

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Active Construction Projects

**Bridge Rehabilitation & Maintenance Program** – This two year program allows for cyclical Bridge maintenance of Charlotte County bridges and may be extended if funding allows. Five Bridge slope pavements are scheduled to be replaced 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. Construction contract was awarded to Quality Enterprises and construction began on Sept. 16, 2013. Completion time is 75 calendar days. The first of the five bridge slope pavement repairs are underway; demolition is complete on Eleanor Avenue over the Ingersoll Waterway.

**Harborview Road Bridge Over DeSoto Canal** – This project is to design and construct a replacement Bridge over the DeSoto Canal on Harborview Road approximately 0.35 miles east of Rio de Janeiro Avenue. The new Bridge will be constructed with a precast concrete deck and a temporary bridge with related structures. This construction contract was awarded to Own Ames Kimball. The preconstruction meeting was held Sept. 25, 2013 and construction will begin Nov. 18, 2013. Completion time is approx. 365 days.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

**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. The design team is working to resolve conflicts with FPL facilities. Once the review is complete and conflicts are resolved, 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 reviewed. The design team is making corrections/revisions to the plans. Revised 90% design plans are scheduled to be submitted by Oct. 15, 2013 and construction is estimated to begin in early 2014.

**Parkside - Elkcarn 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 Elkcarn 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. Construction documents are being completed and will be provided to CCU to include within their construction ready bid plans by the end of September 2013.

**Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (US 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2** – The Road Feasibility and Traffic Study (Phase 1) is complete on Harbor Boulevard from US 41 to Olean Boulevard. Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for 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. Staff members are negotiating the scope and fees with Johnson Engineering to begin Phase 2 design.

**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. The 90% design plans have been received and are under review. Construction is projected to begin in early 2014.

### **Traffic Signing & Marking** accomplishments from Aug. 24 – Sept. 24, 2013

- Herbicide = 2910 signs/guardrails
- Legends Installed = 162
- New Signs Installed = 10
- Reflective Pavement Markers Installed = 1,542
- Road Striping = 260,596 Linear Feet (49.35 Miles)
- Signs Inspected = 8,709
- Signs Manufactured = 387
- Signs Repaired = 2,316
- Speed Studies = 11
- Traffic Counts = 46 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 18
- Roadway Edge Scraping = 29,220 Linear Feet (5.5 Miles)
- Video Detection Counts = 2
- Road Under Water signs placed on 9/24/13 = 65 locations

## **Community Services**

### **Charlotte Sports Park**

The Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League (IL) played three (3) games at the Charlotte Sports Park last week. Estimated attendance was as follows: 9/17 – 40; 9/20 – 25; 9/21 – 35.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

Harold Avenue Recreation Center has shown an increase in building rentals. On last week the Center hosted the Saint Charles Borromeo Catholics School's volleyball game. As a result, Harold Avenue Recreation Center was exposed to approximately 50 participants and their supporters. In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

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

The weather cooperated with the pool again this week! As you can see attendance is up from the previous week! For the week of Sept. 15 – Sept. 21 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 36 attend the water aerobics classes, 190 paid admissions, and 35 pass holders visited our pool.

The Recreation Center was equally busy. We had a Baby Shower on Saturday, Sept.14, 2013 with 30 guests in attendance and another on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> with 40 guests in attendance. During the week we had

three rentals and on Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, Charlotte County Historical Society held their Lobster Bake Fundraiser here with 200 guests in attendance. Our park was busy with a pavilion rental too!

Looking ahead we will host Emergency Management and C.E.R.T. Training with an expected 30 in attendance, and a wedding and reception with 150 in attendance.

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

All the garden plots have been filled with gardeners for the season. 14 people were taken off the waiting list for the new year with a total of 28 gardeners for the season.

For the week of 9-18 through 9-24-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 80 paid admissions, was visited by 77 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Fall session 1 continued with 4 classes and 20 students. Charlotte High School Swim & Dive team held 7 practices resulting in 350 "splashes". In addition, CHS Swim & Dive team also held their annual Tarpon Invitational swim meet Saturday with over 400 swimmers from 16 different schools and their families attend. Total attendance is estimated at 700. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 250 "splashes".

