

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Administration

Charlotte County Community Services partnered with Team Parkside to present the 3rd Annual Parkside Festival. The theme of the festival, A Salute to Veterans, included a presentation by Representative Ken Roberson and Commissioner Trisha Duffy honoring all of our veterans. Charlotte County departments participated in the festival running the Kids Zone with Public Works and Fire/EMS providing equipment and vehicles for the Touch a Truck exhibit with information booths for Economic Development and Port Charlotte Library. Four firemen also added excitement to the event by participating in the World's Biggest Hot Dog Eating Contest which required contestants to eat two fully loaded half pound hot dogs.

Charlotte County Community Services and VFW Post 5690 held the 4th Annual Veterans Day Memorial Program at North Charlotte Regional Park. Vietnam Veteran and business man Gene Gorman and Iraq veteran Specialist Jeremiah Card spoke. Voice of Democracy essay contest winner Taylor Moore from Charlotte High School read her essay in response to the question "Why are veterans important to our nation's history and future?" The event was attended by approximately 75 people.

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the SW Florida Lung Cancer 5K & Mile of Memories Memorial Walk, on Saturday, 11/8. Estimated attendance for this event was at 300.

### Port Charlotte Beach Pool

For the week of 11-5 through 11-11-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 43 paid admissions, was visited by 36 pass holders and had 29 water aerobics participants. The pool was drained Sunday 11-9-14, and renovations began Monday 11-10-14. The Department is hopeful the pool will be reopened prior to the January 15, 2015 scheduled completion date.

Last weekend we had the Buena Vista Property Owners Holiday Party here on Saturday. There were 50 guests and all had a great time. Sunday we had an anniversary party with 80 people.

Coming up this weekend we will have the Florida Highway Patrol, 75 year Anniversary Party and Awards Banquet. We are expecting more than 300. This is a park wide event.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Regional Pool is closed through Jan. 15, 2015

### 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

## Facilities Construction & Maintenance

### Repairs and Maintenance

- The Harbour Heights Park bathroom remodel is scheduled to begin in approximately two weeks.
- Renovations to the Building Construction Service office space for new employees is still in progress.

## Operations

- The commemorative flag presentation at the Historic Courthouse went well. Facilities employee and veteran, Dennis DiLiberto and several veteran friends and co-workers from the building attended. Dennis made a short speech thanking Congressman Rooney and his staff, noting it was a privilege to accept the flag. It will be placed in a special flag box inside a display case on the first floor with the plaque.

## Project Management

- New LED lighting is being installed in the Tringali Rec Center gym. This is being coordinated with the other planned improvements by Community Services.
- The pre-construction meeting for the Harbour Heights Park drainage, parking, and sports courts improvements was held with the contractor, Compass Construction.

## Human Services

This week our Veteran Services staff proudly participated in the numerous activities honoring our men and women of the Armed Forces which included: raising awareness of the movement to bring a replica of the Vietnam Wall to Southwest Florida; marching in the Veterans' Appreciation Celebration Parade in Punta Gorda; attending the Remembrance Service held at Randy Spence Park in El Jobean; posting the Colors with the Honor Guard and dedication of memorial bricks at the Purple Heart Monument Ceremony; participating in the Veterans Day Ceremony at Laishley Park; participating in a salute to all branches of the Armed Forces at the Charlotte County North Regional Park; joining in the salute to Veterans at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home; and celebrating the 239th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

In mid -October, Veteran Services had a near homeless 86 year old veteran come into the office. He is living on a boat and the dock fees use almost all of his social security income. Veterans Services did a VA pension claim for the veteran and staffs were notified that it was approved in just two weeks!

## 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 Website. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

The paving contractor has moved back into the Road and Bridge District and is currently paving on Florida Street. The milling and paving on Taylor Road began Friday, November 7, 2014.

To date, approximately 76,262 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge, Greater Port Charlotte, and Punta Gorda Non-Urban MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 59.14% and the Contractor has completed approximately 71.56% of the work.

**CR 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.

Atlantic Directional Drilling completed the boring under the Butterford Waterway to enable the construction of new utility lines under the canal.

Woodruff and Sons is currently installing new water, sewer and reuse utility lines south of the Butterford Waterway. Crews are starting to mulch the vegetation that was previously cleared north of the Butterford Waterway to SR 776.

