

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League hosted four games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The estimated attendance at these games was as follows: 7/21 (Doubleheader) – 39; 7/22–Cancelled/Rainout; 7/25 – 25.

Charlotte Sports Park will host four games for the Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League on 7/29 (doubleheader), 7/31, and 8/02.

The Charlotte Sports Park will host an eight game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs from 7/28 – 8/04.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Week 9 of summer camp had K-2 campers traveling to the Imaginarium museum in Ft. Myers and the 3-5 campers spent a day at Miracle Field in Ft. Myers watching a baseball game and participating in their annual Splash Day in the park. Everyone had a great time. Exterior painting of the recreation center is nearing completion and what an improvement! Class participation is steady with numbers typical for this time of year. The youth and adult basketball leagues completed Week 9 of their 10 week season and are preparing to head into the Championship rounds after next weekend's final games.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-20-14 through 7-26-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 497 paid admissions, 27 water aerobics participants and was visited by 163 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 camps had approximately 270 swimmers.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 7-20-14 through 7-26-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 661 paid admissions, 73 water aerobics participants and was visited by 98 pass holders. The Bluefin's held five practices with approximately 125 swimmers. Five local summer camps visited OCRP with a total of 175 campers.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool Park

For the week of 7-23 through 7-29-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 309 paid admissions, was visited by 33 pass holders and had 43 water aerobics participants. In addition, a Pizza Pool Party Program was held 7-26-14 with 15 children and their parents attending.

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for July 28 - "Red caterpillars"
- Managers Meeting – July 28 – 10 am - Charlotte Sports Park
- CED PolyCom – July 28 – 1 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Business Meeting - Community Services – Mid-County Library – July 30
- Extension Staff Meeting – July 30
- Employee Garden in Murdock Meeting - Bldg. B, Suite B-104 – July 31
- The Great Crape Myrtle – Day 1 - August 1
- The Great Crape Myrtle – Day 2 - August 2
- Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training – Weed Management – August 2 - Collier County Extension – Reciprocal support training.

## Facilities Construction & Maintenance

### Repairs and Maintenance

- The sheriff's Administration drainage project will be finished up this week. This project was done to move storm water away from the sides of the building.
- Facilities management are receiving estimates for the Harbor Heights Park bathroom remodel project which will be starting soon. This is a capital project which will bring this public restroom up to current standards.
- Work is still in progress on cleaning up the records and finding appropriate storage for some of the contents of the old Building Construction Services trailer by B building. A tentative removal date of Aug. 10 is planned.

### Operations

- Our accessibility projects are still in progress, updates to report include Harold Avenue park improvements started on Friday. The next area project to start will be rear entrance ramp at Port Charlotte Library on Aaron Street. Demolition work there will begin this week and continue through August until complete. Ann Dever concession building accessibility improvements will be almost complete by end of week after the pavement is sealed and striped. Sod and final inspections will be the last requirements for completion. This week at East Englewood Park the curbing will be installed and striping will be done for the parking lot. The landscaping to follow right behind. G. C. Herring's cement work, sealing and striping is complete. We are waiting on sod and final inspection to complete this project.
- Facilities staff continued landscaping labor in-house due to delay in the bids process which was extended to allow for more bids to be submitted.

### Project Management

- Work has begun on the Cultural Center-Port Charlotte Library exterior lighting project. The entire complex is being retrofitted with new LED parking and security lighting. In addition to providing substantial energy savings, this retrofit will improve the aesthetics of the facility.
- The Facilities Department Director presented a program at the Florida Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects annual state conference last week on compliance with the Florida Accessibility Code in the design of the outdoor environment. The participants attended a PowerPoint classroom session on the Code requirements followed by a field tour of typical outdoor developed areas using wheel chairs and visual disability simulation glasses to gain sensitivity into the needs of the disabled.
- The pre bid meeting for the Anger fishing pier and parking improvements was held last week and we are scheduled to receive the contractor's bids on August 6.

## 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, Construction Schedule: 03/10/14 – 09/10/2015

The excavation of all five ponds and grading of swales continues. Work began on box culverts at the Clark Canal. Installation of four 54" pipes is underway near Zemel Road. The box culvert at the Bear Branch Creek is almost complete and backfilling continues. The contractor began the placement of roadway sub base.

**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. This 790 calendar day project is funded by the 2009 Sales Tax, Road Impact Fees, Gasoline Tax and a State Grant. Construction Contract: Construction Manager at Risk, Halfacre Construction, Woodruff and Sons, Inc. will be performing on-site construction, Construction Schedule: 07/07/14 – 09/04/16.

In early August 2014, the Contractor will mobilize equipment to the project site and begin clearing and installing silt fencing. Work will begin on the south side of the project, near Rotonda Boulevard East up to the Bridge at the Butterford Waterway, and will begin with the installation of a new utility system.

**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, Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Fall 2014

This project is 98% complete. Restoration of the project site continues and the remaining drainage structures are being installed. Curbs and sidewalks are being installed in advance of paving.

*PSA issued 7/30/14 - Effective Monday, August 4, 2014, the temporary stop signs that were installed on Sunnybrook Road, at the Highlands Road intersection in Harbour Heights, will be removed. Temporary stop signs were installed at this location for additional traffic control during the construction of the Harborview Road Bridge which is nearing completion. Variable message boards are in place to alert the public in advance of removal. "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs will be installed on Highlands Road, at the intersection of Sunnybrook Road, when the stop signs are removed.*

**Parkside - Elckam Boulevard Multi Use Path** – The Public Works Engineering Division will oversee the Design, Project Management, Inspection Services and Permitting of a 10' multi-use sidewalk with street (shade) trees along the west side of Elckam Boulevard and decorative trees on the east side. Charlotte County Utilities will construct this project. Construction schedule: 8/14/2014 – 11/15/2015

The pre-construction kick-off meeting is scheduled August 5, 2014 with the contractor and County staff. At this meeting the notice to proceed date will be established.

