

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Active Construction Projects (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

**Sidewalks - Harbor Boulevard** – This sidewalk has been 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. The contractor only has minor items to complete including some grading, sod work, ADA mats and handrail. This project will be complete by Dec. 25, 2013.

**Sidewalks - Rio De Janeiro Avenue** – A sidewalk is being installed from an existing sidewalk on Rio De Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard to a newly constructed sidewalk on Deep Creek Boulevard. Design includes a connection/crossing to a newly constructed sidewalk at Sandhill Boulevard. The contractor has completed the majority of work between Rampart Boulevard and Sandhill Boulevard, and is currently working between Sandhill Boulevard and Deep Creek Boulevard. This project will be complete in early January 2014.

**Sidewalks - Sunnybrook Boulevard** – This sidewalk has been installed from South Access Road to Boundary Boulevard. The contractor has completed most of the work—items remaining include grade work, sodding, and ADA mats. This project is projected to be completed by the end of December 2013.

**US 41 Micro Tunnels / Weirs** – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South US 41 Access Roads, within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road. Construction began on Elmira Boulevard at the Pompano Waterway, but is on hold at this time as work is shifting to the US 41 Access Road locations. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

**Sidewalks – Sheehan Boulevard** – This sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Peachland Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Noble Terrace. Design includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk at Alton Road. We are working with Charlotte County Utilities to include water facility improvements in conjunction with this project. Pedestrian facilities will be added to the Bridge on Sheehan Boulevard. Design/permitting is complete. The construction start date is pending Engineering Inspector availability and is the next sidewalk project that will enter the bid process as soon as an inspector becomes available.

**Regarding the following five sidewalk projects, in the indicated stages of design/permitting:** The original allocation of \$10,000,000 for sidewalks from sales tax funding is close to being spent. A determination is forthcoming on which sidewalks will be constructed with the remaining funds. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Sidewalks – County Road 74** – A sidewalk may be constructed on County Road 74 from US 17 to Westminster Street in the Charlotte Ranchettes. Design includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk at US 17. Permitting and design is complete.

**Sidewalks – Ellicot Circle** – This sidewalk may be installed on Ellicot Circle from Midway Boulevard to US 41. One of the unique challenges this project faces is very limited right of way. The design firm is still working through some permitting issues.

**Sidewalks – Gulfstream Boulevard** – This sidewalk may be installed from an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard at Snow Drive continuing to Sea Mist Drive. Design includes a connection to a new sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard. A critical design element to this project is a pedestrian bridge over the Sea Mist Waterway. Design/Permitting is complete.

**Sidewalks – Oceanspray Boulevard** – This sidewalk may be installed on Oceanspray Boulevard from Sunnybrook Boulevard to Gulfstream Boulevard. Design includes a crossing at Spinnaker Boulevard and is an integral part of a network of sidewalks planned for the Englewood East / Rotonda Area. Design/permitting is complete.

**Sidewalks - Riverside Drive** – This sidewalk may be installed on Riverside Drive from Marlympia to Cleveland Drive. Design includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Florida Street. This project has unique design challenges that are being worked through by the design team and County staff; design is approximately 60% complete.

## **Drainage Projects**

**Little Farm Road Culverts** – The scope of this project is to design and permit culverts to replace the concrete swaled portion near the end of Little Farm Road. SFWMD permits, final plans and bid specifications have been received. The bid package is in the Purchasing Department undergoing preparation for the procurement process in order to advertise and award the construction contract. Construction is projected to begin in March 2014.

**Newgate Waterway Spoil Removal** - The Newgate Waterway has several large silt deposits and overgrown vegetation within the limits of the water line. This accumulated material is causing an adverse impact on the stormwater conveyance system and needs to be removed. Design is underway and consists of determining how much sediment needs to be removed as well as defining access points and the means and methods of construction. The engineer has identified sites that will be needed for access to the project and for staging equipment. Real Property is working to secure the necessary construction easements. Design is projected to be completed in late December 2013 with construction estimated to begin in the spring 2014.

### **SUN 3.65 Water Control Structure Replacement**

As part of the water control replacement project in Greater Port Charlotte, a stormwater structure located on Forrest Nelson Boulevard (SUN 3.65) at the Sunset Waterway crossing, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will be replaced. The construction contract will be advertised for bid in December 2013 with construction projected to begin in April 2014.

The results of a drainage study previously conducted determined that the existing structure is undersized and it was recommended that the SUN 3.65 structure be replaced with three 8'x10' box culverts in order to increase flow capacity. In order to carry out this construction, Forrest Nelson Boulevard will need to be closed at this location (projected in April 2014) requiring vehicle and pedestrian traffic detours. Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will remain closed for approximately 115 days during construction. A public service announcement will be provided in advance of the road closure.

The status of Charlotte County's Stormwater/Drainage Projects is online at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left. If you have any questions regarding this or any other Stormwater project, please contact the Project Manager, Karen Bliss, at 941-575-3642 or via email at [Karen.Bliss@charlottefl.com](mailto:Karen.Bliss@charlottefl.com).

## **Community Services**

### **Charlotte Sports Park**

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the IBC Nations Tournament on 12/7 and 12/8. They utilized a total of three fields each day with estimated attendance at 425.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

We're playing bas-ket-ball, we are playing bas-ket-ball. Basketball is the name of the game here at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. On Saturday and Sunday, the participants of the Youth Winter Basketball League completed week 3 of their regular season. There are currently 308 participants in this highly competitive league.

The participants accompanied by approximately 550 spectators filled the bleachers of the gymnasium over the course of the two days. In addition, a new Adult Men's Basketball League tipped off on Sunday. 7 teams composed of 10 man rosters donned the court of the Vivian Hall Gymnasium. Games for the Adult Men's Basketball League are held on Sundays from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The players will participate in an 8 week regular season followed by a single elimination playoff series.

