

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The official attendance for the 2014 Spring Training Season was 78,624.

The home opener for the Charlotte Stone Crabs took place on Thursday, 4/3, beginning at 6:30 pm. Attendance at the first two (2) games of the season were as follows: Thursday, 4/3 – 2048 and Friday (Fireworks), 4/4 – 2195

### Tringali Recreation

We have just wrapped up a very successful fun-filled 5 weeks of Super Mini-Sports Tennis. This year we had Art Richards, local youth tennis advocate come out to view the fun. Mr. Richards and the Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula donated Quick Start Tennis equipment to the center. The children were introduced to the basics of tennis in a fun, playful environment at Tringali Recreation Center. SMS T-ball is the next mini-sport at Tringali, starts Monday 4/7 and runs through May 5<sup>th</sup>.

What a Great Garage Sale Season we had here at Tringali! We have just wrapped up another successful season this past Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Giant Community Garage sales were held the first Sunday of each month, starting in November. We had great attendance by vendors and customers alike. The variety of treasures to be found ranged from household items to beautiful handmade crafts. Whether you were looking for a used or new item, Tringali was the place to shop this winter.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Smack that ball! Spin it! Score! Harold Avenue Table Tennis and Pickleball programs have shown a 15% increase in activity last week. New lighting added to the gymnasium has improved playing conditions and participants have expressed a great deal of appreciation for the improvement. Basketball leagues should also appreciate better lighting in the facility when they begin at the end of the month. Zumba, Tai Chi and Tae Kwon Do classes continue to have a good spring.

### Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

On 4/5/2014, PCB Zach Sandrock and his new Bride had a beautiful Wedding and Reception for 120 guests with a complete catered and served dinner.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 412 paid admissions, was visited by 68 pass holders and had 59 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park

For the week of 3-30-14 through 4-5-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 189 paid admissions, 46 water aerobics participants and was visited by 118 pass holders. April Pools Day was on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> which is a free event and 175 people attended. The Punta Gorda Police Department did a SCUBA dive demonstration. Other activities included free swim lessons, volleyball, a water slide and inner tube water polo game. Of course the day would not be complete without the Biggest Splash Contest. There were 13 winners in various age groups.

Senior Games pickle ball is taking place at the facility the whole weekend. The tennis courts are being lined for a total of 12 courts and the event starts Friday, April 11.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 4-2 through 4-11-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 359 paid admissions, was visited by 114 pass holders and had 79 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 practices resulting in approximately 80 "splashes". Learn to Swim Spring Session 2 was scheduled to begin 4-8, but was cancelled due to the weather. The Lifeguard Training course began 4-8-14, and has 9 students.

**Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for April 7 – “Enter the world of plumeria”

Landscape Techniques for Protecting the Waterfront – Lemon Bay Garden Club – Tom Becker – April 7

2014 Master Gardener Training – “Termites”- April 8

2014 Master Gardener Training– “Vegetables I” – April 10 – Multi-County Vegetables Agent, Gene McAvoy

Lee County MG Training - Pruning Trees and Shrubs – Reciprocal Training – April 11

**Facilities Construction & Maintenance****Repairs and Maintenance**

The HAVC division is planning for West County Administration tax collector’s office space to be expanded in functional square footage. The Air Handler closet and Air Handler will be re-located creating the additional space. When completed, this project will give the customers more and better seating within the tag office area.

Work on the new Fibertite roof replacement at Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center is underway now. This project started one week earlier than planned.

**Operations**

Facilities has several building Fire Sprinkler Inspections that are required every five years. These inspections will be starting this week. This is one of many requirements we do to follow the National Fire Prevention Association Code and for keeping our Life and Safety Systems up to date and functionally safe. The five year inspection plan requires the system to be thoroughly checked not only for functionality. Checks are also done to insure there are no unseen obstructions within the actual piping of these systems. The contracted service company must physically take apart sections of pipe and inspect for these hidden from view obstructions. If any are found, then necessary repairs are made.

**Project Management**

Energy efficient lighting retrofits are planned throughout the Port Charlotte Beach complex to enhance security and increase energy savings. This work is scheduled to begin the week of April 14th.

The new interior walls were textured with priming and painting occurring at fleet facility. The site work is proceeding with initial parking area projected for concrete pouring on Friday. The site storm water ponds are being excavated.

Stanley Consultants is continuing to prepare the design documents for the Port Charlotte Beach complex fishing pier and boardwalk.

**Human Services**

Senior Services staff assisted in coordinating the Safe Homes community event. Guest speakers included representatives from: Communities for a Lifetime Bureau of the Department of Elder Affairs in Tallahassee; Falls Prevention; Fire/EMS; Housing; and Emergency Management. 46 people were in attendance.

