

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the following Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training home games (attendance is noted in parenthesis): Thursday, March 5 – Baltimore Orioles (4021); Friday, March 6 – Minnesota Twins (3346); Sunday, March 8 – Philadelphia Phillies (5047); Tuesday, March 10 – Pittsburgh Pirates (3395)

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting the following Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training home games this week: Thursday, March 12 – Toronto Blue Jays @ 1:05 PM; Sunday, March 15 – New York Mets @ 1:05 PM

### Harold Avenue

Harold Avenue Recreation Center is the name. Participation for physical fitness is our game. Activity participation is on the rise, as we strive to live healthier, active lives. Last week Drop-in Table Tennis and Open Gym experienced above average participation while Drop-In Pickleball and Drop-In Volleyball continue to remain steady. All are welcome to come out and play. There is something for everyone.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

Here at Port Charlotte Beach things are still going strong. Thursday we had 90 Promenader's Square dance the night away. Sunday we had a church lunch for 150 which included music and dancing.

For the week of 3-4 through 3-10-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 465 paid admissions, was visited by 83 pass holders and had 192 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 3-1-15 through 3-7-15 South County Regional Park Pool had 156 paid admissions and was visited by 211 pass holders. We had 101 water aerobics participants this week. South County Spring Break Camp swam twice with approx. 70 campers. The Blue Fins held eight practices with approx. 480 swimmers.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 3-1 through 3-7 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 433 paid admissions, 245 water aerobics participants and was visited by 148 pass holders. The Bluefins held 5 practices with approx. 100 swimmers.

### Extension Service

Newspaper Article for March 9– "Madagascar periwinkles rule"

Site Visit - 7509 Paspalum, Punta Gorda - Burnt Store Village- March 9 – Palm Pruning Issue

2015 MG Training – Peaches and Blueberries – March 10 – Dr. Mongi Zekri

2015 Charlotte County Government Academy – March 11 – Murdock

2015 MG Training –Citrus I & II – March 12 – Dr. Mongi Zekri

County Review Booklet Due – March 12

Limited Landscape Maintenance Training – March 13

### Historical Center

- On Saturday March 7, The Tales of Indian Spring Cemetery: Historical Walking Tour had 141 participants! 120 tickets were reservations and 21 were sold at the gate. We had a lot of positive comments about the docent team and their reenactments.
- On Tuesday, March 10, the Harbor Explorers program had 29 participants at Mid-County Regional Library and 11 participants at Englewood Library

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- We are in the beginning phases of an LED lighting retrofit for energy efficiency at the Port Charlotte Library second floor.

### **Operations**

- Tourism has been given wall space in Murdock Administration Building B to place "Tourism Hall of Fame" plaques, where the first one has been placed to honor Becky Bovell.

### **Project Management**

- The demolition of the existing fishing pier at Port Charlotte Beach park was completed and the piling replacement is continuing.
- At Harbour Heights Park the excavation is underway for the retention and detention areas.
- Construction work on the Anger Park parking lot is continuing.
- The first set of preliminary design plans has been received for El Jobean fishing pier.
- The Sports Park parking underdrain maintenance project pre-construction process began with piping submittals approved. The main collector pipe leading into the parking lift station was located with elevations verified. The storm structures submittals can be completed and turned in for review. Once the submittals are approved the structures can be manufactured awaiting the April 6th mobilization.
- The design firms Request for Letters of Interest were received on the Veteran's Memorial Park sales tax project. The selection panel is compiled with members receiving the packages for review and ranking.

## **Human Services**

All veterans' staff attended the Tampa Rays Spring Training Opener. The theme was "A Salute to Veterans". Rays staff provided 500 free tickets to Veteran Services; all 500 tickets were taken by veteran groups (and individual veterans) in a matter of days. David Rockow was in the Honor Guard and carried the American Flag. Ivey Winkler represented women veterans and Terry Keene represented Air Force veterans on the field with Rays' players. David Donohew coordinated with Robbie Artz of the Rays for approximately two months to plan the successful event. Vikki Carpenter served as one of the County Ambassadors/ gate greeters. Our ball caps are off to the Rays for a great event.

The Human Services Director and Division Managers met this week, in a workshop and brainstorming session, to discuss and develop the Department's Strategic Plan. Topics identified included; Department goals & alignment; funding needs and challenges; impact and evaluation of core services and programs; policy development and implementation; customer service, interdepartmental communication & professional relationships; community outreach & marketing, employee development and retention and strengthening community partnerships. Next steps will be to develop the Department's Action Plan and identify needed resources.

211 staff answered a caller who was concerned about his neighbor's wife who fell and broke her leg, leaving a 98 year old male alone. The wife is the caregiver for the elderly gentleman. The neighbor was concerned that no one had come to assist so 211 staff were able to help the caller in obtaining assistance from the Sheriff's Department and the Florida Department of Children and Families.

## 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 90% of the utility pipe and 80% 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 32% 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 2,000 feet) on the northbound lanes - and another 1,500 feet have been paved on the southbound lanes.
- Crews are installing street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project. FPL pole relocation and new electrical wire is complete. FPL crews are now removing the old poles.