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

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center our rentals included, CC Extension Dept. Master Gardener Volunteer Luncheon (110), CC Human Services (30) NAB/ Civil Citation Volunteer Training and an 18th Birthday Party (120)

Looking ahead we will be hosting Aquatic Staff Party 30, Buckeye/Horseshoe (90), and spectacular "Santa's Candy land Event" (400).

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 105 paid admissions, was visited by 44 pass holders and had 136 water aerobics participants.

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

The Pickleball Marathon was a success. We had 42 participants and raised \$760 for Kids Camp Connection which offers scholarships for summer camp for those who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend. Winter Break Camp registrations are well on their way with camp half full. The first day of Winter Break Camp begins Monday, December 23.

### **Oyster Creek Regional Pool**

For the week of 12-4 to 12-10-13, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 124 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 163 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 125 "splashes".

### **Extension Services**

- Newspaper Article for December 9th – "Good "living" Christmas trees to consider"
- Managers Meeting – Mid-County Library – 1 pm – December 9th
- Charlotte Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting – December 9th – 3 pm
- Master Gardener Radio – December 10th – 10 am
- Green Industries – Best Management Practices – December 12th - 8 am to 3 pm
- Friends for Extension Foundation Annual Meeting – December 13th – 11:30 am

### **Libraries and Historical**

The parking lot and landscaping work continues at the Mid-County Library. Please bear with us as this project will cause some parking restrictions and temporary book drop blockage. We hope to have this project completed by Jan. 1st and we will have a wonderful and pot hole free place to park!

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

The ADA ramp leading to the dock at Hathaway Park is getting replacement deck boards. The demolition and framing inspection are completed. The next step is new composite decking to be put down this week.

### **Operations**

With help from our Lighting Division we have been able to light up our Holiday Tree at the Administration Complex. This evergreen was badly misshaped by, but survived the 2004/2005 hurricane season. We continually try to prune and reshape this tree, but it continues to grow in an unshapely manner. Last year a suggestion was made by lighting technicians for a cable wheel to provide more symmetrical appearance. This year Facilities

technicians constructed and installed an extension wheel with 8 cables for the tree. Facilities department and the Lighting Division staff worked together in two lift trucks installing the numerous strings of energy efficient lights until the deadline was met. The suggested and implemented plan is now a success. The guide wires have better attachment points for the lights which look more uniform when lit. The teamwork, help, and cooperation of all involved does exemplify the Holiday spirit. Please enjoy the colorful and festive results of our "elfin magic" while you are in the Murdock area.

### **Project Management**

The Energy Performance Contract work has begun. Siemens is installing water conservation retrofits in several county buildings. The stadium green sports lighting has been delivered and installation will begin the week of December 16th.

Surveying has started on the Franz Ross Park improvements project. The design options from which we will select the football field modifications have been completed.

### **Human Services**

Senior Services staff attended a Technical Assistance session at the Area Agency on Aging for SWFL. Representatives from surrounding counties' senior services programs met with staff from the Department of Elder Affairs. Issues discussed included dual enrollments of clients in programs, client choice/s and prioritization for services.

It was noted that Charlotte County Human Services/Senior Division has 100% data accuracy compliance. Overall, PSA 8 (Charlotte, De Soto, Hendry, Glades, Lee, Sarasota, and Collier counties) have the highest data accuracy rate (99.5%) within the State.

Kudos went specifically to Case Manager, Donna Robichaud, for file organization, presentation, thoroughness, and substance of client file case notes. Ms. Robichaud's notes will be used as examples in statewide trainings for client file case notes as Best Practices.

Kudos also went to Charlotte County Adult Protective Services' files; not only was the required documentation in order, the Department of Elder Affairs thought it a great idea that the files include a picture of the client.

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Department staff attended the Dec. 10, 2013 business meeting of the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged and the workshop on the implementation of Medicaid Managed Care. Workshop discussion was focused on the transition of Medicaid Transportation to the Managed Medical Plans and the brokerage of transportation service statewide. Charlotte County is scheduled to transfer Medicaid transportation implementation responsibility to Managed Care entities in June 2014. Statewide there is still much discussion that will need to take place with the Agency on Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, Managed Medical Assistance Organizations, Transportation Managing entities and local service providers. Medicaid rates for transportation have not yet been established and regional allocations will be based on a "per member per month" calculation.

### **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 eight Canadian-based travel journalists during an educational media familiarization trip Dec. 5 - 6. The trip included one night in Punta Gorda, dining at Peace River Seafood, Trabue, Dean's South of the Border and Rum Bay Restaurant as well as kayaking with Phoenix Rising Kayak Tours, treatments at the Beach Spa by Silhouettes Day Spa on Englewood

Beach and a visit to Palm Island Resort.

The group joined members of the regional media during a Sunset Christmas Light Canal Cruise with King Fisher Fleet on Dec. 5 which featured the new Fat Point Brewing and followed with a delicious dessert reception by Simply Sweet. Including the Canadian visitors there were more than 30 members of the media on the boat cruise. Participants were encouraged to share the experience during the cruise on their social media channels and on Twitter alone, 20 people contributed posts that night resulting in more than 651,000 impressions by reaching 35,249 Twitter accounts.

The Canadian-based travel journalists' trip was in conjunction with the Society of American Travel Writers' Canada Chapter Conference which was in Sarasota earlier in the week. VISIT FLORIDA and Visit Sarasota coordinated the conference and invited the Charlotte Harbor VCB to offer a post-conference trip. The group was accompanied by a representative from VISIT FLORIDA's Canada-based public relations firm and continued on to Tampa for two nights before departing home.