

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

Claire Jubb gave a presentation at the Palm Island Homeowners Association on the National Flood Insurance Program including the recent changes to the program. The presentation was well received by the attendees and should any other group wish to learn more about flood insurance and the recent legislative changes, please contact Claire Jubb at [Claire.Jubb@charlottefl.com](mailto:Claire.Jubb@charlottefl.com)

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

\*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the following Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training home games (attendance is noted in parenthesis): Tuesday, March 11 – Minnesota Twins (4,440); Thursday, March 13 – Pittsburgh Pirates (4,714); Saturday, March 15 – Toronto Blue Jays (4,644); Sunday, March 16 – Boston Red Sox (7,002).

\*The home games for the Tampa Bay Rays minor league players began on Wednesday, March 12. All games are played on the back practice fields.

Upcoming Activities:

\*The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting the following Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training home games this week: Thursday, March 20 – Minnesota Twins @ 7:05 PM; Friday, March 21 – Toronto Blue Jays @ 1:05 PM; Saturday, March 22 – Baltimore Orioles @ 1:05 PM.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Hear ye, Hear ye. The Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games have officially begun. Last week 2 of this year's events were held within the Vivian Hall Gymnasium located at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. The Harold Avenue Recreation Center hosted Table Tennis on Tuesday and Basketball on Friday. Area seniors competed in the games with hopes of qualifying for the Florida Senior Games State Championship. The Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games focus on athletic competition, camaraderie and recreational opportunities for seniors 50 and over by 12/31/2014.

### Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

This past week on 3-15-2014, we had the Irish American Club here for an afternoon of fun, food, entertainment and dancing with an attendance of about 80.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 291 paid admissions, was visited by 82 pass holders and had 48 water aerobics participants. Approximately 90 tickets have now been sold for the Tropical Sunset Cocktail Party scheduled for this Saturday night, March 22.

### South County Regional Park

For the week of 3-9-14 through 3-15-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 141 paid admissions, 42 water aerobics participants and was visited by 145 pass holders. The Spring Break Camp swam twice at the pool for a total of 60 campers. The swim team held nine practices, with attendance of approx. 400.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 3-12 through 3-17-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 380 paid admissions, was visited by 110 pass holders and had 119 water aerobics participants. . The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

### Libraries

Good News for Libraries is that we have received our State Aid for Libraries Grant for fiscal year 2013-2014. We

have been awarded \$91,728 and this money is used for Library materials. In the last 2 years we have added new services such as "Hoopla" which is streaming movies & music and "3-M Cloud" which is E-books with our grant money. We purchase books, dvd's, music cd's, books on cd and digital and many other types of materials with this grant money. We also purchase library supplies and furniture. This year's grant was an increase of \$4,870.00 over last year's grant!

Other good news is that the Libraries had 67,084 visits to our libraries in February! We love seeing all the visitors that are in our area this time of year. 3,320 people attended a program in the month of February and most of these programs were paid for by the Friend's of the Libraries.

### **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for March 17 – "Yes, there are some azaleas in Charlotte County!"

Managers Meeting – Mid-County Library – March 17

2014 Master Gardener Training – "Ants"- March 18

Community Roadway (gateways & thoroughfares) Landscape Beautification Meeting – March 19

2014 Master Gardener Training – "Botany" – Stephen Brown – March 20

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

The Port Charlotte Beach Recreation building roof replacement will begin on April 14.

Several inmates were used at the jail visitation building to help with the repainting of the concrete floors. These are in constant use and become stained very rapidly. The inmates also assist the facilities staff on small pressure washing, painting, and cleaning tasks around the public safety building and the jail complex.

### **Project Management**

The new LED lighting at the Eastport Environmental campus parking lot will be completed this week. This project will reduce energy usage and improve security for staff and citizens.

The construction documents for the Franz Ross Parking Lot improvements and drainage project have been received for review.

## **Human Services**

Case Management Supervisor and a Case Manager met with HOPE staff to discuss how our initiative Sharing Essential Resources Vital to Elders (S.E.R.V.E.) may use HOPE's PACE (Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) Program (Dual eligible Medicaid/Medicare recipients.) There was brief discussion of the purpose and intent of SERVE and agreed that PACE may be a perfect fit for some of those who will not be engaged to participate in other grant-funded programs due to lower priority scores.

Case Management Supervisor attended and participated in the Communities for a Lifetime Committee Meeting. Agenda consisted of; Safe Home Publicity and Updates, Parkside going forward topics, AARP Funding & Schedule, TEAM Parkside Meetings Board Meeting highlights and focus on Parkside children, grant possibilities.

David Donohew was the guest speaker at the South West Florida Works monthly meeting. David attended as an opportunity to create awareness and education about our programs and benefits for veterans and families.

Terry Keene received a donation of hand-knitted blankets and caps to give to veterans at Bay Pines Hospital which will be routed through the Charlotte County Transportation Dept. for delivery by the VA van service.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee has 2 new pending members to be appointed by the BCC if we can make them fit into specific slots. These are being processed.

