

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 8/12/14

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted an eight game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the attendance: 7/28 – 322; 7/29 – 936; 7/30 – 492; 7/31 – 758; 8/01 – 574; 8/02 – 552; 8/03 (Game Cancelled/Rainout) – 0; 8/04 (Doubleheader Cancelled/Rainout) – 0.

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League hosted four games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The estimated attendance at these games was as follows: 7/29 – 15; 7/31 – 20; 8/01 – 10; 8/02 – 25.

Upcoming Events:

Charlotte Sports Park will host three games for the Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League between 8/04 and 8/06.

The Charlotte Sports Park will host a six game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs from 8/09 – 8/14.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

The regular season of the Summer Youth Basketball League came to a close last week. Over the course of the weekend 292 participants and approx. 700 spectators filled the Gymnasium of Harold Avenue Recreation Center. In addition to the regular games, 10 players from Harold's League represented the program and competed in an All Star Game against 10 players from the Punta Gorda Police Department's Jammers Basketball League. The competition was fierce, the crowd was wild. Although the Harold Avenue All Stars put up a good fight they fell to the Punta Gorda Jammers to a 3 point shot that was made at the buzzer. The coordinators of the Summer Youth Basketball Season would like to send a big shout out to the Harold Avenue Recreation Center's Youth Basketball League participants and to the Punta Gorda Police Department Jammers as well for a job well done this season.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-27-14 through 8-2-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 590 paid admissions, 27 water aerobics participants and was visited by 148 pass holders. The Bluefins held eleven practices with approx. 550 swimmers. 9 outside summer camps brought in approx. 450 swimmers. Also, South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue summer camps had approx. 270 swimmers.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 7-27-14 through 8-2-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 662 paid admissions, 79 water aerobics participants and was visited by 109 pass holders. The Bluefin's held five practices with approx. 125 swimmers. Five local summer camps visited OCRP with a total of 175 campers.

### Extension Services

The Great Crape Myrtle - August 2 - <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-great-crape-myrtle-tickets-12321990405> -

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training – Weed Management – August 2 - Collier County Extension – Reciprocal support training

Newspaper Article for August 4 - "When a vine is a groundcover"

Parkside Tree Canopy Restoration Committee – August 5 - Cultural Center President's Room

Safety Training for Supervisors - Conference Room B106 – August 5

MG Association - Dr. Kern – Spiders – 10 am – August 6

Venomous Creatures – August 6 – Dr. Bill Kern

## Facilities Construction & Maintenance

### Repairs and Maintenance

- Chiller coil replacement at Charlotte County Event & Convention Center will be starting this week and should be completed in a week. This will address several recurring refrigerant leaks that are no longer cost effective to repair.

### Operations

- Plans are underway to move surplus retained county record items from existing storage in Punta Gorda to newly completed storage area at Port Charlotte Fleet building. This will improve records retrieval efficiency.

### Project Management

- The pre bid meeting for the Harbor Heights Drainage and Parking Improvements will be held this Friday.
- The construction bids for the Anger Fishing Pier and Parking Rehab are due this Friday.
- LED lighting project is underway at the Cultural Center. All parking lot fixtures have been installed. Security lighting retrofits are in progress.
- The consultant for Bay Heights boat ramp project in Englewood submitted for the drainage connection permit and applied driveway connection to the Florida Department of Transportation. The county is waiting on the Army Corp of Engineers permit for the site. The consultants are also compiling documents for the county site plans review submittal. Upon receipt of external permits and approvals, the construction documents will be submitted for building plans review and permit.
- The guideline for selecting HVAC control systems has been completed. It gives Charlotte County the option of choosing between three manufacturers so the best value can be provided, due to the competition.

## Human Services

Veteran Services – while staff was assisting a local Veteran obtain his DD 214 staff learned that the Veteran was applying for a mortgage for a home in Charlotte County. The Veteran was not aware of the VA Home Loan process and staff assisted the Veteran in obtaining a Certificate of Eligibility to be used to obtain a second opinion on a mortgage possibly saving the Veteran several thousands of dollars in closing costs.

