

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Administration/PIO

At the March 24 BCC meeting a graduation ceremony was held for the 18 participants of this year's Government Academy. The annual program offers presentations by the departments and the commissioners, as well as an opportunity for questions and answers.

## 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 19 – Minnesota Twins (3519); Friday, March 20 – Toronto Blue Jays (4396); Saturday, March 21 – Minnesota Twins (3471); Monday, March 23 – Pittsburgh Pirates (3158).

Upcoming Activities: The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting the following Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training home games this week: Thursday, March 26 – New York Yankees @ 1:05 PM; Saturday, March 28 – Boston Red Sox @ 1:05 PM.

### Harold Avenue

Harold is BLOOMING! The Charlotte County Ichiban Bonsai Kai club hosted an open house on Saturday. Visitors had the opportunity to see unique Bonsai specimens including one small tree with three different colors of flowers on different branches. The club meets on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. year round at the recreation center. In other news, Harold's staff are preparing for the upcoming Adaptive Easter egg hunt held at Bayshore Park on Saturday, March 28 from 11:00-12:30 p.m.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This past weekend we had events daily. Starting with the Promenader's on Thursday, 75 participants enjoyed an evening of square dancing. On Friday, we had a Revival Service for 220 guests. On Saturday we had a very large wedding and reception utilizing the entire facility. And finally on Sunday we had a Baby shower for 53 guests.

For the week of 3-18 to 3-24-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 483 paid admissions, was visited by 86 pass holders and had 145 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted two private swim lesson series.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 3-15-15 through 3-21-15 South County Regional Park Pool had 511 paid admissions and was visited by 232 pass holders. We had 70 water aerobics participants this week. The Charlotte County Sheriff Office Dive Rescue team held training with approximately 8 participants. The Blue Fins held eight practices with approximately 480 swimmers.

### Oyster Creek Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 3-15-15 through 3-21-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 665 paid admissions, 216 water aerobics participants and was visited by 247 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 100 swimmers.

### Extension Services

Newspaper Article for March 23 – "Toxic plants aplenty"

South Central Monthly CED PolyCom – Betty will attend – March 23

Budget Walk-Thru - Mid County Library Administration Conference Room – March 23

Office Cleaning Continues – March 23

2015 Ag Tour – March 24

MG Radio – WCCF – 1580 – March 24 – Donna Worthley and Lynn Buth  
GI-BMP – March 25  
2015 MG Training – Pesticide Safety– March 26  
Extension Staff Meeting – March 26  
Dr. Rouse's Retirement – SWFREC – March 27

### **Historical Center**

On March 20, Crystal Diff led a private Cookie House tour for an Englewood home school group with 15 adults and 36 children attending. On March 21, The Cookie House Tours had 48 adults and 4 children attending. We have had a total of 412 people attend the Cookie House Tours from January-March 2015!

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

The Rebecca Neal Owens senior meals site at Harbor Heights Park is in the process of new A/C systems being installed, work should be completed by end of March.

New A/C system is also planned for C.A.R.E. location. Replacement systems have been ordered, work will begin once the equipment arrives.

### **Operations**

Historical Courthouse and El Jobean Park Accessibility Projects are complete. These were the last two locations for Phases I & II of this multi project list. As we finish these beginning two phases, we have started a third phase which consists of 16 more projects under accessibility improvements. Phase III is currently in design and engineering process.

### **Project Management**

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) for the Fire Training Facility was received from Southwest Florida Water Management District. The ERP will be submitted with the county building permit and county storm water permit.

The Sheriff's Office District 1 draft design Request for Proposal (RFP) package was completed by Purchasing Department and reviewed by Facilities. The package will meet the next Purchasing specifications review before advertising.

## **Human Services**

Senior Services Case Management Supervisor, Deedra Dowling, spoke at the AARP Chapter 80 general membership meeting at River Commons. Topic included grant funding, volunteering, and waiting lists of seniors in need of in home and community services. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. After the presentation Ms. Dowling received an invitation to speak with the Ombudsman group at a later date.

## **Public Safety**

Charlotte County Emergency Management is offering the CERT, Citizen's Emergency Response Team training course. This free course emphasizes training of needed lifesaving medical skills, proper use of a fire extinguisher, disaster psychology, and other disaster recovery skills. The 3-day course will be held at the Charlotte County Public Safety Complex in Punta Gorda on 4/11, 9am to 3pm; 4/18, 9am to 3pm; and 4/25, 9am to 5pm. To register or for more information call 813.702.3785.

