

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs vs. Bradenton Marauders held a game at the Charlotte Sports Park on Saturday, 5/24, with an attendance of 767 fans.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted several games of the Perfect Game Tournament from Friday 5/23 through Sunday 5/25, on the practice fields. The estimated total attendance for this tournament was 850.

Upcoming Events:

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs vs. Dunedin Blue Jays May 27 through May 30; then Charlotte Stone Crabs vs. Brevard County Manatees May 31 through June 3.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Preparations have begun for Harold Avenue Recreation Center's summer "Space Camp." The camp staff at Harold Avenue Recreation Center spent last week preparing to ensure this will be an experience that the campers never forget. Cadets (campers) were registered for camp. Activities have been planned. Counselors were trained to be "pilots" and the civilian parents were briefed on the daily life of a camper. The "Space Camp" at Harold Avenue Recreation Center offers daily activities for area children entering into grades K-5.

### Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

This past weekend we had a two day rental utilizing the entire facility for a Family Reunion/Celebration with 250 attendees daily.

We have a much needed break for some deep cleaning and prep for the Dance with Daddy Event coming on June 7th.

For the week of 5-21 to 5-27-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 231 paid admissions, was visited by 48 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Pool

For the week of 5-18-14 through 5-24-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 402 paid admissions, 27 water aerobics participants and was visited by 156 pass holders. The Bluefin's held eight practices with approximately 400 swimmers. Approximately 20 Busy Bee students and volunteers held an end-of-year pool party.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 5-18-14 through 5-24-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 280 paid admissions, 120 water aerobics participants and was visited by 168 pass holders. The Bluefin's held five practices with approximately 125 swimmers.

### Extension Services

Newspaper Article for May 26 – "Fat, succulent "roses""

2014 Master Gardener Training – "Palms" – May 27 – Donna Worthley, Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Radio Program – May 27 – 1580 - WCCF

2014 Master Gardener Training – May 29 – "Basic Entomology" – Dr. Doug Caldwell (Plus Program Wrap-up, Evaluations, etc.)

Extension Staff Meeting – May 29

Summer Reading Kick-off - Bug Display - Mid-County Regional Library – May 31

## **Libraries and Historical**

It is time for Summer Reading! All ages from preschool to adult are invited to take part in our Summer Reading clubs. Just come in to any library, sign up and let the reading begin! There are lots of titles for Beach Days. Our materials come in books, paperbacks, digital, e-books, books on CD and DVD so there is something for everyone! Our theme for this summer is Fizz, Boom, Read, come join us!

We are constantly adding new books and movies. If there is something that you would like us to purchase ask at any library and they can help to fill out a, "request for purchase" form. We look at current reviews for items and then add them if warranted. Be aware that most new items will not be on our shelves, you would need to place a hold for them and you will be contacted when your turn comes up.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Location analysis for "Penny Sales Tax" signs is underway at fourteen county facilities. These signs will clearly identify to county residents and visitors the benefits derived from the additional "one-cent" tax dollars at the locations where substantial improvements were previously completed.

### **Operations**

Cedar Point Environmental Park on Placida Rd in Englewood and Midway Park on Midway Boulevard, Pt Charlotte have accessibility projects which started Tuesday and will continue through the week. These projects will improve the ADA accessibility standards for parking and access to these locations and their facilities.

### **Project Management**

The HVAC and ductwork punch list items have been completed at the new concession buildings at Harold Ave Park, Port Charlotte.

The purchasing pre-construction meeting was held last Wednesday for the construction of the South County Regional Park soccer concession stands. The mobilization meeting is scheduled for May 29 on-site with the contractor, users, and facilities project manager.

## **Human Services**

The Family Self Sufficiency Program assists families in developing their plans to become economically stable and to seek opportunities enabling them to thrive in their communities. This week: four self-sufficiency intakes were conducted; one quarterly assessment was completed; and three goal outcomes were met. One client obtained skills and competencies required for employment; one client obtained access to reliable transportation; and one client obtained safe and affordable housing.

## **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 maps are available on the public Web site. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Projected Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

The Contractor adjusted the paving schedule in the Greater Port Charlotte area to complete drainage work ahead of the paving crews.