**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. Construction Contract: Lovin Construction, Construction Schedule: 8/15/2014 – 12/1/2014

The pre-construction meeting is scheduled August 13, 2014. At this meeting, the notice to proceed date will be established. Construction will take approximately 105 days to complete upon notice to proceed.

**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, Construction Schedule: 05/19/2014 – 9/26/ 2014

Construction is underway; all of the 54 box culvert sections and the sheet piling for the east headwall have been installed. The east headwall footer has been formed and poured. To date, there have been a total of 3 rain days during construction.

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

Pompano Waterway: Roads are open to all traffic. Zep will complete restoration and start on the punchlist items in August 2014. 91% complete.

Elkcam Waterway: Huxted Tunneling completed the third and final 84" microtunnel and is de-mobilizing their equipment. Zep will be pulling sheet piling and preparing the waterway rip rap foundations to construct the concrete headwalls. 52% complete.

Fordham Waterway: Zep mobilized sheet piling onto the site for the construction of the double 84" microtunnel launch pits. 0% complete.

*PSA issued 7/15/14, expires Feb 2015 - The US 41 Northbound Access Road will be closed to traffic, between Conway Boulevard and Easy Street, beginning Monday, July 28, 2014 and will remain closed through February 2015. Zep Construction will be installing the final two 84" microtunnels under US 41 and constructing a new water control structure. This project is being conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Storm Structures - Microtunneling Project that will increase stormwater flow capacities. Motorists will follow detour signs that will be in place and pedestrians will use the signalized crosswalks to navigate around the project site. The traveling public is encouraged to exercise extreme caution while traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.*

*PSA issued 7/21/14 - The US 41 Northbound and Southbound Access Roads that were closed on December 30, 2013 (between Herkimer Street and Conway Boulevard and between Dow Road NE and Conway Boulevard) are now open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This project was conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Storm Structures - Microtunneling Project to increase stormwater flow capacities at several locations in Port Charlotte. Major drainage improvements continue north of this location, between Conway Boulevard and Easy Street, and will continue through February 2015. Detours remain in place between Conway Boulevard and Easy Street and the traveling public is encouraged to exercise extreme caution while traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.*

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

**Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase One** – This project is to design and construct pedestrian and boater access to Charlotte Harbor. The Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CHCRA) is interested in providing continuous pedestrian access from Bayshore Live Oak Park to Chester Roberts Park and to improve boater access to the harbor. Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/17/2009 – 03/18/2011, Procurement Process: July 2014, Projected Start of Construction: September 2014

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) Funds to construct this project which became available in July 2014. The FDOT LAP Agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 24, 2014 and sent to FDOT for execution. More information will be provided upon FDOT's notice to proceed.

**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 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

Giffels-Webster Engineering submitted the 100% construction plans. County Public Works staff reviewed the final plans and returned all comments back to the design engineer. All roadway plans, Charlotte County School District plans, all Signing/Marking and Lighting Signalization plans are complete.

At this time the project is on hold until Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) is ready with 100% utility plans. More information will be provided as updates are received from CCU.

**Placida Road Safety Improvements Phase 2 (Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway)** – This project is 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 September 30, 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015.

90% plans will be complete by mid-August, with 100% plans completed by the end of September, 2014. The SWFWMD exemption request was approved on June 26, 2014.

### **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 – 9/9/2014, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

A construction contract was presented to the BCC for award 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 asked staff to investigate alternative solutions. Little Farm Road was discussed further at a BCC Workshop on May 20, 2014; as a result of the discussions, additional funding resources were explored and identified. The construction contract was presented to the BCC on July 22, 2014, however the Board did not award the contract. It is anticipated that the contract will be presented to the BCC again on September 9, 2014.

**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. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the waterway approximately 3,400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard. Design Contract: Stantec, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2013 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Construction Schedule: December 2014 – March 2015 (during dry season)

The 90% design plans and bid specifications were received and are under review. Four properties have been secured to access the project and stage equipment between Jennings and David Boulevards. The project manager is currently in negotiations with a firm to perform the permitting, surveying, and relocation requirements to protect and relocate tortoises from the project site as required by law. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2014 during the dry season.

**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 – August 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

The survey is complete, the 60% plans were reviewed by staff and comments returned to the design engineer. This structure is not scheduled for construction until late 2015.

## **Tourism**

The Charlotte County Tourist Development Council recently selected the first winners of the "Show Us Your Charlotte" photography program. Ms. Patty Stefan of Port Charlotte won first place with a photograph of a Gilchrist Park sunset and Rick Fried with the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club was awarded second place with a photograph of kayakers paddling on Upper Shell Creek. "Show Us Your Charlotte" is a program developed by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau to encourage photographers of every skill level to submit photos taken in Charlotte County to [www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com](http://www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com). Each quarter, Visitor and Convention Bureau staff selects four photos as contest finalists based upon the quality of the photos and how well they represent and communicate Charlotte County's tourism offerings. The final decision on first and second place winners is made by the Tourist Development Council. Prizes awarded include gift certificates for local tourism related business and services. First prize value is no less than \$200 and second prize is no less than \$50.