

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted a three (3) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates: Tuesday, 7/1 – 743; Wednesday, 7/2 – 301; Thursday, 7/3 (Fireworks) – 4,400.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted several games of the Perfect Game Tournament from 7/4 – 7/7. Games were played on five (5) practice fields and in the stadium. Estimated attendance was at 1,700.

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League hosted three (3) games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The estimated attendance at these games was as follows: 7/01 – 20; 7/03 – 30; 7/05 – 15.

Upcoming Events:

The Charlotte Sports Park will host a three (3) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs from 7/8 – 7/10.

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting several games of the Perfect Game Tournament from 7/13 – 7/15. Games will be played on two (2) practice fields and in the stadium.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Last week the participants of Harold Avenue Recreation Center's "Space Camp" completed the first half of their space voyage. During their journey they stopped by the planet Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre and while there, Princess Ariel and the local inhabitants treated them to a royal underwater experience filled with music, dancing, and an endless buffet. In other news, participation in Pickleball, Tae Kwon Do and Table Tennis continued to remain steady.

### Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

For the week of July 2 through July 8, 2014 Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 243 paid admissions, was visited by 47 pass holders and had 53 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 6-29-14 through 7-5-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 582 paid admissions, 39 water aerobics participants and was visited by 179 pass holders. The Bluefins held eleven practices with approximately 550 swimmers. 10 outside summer camps brought in approximately 500 swimmers. Also, South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue summer camps had approximately 270 swimmers.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 6-29-14 through 7-5-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 583 paid admissions, 55 water aerobics participants and was visited by 105 pass holders. The Bluefin's held four practices with approximately 110 swimmers. Five local summer camps visited OCRP with a total of 140 campers.

### Extension Services

Newspaper Article for July 7th – "These big scary spiders are relatively harmless"

Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – July 7th

2014 C.E.U. Roundup – July 9th - 15 participants expected to Charlotte County site - 367 attendees statewide via Poly Com

### Libraries and Historical

The Libraries are busy this summer! In the month of June, 45,314 people visited a library in Charlotte County and checked out 69,030 items. If you are not one of these people, come over and see what all the commotion is about. 2,763 children came to a program in June and that means that these children are reading or thinking

about reading this summer which is so important!!

In the Charlotte County Libraries we have over 7,000 DVD's to lend out. If you like old movie classics or maybe there are some TV seasonal shows that you missed, come see what we have. The best news of all is that it is free to borrow a DVD from our Libraries.

Volunteers are always welcome at any of our Libraries. We offer lots of different tasks, something for every skill level. We need help with shelving materials, phone calls, in our Friend's book stores, and other tasks. We also need help at our County Historical Center. Check with your local library today to see what you could help us with. Have a great summer and read a good book today!

## **Public Works**

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

**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. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Construction schedule: 06/26/2014 – October 2014

The contractor is currently dredging in the Manchester waterway between the lock and the intersection of the Ackerman and Manchester Waterways.

**Sunshine Lake / Sunrise Waterway Algae Removal** – Sunshine Lake has had a habitual issue with an algae problem. Based on the water quality study that was completed, it was determined that the next course of action to help correct the problem would be to dredge the algae from the lake. After the lake is dredged, re-charge wells will be installed (via a separate contract) in order to maintain active water flow through the lake. Construction Contract: Prolime Services, Projected Schedule: 01/14/2013 – 01/01/2015

Algae removal is going smoothly however it is taking longer than had originally anticipated. Once the algae are removed, the County shall initiate installation of a recharge well at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second recharge well adjacent to McGuire Park. Engineering staff received a SWFWMD permit for the installation of a weir structure located at the downstream end of the lake/canal system and is developing a scope of services and construction costs to seek both funds and authorization from County Administration and the BCC to proceed. Charlotte County Engineering is negotiating a scope and fee with Atkins Engineering to prepare a management plan that includes, but is not limited to, reviewing all work completed and planned, conducting a nutrient analysis to determine the source of the nutrients, and creating a plan that will keep the algae from returning to the system.

