

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three games of the University of Vanderbilt from 2/20 – 2/22. Estimated attendance for the three games was at 700.

Upcoming Activities: The first full squad workout for the Tampa Bay Rays will be held on Saturday, February 28.

Harold Avenue

The Youth Basketball Finals were completed on Saturday. The atmosphere was charged as both spectators and participants cheered their teams on with hopes of a victory. Congratulations goes out to the 2014 Youth Basketball Winter League Champions: the FGCU (9-10 Division), the Cavaliers (11-12 Division), the Drexel (13-14 Division), and the FSU (15-17 Division). The Harold Avenue Recreation Center Staff would like to thank all the participants and their families for a job well done. In other news, Participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to show an increase in interest.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

For the week of 2-18 through 2-24-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 168 paid admissions, was visited by 51 pass holders and had 63 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 2-15-15 through 2-21-15 South County Regional Park Pool had 70 paid admissions and was visited by 42 pass holders. We had 12 water aerobics participants this week. The Blue Fins held eight practices with approximately 480 swimmers. The Charlotte County Fire/EMS Department held testing and training with approximately 6 participants.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 2-15-15 through 2-21-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 197 paid admissions, 43 water aerobics participants and was visited by 94 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 4 practices with approximately 100 swimmers.

Extension Service

Newspaper Article for February 23 – "Tiny bugs underfoot"

South Central Monthly CED Meeting – February 23 Master Gardener Radio Show – WCCF- 1580 – February 24

GI-BMP Training – February 25

Extension Staff Meeting – February 26

2015 MG Volunteer Training Interviews – February 27

Historical Center

Charlotte County Historical Center's Cookie House Tours had 127 visitors Feb. 10 and 82 visitors on Feb. 21! Both tours received generous donations from visitors to fund continued maintenance for the Cookie House.

Back by popular demand, the Indian Spring Cemetery Tour will be held again on March 7, 2015! Reservations are filling up!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Preparations for spring baseball are still in progress at Charlotte Sports Park. Several rehabilitation projects and modifications in the umpire's locker room area are nearing completion. The carpet and lockers are now completed. Lock installation on the new access door should be finished this week. Installation of wall-mounted exercise/chin up bar in equipment room is done. Two electrical outlets which were potential hazards were safely relocated in the Tiki Hut area.
- Lighting and other electrical work projects at Cape Haze Pioneer Trail and Cedar Point Park Nature Center restrooms are complete.

Operations

- We have received carpeting to start the new carpet project at Justice Center. Areas getting new carpet installed include the courtrooms, jury rooms, Judges chambers, and conference rooms on the third and fourth floors.
- Phases I and II of the over-all Accessibility Improvements projects is nearing completion. Substantial completion walk-throughs were done at 16 of the 18 planned projects to begin the close out process at those locations. When complete, work at Historical Courthouse and El Jobean Park will finish this portion of accessibility improvements for county facilities.
- Approval of the El Jobean Park's accessibility revision change order was approved. Now the contractor will be quickly assembling their demolition crew to remove existing partial sidewalk and parking space, then reconstruction will begin. These needed revisions will better serve this area.

Project Management

- The design consultant's contract and purchase order were issued on the Airport Road Annex master plan. The kick-off meeting was held at Facilities with several site stakeholders attending. Introductions were made, contact information exchanged, and communications process protocols discussed. Project process overview was defined and explained. The program questionnaire was reviewed defining purpose and scope of the document. The master plan timeline was provided and the meeting closed with a question and answer session.
- The construction of the Anger Park parking lot is continuing.
- Most of the demolition has been completed for the Harbour Heights Park drainage, parking, and sports court improvements project.
- The Harbour Heights boat ramp project design has begun.

Human Services

Senior Division Case Management Supervisor led the seven-county joint monitoring team at their annual meeting. Monitoring tool revisions were discussed and needed changes made. Vendor on-site visit and/or desk review assignments were made. 2014/2015 monitoring season will begin 3/1/2015. This process has proven to be an efficiency measure; demonstrating savings in staff time, travel, and managerial duties by sharing the oversight and reporting across multiple agencies holding same/similar contracts with 'the' vendor.