## 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

Parking lot paving at the Public Works office on Florida Street is complete pending restoration. The Contractor is working on 10" base repairs on Florida Street; 10" base repairs are complete on Taylor Road, Cooper Street Extension, and Rio Villa Drive.

6" base repairs and paving on Deltona Drive in the Punta Gorda Non-Urban MSBU District is complete. One lane of paving on Rio Villa Drive is complete; the other lane was started but not completed due to weather conditions. Once the adverse weather conditions dissipate paving will resume on this lane.

To date, approx. 55,758 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge and the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approx. 39.35% and the Contractor has completed approx. 56.67% of the work.

**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 on-site and maintenance dredging is underway. There are two barges currently operating in the area; one is working in the Hyattsville Waterway and the second barge is working in the Ackerman Waterway/Lewis Creek.

**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: 03/18/2014 – 8/15/2014

The Contractor completed all work and is waiting for Florida Power and Light to install man holes. Staff met with Keesling Construction on July 31, 2014 to complete the punch list; substantial completion was issued.

**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. The western pond is now complete and excavation is underway for the eastern pond. 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 almost complete. The culverts have been poured and the forms will be removed this week; only the headwalls remain to be completed.

The Contractor continues to install drainage pipes and structures for the new roadway; utility lines for both CCU and Englewood Water District are being installed. FP&L, Comcast, and FP&L Fibernet moved all conduit and power lines that were in conflict with the new roadway.

The contractor placed the first layer of base material on the new northbound lanes of Winchester, from Fruitland Avenue north to Apple Valley Avenue and placed the first layer of base material in the southbound lanes from Fruitland Avenue to Rifle Road.

Fruitland Avenue and the intersection of the Avenue of the Americas/Winchester Boulevard are closed and will reopen on or about Aug. 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 – Harbour Heights** - This project consists of constructing approx. 2.75 miles of 5' wide sidewalks within the Harbour Heights MSBU District. Sidewalks are proposed along the following six (6) roadways: Sunnybrook Road (from triangle at Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Peace River Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. to San Marino Dr.), San Marino Drive (from Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Broadpoint Drive (from Voyageur Dr. to Washington St.), Sulstone Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. south to end), Voyageur Drive (from Broadpoint

Dr. to end). Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting: 6/27/14 – Late 2014, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD. Survey work for the area has been completed. Staff met with Charlotte Engineering to discuss design options. 30% plans are expected in September 2014.

**Sidewalks - Parade Circle Sidewalk Connections** - The Rotonda West MSBU requested that sidewalks be installed along the feeder roads leading to Parade Circle. This design will be for approx. 950 feet of 6' sidewalk along Oakland Hills Road, Pebble Beach Road, Pinehurst Road, Broadmoor Road, Long Meadow Road and White Marsh Road. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: through Spring 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD. Staff negotiated with Johnson Engineering for the design of this project. 30% plans are expected in early September 2014.

**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: through 10/14/2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

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

## **Coastal Projects**

**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

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 was submitted to FDEP on July 23, 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 2014 – Fall 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

The Consultant is gathering preliminary data; the bathymetric survey has been completed. Data reduction and design plans are anticipated by the end of August 2014.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: August 2014 - Data Reduction and Design Plans, September 2014 - Permit Application Preparation and Submittal, October 2014 through Summer 2015 - Permit Processing

**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 completed the bathymetry and sea grass survey. The preliminary drawings were provided the week of July 14, 2014. The consultant scheduled a pre-application meeting Tuesday, Aug 16, 2014 to expedite the permit review process.

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.

## **Other Projects**

**Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges** – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested the installation of an electric power system for five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. Design Contract: Florida Transportation Engineering, Design/Permitting: 12/14/2012 – 08/09/2013, Procurement: 10/21/2013 – 01/28/2014, Construction Contract: Wright Construction: 04/14/2014 – July 31, 2014.

Substantial completion was issued. As soon as Florida Power and Light completes their work, this project will be finished.

**Harbour Heights Median Improvements** - This project consists of installing curbing, irrigation and landscaping within the existing medians on Sunnybrook Road and Broadpoint Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting: 6/27/14 – Late 2014, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

Surveying is underway. The 30% plans are expected to be delivered in September 2014.

