

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Prostyle Baseball Tournament on 11/1 & 11/2. Games were played on four practice fields each day and estimated attendance was 1,250. Players came from all of Florida and ranged in age from 10 to 18 years old.

The Charlotte Sports Park will host the SW Florida Lung Cancer 5K and Memorial Walk on Saturday, 11/8. All proceeds will benefit the Lung Cancer Research Council's research, education and awareness programs right here in Southwest Florida. The event features individual and team timed events with prizes and awards. The presenting sponsor is South Florida Ford, with Buffalo Graffix, Truly Nolen, Clear Channel, DB Sound, and more.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Round two of the Youth Basketball League skills evaluations were completed on Saturday. Under the leadership of Recreation Specialists, Edwidge Chery and Thaddeus Spikes, 50 participants between the ages of 15 and 17 years old were led through 45 minutes of basketball drills before being drafted onto teams by volunteer coaches. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league consists of 10 regular season games followed by a postseason playoff for youth ages 9 and older. Tipoff for the Winter Season is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th at 8:00 a.m. Current registration is 308 participants for this season.

### Port Charlotte Beach Pool

Oct., 28-Nov., 2 Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center had a wedding and reception for 100. Elections on the 4th, and this Saturday, a Neighborhood Watch Awards and planning party. They are expecting 50. For the week of 10-29 through 11-4-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 70 paid admissions, was visited by 27 pass holders and had 19 water aerobics participants.

### Tringali Recreation Center

What a great weekend at the Tringali Recreation Center. The weekend activities provided a safe place for Elementary and Middle School aged kids to skate, socialize and have fun!

**Friday, October 24, 2014, Elementary Spooky Skate - Spooky Skate** started off the evening with our Friday Night Elementary Skate from 6pm-8pm. The lobby, gym, and snack area were decorated with Halloween decorations on the walls, hanging from the ceiling and in the middle of the gym. Halloween and top-100 music were played for the Spooky Skate and for the Middle School Halloween Dance for their listening pleasure. Games for skating such as freeze skate stop on a dot skate, and YMCA were also an entertaining feature of the evening.

A prize was given for best costume, it went to a very believable zombie girl. There were 60 kids that attended the skate and 16 attended the Middle School Halloween Dance.

**Saturday, October 25, 2014, 3rd Annual Trick-or-Treat Down Spooky Street** - The idea behind Trick or Treat Down Spooky Street was a way for the Tringali Recreation Center to bring local business together and facilitate a safe trick or treat walk for the kids in the community. There was a pathway created for the kids to walk down to collect candy and meet the vendors. We had over 900 kids and adults come through the event. Over 15 local vendors/organizations set up tables to hand out candy, offered demonstrations and information with regards to their business. Parents expressed their appreciation for Community Services hosting an event that offered a safe environment to take your kids Trick-or-Treating.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 10-26-14 through 11-1-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 51 paid admissions, 50 water

aerobics participants and was visited by 131 pass holders. The South County Intercession Camp had three swim days with approximately 30 swimmers each day. The blue Fins held a swim meet with approximately 300 in attendance. The blue Fins held five practices with approximately 350 swimmers. High School swim team and dive team held seven practices with approximately 280 participants.

### **Oyster Creek Pool**

For the week of 10-26-14 through 11-1-14 Oyster Creek Pool had 66 paid admissions, 129 water aerobics participants and was visited by 84 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 4 practices with approximately 100 swimmers. The Lemon Bay High School Swim Team held 4 practices with 40 swimmers at each practice.

### **Extension Services**

"Good and bad insects that effect our gardens" - Lemon Bay Garden Club – November 3  
2014 State-Wide CED In-Service Training – Gainesville – November 5 & 6  
Freshwater Invertebrates – Florida Master Naturalist Program – November 7  
Maple Leaf Garden Club - The Role of the Extension – November 8

### **Libraries and History**

Indian Spring Cemetery Tour went very well 235 people went through the tour. We have had 26 comments on the tour and all were excellent. Residents want to see more walking tour around the county.

Early voting brought 6,423 residents into vote for the early election.

### **Parks and Natural Resources**

The Natural Resources division assisted with the release of a rehabilitated Bald Eagle at Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park south of Punta Gorda on Thursday, Oct. 30. The eagle was found unresponsive on the trail. The Sierra Club and Peace River Wildlife Sanctuary assisted with the rehab efforts of the adult female eagle.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- Several electrical work projects were completed recently. Energy efficient low voltage lighting was installed to light the stairs from the parking lot at Englewood Beach Park. These lights are on a timer that turns on at dusk and off at dawn. At the Administration building at Murdock new outlets and switches were installed in CCTV20 area and the Tax Collectors conference room. Additional work was done at Fire Station #5 on Notre Dame Blvd in Punta Gorda. There emergency and exit lights were repaired or replaced.