Veteran's Services staff and Family Services' staff joined forces in prepping, assisting and coordinating a job interview with the Social Security Office for a recently discharged veteran. Assistance included a revision to an existing resume making it more civilian-friendly. Fingers crossed that this veteran will be offered the position.

Public Works

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

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: 03/10/2014 – 09/10/2015

- The excavation of 1 pond 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 in late February or early March 2015. Once traffic shifts, the west side of the box culvert will be completed.
- Installation of drainage pipes and utilities continues. Approximately 78% of the utility pipe and 75% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 75% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 49% complete on the northbound and southbound sides.
- The contractor completed 26% of the stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and 9% on the southbound travel lanes. The first course of asphalt has been paved (about 2000 feet) on the northbound lanes - and another 1500 feet have been paved on the southbound 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; 100% of the poles are set and installation of the new electrical wire is approx. 90% complete.

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: 11/10/2014 – 6/1/2015

The Contractor is placing pipe and fill as needed towards the south end of the project site and is approximately 99% complete and ahead of schedule. Erosion control matting installation is about 95% complete; sod placement is following closely to the matting installation.

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.

Dredging is underway and is approximately 50% complete.

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 placing riprap on the downstream side and preparing to place fabric form along the banks. Zep completed the concrete sheet installation on the new weir upstream of US 41 and will start the riprap in this location.

- Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction completed the east side headwall and is excavating the upstream side in preparation for the new riprap. Work has begun on the west side headwall excavation.

PSA released 2/24/2015 - Elmira Boulevard will close to traffic at the Pompano Waterway, between Brooklyn Avenue and Depew Avenue, on Monday, March 9, 2015 and will remain closed through May 2015. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. This project is being conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Microtunnels / Weirs Project designed to increase stormwater flow capacities in Port Charlotte. The Public Works Department reminds travelers to remain alert and exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.

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. The Florida Department of Transportation approved the final plans for intersection improvements at SR 776/Winchester Boulevard North. Intersection improvements include a right turn lane and traffic signalization improvements; this work has been added to the project. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Construction Schedule: 11/25/2013 – Summer 2015

- The Contractor is in the process of finish grading the base material for the new northbound and southbound roadway lanes from CR 775 north to Fruitland Blvd.
- All of the fill dirt has been completed from CR 775 to SR 776.
- Sidewalk subgrade is being placed and concrete is being poured; 75% of the sidewalk is complete.
- Median curb has been poured and is 85% complete; crews are preparing the median separators for pouring of concrete.
- Storm drainage and utility installations are 99% complete. The remaining 1% is within the SR 776 intersection.
- Street Lights and poles are 32% complete.

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: Feb. 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015.

This construction project is currently advertised for competitive bid. The Pre-bid Conference is scheduled March 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106B, Building B - Administration Center. Bid Opening is scheduled April 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Purchasing Division Conference Room.

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 90% design plans were reviewed and returned to the Design Engineer; 100% design plans are in progress. Contract documents are assembled in correlation with the 90% plans review.

Landscaping Projects

- Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: US 17 medians in Cleveland; Charlotte Harbor Gateway Phase I; US 41 Revitalization Phase I; Manasota Key; Grove City Park and South Gulf Cove.
- Mowing at all fenced retention ponds was performed.

Maintenance & Operations

Feb. 18-24, 2015

A total of 30 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, and illegal dumping.

