

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted eight (8) home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with attendance: Tuesday, 5/27 – 860; Wednesday, 5/28 – 373; Thursday, 5/29 – 559; Friday, 5/30 – Game Cancelled/Rainout; Saturday, 5/31 (Fireworks) – 921; Sunday, 6/1 – Game Cancelled/Rainout; Monday, 6/2 – 302; Tuesday, 6/3 – 804.

Upcoming Events:

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting one home game for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on June 9.

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting several games of the Prostyle Tournament from Saturday, 6/7, to Tuesday, 6/10. Games will be played on two of the practice fields, and in the stadium.

Tringali

The Father's Day craft was held on Wednesday, June 4, at 5:30pm at the Tringali Recreation Center. The Tringali meeting room was decorated with bright summer colors, and streamers creating a fun and festive place to craft a special gift for Dad. Children came to create a gift for their Dads, with Moms, Sisters and Aunts as their helpers. Each child created and decorated a set of drink coasters, made from recycled jar lids. They also created Father's Day cards with a poem and their own drawings inside. The Sun Herald stopped by to take pictures and to learn about the craft.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Summer fun has officially begun at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. For the next 12 weeks the participants of the center's Space Camp will embark on a mission that is OUT OF THIS WORLD. Daily, the cadets will participate in activities that are designed to immerse them into a world uniquely designed for them. To ensure that the campers receive the most of their experience their first week was dedicated to learning about life in outer space. The Harold Avenue Recreation offers activities to area children entering into grades K-5. In addition, game one of the Summer Youth Basketball League was completed on Saturday. During the course of the day, the center played host to 292 players and 600 spectators. Tip off took place at 8:00 a.m. The participants played two 20 minute halves allowing them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills that they acquired. The Youth Basketball Summer League will continue with eight more weeks of regular season games and a post season tournament to be played on Saturdays beginning at 8:00 a.m. and Sundays beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

This weekend we will have the much anticipated Dance with Daddy on June 7, with a DJ, games, raffles and snacks. Expected attendance is around 75.

The next week we will start up again with meetings, weddings and parties.

For the week of 5-28 through 6-3-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 328 paid admissions, was visited by 17 pass holders and had 94 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted 5 private swim lessons.

South County Regional Park and Pool

Summer camps started at South County on May 27. There are a total of 105 campers registered for first session. First session runs from May 27-July 4. Campers utilize the South County pool twice weekly and attend a weekly field trip to area attractions.

For the week of 5-25-14 through 5-31-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 551 paid admissions, 52 water aerobics participants and was visited by 134 pass holders. The pool was closed Monday, 5-27-14 for Memorial Day. The Bluefin's held eight practices with approximately 420 swimmers. 9 outside summer camps brought in approx. 300 swimmers. And, South County Regional Park summer camp had approx. 100 swimmers.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 5-25-14 through 5-31-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 653 paid admissions, 69 water aerobics participants and was visited by 152 pass holders. The Bluefin's held five practices with approximately 125 swimmers.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for June 2 – "All hail the royal palm!"

Parks that Teach Guided Nature Walk – June 2

Parkside Tree Canopy Restoration Committee – June 3-- Cultural Center President's Room

2014 Master Gardener Graduation – June 4 plus MG Association Meeting

Libraries and Historical

Summer Reading programs have blasted off with our theme of: Fizz, Boom, Read! Youth, teen and adult programs are in full swing with reading lists, programs and prizes for everyone throughout the summer. Everyone is welcome to stop by and enjoy the cool spaces filled with every kind of materials from books, to magazines to music. Come join in the fun.

Mid-County Regional Library is hosting the exhibit; "Rising From the Rubble, Hurricane Charley" Come, spend some time and read the articles, and look at the many local photos from ten years ago.

Charlotte County Libraries and Historical Division are always looking for volunteers to do many tasks. If you have some free time and have an interest please call Anne Shepherd 941.613.3201. We would love to have you join our team!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Demolition and removal plans for several outdated and obsolete facilities are being made. At the Murdock Campus, adjacent to Building B, a double wide trailer once used by the building department will be removed. Two small out buildings at the JB Yard on Kenilworth Blvd are to be cleared away. One small storage shed no longer used at Carmalita Athletic Park field #3 will be razed. These "clean-up" projects will take several weeks to complete and will improve the grounds appearance of each location.

Second floor renovations to create additional usable storage and/or office space at the Fleet facility are in progress.

