Sidewalks – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle. 100% design plans and bid specifications are expected Sept. 21, 2013. Bid Documents are projected to be in the Purchasing Department in mid-October 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation.

## Coastal Projects

South Gulf Cove Turn Basin – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock, the

only existing location for vessels with any substantial size and draft to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Preliminary plans have been reviewed and commented on. Meetings with the Permitting Agencies were productive and the consultant is in the process of compiling the permit application.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – This project provides for continued monitoring as required by permitting for dredging of Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. Easements associated with the project are being re-established. An FDEP funding agreement is scheduled to go before the BCC for approval on September 10, 2013 which will provide grant funds to supplement County funds for erosion control. We are also looking to utilize Restore Act Funds when those funds become available.

Rotonda West Bridge Lighting – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested electricity to five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Boulevard East, Boulevard West, Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. The MSBU Committee met with County staff on Sept. 4, 2013 and approved the plans and specifications as submitted. Bid documents are expected to be in the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation in mid-September 2013.

Rotonda West Drainage Study – This drainage study is being conducted at the request of the Rotonda MSBU Advisory Committee. The study includes data gathering, modeling of the existing drainage system, and recommended drainage improvements. The final drainage study report has been received by the County. Authorization was received from the MSBU committee for the consultants to start on Task 2 of the scope of services which includes developing an improvement plan to existing conditions and a project budget analysis which is underway. Staff met with the consultant to discuss the Task 2 draft report. The report will be presented at the next Rotonda West MSBU meeting in September 2013.

Rotonda West Entrance Way Signs – This project will provide new signs at seven (7) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit. 100% design plans and technical specifications are under review. Staff met with the MSBU committee on September 4, 2013 and the MSBU committee is moving forward with the plans and specifications as submitted. Bid documents are underway and will be sent to the Purchasing Department for bid solicitation in mid-September. Construction is estimated to begin in the fall of 2013.

## **Community Services**

### **Charlotte Sports Park**

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted two (2) games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the attendance: Thursday, 8/29 – 1155; Friday, 8/30 (Fireworks) – 2391.

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League (GCL) concluded on Thursday, 8/29.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Florida Burn Fall Camp from 8/31 – 9/01. They utilized a total of four fields each day with an estimated attendance of 400.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

On this past Thursday, a captain's meeting was held for the Adult Women's Flag Football League. Over 4 teams were represented. Under the supervision of Recreation Specialist Stafford Milligan, 4 team representatives along with 1 league official set up the rules and regulations for the upcoming season. Kick-off is scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at the Franz Ross Park Football Field. In other news, Participation in regularly scheduled activities at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

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

For the week of August 25 – August 31 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 40 attend the water aerobics classes

and 102 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 8-28 through 9-3-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 329 paid admissions, was visited by 114 pass holders and had 41 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Summer Session 4 was finally completed and staff is now gearing up for Learn to Swim Fall session 1. Charlotte High Schools Swim & Dive Team held 8 swim practices resulting in approximately 400 "splashes". CHS Swim & Dive also held their first swim meet of the season 8-29-13, where approximately 75 swimmers and their families attended. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes".

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

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 303 paid admissions, was visited by 99 pass holders and had 98 water aerobics participants. Lemon Bay High School Swim & Dive team held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes". LA Ainger Middle School band held a fund raiser at the pool Saturday 8-31 and approximately 100 students attended.

### **Libraries and Historical**

E books are now in the Charlotte County Libraries and on our web site! You can visit any Library and use our new browsing kiosks to select titles and send them right to your preregistered device or you can select titles online. You may select 4 titles for up to 2 weeks. At the end of the loan period the titles will automatically release from your device back to our holdings.

We will be offering a new service "Advice for Your Device". If you need help setting up the new 3M Cloud Library on your device you could stop in at any library and get some free help to get you started. Hours vary at each library for this service, so check with any library or call 941-766-7323.

The Youth Services Dept. at the Mid-County Library has recently upgraded the furniture in the dept. to create "reading" and "discovery" zones. Stop by with your children and discover the new areas!

## **Facilities Construction and Maintenance**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

The students are back to school, the libraries are in full swing assisting all members of Charlotte County, the parks are utilized and snow bird season is coming. Our technicians remain ever vigilant assuring the county facilities are in the best possible condition.

