

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park staff conducted Event Specialist interviews on 12/18/14, for the upcoming 2015 Spring Training Season. Interviews will continue in January, after the holidays.

Harold Avenue

Harold Avenue's Youth Basketball League wrapped up the last of the 2014 games on Saturday and Sunday before breaking for the holidays. Midway through the season the league is "rockin' the rec" every weekend with games beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays. The season will resume on Jan. 10, 2015. Pickleball, table tennis and the Bonsai club are all enjoying strong.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 12-14-14 through 12-20-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 46 paid admissions, 94 water aerobics participants and was visited by 83 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 125 swimmers.

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Regional Park Pool is still closed for renovations. 12-14-14 through 12-20-14 we had 5 pass holders swim at the Port Charlotte High School Pool.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for December 22 - "New year's gardening resolutions for 2015"

Newspaper Article for January 5 - "Use mothballs properly"

Managers Meeting – December 22

As per UF/IFAS Policy, all UF/IFAS Agents will be out of the office from December 24, 2014 – January 5, 2015. The Office will remain open and operated by County Staff.

Managers Meeting – January 5 – 1 to 3 p.m.

Human Services

Holiday Giving makes are jobs at the Human Services Department so worthwhile!

Charlotte County Senior Services staff participated in the annual NBC-2 Perkins Giving Tree Program. Holiday gifts donated by our generous community were distributed to 87 local seniors, many of whom do not have family living in this area. Smiles of appreciation were heartfelt.

A single father with an 11 yr. old son came into the office on Monday for crisis energy assistance. He had just returned back to Charlotte County after attending his father's funeral in North Carolina to find that his electric had been shut off. During the interview, Program Specialist Theresa Lewis discovered that the mother of the 11 year old passed away recently from cancer and after having to travel to deal with the passing of the client's father, they had no money left for Christmas. Theresa also discovered that the boy's birthday was on Tuesday, December 23rd and that he would not be having much of a birthday either due to the financial hardship. To make matters worse, due to the electric being shut off, the father/son had lost all of their perishable items in the refrigerator and they do not receive a replenishment of their food stamps until Jan. 1st. Theresa shared the situation with her co-worker, Alyce Martin and they decided that they wanted to help this family. Using their own money, they bought birthday and Christmas presents for the boy and food for the family. The father was overcome with gratitude.

Public Works

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

CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – This project is to widen C.R. 771 to a four-lane divided roadway, from S.R. 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project includes 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.

At this time, the project is on hold until after the Holiday Season. Construction will resume Jan. 5, 2015.

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. Construction Contract: Gator Dredging, Construction Schedule: 12/22/2014 – 04/21/2015.

The Gopher Tortoise permit and the reservations for the relocation ranch have been obtained. Gopher Tortoise excavation and relocation is scheduled to start Monday 12/22/2014.

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. Final site grading is complete. Sodding is being done this week. The project remains on schedule and is 85% complete.

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 complete; Forrest Nelson Boulevard is open to traffic. As-builts have been submitted and are currently being reviewed by the Engineer and staff.

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 – 5/12/2015

- Elkcam Waterway: Zep Construction is conducting final grading on the east side of the site and will begin construction of the new weir in January 2015.
- Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction is currently forming the headwalls on the east side of the site to complete the microtunneling portion of this project along US 41.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

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. This project was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Sales Tax Referendum. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/08/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

Giffels-Webster Engineers finalized the design plans and County staff will start the final review in January 2015. The construction contract is projected to go out for bid the spring of 2015.

Drainage Projects

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.

Bids for construction were opened on December 17, 2014. Upon completion of review, a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Landscaping Projects

Pruning of 1,461 Palms, along major corridors and select streets throughout the County, was completed via the County's annual contract for Palm Trimming as necessary.

Maintenance & Operations

December 17-23, 2014: A total of 52 new requests received related to illegal dumping, brush, and drainage.

Drainage line & grade:	14,200 SF in Harbour Heights 14,700 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
Major Outfall:	7,990 SY in South County Storm Water
Small pipe install:	160 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 32 LF in Deep Creek
Small Pipe Repairs:	1 repair in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	115,000 SF in West County stormwater ditches (Gulf Cove area) 8,750 SF in Mid County Storm Water (on Kings Highway)
Boom Mower:	Cut 23,635 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 14,400 CY in Rotonda Heights Cut 4,000 CY in Englewood East Cut 13,641 CY in South Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Culvert Cleaning:	Cleaned 36 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 3 culverts in Gulf Cove Cleaned 1 culvert in Lemon Bay
Shoulder Repair:	Maintained 1.1 miles of shoulder on Road & Bridge North (Peachland between Harbor and Loveland)

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau announced grants have been awarded by the Florida Sports Foundation for two events being held in Charlotte County in 2015. The USA BMX Sunshine State Nationals and the Snowbird Baseball Classic will each receive \$5,000. Anticipated out-of-state economic impact is the primary criteria for awarding grants. Estimated direct expenditures for the Snowbird Baseball Classic, scheduled for Feb. 13 – April 1, is \$6 million while the USA BMX Sunshine State Nationals set for Feb. 13 – 15 is anticipated to generate an estimated \$1 million in both in-state and out of state direct expenditures. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau will be applying for a grant for the recently awarded F18 Americas Regatta scheduled for Oct. 17-25 at Port Charlotte Beach Park.