All pipe replacements have been completed in the Olean 1 and Elmira 1 areas. The Contractor has begun to place the final course of asphalt on the previously leveled streets in the Olean 1 area and continues to perform the required asphalt removal in Elmira 1 area. The Contractor plans on placing two paving crews in the Elmira 1

area on June 2, 2014 to complete the paving in this area. The paving in Olean 1 area should be complete by May 30, 2014 and restoration will commence.

To date, approximately 39,914 tons of pavement has been placed in the Road and Bridge and Greater Port Charlotte Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 26.82% and the Contractor has completed approximately 35.45% of the work.

**Dredging - Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways** – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system connecting to the Myakka River navigation channel. This is a new channel, over one mile long, that extends and connects three waterways to the Myakka River channel. This project consists of design, engineering, permitting and construction of the new channel. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Projected Schedule: 07/07/2013 – Late Spring 2014

The as-built drawings were reviewed by both County staff and the Contractor on May 20, 2014. The Contractor has been dredging areas that needed additional attention and the final survey is scheduled the end of May 2014. Pending schedules and weather conditions, the dredging portion of the project should be complete in early June 2014.

### **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 which was approved by the BCC on May 27, 2014. The preconstruction meeting is scheduled June 4, 2014 at which time the Notice to Proceed date will be established.

### **Coastal Projects**

**Alligator Creek -6 Feet Dredging c391302** – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2013 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The geotechnical study and natural resource investigations are complete - no impact to sea grasses, hard bottom or oysters exists. Rock was located however no continuous rock is exposed at the surface. No rock shelf exists containing soft corals or other hard bottom habitats.

The permit plans and exhibits were submitted to the permitting agencies in February 2014 and are under review. FDEP sent a Request for Additional Information (RAI) to the Consultant; a response was provided. The Mitigation/Public Interest plan was formulated and submitted to the permitting agencies for review. The ACOE sent an RAI as well and wants to combine this project with the Maintenance project. The Consultant is attempting to rectify this now. The fee for FDEP review of the project has been submitted for payment.

**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. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2014 – Fall 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014

Survey work was conducted the week of April 28, 2014 to obtain information on existing conditions that will facilitate the permitting and engineering of the project. They are in the process of engineering the data retained from the survey work and will have preliminary plans ready for review the week of June 2, 2014.

**Gulf Cove 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/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: May – Sept. 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

The Purchasing Department received Requests for Letters of Interest to obtain a qualified engineering firm. Staff reviewed the submittals and is in the process of negotiating with the selected firm. The scope of services has been negotiated and the Consultant is in the process of gathering preliminary data.

**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. Design Contract: Stantec, Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/17/2013 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Staff reviewed the 80% design plans with the consultant; permitting strategies were discussed which should lead to a streamlined permitting process. The permit application was reviewed by staff the week of April 14, 2014 and submitted the week of April 21, 2014. The permit was received for this project on May 8, 2014. Staff reviewed the bid specifications and the Consultant is making final revisions. Limited vegetation trimming, for line of sight/navigation, is being added to the contract.

**Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging will be conducted in the Manchester, Ackerman and Hyattsville Waterways to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. This project is located within Gasparilla Sound - Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/15/2012 – 02/20/2014, Procurement Process: 02/20/2014 – May 2014, Projected Start of Construction: June 2014

Bid opening was held April 30, 2014 and awarded on May 27, 2014. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled May 28, 2014 at which time the construction schedule will be set.

**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. This project was originally presented to FDEP in 2003/04 however, at that time, FDEP did not view this project as favorable and it was removed from the original contract. Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel has been added to the previous contract and will require a standard general permit. 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. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: May 2014 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

A change order was approved by the BCC on April 22, 2014 allowing Coastal Engineering Consultants to continue their work on this project with a new permit application; this task has been placed back on their contract. The consultant will begin survey, design, and project management to maintenance dredge portions of the main access channel.

Projected Schedule: June 2014: Field work including bathymetry, jet probes, sediment sampling and sea grass mapping, July 2014: Data reduction and design plans, August 2014: Permit application - preparation and submittal, September 2014 through early 2016: Permit processing.

**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. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/01/2013 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

The FDEP permit was issued, however the permit 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. The ACOE indicated that the permit application review is nearing completion.

Johnson Engineering completed the construction plans and the bid specifications; staff reviewed the bid documents the week of April 14, 2014. Johnson Engineering is in the process of revising the bid specifications to include modifications recommended by staff.