Family Services staff participated in the Parkside Community Garden Phase 2 dedication held at the Family Services Center. Approximately 35 people were in attendance for the dedication and celebration. Commissioner Tricia Duffy spoke in recognition and praise of the project.

## Public Works

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

**Burnt Store Road Phase III Construction** – Construction consists of widening 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 including stormwater management, drainage improvements, street lighting, 6' sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, utility relocations and additions. Construction is projected to be complete in September 2015.

Construction Contract: Gibbs & Register, Projected Schedule: 03/10/14 – 09/10/2015

The contractor is mobilizing personnel and equipment to the project site. The excavation and removal of 22 gopher tortoises is complete. Surveyors are on-site delineating the project limits and crews are installing two feet high erosion control barriers along the rights-of-ways. The contractor began clearing for the first stormwater pond.

Within the next two weeks, the Contractor will finish the installation of erosion control and turbidity barriers. Pressure pipe materials will be arriving onsite. Clearing and grubbing will begin as well as the construction of a box culvert at Bear Branch Creek.

**Harborview Road Bridge Replacement** – 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. Construction is projected to be complete in the fall of 2014.

Construction Contract: Owen Ames Kimball, Projected Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Fall 2014

The temporary bridge is in place across the DeSoto Canal and traffic has been routed onto the temporary bridge. A progress meeting was held January 15, 2014; a representative of the school board attended and was very pleased with the safety of the children traveling to school through this construction zone.

March 24, 2014: All sheet piles are complete and the contractor is forming up the pile cap on the east side. April 7, 2014: Pile caps on the east and west sides were poured and the contractor is in the process of back filling both areas. The rip-rap to prevent scour should begin this week.

**U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs** – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South U.S. 41 Access Roads, within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road. The U.S. 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway were closed to traffic the week of January 6, 2014.

Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Projected Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Summer 2015

Week ending April 06, 2014: Zep Construction placed 60 linear feet of precast concrete sheet piling, removed reinforced concrete pipe, removed 2,200 cubic feet of unusable material, placed 4,264 cubic feet of Class II concrete, placed 2,914 pounds of injected cement and relocated 700 feet of lighting conduit. Zep Construction mobilized equipment to the Elkcam Waterway to begin the preparation procedures for the second boring pit.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

**C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening** – The purpose of this project is to widen C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from S.R. 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2012 – 04/01/2014

Procurement Process: 04/10/2014, Projected Start of Construction: June 2014

The CM at Risk Firm, Halfacre Construction, submitted a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the project.

The GMP will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on May 13, 2013 for review/approval. The Charlotte County Real Estate Services Department is currently working on Right of Way acquisitions which must be acquired prior to construction for utility relocations.

**Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two** – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements must be made before widening this section of the corridor. This project includes increasing the drainage capacity under US 41 at three locations in addition to the widening of Midway Boulevard from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers

Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/08/2012 – Spring 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Giffels-Webster Engineering will submit the 100% roadway design plans by the end of April 2014 for County staff to review. Charlotte County Real Estate Services is currently working on Temporary Construction Easements needed for construction.

**Placida Road** - The original scope of this project was to widen Placida Road from a two to a four lane divided roadway from Cape Haze Drive to the Boca Grande Causeway with curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike facilities. The BCC decided to postpone road widening and redesign the project to incorporate safety improvements. It was also decided to advance the sidewalk/multi-use trail portion of Phase 2 to be worked concurrently with Phase 1.

**Phase 1 - Rotonda Blvd. West to Cape Haze Drive** – Safety improvements include: a 2.9 mile bicycle-pedestrian path from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive, intersection improvements at Lemon Bay Golf Course, Bantry Bay, Cape Haze Drive and Panama Drive and resurfacing of Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers

Design/Permitting Schedule: Through Summer 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Design is in progress towards the completion of 60% plans. This effort is expected to continue for the next 30 days.

**Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway** – The continuation of the Phase 1 bicycle-pedestrian path from Cape Haze Drive to Boca Grande Causeway.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers

Design/Permitting Schedule: Through Spring 2014

Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

90% plans are underway; the design team is currently working on the cross sections and is expected to continue for the next few weeks.

## **Drainage Projects**

**Little Farm Road Culverts** – The scope of this project is to design, permit and construct culverts to replace the concrete swaled portion near the end of Little Farm Road. The construction plans call for sixteen (16) 6'x3' box culverts to be installed at the slough so traffic can cross without going through the water. This project includes the box culverts, headwalls, approach slabs and guardrail for this portion of the road.