**Manasota Key Community Plan Design** – The Manasota Key MSTU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. The first phase of this project consisted of a conceptual master plan completed by Weiler Engineering in December 2013. Phase 2 is the design of construction ready plans consisting of the top priorities as identified by the MSTU Committee. Design Contract: Weiler Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: through early 2015, Construction: N/A (Design Only)

The survey of the project area is complete. A pre-application meeting was held with SWFWMD on July 31, 2014; County staff and Weiler Engineering staff were in attendance to discuss project permitting requirements.

## **Solid Waste Division**

Keep **Charlotte** Beautiful received a grant from Keep **America** Beautiful to expand the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program in Charlotte County. This grant specifically targets marinas and boat ramps. As a result of a survey conducted at Eldred's Marina and the Placida Boat ramp, it was determined that these two locations were good candidates to receive cigarette butt receptacles. Eldred's Marina welcomed a way for people to dispose of cigarette butts before going out on the water; the Parks and Recreation Department installed the new equipment at the boat ramp. Keep Charlotte Beautiful will supply additional receptacles for the Englewood Beach facility in the near future.

As a part of the five year contract extension with Waste Management, Charlotte County receives two Big Belly solar powered recycling/garbage containers at no cost every year. The first two we received were installed at



Bayshore Park and the Englewood Beach Facility. The two units we received this year were installed at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex and Englewood Beach. Big Belly trash containers are state of the art equipment; the containers are equipped with built-in solar powered trash compactors and send electronic notifications to the service department when the unit is nearing capacity which saves staff time and fuel by only servicing the containers when needed. We will continue to install future units in areas identified as the most utilized county facilities.

## Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted a travel writer on assignment for Travel Weekly last month (July 28 - 31). Travel Weekly and TravelWeekly.com are the most influential B2B news resources for the travel industry. The print and digital versions deliver all the late-breaking news, analysis and research that travel professionals need to succeed. The publications provide travel professionals with a necessary global perspective through in-depth coverage of every business sector, including airline, car rental, cruise, destination, hotel and tour operator as well as technology, economic and governmental issues. Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination assists the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in stretching its marketing dollars. Activities the journalist engaged in included a buggy tour with Babcock Wilderness Adventures, sunset cruise with King Fisher Fleet, visiting the Military Heritage Museum, touring Fishermen's Village, and beach massage on Englewood Beach with Silhouettes Day Spa, in addition to dining and touring Punta Gorda and Placida.

## Utilities (CCU)

**Water Distribution:** Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) provides much more than clean and safe drinking water. In fact this week alone our crews have been hard at work responding to and correcting a water main break at Paulson Drive and Veterans Boulevard. Citizens will be pleased to know that the roadwork and relaying of sod has been restored and we think that drivers will agree that area looks as good as new, if not better. Our crews have also responded to a public safety hazard at the Port Charlotte Cultural Center. Over the past several years drivers have hit a fire hydrant, repeatedly. CCU was proactive and relocated the fire hydrant and helped to continue to protect the integrity of fire protection for our citizens and visitors who frequent the Cultural Center. Our crews in CCU also work in partnership with other Charlotte County Departments to assist with their projects. This week CCU completed a water main diversion for Public Works at a culvert which had collapsed on Caring Way. Collaborative efforts made for a job well done and provided continued care and safety for citizens of Charlotte County.

**Wastewater Collection:** On July 31, a sewer main break occurred at Quesada Avenue near the Crestview Waterway. Our CCU crew's quick reaction minimized the impact. A coordinated effort again between Public Works and CCU is in the works for the betterment of the community. Currently the road has one lane closed and two lanes have been left open. When the final restoration occurs drivers will notice the road will be reduced to one lane and crew members with flags directing traffic will be managing traffic flow. Drivers in the area should have their normal driving routine returned to normal by the week ending Aug. 16.

**Treatment Facilities:** Our treatment facilities are hosting three volunteer students from Charlotte County Vo-Tech School. They are working side-by-side with our licensed treatment operators to gain experience towards acquiring their licenses. The new West County Reclaimed Booster station was successfully tested. This station will be very beneficial to meeting future reclaimed water (irrigation) customer needs in the West County area.