Little Blue Heron nests were found along the project site. These birds are protected under the migratory bird treaty act, therefore all dredging has been postponed until the birds have hatched, left the nests, and the nests have been removed. A change order to Prolime's contract was approved on April 22, 2014 to ensure that the equipment would remain on site and that they would finish the job as soon as the nests could be removed. County staff is currently working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to obtain a nest removal permit so that the nests can be removed as soon as the birds leave; the construction end date may be adjusted depending on how long this process takes.

**Winchester Boulevard South Extension** – This project includes the construction of a new four-lane connector from Placida Road to the Charlotte/Sarasota County line, with a direct connection to I-75 via River Road within Sarasota County. As construction progresses, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur and the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Projected Schedule: 11/25/2013 – Summer 2015

Excavation is underway for the Flood Plain Compensation Pond north of SR 776 and west of Wilmington Boulevard. Trucks hauling the excavated material are using SR 776 and San Casa Drive as the haul route to transport the material into the Winchester Boulevard South construction site.

The new box culvert in the Oyster Creek crossing is under construction. The contractor has completed the floor and walls and will be pouring the roof within the next week. The Contractor continues to install drainage pipes and structures for the new roadway; utility lines for both CCU and Englewood Water District are being placed. FP&L, Comcast, and FP&L Fibernet moved all power lines that were in conflict with the new road.

Fruitland Avenue and the intersection of the Avenue of the Americas/Winchester Boulevard are closed and will reopen on or about August 18, 2014 before the start the new school year. These closures serve to facilitate utility and drainage system installation, roadway construction, and to allow the contractor to complete the construction of the new roadway within the intersection without placing the motoring public in danger.

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

### **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 responded to the RAI and the fee for FDEP review of the project has been submitted for payment. Communications between the FDEP, ACOE the Consultant, and Charlotte County staff continues.

**Alligator Creek Maintenance Dredging c390502** – The MSBU Committee requested that engineering services be sought to engineer, permit, construct and manage the removal of silt to existing permitted conditions and pursue seeking permits to increase the depth of the access/main channel to -6 feet Mean Low Water (MLW). If maintained to existing conditions (-5 feet MLW), the approximate volume of material to be removed is about 3,000 cubic yards. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

The Army Corps of Engineer (ACOE) permits expired March 2014; re-authorization of project permitting is underway. Plans and specifications are complete pending any revised permit language required by the permitting agencies. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit was received however the ACOE permit application is still under review. The ACOE sent a Request for Additional Information (RAI) as they want to combine this project with the Alligator Creek -6 Feet Dredging Project; this may delay maintenance dredging. The Consultant responded to the RAI and is

attempting to rectify. The bid specifications will be reviewed by staff upon receipt. Communications with the permitting agencies continues.

**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

Johnson Engineering completed the survey and the preliminary plan design; preliminary plans are under review. A pre-application meeting was held with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on July 8, 2014 in an attempt to expedite the permit review process. The permit application is expected to be submitted by the end of July 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. 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The scope of services was negotiated and the Consultant is in the process of gathering preliminary data. The survey is scheduled for the end of July and the preliminary design will follow.

Project Schedule: July 2014 Field Work, August 2014 Data Reduction and Design Plans, September 2014 Permit Application Preparation and Submittal, October 2014 through Summer 2015 Permit Processing.

**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 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: July 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

The project permit was received on May 8, 2014. Staff reviewed the bid specifications and the Consultant made final revisions; limited vegetation trimming, for line of sight/navigation, is being added to the contract. Due to the available budget for this project and the current work loads of local contractors, the County feels that we will obtain more competitive bids if this project is advertised for construction this fall. This project will be advertised for bid in October 2014.

**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

The consultant has completed the bathymetry and sea grass survey. The preliminary drawings will be provided the week of July 14, 2014.

Design 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 - early 2016: Permit processing.

**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 – July 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 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.

The permit application was submitted May 13, 2014 to the permitting agencies. A Request for Additional Information (RAI) was received. County staff, the Consultant and permitting agencies held a teleconference to discuss the RAI. The Consultant is preparing documents in response to the RAI and the permitting process is moving forward.