A location was accepted as the spoil disposal site that may reduce the cost of hauling material, however due to the requirements communicated by State Park Staff in regards to this spoil site, staff requested that Johnson Engineering prepare a cost comparison between using State Park property and trucking the spoil to the landfill.

**Stump Pass 10 Year Beach and Inlet Management Plan** – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/16/2012 – Spring 2015, Procurement Process: July 2015, Projected Start of Construction: November 2015

The Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants completed a project modeling study to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. The result of this modeling showed that reducing the height of the structure by 1.5 feet did not affect the performance and decreased any negative impacts downstream of the structure. However, the State Park Service did not choose this as their desired configuration. They asked for a design that would increase the amount of sand placement upstream of the structure, but the modeling showed that this would be more costly and could have negative impacts on the down drift beaches and the pass itself. An additional Stakeholder meeting was held March 5, 2014 to resolve the configuration of the engineered structure. The permit application was reviewed by staff and submitted to the permitting agencies on May 13, 2014.

Projected Permitting Schedule: May 2014 through April 2015 - Permit Processing with FDEP & USACE, June 2015 - FDEP permit, July 2015 - USACE Permit

### **Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects**

**Burnt Store Road Project** – (Pedestrian features/preemption conflict with Seminole Gulf Railroad) Final plans have been received, reviewed, and forwarded to Seminole Gulf Railroad to begin design. Seminole Gulf Railroad

hired a Consultant to investigate needs pertaining to the Acline Road crossing. No response has been received from Seminole Gulf Railroad as to the progress the Consultant has made.

**Edgewater Phase II Construction** – Awaiting bidding process/construction to begin.

**Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges** – Reviewed and commented on material submittals for future lighting systems and monitored the contractors as they were installing conduits and conducting directional bores.

**Gasparilla Road Widening** – Awaiting construction to begin.

**Midway Boulevard Widening Project** – Reviewed 90% signal and lighting plans; comments were provided to Project Manager. 100% signal and lighting plans are in progress.

**US 41 Microtunneling Project** – Monitored contractor's crew as they relocated a roadway light pole – replacing conduit, conductor replacement, and pull box installations - on the northbound side of US 41 at the Elkcam Waterway. Also monitored crews as they relocated County and FDOT fiber optic facilities on the southbound side of US 41 at the Elkcam Waterway including the removal of one roadway light pole and the installation of new conduit and conductors.

### **Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects**

- Completed yearly preventative maintenance on the traffic signals at the following locations:
  - Veterans Blvd./Peachland Blvd.
  - US 41/Toledo Blade Blvd.
  - US 41/Enterprise Dr. /Paulson Dr.
  - Quesada Ave./Forrest Nelson Blvd.
  - Cochran Blvd. Harbor Square Plaza
  - Repaired illuminated street name signs at US 41/Murdock Cir.
- Began routine street light maintenance in South and Mid County; load centers and circuits were checked for operation resulting in 121 repairs.
- Completed upgrading video detection processor firmware at signalized intersections with video detection systems.
- Replaced one broken Astro bracket at Marion Ave./Nesbit St. for the northbound video detection camera.
- Upgraded one two-way pedestrian signal pole at Edgewater Dr./Bayshore Rd. Wiring was dry-rotted and in need of replacement. The pole was not break-away. Installed a concrete foundation, installed a pull box, replaced pole, and pulled new cables.
- Turned off decorative lights on Manasota Key to be compliant with turtle nesting season.
- Replaced one radar detection unit at Kings Highway/Westchester Blvd. that was dropping vehicle calls.
- Straightened one pedestrian signal pole that was leaning as a result of a vehicle accident at Toledo Blade Blvd./Hillsborough Blvd.
- Replaced one street light pole on SR 776/Biggs St. that was knocked down as a result of a vehicle accident.
- Picked up pieces, made area safe, and repaired wiring for street light pole knocked down on southbound US 41 near the Elkcam Waterway as a result of a vehicle accident.
- Replaced one school flasher pole on Westchester Blvd./Beaver Lane as a result of a vehicle accident.
- On February 17, 2014 a vehicle accident destroyed the signal controller cabinet, cabinet base, and battery backup unit at Kings Highway/ I-75 northbound ramps. The replacement materials were delivered, operational, prepped and installed.
- Removed two pull boxes and replaced underground conductors on US 41 at the site for the new Mattress Firm in Port Charlotte.

