

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted a four (4) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with attendance: Wednesday, 7/16 (Game Cancelled/Rainout) – 0; Thursday, 7/17 (Doubleheader) – 726; Friday, 7/18 – 903; Saturday, 7/19 – 1262.

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League hosted two (2) games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The estimated attendance at these games was as follows: 7/16 – 20 and 7/19 – 27.

Upcoming Events: Charlotte Sports Park will host four (4) games for the Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League on 7/21 (doubleheader), 7/22, and 7/25.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Week 8 of the Summer Youth Basketball League was completed. In this league the competition is fierce. At this time there is only one undefeated team in the entire league making for an interesting season and upcoming playoffs. The league games are held every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. bringing in over 400 spectators to the building. The Youth Basketball League consists of 10 regular season games plus a post season series. Harold is getting a facelift! New paint on the exterior of the building should be completed by the end of the month if weather cooperates.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-13-14 through 7-19-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 628 paid admissions, 31 water aerobics participants and was visited by 144 pass holders. The Bluefins held eleven practices with approximately 550 swimmers. 9 outside summer camps brought in approximately 450 swimmers. Also, South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue summer camp's had approximately 270 swimmers. We held a Special Olympics swim meet with approximately 60 volunteers, spectators and swimmers in attendance. And, our Moonlight Movie night had 246 people attend.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 7-13-14 through 7-19-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 520 paid admissions, 105 water aerobics participants and was visited by 92 pass holders. The Bluefin's held four practices with approximately 110 swimmers. Five local summer camps visited OCRP with a total of 125 campers. On Saturday night the pool had a moonlight swim with attendance of 126. It was a beautiful evening and everyone had a good time swimming, and playing volleyball.

Extension Services

National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Conference – Mobile, Alabama – July 20 – I will receive the "Search for Excellence – Landscape Horticulture – National Finalist Award"

Newspaper Article for July 21 - "Brighten your landscape with bougainvillea"

Master Gardener Radio Program – July 22 – WCCF – 1580 – Featuring Tom Becker and two Master Gardener volunteers

6 Caladium Educational/Giveaway Sessions – July 23 and 24 – 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day - <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/growing-caladiums-bulbs-tickets-12279551469>

Libraries and Historical

On Sept. 17, the Charlotte County Historical Center will present: "The Great Miami Hurricane of 1926." This is a free program that will be offered at Englewood Charlotte Library at 10:30 am and at 3p.m. at Mid-County

Regional Library.

Movies are a big interest at all of the Libraries and we have thousands of DVD's for your summer viewing. With the rainy afternoons they are a perfect free entertainment solution for the whole family.

Charlotte County Libraries are very excited to announce that we have been presented a gift of \$100,000 from the Payne Family Trust. This gift is specified for the Youth area of the Port Charlotte Library on Aaron St. in Port Charlotte. Library staff will be developing plans with input from the Friends of the Library for updated furniture, carpet and lots of new materials. We are extremely grateful to the Payne Family who made this happen for us.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Plans for repairs to Tringali gym siding and other repairs have started and should be complete in several weeks.

Operations

Bid for the Justice Center's rear service area is out on street for renovating the dumpster pad areas and parking to meet the expectations of the City for screening dumpsters, improve parking and security purposes..

Landscape Maintenance bid is out on street. The due date was extended for an additional two weeks to allow for bidders to bid properly and hopefully get some interested companies to bid. In house labor continues to triage the landscapes in our high profile buildings. They are currently working on the Justice Center's property.

Project Management

The south county concession stands are under construction at South County Regional Park Soccer fields and Carmalita Sports Park Softball fields. The trusses and roof sheathing was completed at the soccer field site. The trusses are being installed at the softball field's site. A Carmalita park's storm water surface gutter was removed replaced by below grade storm water structures.

We are in the process of closing out several of the facility improvement measures (FIM's) in the Siemens energy performance contract project. The HVAC punch list is 100% complete. The salt chlorination system and lighting system punch list will be complete within the next week. The last component of the project; the controls system upgrade at the jail is in progress.

Human Services

All of the Housing staff attended a Florida Housing Coalition seminar/refresher for client income determination and the eligibility process for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program. The new State grant funding cycle began July 1, 2014.

The Jewish and Children Services staff visited the 211 Call Center to learn more about 211's Information and Referral process, non-profit agency information, client data collection and needs mapping assessment.

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.

Paving crews moved to the southern part of the County to perform base repairs on Taylor Road. They will perform base repairs on Florida Street on Wednesday July 16, 2014, weather permitting, and will pave the parking lot at the Florida Street Public Works Yard.