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

Oyster Creek Regional Pool had 114 paid admissions, was visited by 74 pass holders and had 69 water aerobics participants. Lemon Bay High School Swim & Dive Team held 4 practices resulting in approximately 160 "splashes". LBHS cancelled a swim meet 9-19 due to poor weather. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 200 "splashes".

### **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for Sept. 23 – "Wow – those berries are beautiful!"

CED PolyCom Meeting – 1 to 3 pm – Sept. 23

Master Gardener Radio Show – WCCF – 1580 – 10 to 11 am – Ralph and Master Gardeners – Sept. 24

Meeting with Karen Headlee – Displaced Agent from Lee County – Sept. 24 – 2:30 pm

"What is Bugging My Plants!" - Dr. Fred Santana – September 25<sup>th</sup> – 10 am to 12 noon – CEU's available

District IV Green Team Meeting - Historic Spanish Point in Sarasota County from 9:30 am - 3:00pm – Sept. 27

### **Libraries and Historical**

The Mid-County Regional Library concluded its four part series, *Tuesdays with Woody* on Tuesday, September 24. Over the course of the month four Woody Allen films –*Love and Death*, *Annie Hall*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*—were screened and discussed. An average of 15 people attended each film screening. The series also highlighted Allen's contribution as a filmmaker, as well as examining common themes in many of his movies.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

A number of our technicians completed a project at Ainger Creek Park at 2035 Placida Road in Placida. They were asked to renovate the finger piers and observation deck. Our men inspected all components of the piers and installed new stringers and mechanical connectors. They used Trex® decking to optimize the natural beauty and durability of the piers.



At the Punta Gorda Library at 424 W Henry Street, a work order came in to move a water heater and two sections of cabinets. Our technicians were called in to assess the water heater and to disconnect the heater and sink supplies. They capped off the water lines and drain inside the wall and created a new preparation area for the staff.

Charlotte Harbor Event Center staff at 75 Taylor Street in Punta Gorda reported a leaking toilet in women's restroom. Our technician assessed the problem and installed a new flush-o-meter. This device is used for flushing toilets that utilize pressure from the water supply system.

The Franz Ross Park at 19355 Quesada Blvd in Port Charlotte required the work of one of our technicians, the light push buttons on both courts were making a "loud buzzing noise" when activated. Our technician ran tests, found a faulty contactor and immediately replaced it.

A work order came in for the Building Construction Services at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte to spray for black widow spiders laying eggs. These spiders created a safety hazard near the entrance. Our department called in an exterminator who was on site the next day to spray.

The Port Charlotte Beach Complex needed preparation work for a new phone line at the beach house. A trench was cut in the concrete across the entrance and 3/4" tubing was laid for wiring. After sidewalk was re-cemented the complex was now ready for installation.

### **Operations**

Several Facilities Buildings require commercial kitchen hood systems to be inspected semi-annually. Our Fire Extinguisher and Suppression Contractor is currently inspecting these systems and making sure these hoods are clean and are in proper working order to be able to protect life and property in an event of a cooking fire.

### **Tourism**

As the media landscape changes, destinations have additional outlets to share their marketing messages. For instance, VISIT FLORIDA has partnered with Google to map all 825 miles of Florida's beaches including Charlotte County's beaches. Trekkers are outfitted with a 40-pound backpack which has a blue-orb with 15 cameras. The purpose is to create panoramic views of every beach in the state similar to Google's Street View function and will show potential visitors the beauty of Charlotte County beaches. Embracing the new digital world, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is working with more online influencers (those with online magazines, blogs, and active on social media channels as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube) to share the County's tourism marketing message. For instance, the Bureau hosted five members of the media representing online magazines and blogs the end of July which has already resulted in a dozen articles online. Prior to the popularity of electronic publications, destinations had to wait anywhere from a month to two years for an article to be published.

### **Utilities (CCU)**

The East Port Lab just received the final report for their microbiology proficiency study. They obtained 100% for both wastewater fecal coliform and drinking water total coliform. Achieving this proficiency at our lab will result in faster test results and savings of over \$30k annually compared to outside lab costs. Thanks.