## 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 all ponds is complete. 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 41% 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.

**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 100% complete. The job is in the final stages of closing permits and final paper work is being completed.

**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 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; 90% of the sidewalk is complete.
- Median curb has been poured and is 95% 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 70% complete.
- The SR 776 intersection gravity wall is complete.
- Asphalt paving of the first structural lift began on the northbound lanes from CR 775; within 3 days, crews installed over 46,000 square yards of the northbound roadway - equivalent to over 3,000 tons of asphalt. Crews are scheduled to return to continue paving the week of March 30 - April 3, 2015.

## Projects in Design or Negotiation

**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 100% design plans were reviewed and returned to the Design Engineer; the bid set of design plans are in progress. Contract documents are assembled and under review.

## Coastal Projects

**Alligator Creek Dredging** – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2013 – Spring 2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) combined the -5' MLW Maintenance Dredging project with the proposed -6' MLW project even though they are different in their scope.

The FL Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit was received for the -6ft MLW project which includes public interest in the form of purchasing and donating an YSI Water Quality Monitor to the "Friends of CHAP."

The ACOE issued their public notice and received one request for additional information from National Marine Fisheries specific to Essential Fish Habitat. Coastal Engineering Consultants responded to the ACOE, supplying them with the requested data; a letter of informal consultation was sent by the ACOE to the National Marine Fisheries for review in February 2015.

**Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2014 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

The permit application was submitted to FDEP on July 23, 2014. FDEP issued their permit but had to send the application to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE.)

Consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is underway for the presence of the Smalltooth Sawfish. A request for additional information was received from NMFS on Jan. 12, 2015 regarding the seagrass in the areas adjacent to the channel. Johnson Engineering is preparing a response to provide the requested data.

The 80% construction plans have been reviewed by staff with minor edits to the plans.

**Gulf Cove Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral/access channels. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the previous dredge depth of -4ft MLW within the lateral/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: thru Sept. 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) proposed an alternate approach that will improve navigation and yield cost savings over time through reduction of maintenance dredging needs. The approach includes identifying/combining multiple canals into single channels extending to the river.

The County reviewed the preliminary plan set and issued a revised task order to Coastal Engineering Consultants to proceed with the additional survey and design work. CEC completed the additional survey and alternate design alignments depicting the proposed connector channels.

The design has been reviewed and approved by the MSBU Committee; a second change order has been submitted to change the scope of work to facilitate the new design.

**Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system. Design Contract: Stantec, Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/17/2013 – Spring 2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015

Staff reviewed the bid specifications and the Consultant made final revisions; limited vegetation trimming, for line of sight/navigation, is being added to the contract.

This project is tied to the Countywide Dredge Permit and the permit renewal is still pending from Army Corps of Engineers, (ACOE) therefore this project has been delayed.

Staff has been in constant communication with the ACOE and has been advised that this project may fit under the programmatic biological opinion that is being completed by National Marines Fishery Service which may facilitate permitting.

**Pirate Harbor Access Channel** – Dredging provides safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge 2,300 feet of access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. This project was originally presented to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in 2003/04 however, at that time, FDEP did not view this project as favorable and it was removed from the original contract. Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel has been added to the previous contract and will require a standard general permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 4/22/2014 – Early 2016, Procurement: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application is nearing completion. The site visit to gather data for the Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) analysis and the search for possible mitigation sites was conducted by Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) and the FDEP on Oct. 29, 2014. The search for potential mitigation sites did not find enough suitable areas within the vicinity of the project area, thus a wider search area will be examined by CEC using aerial photography.

FDEP completed the UMAM ranking on the seagrass impacts for the proposed dredging. CEC is currently investigating alternative sites for creating a seagrass mitigation project (e.g., fill blow-holes / prop-scars).

Additional discussions with FDEP on the mitigation options will ensue once CEC identifies alternative sites after which the UMAM analysis can be completed by the County and FDEP.

Coastal Engineering will complete the seagrass survey in early summer during growing season; the ERP application will then be complete and submitted to the permitting agencies.