The Public Works Department requested additional work to be performed on Deltona Drive within the Punta Gorda Non-Urban Street & Drainage MSBU. A change order requesting the additional work was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 22, 2014.

To date, approximately 54,201 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge and Greater Port Charlotte Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 38.12% and the Contractor has completed approximately 53.41% of the work.

Rotonda West Entry Features – This project will provide new signs at five (5) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit. Construction Contract: Keesling Construction, Construction Schedule: 04/14/2014 – 8/15/2014

The Contractor completed block installation at all locations. Stucco has been applied and painting is underway. The Contractor is on schedule for substantial completion by the beginning of August 2014.

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

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard West - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 08/18/2011 – 06/11/2013, Procurement Process: June 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

The design plans have been reviewed by the utility companies. This project is with the Purchasing Department undergoing review. Bid solicitation for construction is expected to be advertised by the end of August 2014.

Sidewalks - Sheehan Boulevard – This sidewalk will be installed on Sheehan Boulevard from Noble Terrace to Peachland Boulevard and includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Alton Road. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 03/02/2011 – 05/10/2013, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

The bid package for the construction contract was sent to the Purchasing Department on December 16, 2013

in preparation for bid solicitation. This project was expected to be advertised for bid in early February 2014 however outstanding utility issues have delayed advertisement. CCU is currently trying to acquire a FDEP permit for their portion of the project.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – 10/01/2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

The Beautification Committee requested that benches and minimal landscaping be included in the design. A change order was approved for the additional work and Johnson Engineering is incorporating the additional features into the design. The 30% design plans have been received and reviewed by staff. Johnson Engineering will be at the scheduled July 24, 2014, MSBU meeting and will have 60% plans available.

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 is currently in the Purchasing Department pending technical specification review and bid advertisement.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Quasar NIA 5.09 - This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Niagara 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 properly sized and upgraded from two 48" metal pipes with a 44' weir to two 48" concrete pipes with a 20' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2013 – September 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The plans have been permitted by SWFWMD. Johnson Engineering is preparing 100% design plans for County review. Construction is funded in Fiscal Year 2015.

Maintenance & Operations

Public Works received 50 new work requests for service this week. Most of the requests were for brush and drainage work, some were for debris removal and pothole repairs.

Crews used the Grapple truck to remove 13,100 lbs. of trash from the rights-of-ways in various areas of Charlotte County.

A drainage crew completed 7,500 sq. ft. of line and grade on Laika Ave. in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU District.

Crews used the Menzi Muck excavators to clear 37,028 sq. ft. of primary ditches in the Peace River Shores MSBU District.

A drainage crew performed the emergency installation of 32 lf of 14x23 reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) at Caring Way near Brinson St. in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU District.

The major outfall crew installed 128 lf of 34x60 RCP under Landrum Cir. between Stacy Ln. and Manniz Rd. along with dams and other prep work for the West County Stormwater MSBU District in Englewood East.

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A Drainage crew completed 1,700 sq. ft. of line and grade on Harbor Blvd. near Higgs Dr., 3 driveways and 2,000 sq. ft. of line and grade on Liberty St. All work for this drainage crew was in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU District

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An Outfall Crew installed 32 lf of 12"x18" RCP drive pipe on Abscott St. & two driveways with 20 lf of 12" x 18" RCP on Glendale Av. All work was in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU District.

A drainage crew finished up a line and grade on Bacchus Rd. and completed a line and grade on David Blvd. in Gulf Cove. An outfall crew installed two sets of pipe going into a backyard ditch on Forseman Blvd. and worked with the major outfall crew installing large pipe off David Blvd.

A drainage crew completed 14,100 sq. ft. of line and grade on Washington Loop/Walnut Dr.

An outfall crew installed a pipe extension at Cezane Ave/Marlene St. and installed 24' of 14X23 RCP on Kellstadt/Lakehurst replacing a driveway pipe in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU District.

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The shoulder repair crew/quick response crew repaired 1.3 miles of shoulder work on Tara Lane off US 17, and 200 sq. ft. of standard cuts on Fletcher St.

Tourism

Today's consumer is no longer satisfied with static images on travel websites. Now that high definition video is widely available on the web, consumers want to be immersed in the sights and sounds of a destination. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is developing a series of 1 to 3 minute videos of local attractions, events and activities for display on our website and our YouTube channel. The first video, a visit to the Peace River Wildlife Center, was completed in June and is available for viewing on the Bureau's YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/CHGIFlorida> (direct link to the Peace River Wildlife video: <http://youtu.be/sMbiFtuZ65c?list=UUQYloP1NBKFnCf9eNVbj4cQ>). The next video will be completed and posted within the month.