

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Harold Avenue

Health and physical fitness is a lifestyle! Last week patrons came to participate in Harold's regularly scheduled programming in an effort to keep fit during the holiday season. What a way to bring in the new year by staying dedicated to being an active, healthier and happier you. Harold's Youth Basketball League enjoyed a two week break for the holidays and will return to the regular schedule this week.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This next week we will have the start of the Charlotte County Promenader's. They are scheduled every Thursday evening 6:30pm-9:30pm. Expected attendance is 60 to 65 to start with; we are looking forward to that number to grow quickly each week.

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Regional Park Pool is still closed for renovations. 12-21-14 through 12-27-14 we had 3 pass holders swim at the Port Charlotte High School Pool. And, 12-28-14 through 1-3-15 we had 7 pass holders swim at the Port Charlotte High School Pool.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 12-20-14 through 12-27-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 127 paid admissions, 44 water aerobics participants and was visited by 57 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 3 practices with approximately 75 swimmers.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Concrete repairs are now completed on broken, uneven, and hazardous sidewalk areas at Murdock Administration campus.

For more efficient access to Facilities department storage in the octagon building a larger concrete pad was created. It is now large enough to accommodate county trucks and vans, allows easy opening of doors, safer use of fork lift and wheeled carts.

Operations

To enhance security procedures at the Justice Center in Punta Gorda, Charlotte County has purchased and is awaiting delivery of a new x-ray machine. Advances in technology should allow a higher degree of security by detecting contraband articles. Before entering the main parts of the building, Charlotte County deputies will scan all items, packages, brief cases, purses, etc. in the lobby.

The new Security and Fire Alarm Monitoring Contract has been awarded to Space Coast Fire. Facilities will be working with the departments and their contacts to program the security and fire alarm panels and to implement the change of accounts to new monitoring company.

Project Management

The rehabilitation project at Anger Pier has begun.

Comments regarding the Development Review Committee for Harbour Heights Park project have been addressed. The final decision by the DRC is scheduled for January 22 on the proposed plans for drainage, parking, and sports court improvements.

Public Safety

Santa's Pancake Breakfast was once again a success; over 350 people attended the event at station 12 on the Dec. 22nd and over 250 on Dec. 23rd at station 4. This year staff from all of Public Safety participated in the events: Fire & EMS, Animal Control and Emergency Management. The event was set up using the incident command system. Fire inspectors designed and worked in Santa's room, Emergency Management was in charge of the kitchen and food transport to the grill and serving line sector which was under Fire & EMS's division and Animal Control was in charge of the beverage area. Station staff was in charge of set up and clean up and Support Services was in charge of supply transport.

Commissioner Truex joined in on the fun and helped serve pancakes along with Chief Taylor and staff members from our hospital sponsors Englewood Community Hospital and Fawcett Community Hospital. Stuffed animals were donated by PetSmart in Port Charlotte.





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 – Early 2015

The FY14 Paving Program is complete. Ajax Paving is finishing up the punchlist items in each District. To date, approximately 96,552 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge, Greater Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda Non-Urban, and Gulf Cove MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 72.47% and the Contractor has completed approximately 98.0% of the work.

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase Two – This project will widen Edgewater Drive, between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard, to a four-lane arterial roadway designed to better serve the central portion of the County and accommodate anticipated traffic growth. The project will include replacing three bridges (West Spring Lake Waterway, East Spring Lake Waterway, and Sunrise Waterway) and improve five intersections, four of which will be roundabouts. Improvements include a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks/bike lanes, and landscaping.

This project includes Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services to ensure compliance with federal rules and requirements. The Board of County Commissioners approved the CEI contract with Southwest Engineering & Design on November 12, 2014. Construction Contract: Owen-Ames-Kimball, Construction schedule: 01/05/2015 – 2/5/2017.

The Contractor is currently installing silt fence and project signs and will begin construction in the Midway area with the installation of utilities. There will be temporary lane closures and detours as this project moves forward; Public Service Announcements will be issued in advance of closures.

Southwest Engineering & Design launched a Web site that will provide roadway information, boater information, and the status of the parks around the construction area. Citizens may also sign up to receive future construction updates via email notifications. A link to the Web site is available through the Edgewater Drive Widening, Phase 2, Web page.

The County is holding a Public Information Meeting on Jan. 27, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex to present project details and associated road closures to the public.

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 reservations for the relocation ranch were obtained. Gopher Tortoise excavation and relocation is complete and lots have been cleared. The barge is scheduled to be mobilized by Jan. 9, 2015.

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. Construction Contract: EarthBalance Corporation of North Port, FL, Construction Schedule: Early 2015 – Summer 2015.

The construction contract was awarded and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled. Notice to Proceed will be established at this meeting.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard West - The Rotonda West MSBU Committee requested a sidewalk and bike path along the Boulevards. This project will design and construct approximately 1.4 miles of sidewalk and bike path along Rotonda Boulevard West from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle. Construction Contract: General Contracting Services, Construction Schedule: 01/05/2015 – 07/31/2015.

A pre-construction meeting was held with General Contracting Services on Dec. 30, 2014 at which time Notice to Proceed was established for Jan. 5, 2015. This project will begin with utility improvements; sidewalk construction will follow.