**South Gulf Cove Turn Basin** – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit and construct a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock the only existing location for vessels, of any substantial size and draft, to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/01/2013 – Early 2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015

The FL Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit was issued, however the permit application is still under review by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries (NMF).

Johnson Engineering is making every attempt to work with the ACOE and NMF to expedite the process; Johnson Engineering has been in contact with NMF regarding the Smalltooth Sawfish. This is a requirement for the ACOE permit as the area falls within the boundaries of the Smalltooth Sawfish Critical Habitat.

The ACOE indicated that the permit application review is nearing completion and the NMFS has issued a Concurrence Letter agreeing that the project will not have a negative effect on listed species. Upon receipt of the ACOE permit, this project will go out to bid for construction.

**Stump Pass 10 Year Beach and Inlet Management Plan** – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/16/2012 – July 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: November 2015

After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) completed a project modeling study to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. The results were provided to the State agencies responsible for review and comment.

The result of this modeling showed that reducing the height of the structure by 1.5 feet did not affect the performance and decreased any negative impacts downstream of the structure. However, the State Park Service did not choose this as their desired configuration. They asked for a design that would increase the amount of sand placement upstream of the structure, but the modeling showed that this would be more costly and could have negative impacts on the down drift beaches and the pass itself.

CEC submitted draft t-groin plans to FDEP in response to a Request for Additional Information (RAI.) The FDEP issued a second RAI to which the CEC and County staff have prepared a response including: minor drawing edits, minor changes to the biological monitoring program, formal public noticing, erosion control line process for sand placement, and terminal groin installation on the Stump Pass Beach State Park.

Coordination with ACOE is ongoing; the ACOE engineering division will begin their technical review of the terminal groin design. Coastal Engineering Consultants expects this review to go smoothly.

The ACOE submitted permit documents to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review of potential impacts to historical and cultural resources. It is noted that the consulting team included a marine archaeologist who assisted with the design elements to avoid such impacts.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is actively working on a new Biological Opinion (BO) for this Project. It is noted that the Red Knot was recently listed on the threatened and endangered species list, thus a new BO will have to review the project for migratory birds including Piping Plover and Red Knot as well as sea turtles.

The County is actively working to renew the original project easements, specific to beach front property owners, for temporary construction and related access needs. Further, the County is seeking additional temporary construction easements from beachfront property owners outside of the original project limits from the State Park Beach to the County Park Beach on Manasota Key.

The 2015 scope of services has been approved to continue the program.

Projected Permitting Schedule: May 2014 through June 2015 - Permit processing with FDEP & USACE. June 2015 – Permit processing with FDEP. July 2015 – Permit Processing with USACE.

## **Maintenance & Operations**

**March 18 - 24, 2015** A total of 40 new requests were received related to asphalt repair, shoulder repair, illegal dumping, drainage, and road grading.

Drainage line & grade:	11,400 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 14,120 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 3,000 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 1600 SF in Englewood East
Small pipe install:	24 LF in Mid County Stormwater 32 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Large pipe install:	104 LF in Englewood East
Menzie ditch cutting:	59,750 SF in South County Stormwater 4,000 SF in Mid-County Stormwater 160,000 SF in Englewood East
Boom Mower:	Cut 56,256 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 4,918 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 24,300 CY in Englewood East
Shoulder repair:	Maintained 1.8 miles on Jones Loop Road in Road & Bridge South
Culvert Cleaning:	Cleaned 20 culverts in Grove City Cleaned 30 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 1 culvert in Northwest Port Charlotte
Trash/Debris Removal:	Removed 9,820 lbs. from Englewood East
Asphalt Repair:	7.85 tons of material used to repair locations in Punta Gorda Non-Urban

## **Contracted Services**

- ROW Safety Mowing has begun in South Gulf cove to include litter pickup on selected roads.
- The pipe lining contractor is continuing work in the Deep Creek area where there are 8 locations to be lined.
- Sheet pile installation at the Nadir Road location begins March 24, 2015. This location has to be de-watered on both sides of the road in order to line the pipe; the diameter of the pipe is 72 inches.
- Specialty mowing is continuing in various locations throughout the County; currently they are in the West County Area.

## **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 99% complete. The bid package will be submitted to the Purchasing Department for bid solicitation upon the direction of the County Engineer.