Design Contract: Weiler Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/09/2012 – 12/01/2013

Procurement Process: 12/10/2013 – TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

This project was advertised for bid on Dec. 17, 2013 and bid opening was held Jan. 22, 2014; nine bids were received. Open bids are posted on the Purchasing Department's Web site and the lowest responsive bidder is recommended for award. The construction contract was presented to the BCC on Feb. 11, 2014, however the Commissioners wanted more information before voting on the contract; discussions were held at the

Board Workshop on Feb. 18, 2014. The Board requested that staff investigate all possible solutions. An agenda date has not been set for the award of the contract.

**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. The plans call for approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material to be removed from the waterway. Material will be removed from a 50 foot wide section in the center of the waterway approximately 3,400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard.

Design Contract: Stantec

Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2013 – Spring 2014

Procurement Process: June 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014

The 90% design plans were received and are under review. The Design Engineer identified property sites that will be needed in order to access the project and stage equipment; four properties have been secured for use between Jennings and David Boulevards. The Real Estate Services Department is working to secure at least two easements on the east side of David Boulevard. Permits have been secured for this project and construction is projected to run from December 2014 through March 2015 during the dry season. The project manager is coordinating with Natural Resources to relocate gopher tortoises as necessary.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Dorchester Waterway at Kenilworth DOR 4.89 -**

This project provides for the design, permitting, and construction of a stormwater control structure under Kenilworth Boulevard at the Dorchester Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure collapsed in late November 2013. This structure will be upsized from two culverts to two 8'x10' box culverts.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/23/2014 – 03/20/2014

Procurement Process: 04/04/2014 - June 2014, Projected Start of Construction: July 2014

The SWFWMD pre-application meeting was held January 23, 2014. Johnson Engineering completed the survey collection and the structure design. All permits have been obtained. The bid documents were sent to the Purchasing Department to begin the procurement process on Friday April 4, 2014. Construction will take approximately 105 days to complete upon notice to proceed.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Quasar FOR 4.60** - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be properly sized from two 60" RCP with a 50' weir to one 8'x10' box culvert with a 6' weir.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/01/2013 – June 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The survey is complete and the 60% plans are under review. This structure is not scheduled for construction until late 2015.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Sunset Waterway at Forrest Nelson Blvd SUN 3.65 –**

This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, at the Sunset Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be replaced with three 8'x10' box culverts to increase flow capacity.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering  
Design/Permitting Schedule: 03/18/2011 – 04/01/2013  
Procurement Process: 12/01/2013 – 02/25/2014, Projected Start of Construction: 05/19/2014

Bid opening was held Jan. 29, 2014 and the construction contract was awarded to Quality Enterprises on Feb. 25, 2014. The pre-construction meeting was held March 12, 2014; construction is scheduled to begin May 19, 2014 and will be completed in late Sept. 2014. This is a 115 day contract.

Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will be closed during construction. Public service announcements will be published and a signed detour will be in place in advance of the road closure.

## **Maintenance & Operations**

Week Ending April 8, 2014: Drainage crews completed a little over 34,000 square feet on line and grade. Line and grade is a phrase we use to describe how we clean out our road side swales with heavy equipment. The recent rains and the forecasted additional rain will probably increase the amount of new calls we get for drainage issues.

Crews also completed over two miles of shoulder repair. This work was primarily on Edgewater Boulevard between Midway Boulevard and Flamingo Boulevard. This work provides for a safe recovery area off of the paved portion or "shoulder" of the road in the event a car veers outside of the travel way. This work not only serves to make the roads safer but also protects our paved surfaces. If water is allowed to lie next to the road or on the road shoulder it will deteriorate the road and underlying base greatly reducing the road's useful lifespan.

An outfall crew completed a highly complex basin removal & repair on San Cristobal Avenue just north of Rampart Boulevard. It consisted of repairing a deteriorated vertical 24" riser that tees off larger pipe that was very deep underground. After the 24" riser was replaced it was then armored and a new basin was constructed.

Crews installed 64 linear feet of reinforced concrete pipe in Port Charlotte and installed/adjusted 18 linear feet of driveway pipe in Punta Gorda.

Our grapple truck, which we use to remove debris in the right of way, removed 14,720 of illegally dumped debris in County rights-of-way.

The Customer Assistance Investigators received well over 100 calls resulting in over 90 requests for service that range from brush removal to debris in the rights-of-way but the majority are drainage related.

Johnny Hunter, Pest Management Operations Coordinator, met last week with the local State Park Manager to discuss improving the State owned land adjacent to the Rotonda River that could be used as an access point for County equipment. This would be a joint effort between the State and County. If an agreement can be reached, both agencies could use the site to access the River. The Rotonda River, a water body which connects the Rotonda Canal system to Coral Creek, is being incorporated into the County's Aquatic Weed program.

After a series of rain events, Mosquito Control treated 2,040 acres of State salt marsh lands for mosquito larvae utilizing a helicopter on March 31 and April 1, 2014.