- Removed one school flashing beacon pole on Forrest Nelson Blvd. at the Sunset Waterway to prevent damage during the box culvert construction.
- Working on resolving issues with FDOT revisions to the Maintenance and Compensation Agreement for Traffic Signals.

### **Traffic Management Center**

- Installation of new Cisco Network Switches for TMC and four network Hubs in the field:
  - a. New switches were configured, setup, and deployed.
  - b. Software upgrades for all Ruggedcom devices (98 devices).
  - c. Reconfiguration of IP addresses for all Ruggedcom switches in the field.
  - d. Changed out fiber patch cords for 4 Cisco switches at each Hub in the field.
- Punta Gorda Public Safety Office
  - a. Updated drivers and reconfigured PC to utilize more functions in Cameleon software.
- Reconfiguration of video drivers for cameras in the Traffic Management Center to utilize Cameleon software:
  - a. Video drivers affect video output and camera control functions.
  - b. In contact with FLIR 360 Surveillance for video wall issues.
- Attended Rotary Club of Murdock breakfast as guest speaker at Perkins on US 41.
- Attended McCain Transit Signal Priority - Key Concepts & Fundamentals. (Webinar)
- Attended US DOT Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Workshop. (Webinar)
- Begin transition of new PC's for Traffic Management Center.
- Reconfiguration of ring structure on Advanced Traffic Management System map to reflect true conditions in the field.
- Continue testing and monitoring of network.
- Continue monitoring and fielding complaints as the need arises. Responding to information requests.

Locates Performed: 167 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 75 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls: 15 trouble calls were received and responded to.

### **Solid Waste Division**

May brought continuing good news in response to our recycling efforts in Charlotte County. An actual count of single family homes setting out recycling carts was conducted and the outcome is that 77% of the homes are actively recycling. As we all know, many of our residents are seasonal and leave before the end of April; this further amplifies the successful outcome of the educational campaign. The Solid Waste Division is planning to conduct another recycling count during the height of "Snowbird" season in December 2014 to better capture a complete picture of residential recycling in Charlotte County.

A tour of the Charlotte County Zemel Road Landfill was conducted by Solid Waste Division staff for students involved in the environmental club at Myakka Elementary School. The tour educated the students about how waste generated from their homes is collected and what happens to items, such as recyclables, that are diverted out of the landfill saving precious space and extending the Landfill's life. The tour began at the scale house with an education on how the operation is funded. The students proceeded through the working areas to see how trucks empty the garbage and how garbage is compacted. The many gas collection wells that collect methane gas were pointed out, followed by visiting the site that cleans and processes the gas to fuel two large engines that convert methane gas into enough electricity to power approximately 3,500 homes.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful selected the winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> Student Calendar Art Contest this month. Carolina

Egloff Vega, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader from Lemon Bay High School, was selected by the judges as the 2015 cover winner. Twelfth graders Noreen Croxton, from Lemon Bay High School, and Angelique Noles, from Port Charlotte High School, will share a \$250 college scholarship.

More than 800 students submitted artwork for the contest which is held annually from November through April and is open to any student in grades K-12 throughout Charlotte County.

### **Traffic Signing & Marking**

- Herbicide = 4,348 objects
- Legends Installed = 726
- New Signs Installed = 9
- Raised Pavement Markers Installed = 890
- Signs Inspected = 6,546
- Signs Manufactured = 156
- Signs Repaired = 1,002
- Special Traffic Counts = 7
- Speed Studies = 15
- Striping = 94,292 feet (approx. 17.9 miles)
- Traffic Counts = 50 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 10

### **Tourism**

VCB staff, in conjunction with Fishermen's Village, Palm Island Resort, and the Four Points by Sheraton staffed an exhibit booth at the Travel Expo in The Villages on Friday, May 16. Over 700 Visitor Guides were distributed along with other informational brochures to a qualified audience of vacation seekers actively searching for summer and fall getaway options.

Also, VCB staff along with sales staff from the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center exhibited at the Capital Events Trade Show in Tallahassee on Tuesday, May 20 which provided the opportunity to discuss potential business with dozens of representatives from the Association meetings market. In addition to the valuable networking experience, the VCB directly acquired three RFP's as a result of the show.