Operations

Construction has started at El Jobean Randy Spence Park for ADA accessibility improvements. The park will be open during the improvements of ADA parking and a sidewalk. There will be ongoing construction activity for approximately two weeks. Activities in these areas are not closed but will be limited. This project will improve the ADA accessibility standards for parking and access to this location and facilities.

Project Management

Ninety five percent completion plans and specifications have been received for the Franz Ross Park drainage and parking improvements project.

Two south county parks have new concession stand projects which started on June 2. At Carmalita Park the

concession stand will be located at the softball field area. That site was surveyed and the excavation of storm water ponds has begun. The concession stand at South County Regional Park is for the soccer field area, where the site survey is completed awaiting excavation to start.

Human Services

Human Services Department staff met with the Client Information Systems (CIS) Coordinator in Charlotte County. CIS Coordinator, employed by the Homeless Coalition and affiliated with the Gulf Coast Partnership, provides lead agency software support for Homeless programs and client tracking in Charlotte County. In April, the Board of County Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Homeless Coalition to transition the 211 data base support to the CIS system. This process is scheduled to begin in July. The Human Services' Self-Sufficiency Program staff were trained on the system and will be using the client tracking system as they implement a new state grant for housing assistance for at risk families with children.

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, 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

Work began on a box culvert at the Clark Canal. Installation of 54" pipes is underway near Zemel Road and fill is being hauled in to form the new lanes south of Zemel Road.

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. Construction Contract: Halfacre Construction, Projected Schedule: 07/07/14 – 09/06/16

A preconstruction meeting was held June 4, 2014. The Notice to Proceed was established for July 7, 2014.

Harborview Road Bridge Replacement – This project is to design and construct a replacement Bridge over the DeSoto Canal on Harborview Road 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 Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Fall 2014

May 19, 2014: Both approach slabs, traffic barrier and columns for the pedestrian rail on the north side were poured. The contractor will then begin forming the south side.

June 2, 2014: Continuing to pour the traffic barrier and pedestrian columns on the south side which should be complete this week. Roadway curbing is being installed.

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. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Projected Construction Schedule: 05/19/2014 – 9/26/ 2014

Construction underway; the temporary force main has been installed.

PSA issued 5/21/14: Port Charlotte, FL- A section of Forrest Nelson Boulevard will be closed, between Quesada Boulevard and Corktree Circle, from May 27, 2014 through September 30, 2014. Quality Enterprises, Inc. will be installing new box culverts within the Sunset Waterway to increase water flow capacity as part of an overall plan to upgrade Charlotte County's stormwater infrastructure system. Detours will be in place to guide travelers through this area. Please utilize alternate routes to avoid this area when possible. The Public Works Department would like to remind motorists to remain alert at all times and exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

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

Pompano Waterway: Zep Construction completed the installation of all drainage pipes and stormwater structures on the northbound and southbound Access Roads. Utility work will begin this week along with the roadway restoration. The Pompano Waterway construction is 80% complete and is on schedule.

Elkcam Waterway: The first of three 84" microtunnels is complete. Zep Construction is currently preparing the second microtunnel launching pit and is scheduled to begin tunneling on June 16, 2014. The project at the Elkcam Waterway is currently 23% complete.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase Two – This project will widen Edgewater Drive, between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard, to a four-lane arterial roadway designed to better serve the central portion of the County and accommodate anticipated traffic growth. The project will include replacing three bridges (West Spring Lake Waterway, East Spring Lake Waterway, and Sunrise Waterway) and improve five intersections, four of which will be roundabouts. Improvements include a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks/bike lanes, and landscaping. Design Contract: Southwest Engineering and Design, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/14/2009 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

All required permits have been received. Signed and sealed plans were submitted to the County on April 28, 2014. Final project specifications were received May 15, 2014 and are under review. Once the final review is complete the bid package will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation.

GPC Bridge Rehab – Sheehan Blvd Over Yale Waterway – This project will rehabilitate the existing Bridge on Sheehan Boulevard over the Yale Waterway. The existing Bridge was built in 1968 therefore the Bridge deck and rails are substandard. Sales tax funds will supplement MSBU funds allowing for the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge. The rehabilitation will widen the structure to accommodate sidewalks, replace the bridge deck and install a barrier wall. The proposed design includes sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge and allows the bridge to be a segment of the horizontal curve, maximizing the bridge deck area. Design Contract: Southwest Engineering and Design, Design/Permitting Schedule: 09/10/2012 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

100% design plans were received and are under review. CCU may include a watermain which would be

supported on the Bridge. If the utility design is completed prior to completion of the plans, the watermain may be included in the bridge rehabilitation. Upon completion of the review by County staff, the plans will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation.