The Charlotte Regional Park on 1185 O'Donnell Boulevard, Port Charlotte requested help in the soccer restrooms. There was a sink that was loose from a wall bracket creating a definite hazard. A county technician remounted the sink using angle brackets and caulked it back in. Liability avoided.

Our Charlotte Sports Park (CSP) required the expertise of our technicians. Our HVAC unit was called in to adjust the temperature up six (6) degrees for the walk-in cooler. This request was pursuant to requirements set by the Health Department. Thanks to our HVAC technicians this adjustment was completed. Like we said last week, your ballpark franks are safe. And what goes best with ballpark franks, well ice cream of course. But the ice cream was melting, our HVAC unit to the rescue. The technician re-adjusted the temperature and reset it to -19 DEGF saving our cool treats.

Our work was not done at the CSP. On those hot summer and fall nights at the ball park, beer, consumed responsibly of course, tastes good. One of the keg coolers at the tiki bar was not running cold enough to serve that ice cold beer. Our HVAC technician repaired the inner side wall which was created during the loading of beer kegs for a better seal and adjusted the charge. Ice cold beer is now being served.

Still at CSP it was reported that early in the morning there was a loud tapping noise coming from the top of the Major League side garage and the floor in the garage was wet with condensation. This problem required the combined efforts of our facilities and HVAC technicians. Our technician went on site and noticed condensate moisture on the floor by doors leading into a storage area in the club house. He referred the job to our HVAC techs. The HVAC Tech opened the RA dampers (used to control the flow through an air handler and duct work) to check the RTU (Roof Top Unit). The end result was that all ducts and returns were evaluated and reset as needed according to the default plans. The unit is now functioning properly and quietly.

Tringali Park at 3460 McCall Road in Englewood also required the expertise of our HVAC team. The thermostat at the Community Center was set at 71 degrees. Our technicians came in and reset the thermostats to allow the temperatures to be adjusted to a higher setting when all activity was completed based on the county's standard operating procedures.

### **Operations**

"A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assessment of the Justice Center was conducted on August 29th by DHS Officials from Tampa, Utah, and West Virginia . The purpose of the inspection was to examine physical security practices and systems currently in place at the Justice Center , and provide options for consideration aimed at addressing all identified vulnerabilities. This DHS team is providing a follow-on assessment intended to compliment an earlier assessment conducted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) conducted back in June. The result of the DHS assessment are due in 90 days. The combined results of the two assessments are expected to provide a list of items - some that may need to be addressed immediately, and others that will require long range planning and significant capital expenditure. A recently formed Security Working Group at the Justice Center is expected to study all the options provided, and make recommendations for prioritization later this year."

### **Project Management**

The Harold Avenue concession buildings are progressing on schedule.

### **Human Services**

The Human Services Department completed and submitted the Request for Proposal for the provision and delivery of case management and other supportive in home services for seniors in Charlotte County funded under the Federal Older American's Act. Grant funds received are approximately \$350,000 annually.

County staffs from the Transit Division, Fiscal Services Division and the Metropolitan Planning Organization met with their counterparts and with representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation in Sarasota to discuss the Latent Demand Study, grant funding sources, future partnerships and service delivery connectivity. It was a cordial and productive meeting. Agreement was made to meet quarterly to pursue coordination and transit service opportunities.

### **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Fishermen's Village and Palm Island Resort, hosted a group of 30 meeting and travel planners in a suite during the Tampa Bay Rays vs. Los Angeles Angels game on August 29 at Tropicana Field. This function provided valuable networking opportunities to educate buyers from the Greater Tampa feeder market as to what Charlotte County has to offer in terms of meeting space, lodging, group tour opportunities, and attractions. During the function, the Bureau received a commitment from the Helms Briscoe Regional Vice President to personally visit our destination as well as assist us in the implementation of subsequent site visits by other Helms Briscoe associates throughout the state. Helms Briscoe is the largest 3rd party meeting planning company in the United States with over 80 associates based in Florida representing hundreds of clients across various markets. As part of the County's partnership with the Rays, use of the suite and the majority of the food and beverage were provided in-kind.