### **Operations**

- Congressman Tom Rooney and his local district office presented to Charlotte County a United States flag that was flown over the national Capital Building in Washington, DC. We will honor the gesture and flag by entrusting this flag to the Historical Courthouse on Veteran's Day, Tuesday November 11, 2014. This proud symbol will fly high over our historic Courthouse building as a special observance of all veterans sacrifice and service for the entire day. After flying this flag on Veteran's Day we will take it down and arrange for proper permanent viewing in the Courthouse display cabinets. We will exhibit a placard describing the significance of this esteemed flag flown over the Capital and it's presentation from our U.S. Representative for the 17th Congressional District, Congressman Tom Rooney.

### **Project Management**

- The Risk Analysis team reviewed the charrette design and preformed a site visit for the Firing Range Mitigation project. They met with CCSO staff and discussed the range procedures and operations. They were impressed with the current site and will produce their risk analysis report. This report process is expected to take approximately 30 days.
- The pre bid meeting was held for the Port Charlotte Beach Park Fishing Pier and Boardwalk renovation project.

## Human Services

Through the coordinated efforts of the Family Services Division, the first Youth Summit was held at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex on October 29, 2014. Over 100 teens were in attendance from all area high schools. The participating youth discussed Developmental Assets, identified community problems and developed actionable plans to address them. The top two community problems identified by the youth were: Improving Safety and Increasing Recreational Activities for Youth. During the day, the teens took to social media to share their experiences with the Youth Summit. This resulted in 206 original tweets, 30 @message tweets, 26 Retweets and a twitter reach of 32,331 and exposure to 393,369 timelines. The Youth Summit was funded through a grant by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Our partners on this event included Drug Free Charlotte County, Charlotte County Public Schools and the Y's Men who donated all of the food for the event.

## Public Works

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

### US 41 Microtunnel/Weir Project

This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcarn, 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 Elkcarn 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 project includes sidewalks, major drainage improvements, Charlotte County Utility (CCU) relocations and improvements, Street Lighting, site dewatering, flow diversion, excavation and fill, fabric form, bank & shore rip-rap placement, grading, sodding, and maintenance of traffic.



Construction continues at the Fordham and Elkcarn Waterways. Huxted Tunneling has successfully completed all the microtunneling for this project.

Zep Construction is currently working on the new weir at the Fordham Waterway and the new headwalls at the

Elkcam waterway. The Pompano Waterway is complete and in operation. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of May, 2015. Construction is currently 70% complete and on schedule.

**Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening** – 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 2 ponds and grading and sodding of swales continues.
- Work is progressing on the box culverts at the Clark Canal. Work is on hold for the box culvert at the Bear Branch Creek until a traffic change takes place after the first of the year. Once traffic shifts, the west side of the box culvert will be completed.
- Installation of four 54" drainage pipes is complete near the Zemel Road/Burnt Store Road intersection; approximately 69% of the utility pipe and 67% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 40% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 20% complete on the northbound and southbound sides.
- The contractor completed 20% of the stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and 7% on the southbound travel lanes.
- Crews are installing street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project. FPL is relocating the poles on the east side of the project and has approx. 65% of the poles set and ready to receive new electrical wire.

*PSA issued 10/22/2014 - There will be intermittent lane closures on Burnt Store Road, from Zemel Road south to Vincent Street, in both directions beginning October 24, 2014 through late November 2014. Drainage and utility installation work will be conducted in conjunction with the Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening project. Flaggers and traffic control devices will be in place to direct traffic thru the construction zone. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.*

**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 and consists of installing an Anchor Reinforced Vegetation System (ARVS) along the west bank of the DeSoto Canal. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Construction Schedule: Nov. 10, 2014 – June 1, 2015. The Construction Contract was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on October 28, 2014. Marine Contracting Group, Inc. received notice to proceed and will begin construction on November 10, 2014. This project will take approximately 180 days to complete.

**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 has finished all maintenance dredging under this contract and has restored the site. This project is complete.

**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

- The contractor is in the process of placing the base material for the new northbound and southbound roadway lanes from Rifle Road north to Aloha Avenue. The Contractor has placed all the fill dirt in the northbound and southbound lanes from Rifle Road to CR 775.
- Subgrade for sidewalks is being placed between Aloha Avenue and Fruitland Avenue and concrete is expected to be poured the first week of November 2014.

- Trucks hauling imported material are using SR 776 to San Casa Drive, then to CR 775 (Placida Road) as the haul route to transport the material into the Winchester Boulevard South construction site. As the trucks enter and leave, the CR 775 right-hand northbound lane will be closed from north of the Buck Creek Bridge to the Winchester Boulevard intersection. This allows trucks to exit the project onto CR 775 and accelerate to the posted speed limit while not impacting northbound traffic on CR 775.

### **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: September 2014, Projected Start of Construction: December 2014.

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) Funds to construct this project. The FDOT LAP Agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 24, 2014 and returned to FDOT for execution.

Staff submitted the required documents to FDOT to proceed with the construction contract; notice was received from FDOT that all documents have been submitted and we anticipate Notice to Proceed from FDOT on November 12, 2014.

Staff will be utilizing Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services for this project to ensure compliance with federal rules and requirements. On October 7, 2014 the County tabulated submittals for the CEI contract and CDM Smith was selected to perform CEI. The CEI contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on November 12, 2014 for approval. Negotiations for project scope and fees will begin once the contract is awarded.

**Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase Two** – 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. Phase 2 includes the design of pedestrian connections from the promenade (located along the east side of US 41 northbound travel lanes), including a boardwalk crossing underneath the US 41 Bridge, a stairway connecting the promenade to the US 41 Bridge sidewalk, a fishing pier, and a water taxi dock facility. Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/15/2013 – 11/17/2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015. Staff is meeting with the design firm to review the 60% plans on Nov. 7, 2014. County staff and the design team are working with FDOT to discuss the plans and secure the land lease agreement.

**South Gulf Cove Bridge Repairs** – This project consists of Bridge repairs needed in South Gulf Cove based on the 2013 Florida Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Report. The St. Paul Drive Bridge over the Zephyr Waterway has one (1) pile with delamination at each of the four corners with evidence of corrosion bleed-out on the northwest corner that needs to be repaired. The Ingraham Boulevard Bridge over the President's Waterway has two (2) piles that have experienced section loss within the wet/dry zone due to the corrosivity of the blackish water and are in need of repair. Design Contract: American Consulting Professionals, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2014 – 12/31/2014, Procurement Process: April 2015, Projected Start of Construction: May 2015. Staff is currently reviewing 90% design plans and will provide comments to the design engineer by November 14, 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

The permit application was submitted to FDEP on July 23, 2014. FDEP issued their permit but had to send the application to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE.) Consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is underway for the presence of the Smalltooth Sawfish.

**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

Coastal Engineering has proposed an alternate path to improve the navigation project that will yield cost savings over time through reduction of maintenance dredging needs. The approach includes collecting additional data to identify/combine multiple canals into single channels extending to the river. The County is currently reviewing the alternative approach.

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

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. This project has been delayed due to permitting issues.

**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: 4/22/2014 – Early 2016, Procurement: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

A pre-application meeting was held Tuesday, Aug 12, 2014 to expedite the permit review process. The consultant met with the Pirate Harbor Waterway Committee on Sept. 25, 2014 and discussed possible mitigation and public interest strategies. The committee agreed on the direction the Coastal Engineering Consultants should pursue.

Coastal Engineering Consultants completed the preliminary plan set and natural resource survey and presented them to the MSBU committee in late September 2014. The next step is the process is to conduct a UMAM assessment which includes a site visit and coordination with FDEP; the site visit was conducted the first week of November 2014 and the assessment is underway.

#### **Maintenance & Operations - October 29- November 4, 2014**

There were 58 new work requests for service during this time period. The calls were for drainage work, brush cutting, right of way clearing, and repairs to broken sidewalks.

Drainage line & grade:	8,350 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
	9,960 SF in Deep Creek
	5,500 SF in Road & Bridge West
	12,000 SF in Grove City
Small pipe installs:	248 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
	40 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
	144 LF in Manasota Key on Shoreview

Additional information regarding the small pile installation on Manasota Key on Shoreview: We installed 144 L.F. of pipe, 2 full catch basins, 1 mini catch basin, dressed and cleaned the area. We experienced a delay on

Thursday while working with the Englewood Water District trying to locate their water line. Our pipe crew came across a copper line; Englewood Water District said that it was not their water line however they were wrong. The excavator pulled the copper line which was attached to the water main. It took a while for Englewood Water District to shut down and complete the repair, but the M&O crew prevailed. They successfully installed a complete basin and 40 L.F of pipe, while digging out for the contractor to pour a section of driveway, and they dressed up and backfilled the area.

Menzie ditch cutting: 6,000 SF in Road & Bridge South on Taylor Road.  
Boom Mower: Cut 24,500 CY in South Punta Gorda Heights West  
Cut 8,989 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban  
Cut 5,500 CY in Boca Grande  
Asphalt Crew: Installed 1.01 ton of asphalt in Greater Port Charlotte pot holes.  
Installed 4.66 ton of asphalt in Punta Gorda Non-Urban pot holes.  
Culvert Cleaning: Cleaned 67 culverts in GPC  
Cleaned 3 culverts in NWPC

### **Mosquito & Aquatic Vegetation Control**

Mosquito Control  
Number of acres treated: Adulicide Treatment/ 56,320 (Aerial), 194,600 (Ground)  
Larvicide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), 181 (Ground)  
Landing rate counts: 908  
Trap counts: 14,617  
Citizen requests: 74  
Tire collection/source reduction: .85 tons of tires collected In October 2014  
Aquatic Vegetation Control  
Number of sites treated: 67  
Wetland mitigation sites maintained: 5 sites treated  
Number of sites inspected: 47

### **Tourism**

Many of Charlotte County's visitors fly into Southwest Florida International Airport, yet don't have planned itineraries. The airport has an information counter staffed with volunteers from the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau who answer questions from visitors on things to do and see and where to eat and sleep. Last week (Nov. 4), the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted 8 of those volunteers on an educational familiarization trip through Punta Gorda so the volunteers can better promote the destination. These educational trips will be offered several times a year and will be attended by different volunteers and highlight different parts of the county.