## **Other Projects**

**National Pollution Discharge Elimination System** – The purpose of this project is to reduce adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat by instituting the use of controls on unregulated sources of stormwater runoff into Charlotte Harbor. Minimum project requirements are public education and outreach, public participation/involvement, construction site runoff control, and pollution prevention. The permit includes coordination with the Charlotte County School Board, Airport Authority, Florida Department of Transportation, and City of Punta Gorda.

The annual report to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was submitted July 5, 2012. Re-application for the next cycle was submitted July 20, 2012. A new Notice of Intent (NOI) for cycle three was

approved; the new NOI is effective January 1, 2013 and expires December 31, 2017. The project manager is currently meeting with all County Departments that contribute to the annual report to discuss what information is expected.

### **Solid Waste Division**

Keep Charlotte Beautiful recognized the winners of the 2013 Recycle-Bowl winners on March 18, 2014 at the Charlotte County School Board Meeting. The participating Green Teams, teachers, principals, and custodians were recognized for their efforts during the Recycle-Bowl competition which was held from October 10, 2013 through November 15, 2013. Each school received a cash award for their Green Team. Port Charlotte Middle School was recognized as the winner for the state of Florida. They received \$1,000 from Keep America Beautiful.

The participating schools and the amounts they recycled per student and teacher are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Port Charlotte Middle - 6.73 pounds per student and teacher

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Liberty Elementary - .53 pounds per student and teacher

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: East Elementary - 2.98 pounds per student and teacher

4<sup>th</sup> Place: Punta Gorda Middle - 1.19 pounds per student and teacher

5<sup>th</sup> Place: Lemon Bay High School - .94 pounds per student and teacher

The Great American Cleanup kicked off on March 8, 2014 with more than 700 volunteers registering to help clean up Charlotte County. Cleanups continue through the month of April with volunteers from civic organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, community/homeowner groups as well as from students from the ROTC and National Honor Society. Community Cleanups are part of the annual Great American Cleanup. Team Parkside conducted a community cleanup on March 1<sup>st</sup> that collected 1,320 pounds of material.

About 25 students from Good Shepherd Day School participated in the first educational workshop at the Punta Gorda Nature Park on March 28, 2014. The park is a learning garden with the City of Punta Gorda, the Punta Gorda Isles, Green Thumbs and Keep Charlotte Beautiful contributing together to the park and garden. Keep Charlotte Beautiful contributed funds to create the spice garden and the sign for the butterfly garden. The garden provides areas of learning for students and adults.

Members of the Leadership Charlotte class toured the Charlotte County Zemel Road Landfill on March 13, 2014. The tour covered a detailed history of the landfill and waste disposal in the County. James Pontbriand, Solid Waste Supervisor, began the tour at the Landfill's Scale House where all vehicles are required to be weighed and the materials are identified to assess the appropriate tipping fees. The class was then taken throughout the Landfill to show them firsthand how different materials - from household garbage, tires, construction materials, metals and yard waste - are segregated and why.

The tour also demonstrated how the County is taking advantage of every opportunity to be green and cost effective by collecting methane gas and converting it into enough energy to provide electricity to up to 3,500 homes. The class also learned about the new composting facility that is converting dewatered sludge and yard waste into class AA compost that is sold to framers, golf courses, nurseries, etc. Kirk Kettler, Utilities Chief Operator, walked the class through the Leachate Treatment Facility and discussed the processes that take place there.

The Solid Waste Division participated in the International Air Show the weekend of the March 28 – 30, 2014 at the Punta Gorda Airport. The partnership between the Solid Waste Division and Waste Management ensured that recycling and garbage, for the approximately 40,000 attendees, was handled in an efficient and professional manner. This year the recycling containers were changed to those currently used by residents in Charlotte County to reinforce the identification of yellow tops used for recycling in our community. The only difference was the drilling of 4" holes in the top to keep the recyclables as free from garbage contamination as possible. To further promote recycling, the organizers of the event requested that all beverages be served in recyclable containers.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers provided ash receptacles for the Florida International Air Show. The

receptacles were purchased for events through a grant that Keep Charlotte Beautiful received from Keep America Beautiful. The Cigarette Litter Prevention grant provided pocket ashtrays to be given to smokers. Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers passed out more than 400 pocket ashtrays to smokers during the event.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the National Association of Sports Commissions Sports Event Symposium in Oklahoma City earlier this month (Mar. 31-Apr. 3). In addition to the educational sessions and general networking opportunities, this annual conference also provided the opportunity for staff to meet one on one with more than a dozen event rights owners and educate them about Charlotte County's offerings for sporting groups. Event rights owners represented a variety of sports including BMX, golf, softball, canoe/kayaking, mud runs, orienteering, youth football and baseball as well as a variety of vendors and other suppliers.