Projected Permitting Schedule:

May 2014 through April 2015 - Permit processing with FDEP & USACE

June 2015 – Permit processing with FDEP

July 2015 – Permit Processing with USACE

## **Drainage Projects**

**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. Phase 2 includes the continuation of bank restoration to Harbor View Road. Design Contract: Tetra Tech, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/08/2012 – 04/01/2014, Procurement Process: July 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014  
The bid package for Phase 2 is being assembled and should be available by the end of July 2014.

## **Maintenance & Operations**

39 new service requests were received from 6/17 - 6/24/2014. Most of the calls were for drainage, some for brush removal, and others for debris removal from the rights of ways.

50,000 square feet of backyard drainage ditches were excavated at Hernando & Hayworth in the North County Stormwater District. Upon completion, crews moved onto Elm St. for backyard drainage ditch excavation in the Ridge Harbor South County Stormwater District.

A drainage crew completed 12,920 square feet of line and grade on Talbot St. and repaired a sink hole

on Blue Herron Dr.

Approximately 25,000 square feet was regraded ahead of sod placement; locations as follows: Alpine Ave. (between Yorkshire St. and Dorchester St.), Yarmouth St. (between Evanston Ave. and Alpine Ave.), and on Evanston Ave. (between Yorkshire St. and Yarmouth St.)

An outfall crew installed pipe stub outs in a basin located at Hawthorne Ave. and Kensington St. They also poured a road crossing at Kensington St. and Peachland Blvd. and dressed up other area crossings and basins in advance of the Paving Program.

An outfall crew finished armoring road crossing pipes in the Peachland Blvd. area.

Routine mowing was performed in the area of Edgewater Dr. and Lakeview Dr.

An outfall crew completed 20 linear feet of 12" x 18" driveway pipe replacement on Grove Ave.; the concrete drive was restored (awaiting sod).

An outfall crew completed 32 linear feet of 14" x 23" driveway pipe replacement on Peachland Blvd.; the concrete drive was restored (awaiting sod).

52 linear feet of 19" x 30" road crossing pipe was replaced at Grove Ave./Kellstadt St.; the asphalt restoration is postponed until next week due to an asphalt plant shutdown. Sod will be placed upon completion of asphalt restoration.

### **Solid Waste Division**

Staff members from Keep Charlotte Beautiful and the Charlotte County Solid Waste Division conducted a presentation at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) Summer Camp in Englewood on June 5, 2014. They provided information to approximately 30 campers about the Charlotte County Solid Waste Division and the Keep Charlotte Beautiful programs.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful presented CHEC with a Little Free Library to use at the Center. This is the second location for Keep Charlotte Beautiful's Little Free Library program. The mini libraries are part of the LittleFreeLibrary.org program to promote literacy and the reuse of books. The program promotes people to take a book, share the book and give a book. Promoting their mission, Keep Charlotte Beautiful volunteers built the library out of reusable materials and filled it with donated, used books. The first Little Free Library that was constructed is located at the Environmental Campus at 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful attended the annual Keep America Beautiful Affiliates of Florida meeting in Orlando on June 13, 2014. They participated in workshops on best practices and shared their Little Free Library Program with other affiliates.

### **Traffic Signing & Marking**

- Herbicide = 4,034 objects
- Legends Installed = 535
- Marine Markers Repaired = 31
- New Signs Installed = 8
- Signs Inspected = 11,838
- Signs Manufactured = 432
- Signs Manufactured for City of Punta Gorda = 8
- Signs Repaired = 1,394
- Speed Studies for CCSO = 13

- Striping = 3,000 feet
- Traffic Counts = 32 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 4

Crash data prepared for the City of Punta Gorda for the period of January through June 2014.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Fishermen's Village and Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside, hosted a group of a dozen meeting and travel planners in a suite during the Tampa Bay Rays vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game on June 25 at Tropicana Field. This function provided valuable networking opportunities to educate buyers from the Greater Tampa feeder market as to what Charlotte County has to offer in terms of meeting space, lodging, group tour opportunities, and attractions. As part of the County's partnership with the Rays, use of the suite and the majority of the food and beverage were provided in-kind.