- Drainage line & grade: 10,750 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
10,575 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
4,690 SF in Englewood East
7,400 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
3,550 SF in Gulf Cove
- Small pipe install: 24 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
24 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte
120 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
16 LF in Placida Area
- Small pipe repair: 1 repair in Greater Port Charlotte
- Menzie ditch cutting: 65,680 SF in Road & Bridge South
151,600 SF South County Stormwater
100,000 SF in West County Stormwater
- Menzie ditch digging: 3,000 SF in South County Stormwater
- Boom Mower: Cut 35,043 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Cut 10,800 CY in Englewood East
Cut 6,000 CY in Rotonda Heights
- Shoulder Repair: 1.1 miles on Washington Loop Road in Road & Bridge South
- Culvert Cleaning: Cleaned 36 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
- Trash/Debris Removal: Removed 13,180 lbs. from various areas throughout the County
- Asphalt Repair: 3.03 tons of material used to repair various locations and potholes throughout the County.

M&O Contracted Services

- Henry Street curbing installation was completed February 13, 2015 including 520 LF of Type D curbing with 3 water flumes to prevent erosion of the banks.

Other Projects

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 – Early 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

The 90% design plans were received and reviewed by County staff and returned to the Design Engineer; 100% design plans and contract documents are in progress.

Sunshine Lake Recharge Wells – Upon completion of the Sunshine Lake Algae Removal project, the County shall initiate installation of two recharge wells to maintain active water flow through the lake. A recharge well will be located at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second adjacent to McGuire Park. Design Contract: RMA Geologic Consultants, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/01/2013 – 07/31/2013, Procurement Process: 01/30/2015, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

The bid documents are complete and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department once the weir construction has begun (see Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure project.)

Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure - The purpose of this project is to design and construct a water control structure at the downstream end of the Sunrise Waterway to restore and enhance the water quality of Sunshine Lake. This project is being conducted in response to recommendations received from the

Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study. Design: Public Works Engineering Division, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/17/2013 – 10/01/2013, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015.

The 2012 Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study, conducted by Atkins, focused on the potential causes of the existing and persistent algal blooms occurring in the Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway, and recommended solutions toward restoring and enhancing the water quality of these water bodies. The study recommendations include the following actions: removal of the algal biomass, enhancing circulation by aeration, providing additional water input by well augmentation, and modification of lake levels by the addition of a water control structure.

This project is intended to meet the lake level modification recommendation of the study. The control structure will be constructed at the large culvert at the Tamiami Trail frontage road, located at the downstream end of Sunrise Waterway. The structure will raise the water level in the water bodies eighteen inches, lessening algal growth due to seasonal lowering of water levels. The additional water depth and volume provides additional attenuation and dilution of runoff and will increase storage for suspended solids. Additional proposed improvements include upsizing the pipe crossing at Gertrude from the existing 36" diameter to a 48" diameter storm drain, and increasing the number of pipe crossings at N. Tamiami Trail frontage road from one 72" to two 72" pipes.

The bid documents for construction have been submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation.

Tourism

- Tampa Bay Rays pitchers, catchers and staff reported for spring training at the Charlotte Sports Park last week (Feb. 23). For the fifth year, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau welcomed media covering the event by sponsoring the spring training opening press conference lunch (Feb. 20). The event was attended by about 50 members of the media and Rays staff and provided an opportunity to reconnect with members of the media and remind them of what there is to do in Charlotte County.
- In order to generate excitement for the upcoming baseball season, the Tampa Bay Rays held their annual Rays Fan Fest at Tropicana Field last week (Feb. 21). As the spring training home of the Tampa Bay Rays, Charlotte County was invited to exhibit. Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff distributed visitor guides, reminded baseball fans the Charlotte Sports Park was voted the best spring training facility by USA Today readers and shared what's new within the destination.
- Stump Pass Beach State Park has been included in Yahoo! Travel's World's Best Hidden Beaches list. Listed alongside beaches in destinations as Brazil, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, it's the only U.S. beach included in the list. This editorial placement was a result of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau Public Relations Department responding to an editorial lead and quickly providing necessary content including a photo. Yahoo! Travel receives 270,000 unique monthly visitors. <https://www.yahoo.com/travel/the-world-s-hottest-hidden-c1424372618738/photo-stump-pass-photo-1424370285817.html>