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 complete ahead of schedule and under budget. Preliminary as-builts were submitted and approved; awaiting receipt of final as-builts.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/12/2013 – Late 2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

Charlotte County staff members reviewed the 60% design plans and anticipate the receipt of 90% plans in January 2015.

Sidewalks – Harbour Heights - This project consists of constructing approximately 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 – April 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

The survey work for the project area is complete. County staff met with Charlotte Engineering & Surveying to

discuss design options. 90% design plans are expected in late January 2015. This project has been re-assigned from Tara Musselman to Roy Benjamin.

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 have been reviewed. The 60% design plans are expected to be received in mid-January 2015.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – 10/01/2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The MSBU Committee met on December 4, 2014, and requested that the pathway be constructed of concrete instead of asphalt. Johnson Engineering has been advised and will revise the plans accordingly. Final construction plans and specifications should be received by mid-January 2015.

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: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: May 2015

The 90% plans have been reviewed and approved. We are expecting the 100% plans and technical specifications in January 2015.

Landscaping Projects

- Turf and landscape irrigation systems inspection was completed at: Charlotte Harbor Gateway; Melbourne Street bridge approaches; US 41 Revitalization phase I and US 17 medians, via the County's first ever annual contract for irrigation services as necessary.
- Mowing was completed at the County's 14 fenced retention pond sites.
- Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: Charlotte Harbor Gateway/Melbourne Street bridge approaches; US 41 Revitalization Phase I; Manasota Key; Grove City Park and South Gulf Cove.
- Pruning of Palms, via the County's annual contract, began along US 41 and at other main corridor locations throughout the County.

Maintenance & Operations

A total of 36 new requests were received related to illegal dumping, brush, drainage, asphalt repair, collapsed driveway, driveway damage, and a road crossing pipe failure located at Joseph Street.

Drainage line & grade:	9,300 SF in Harbour Heights 5,800 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,650 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 6,000 SF in Gulf Cove
Major Outfall:	4,250 SY in South County Storm Water
Small pipe install:	280 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	1600,000 SF in West County stormwater ditches (Gulf Cove area) 8,750 SF in Mid County Storm Water (on Kings Highway)

Boom Mower:	Cut 42,925CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 21,000 CY in Rotonda Heights
Shoulder Repair:	Maintained .8 miles of shoulder on Road & Bridge North (Midway/Harbor Blvd)

Mosquito & Aquatic Vegetation Control

Mosquito Control (Counts are for the month of December, 2014)
 Number of acres treated: Adulicide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), 12,987 (Ground)
 Larvicide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), 2,000 (Ground)
 Landing rate counts: 303
 Trap counts: 0
 Citizen requests: 12
 Tire collection/source reduction: 1.62 tons
 Aquatic Vegetation Control
 Number of sites treated: 82
 Wetland mitigation sites maintained: 1 site treated
 Number of sites inspected: 33

Solid Waste Division

During the month of December 2014, the Charlotte County Solid Waste Division received the official recycling rate from the State of Florida for calendar year 2013. The recycling rate for Charlotte County came in at 45% for 2013, demonstrating the steady increase in the amount of recycling items being diverted from the landfill. During November and December 2013, Charlotte County distributed new recycling carts that had little effect on achieving the 45% recycling rate in 2013, however we anticipate the carts that were distributed at 2013 year end will have a significant positive impact on our recycling goals and results for 2014.

We measured the number of households participating in the recycling program in May of 2014 with an outcome of 77%. The set out rate was again conducted in November 2014 and the County saw a 5% increase to an 82% participation rate. Charlotte County plans on identifying areas that may not be participating to reach out to them with educational materials to further increase the participation rate. We look forward to the release of the 2014 recycling rates later this year and are confident that we will meet, if not exceed, the State mandated 2014 50% recycling rate.

Traffic Signing & Marking (Counts are for the month of December, 2014)

Herbicide:	1,804 items
Marine Signs Replaced:	49
New Signs Installed:	18
Raised Pavement Markers Installed:	0
Road Scraping:	2,600 feet (.5 miles)
Signs Inspected:	6,697
Signs Manufactured:	112
Sign Maintenance:	1,102
Speed Studies:	0
Striping:	136,299 feet (25.8 miles)
Traffic Counts:	32 stations
Trouble Calls (after hours)	4
Video Turn Movement Counts:	0

Tourism

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination assists the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in stretching its marketing dollars. In conjunction with Allegiant Air, the Bureau hosted a family blogger and her family last week (Jan. 5 – 9) in order to share her experience with her followers about visiting the area from a family’s perspective. They stayed at the Weston’s wannaB inn and activities

included a beach walk on Don Pedro Island with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, buggy tour with Babcock Wilderness Adventures, visit to Rick Treworgy's Muscle Car City, sunset cruise with King Fisher Fleet, lots of beach time and dining including a dinner hosted by Farlow's on the Water. During the visit, the blogger used the hashtags #LoveFL and #LoveCHGI on her social media posts in order to amplify her experience to users who follow those tags. #LoveFL is used by VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing agency, and #LoveCHGI, which stands for Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, is now being used by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau. Hashtags are used in social media posts to categorize posts and locate posts using that hashtag. Marketing entities are using hashtags to strengthen brand recognition.