## Public Safety

The Emergency Management Director had the opportunity to address 70 members of the PGI Newcomers Club, comprised of folks who have lived here no more than three years. None of those in attendance were residents when Hurricane Charley visited, so they heard and saw many things they did not know. There was a great question-and-answer session at the end, which cleared up many misconceptions these folks had. All in all it was a great visit with people who really needed to hear the hurricane preparedness message.

The Region Six Emergency Managers meeting was held Friday (3/15) in LaBelle (Hendry County) and in a rare occurrence, all 10 County Directors were in attendance. More than 30 folks attended from EM offices and related agencies that we work with on an almost daily basis. Presentations were made by National Weather Service meteorologists, regional planners, state staff and various committee heads, who gave updates on a variety of issues and projects.

## Public Works

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

**2014 County Paving Program** - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. 2014 paving area maps are available on the public Web site.

Week of March 17, 2014: Sodding operations are scheduled to begin on Veterans Boulevard and Midway Boulevard; the sod company has been experiencing mechanical issues, but expects to provide sod as scheduled. Milling and resurfacing will begin on Sandhill Boulevard in Deep Creek.

Restoration operations are scheduled to begin on Rio De Janeiro Avenue as base repairs, milling and resurfacing work is complete. Milling and resurfacing on Toledo Blade Boulevard (from Hillsborough Boulevard to U.S. 41) began March 14, 2014; roadwork on Toledo Blade Boulevard will be conducted around spring training baseball game days until complete.

*Two PSAs issued 3/14/14 - Roadwork Begins on Toledo Blade Boulevard Friday March 14, 2014: The milling and repaving operations on Toledo Blade Boulevard from Hillsborough Boulevard to US-41 began this morning with turn lanes and cross overs. On Monday, March 17, 2014 through March 19, 2014 the Contractor is scheduled to mill and repave the travel lanes. During this process, the traveling public may encounter traffic congestion, un-even lanes and dusty conditions. The utilization of Law Enforcement Officers, Signage, Flagging Personal, and Traffic Channeling Devices will be used to aid travelers throughout the construction area. Please exercise extreme caution in this area and, when possible, please consider utilizing an alternate route. Roadwork Begins on Sandhill Boulevard Thursday March 20, 2014: The milling and repaving operations on Sandhill Boulevard from Kings Highway to Seasons Drive is schedule begin on Thursday, March 20, 2014 through Wednesday, March 26, 2014. During this process, the traveling public may encounter traffic congestion, un-even lanes and dusty conditions. The utilization of Law Enforcement Officers, Signage, Flagging Personal, and Traffic Channeling Devices will be used to aid travelers throughout the construction area. Please exercise extreme caution in this area and, when possible, please consider utilizing an alternate route.*

**Dredging – Suncoast Waterway** – This project is designed to facilitate safe navigation within the Suncoast Waterway system by removing 18,000 cubic yards of silted material.

The contractor completed all of the public dredging for this project; they are not going to dredge the outer channel to the over-dredge tolerance. A reduction of quantities will be applied to their final billings. The Contractor is in the process of cleaning up the last of the project and the Notice of Substantial Completion is forthcoming. The Consultant is in the process of compiling the as-built information and project certifications.

**Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevards East & North** - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East,

Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West.

The contractor completed all concrete work, ditch regrading, and sodding on Rotonda Boulevard North. Striping operations should begin within the week. Construction began on Rotonda Boulevard East; several hundred feet of sidewalk was formed and seven driveways have been poured. Approximately 2,000 linear feet of base material was installed and prepared for forming and pouring.

*PSA issued 01/08/14, expires May 2014: Sidewalk construction along Rotonda Boulevards North and East, from Rotonda Circle to Parade Circle, began on Monday January 6, 2014 and is expected to continue through May 2014. Traffic patterns will shift due to intermittent lane closures throughout the duration of this project. There will be signs, message boards, and flagmen as needed and citizens are urged to use caution when moving through in this area.*

## **Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation**

**Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes** - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks on Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road and on Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road.

A work order was issued to Banks Engineering to complete the design of approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks in Burnt Store Lakes. The MSBU met with Banks Engineering on February 4, 2014, to kick off the project. 30% plans are expected to be delivered by the end of March 2014.

**Sidewalks - Gardens of Gulf Cove** – 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.

Construction bids were opened February 26, 2014. A recommendation to award this project will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 25, 2014.

**Sidewalks - Sheehan Boulevard** – This sidewalk will be installed on Sheehan Boulevard from Noble Terrace to Peachland Boulevard and includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Alton Road.

The bid package for the construction contract was sent to the Purchasing Department on December 16, 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation. This project was expected to be advertised for bid in early February 2014 however outstanding utility issues have delayed advertisement at least another 45 days. A pre-bid meeting will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for contractors to ask questions and clarify the scope of the contract for bidding purposes. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove** – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive.

A work order was issued to Johnson Engineering to complete the design of approximately 2.7 miles of multi-use pathways in the South Gulf Cove MSBU. MSBU members met with Johnson Engineering on January 30, 2014 to kick off the project. 30% plans are expected to be delivered by the end of March 2014.

## **Coastal Projects**

**Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging provides

continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation.

A Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) was submitted to begin the process of obtaining engineering support to accomplish this project. County staff reviewed the submittals and negotiations are underway to secure Johnson Engineering to facilitate this project.

**Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system.

The Consultant is in the process of gathering survey and permitting data. This phase should be complete with submittal to the permitting agencies in late March 2014. Most field data collection (survey) is complete; project design is underway. Plans will be forwarded to staff for review prior to submittal to the permitting agencies.

**Pirate Harbor Access Channel** – Dredging provides safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge 2,300 feet of access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. This project was recommended and approved by the Pirate Harbor Waterway Advisory Committee.

Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, staff is in the process of adding the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel to the previous contract. This project was originally presented to FDEP in 2003/04 however at that time FDEP did not view this project favorably and it was removed from the original contract. Recently it was determined that dredging the Pirate Harbor Access Channel may be viewed (by the permitting agencies) as "acceptable" and will require a standard general permit to dredge 2,300 feet of the access channel. A change order is in process that will allow Coastal Engineering Consultants to continue their work on this project with a new permit application. If the change order is approved, this task will be placed back on their contract.

**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, of 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.

A location was accepted as the spoil disposal site that will substantially reduce the cost of hauling material. The permit application was submitted to the regulatory agencies and the FDEP permit was issued, however the application is still under review by the ACOE. Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries (NMF.) The Consultants are making every attempt to work with ACOE and NMF to expedite the process.

## **Drainage Projects**

**Charlotte Harbor Watershed Management - Stormwater Structures Phase 2** - This project shall follow Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) guidelines consistent with the District's Watershed Management Program. Three components are proposed: Topographic Information, Watershed Evaluation and a Watershed Management Plan. The Watershed Management Plan includes the installation of stormwater structures on Church Street and Bayshore Road (BMP 6) and on Harper Avenue (BMP 29) as

Phase 1 of this project which is complete. Phase 2 includes the installation of stormwater structures on Central Avenue near Oakley Street (BMP25), near Church Street (BMP26) and near Main Street (BMP42).

A work order was issued to Giffels-Webster to begin design on February 6, 2014. 30% plans are expected by the end of March 2014.

**DeSoto Canal Bank Restoration and Stabilization Phase 2** - 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.

Re-construction of the canal slopes in Phase 1 is complete. Phase 2 (continuation to Harbor View Road) will go out for bid after the ACOE permit is received. Procurement is expected to be completed after June 30th, due to Scrub Jay nesting season.

## **Other Projects**

**Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges** – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested the installation of an electric power system for five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court.

Construction bids were opened on December 11, 2013. A recommendation to award this contract to Wright Construction Group was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on January 28, 2014. A pre-construction meeting was held on February 26, 2014, and a notice to proceed was issued for April 14, 2014. Construction is projected to be complete 90 calendar days after commencement.

**Manasota Key Community Plan Design** – The Manasota Key MSTU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. The first phase of this project consisted of a conceptual master plan completed by Weiler Engineering in December 2013. Phase 2 is the design of construction ready plans consisting of the top priorities as identified by the MSTU Committee.

The Manasota Key Community Plan was presented to the MSTU Committee on December 11, 2013. The MSTU Committee requested that staff move forward with designing sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping as well as street light replacements on Gulf Boulevard and the redesign of the commercial area to allow for additional parking and stormwater redesign. Request for Proposals were received on March 12, 2014. These proposals will be shortlisted on March 24, 2014 and a recommendation to award the design contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on April 22, 2014.

**Murdock Village** - The Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area is an 879 acre future redevelopment tract located in mid Charlotte County. Murdock Village is to be redeveloped and revitalized as a community focal point through the implementation of the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan and the creation of the resultant mixed-use community and Town Center, through the establishment of one or more public/private partnerships.

The County is seeking concept plan approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan as it pertains to stormwater management design and environmental concepts. Under the new Statewide Stormwater Environmental Resource Permit Rule 62-330.055 F.A.C., a redevelopment Concept Approval Permit is available for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area that will provide Charlotte County with an assurance that during the duration of the permit (20 years), the stormwater management design and environmental concepts, upon which the Conceptual Approval Permit is based, will meet applicable rule criteria for issuance of permits by SWFWMD for subsequent phases of the project.

The Conceptual Approval Permit application was submitted to SWFWMD January 30, 2014. Additional information was submitted to SWFWMD on March 14, 2014 in response to a request for additional information. The additional information provided is currently under review by SWFWMD staff.

**Rotonda West Entry Features** – This project will provide new signs at five (5) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit.

A pre-construction meeting was held with Keesling Construction and the Notice to Proceed was issued for March 18, 2014. Construction is projected to be complete 120 calendar days after commencement.

## **Tourism**

Birding continues to be a popular activity for Charlotte County visitors. To make it easier for birding enthusiasts to check species off their list, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has provided the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau with the "eBird Trail Tracker" widget which displays bird sightings from the last seven days including a map. Data is user-generated which allows users to record birds they see, keep track of their bird lists, explore maps and graphs, and contribute to science and conservation. The widget is housed on [www.charlotteharbortravel.com/birding](http://www.charlotteharbortravel.com/birding).