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 completed the 100% roadway plans and is currently working on the utility portion of the design. Design is projected to be complete by the end of June 2014 with construction scheduled to start in late 2014.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/12/2013 – Late 2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The Board of County Commissioners approved the preferred design options for the decorative lighting, gateway feature and the access management plan on May 13, 2014. 30% design plans are in progress.

Research continues concerning the possibility of running FPL power lines underground along Harbor Boulevard as part of the Harbor Boulevard Enhancement project. Staff will present this option to the Board of County Commissioners meeting on July 22, 2014 to seek direction.

Placida Road Safety Improvements 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: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014

Giffels-Webster Engineers are working toward completing 60% plans. The anticipated completion date is June 13, 2014. The consultant is currently working on expanding the turn lane geometry near Panama Blvd, as requested by Public Works, which resulted in an adjustment to the completion date for 60% plans. It is not anticipated that subsequent scheduled completion dates will be affected (90% plans on schedule for completion July 15, 2014 and 100% plans on schedule for completion July 30, 2014)

Utility notification/coordination activities are on-going:

1. Plans were received from CenturyLink for relocation work within the corridor. These plans are currently being reviewed by the consultant to verify that all conflicts with the proposed sidewalk have been addressed.
2. Utilities Inc. (Sandalhaven) owns active sewer forcemain line buried with 3ft +/- cover along northbound shoulder from Sta 181 to Sta 266. Sidewalk grading will move roadside ditch/swale closer to the road and will reduce existing cover for forcemain. They are considering adjustment and/or re-construction.

Placida Road Safety Improvements 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 July 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

90% plans are scheduled to be completed by July 15, 2014. 100% plans anticipated for completion, July 30, 2014. Giffels-Webster is continuing to address the comments and preparing for SWFWMD exemption request which is anticipated to be completed and forwarded to SWFWMD by June 13, 2014. Utility notification/coordination is on-going.

Tom Adam's Bridge – Phase 2 of the Tom Adams Bridge Rehabilitation will replace the existing tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide a gateway to the Manasota Key will feature a standing seam roof color coordinated with the bridge and large observation windows designed to withstand hurricane winds. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the bridge tender's view is obstructed. The existing Tenderhouse will be removed providing a scenic outlook for pedestrians. The existing concrete railing and guardrail will be removed and replaced with a steel traffic barrier and aluminum handrail, which will allow for widening the sidewalk to a minimum of five (5) feet. The sidewalk surface will be topped to correct slope and alignment issues, making it easier for pedestrians to cross the bridge. The rehabilitation will also replace the existing Traffic Gates, Traffic Signals, the approach slabs (concrete slab which connect the bridge to the roadway), abutment wall cap, slope pavement (surface under the bridge approaches), plus the bridge will be repainted. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying, Design/Permitting Schedule: 07/02/2012 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

All Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies and the Project Specifications and Cost Estimates have been received. Design/permitting is 95% complete.

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 December 17, 2013 and bid opening was held January 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 February 11, 2014, however the Commissioners requested more information before voting on the contract. Discussions were held at the Board Workshop on February 18, 2014. The Board requested that staff investigate all possible solutions. Little Farm Road was discussed further at the BCC Workshop on May 20, 2014; as a result of the discussions, different funding resources are being explored.

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 – 07/01/2014, Projected Start of Construction: August 2014.

Johnson Engineering completed the survey collection, structure design and all permits have been obtained. The bid documents were sent to the Purchasing Department; the pre-bid meeting was held June 3, 2014 and bids are due June 18, 2014. It is anticipated that a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the BCC in July 2014. Construction will take approximately 105 days to complete upon notice to proceed.

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau released economic impact data for the 6th Annual Snowbird Baseball Classic held Feb. 14 – March 22, 2014, at various Charlotte County ballparks. As a result of the estimated 7,749 spectators; 1,826 athletes; 126 coaches; 291 officials and media attending, the total economic impact to the 2014 Snowbird Baseball Classic is estimated to be \$9 million (\$5.9 million in direct expenditures; \$9 million in indirect and direct economic impact.). The average length of stay per party was six nights. Twenty-four Division I and 24 Division III colleges participated. The 2014 tournament was played on the ball fields of Charlotte High School, North Charlotte Regional Park, and South County Regional Park. A double-header was played at the Charlotte Sports Park, spring training home of the Tampa Bay Rays, between Auburn University and Indiana State University and University of Connecticut and Ohio State University.