PSA issued 11/12/2014 - One lane will be closed to traffic on San Domingo Boulevard, between CR 771 and Wiltshire Drive, from Monday, November 17 through Wednesday, November 26, 2014 as new utility lines are installed beneath the roadway in conjunction with the Gasparilla Road (CR 771) widening project. Flaggers and traffic control devices will be on-site to assist travelers through the area. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

**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: 9/15/2014 – 12/31/2014

Construction is underway; the box culverts are complete and work is now being done on secondary drainage. The barrier walls are now being formed and all work is on schedule.

**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 – 10/13/2014

Construction is nearing completion; Forrest Nelson Boulevard is open to traffic. The Contractor received a punch list on October 15, 2014 and continues working on the punch list items.

**U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs** – 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. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Projected Schedule: 11/18/2013 – 5/12/2015

- Elkcarn Waterway: Zep Construction is preparing the waterway for rip rap foundations, construction of the concrete headwalls and fabric form installation.
- Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction completed the new concrete weir upstream of the northbound Access Road and is now working on the rip rap foundation.

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

**Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes** - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks on Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road and on Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road. Design Contract: Banks Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – September 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

Banks Engineering submitted the 90% design plans which are currently under review.

**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 approximately 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

Johnson Engineering submitted the 30% design plans which are under review.

**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  
Bids for construction were opened on November 5, 2014. Upon completion of bid review, General Contracting Services was selected as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. A recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on December 9, 2014. Once the contract is awarded, a pre-construction meeting will be set.

### **Drainage Projects**

**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 – 8/30/2014, Procurement Process: September 2014, Projected Construction Schedule: January 2015 – March 2015 (during dry season)

A consultant has been retained to perform the permitting, surveying, and relocation requirements to protect and relocate tortoises from the project site as required by law. As we are anticipating construction to start in January 2015 during the dry season, the gopher tortoise survey (which is only good for 90 days) will be completed and the relocation permit will be submitted by the end of October 2014.

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting was held October 24, 2014 with bid opening scheduled November 12, 2014.

**Oyster Creek Flow Enhancement** - This project provides for the removal of exotic vegetation including, but not limited to, Brazilian Pepper, Primrose Willow, Cattails, dead vegetation and trash from approximately 19 acres of land within the flow ways of Oyster Creek, Gondolier Waterway and Early Waterway. This project is funded by the West Charlotte Stormwater District. Design: Public Works Engineering, Procurement Process: 10/13/2014 – Late 2014, Projected Construction Schedule: Early 2015 – Summer 2015

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid conference is scheduled November 13, 2014 with bid opening scheduled December 3, 2014.

### **Maintenance & Operations**

November 5 - 11, 2014

There were 37 new calls for service during this week, mainly for brush & pot holes. Some requests for road shoulder repairs were received and a few new requests for drainage problems.

Drainage line & grade: 10,200 SF in Greater Port Charlotte  
7,900 SF in Lemon Bay  
500 SF in Manasota Key  
6,500 SF in Deep Creek

Small pipe installs: 80 LF in Greater Port Charlotte  
24 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban  
144 LF in Manasota Key on Shoreview Drive

An update on Shore View Drive: We have all the pipe in, all basins built, all crushed shell down, the trench drain will be installed on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 and sod at one house plus a couple of small locations are scheduled Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Asphalt was done November 13, 2014 by Sunland, but we need to straighten up an edge where a planter was - hope to complete that next Wednesday, November 19, 2014 as well.

Menzie ditch cutting: 16,000 SF in Road & Bridge South on Taylor Road  
18,420 SF in mid county stormwater ditches

Boom Mower: Cut 24,888 CY in Cook & Brown  
Cut 10,063 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban  
Cut 20,400 CY in South Punta Gorda Heights West

Asphalt Crew: Installed 1.51 tons of asphalt in Greater Port Charlotte for pot holes

Installed 1.53 tons of asphalt in Road & Bridge South on Taylor road repairing a driveway  
Installed .46 ton of asphalt in Punta Gorda Non-Urban  
Installed .50 ton of asphalt in South Punta Gorda Heights West  
Culvert Cleaning : Cleaned 54 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte  
Cleaned 6 culverts in Road & Bridge North  
Cleaned 5 culverts in Lemon Bay

## **Tourism**

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau announced Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected during Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2014) totaled \$2,998,949 which is up 18 percent over Fiscal Year 2012-2013. This is the most TDT Revenues Charlotte County has collected since the Bureau's inception in 1997. Charlotte County levies a 5 percent tourist development tax (TDT) on accommodation stays 6 months or less in addition to the 7 percent sales tax. The first 3 percent is spent for tourism promotion and marketing support and the fourth and fifth percent are used to fund the debt for the bond for the recent renovations at the Charlotte Sports Park.