**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.

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) Funds to construct this project. Notice to Proceed was issued by FDOT on Dec. 11, 2014. 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 CDM Smith on November 12, 2014. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: April 2015 – Jan 2016.

The Board of County Commissioners awarded the construction contract to Quality Enterprises on March 10, 2015. The County is setting up the pre-construction meeting with Florida Department of Transportation, Quality Enterprises, CDM Smith and County Staff, as required by the LAP agreement.

**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

Fill and erosion control matting installation is 100% complete; sod placement is 100% complete. Preliminary punch list is approximately 98% complete. The job is in the final stages of closing permits and final paper work is being completed.

**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.

Construction is underway 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 website 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. (See Related Link [www.GoEP2.com](http://www.GoEP2.com))

**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.

Construction began at Rotonda Circle and is moving east. Construction will continue east to Parade Circle before the contractor moves back to complete the bridge between Rotonda Circle and Boundary Boulevard. This project is approximately 50% 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. 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 north and southbound lanes from CR 775 north to Apple Valley.
- All of the fill dirt has been completed from CR 775 to SR 776.
- Sidewalk subgrade is being placed and concrete is being poured; 85% 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 65% complete.
- The SR 776 intersection gravity wall is being formed and poured and is 50% complete.
- Asphalt paving of the first structural lift is scheduled to begin March 17th beginning with the northbound lanes starting from CR 775.

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

**2015 County Paving Program** - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, Parkside, Deep Creek, and the Road & Bridge Districts. Construction Contract: TBD, Construction Schedule: March 2015 – Late 2015. The 2015 Paving Program was awarded to Ajax Paving Industries on March 10, 2015. Notice to proceed will be established at the Preconstruction meeting.

**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 – 05/17/2015, Procurement Process: July 2015, Projected Start of Construction: November 2015

Meetings with the design firm continue; the County should receive 60% design plans in March 2015. The design firm continues with document preparation for permit applications. County staff and the design team are working with the Florida Department of Transportation to discuss the plans and secure the land lease agreement.

**Landscaping Projects**

- Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: Manasota Key; South Gulf Cove; Grove City Park; US 17 medians in Cleveland; US 41 Revitalization phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway and Melbourne Street Bridge.
- Mowing was completed at all County owned fenced retention ponds.
- Low volume irrigation systems were installed to support landscaping at both Public Works facilities.
- A consulting/design firm was selected to plan the SR 776/US 41 "gateway" grant project.

**Maintenance & Operations**

**March 4 - 10, 2015**

A total of 24 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, and asphalt repair.

- Drainage line & grade:        9,000 SF in Greater Port Charlotte  
   16,550 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte  
   7,135 SF in Englewood East  
   1,400 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
- Small pipe install:            104 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
- Menzie ditch cutting:        80,940 SF in Road & Bridge South  
   78,400 SF in South County Stormwater  
   140,000 SF in West County Stormwater  
   91,530 SF in Mid County Stormwater
- Menzie ditch digging:        10,875 SF in Mid County Stormwater
- Boom Mower:                    Cut 92,086 CY in Greater Port Charlotte  
   Cut 19,080 CY in Englewood East
- Shoulder repair:                Maintained .7 miles on Golf Course Boulevard in Road & Bridge South
- Culvert Cleaning:              Cleaned 27 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte  
   Cleaned 30 culverts in Englewood East  
   Cleaned 2 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte  
   Cleaned 6 culverts in Road and Bridge North
- Trash / Debris Removal:      Removed 4,080 lbs. from Englewood East
- Major Outfall:                 13,000 SY in Northwest Port Charlotte
- Right-of-way Clearing:        1 load in Englewood East
- Asphalt Repair:                 4.02 tons of material used to repair various locations and potholes throughout the County

## 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 100% design plans were received and reviewed by County staff and returned to the Design Engineer; contract documents are 98% complete. The bid package will be submitted to the Purchasing Department for bid solicitation upon the direction of the County Engineer.

## Tourism

Social media continues to strengthen as a marketing tool and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted two Tweetups during Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training games last week. The first was Thursday, March 5 during the spring training opening season game and the second was Sunday, March 8. Between the two Tweetups, 18 people attended plus various County Commissioners. The two events generated an estimated 1.8 million impressions on Twitter reaching more than 107,000 individual Twitter accounts. Participants also shared the experiences on other social media channels including Facebook, Flickr, Instagram and YouTube.

To extend the conversation about spring training in Charlotte County, VCB staff prepared informational kits utilizing the cardboard suitcases from the Adopt a Meeting Planner campaign and filled them with information about Charlotte County, and social media and baseball-themed items including an Evan Longoria bobblehead provided by the Tampa Bay Rays. Each participant received one of these kits a day or two after the event which generated additional awareness.

What's a Tweetup? It's an event where people who use Twitter (and other social media channels such as Facebook, Flickr, Instagram and YouTube) come together to meet in person. Tweetups allow people who have met virtually to meet in person. When sharing their experience they use a hashtag which pulls together social media posts using that hashtag. This allows followers of that hashtag to follow the conversation. The hashtag for these two events was: #RaysST15.