

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs have a six-game home stand and will be playing at the Charlotte Sports Park from 4/23 – 4/28. The first fireworks display of the season will take place immediately following the game on Saturday, 4/25.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

The Promenader's had their final Square dance for the season. They had 70 people show, and as a recap for the season, they averaged a strong 80 participants each event! Sunday was a baby shower with approximately 35 guests.

For the week of 4-15 through 4-21-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 346 paid admissions, was visited by 56 pass holders and had 115 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 4-15 through 4-21-15, South County Regional Park Pool had 353 paid admissions, was visited by 152 pass holders and had 84 water aerobics participants. In addition, Learn to Swim Session 2 has 8 classes running with a total of 31 students. Charlotte High School held their annual end of the year "splash party" on April 16 with approximately 200 students attending.

### Oyster Creek Pool at Ann Dever Memorial Park

For the week of 4-12-15 through 4-18-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 512 paid admissions, 192 water aerobics participants and was visited by 286 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 100 swimmers.

### Extension Services

Newspaper Article for April 20– "The best roses for Florida are low-maintenance"

Judge FACAA/NACAA Posters – April 20

2015 MG Training – MG Training – "Termites" – April 21- Ralph Mitchell

2015 MG Training – MG Training – "Africanized Bees" and "Home Turf" – April 23– Ralph Mitchell

Arbor Day Program – April 24 – Tree Sale and Demo Garden Tree Tour

Judge FACAA/NACAA Posters – April 23 & April 24

## Facilities Construction & Maintenance

### Repairs and Maintenance

Demolition of old cubicles is complete in Fiscal room B-101. To minimize noise and distractions to staff, new wall construction will begin after normal work hours Friday and continue over weekend. This area of B Building at Murdock campus is being renovated to accommodate Public Information Office personnel moving into this space.

### Operations

Pressure washing and cleaning of several roofs will begin this week. Pressure cleaning is part of proper maintenance and will make sure that the roof drains are cleared of debris in preparation for coming rainy season. Any leaks or loose patches found during this preventive maintenance work will be addressed and repaired as necessary. South County Annex, Justice Center, Grace Street Annex and West County Annex are

some of the locations where work will be started.

Power washing of the 5 story Murdock Administration building exterior will be performed this and following weekends, weather permitting. After building is cleaned, exterior windows will also be cleaned later in May.

### **Project Management**

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office District 1 Pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for this week with prospective firms. The firms will compile their proposals for the review and recommendation of the professional committee. The request for proposals are due in early May with short listing on May 21.

The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is underway for the Airport Road Annex Master Planning. The site visit will be performed Friday this week. The consultants will continue compiling site programming information due in late May for staff review.

Franz Ross Drainage, Parking and Lighting: the construction bids have been received and are being reviewed. A meeting with Community Services Department and the engineer of record was held to determine the concept for the re-design of the playing field. These playing field improvements will be bid as a separate project as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Harbour Heights Drainage, Parking and Court Improvements: excavation of the old pool is continuing. Investigation of the old well is underway to determine the best method of abandonment or saving it and possibly obtaining a grant to cap it.

Anger Park Pier, Parking and Drainage: The contractor has paved the parking lot. When "as built" plans are received the paving will be inspected.

El Jobean fishing pier: The cost to repair the existing pilings in comparison to replacement cost is being investigated.

Port Charlotte floating dock: the person responsible for the National Marine Fisheries permit has changed again. We are waiting for their response.

Fire Station #10: The bid package for the fire sprinklers has been submitted to Purchasing Department.

Port Charlotte Beach fishing pier and boardwalk: the substructure work on the pier is continuing. The load requirement needed for the boardwalk pilings is being verified.

Harbour Heights Boat Ramp: the slope required for the new ramp is being studied by Community Services department.

### **Human Services**

Veteran Services staff worked with a family out of state to complete an Aid and Attendance benefit claim for a widow residing at Sterling House Assisted Living facility in Charlotte County. Documents were completed using phone, email and fax, and the paperwork was taken to the widow's residence for signatures. The appropriate paperwork was then scanned to our files and mailed to Veteran's Administration (VA) for processing.

Veteran Services staff also assisted a veteran who received notice that he had a debt with the VA from his estate because he had passed away. The Veteran assured staff that he was very much alive and still intended to keep his appointment concerning a compensation claim. Veteran Services staff called the VA to report the discrepancy and filed paperwork during the appointment to reinstate all benefits.

### **Public Works**

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

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: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: March 2015 – Late 2015

The Contractor is still paving in the Peachland 4 Area of the Greater Port Charlotte District and work is underway in the Midway 9 Area which should be complete by April 24, 2015.

**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 May 2015. Once traffic shifts, the west side of the box culverts will be completed.
- Installation of drainage pipes and utilities continues. Approximately 95% 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 80% complete on the northbound side and 20% complete on the southbound side.
- The contractor completed 49% 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 5,000 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 have removed the old poles.

PSA issued 4/14/2015: – *A portion of Alcazar Drive, between Burnt Store Road and Quesa Drive, will be closed to traffic Mon., April 20, 2015 through Fri., April 24, 2015 as drainage and utility installation work is scheduled at this location in conjunction with the Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening project. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.*

**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

Marine Contracting Group completed all construction requirements March 18, 2015 (two months ahead of schedule and under budget) and is in the final stages of closing out permits and submitting final paperwork.

**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 Aloha Avenue to SR 776.
- Sidewalk subgrade is being placed and concrete is being poured; 98% of the sidewalk is complete.
- Median curbing has been poured and is complete.
- Storm drainage and utility installations are 99% complete; the remaining 1% is within the SR 776 intersection.
- The installation of street lights and poles is 92% complete.
- The SR 776 intersection gravity wall is complete.

PSA issued 4/17/2015: – *The northbound outside lane of Winchester Boulevard North, from SR 776 to Prospect Avenue, will be closed during daytime working hours from Tues., April 21 through Fri., April 24, 2015. This lane closure is necessary to allow construction vehicles to transport materials along Winchester Boulevard in conjunction with the Winchester Boulevard South*

extension project. Upon completion, Winchester Boulevard will be a direct connector from Placida Road to I-75 via River Road in Sarasota County. Construction is projected to be complete in late summer of 2015. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

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

**Placida Road Safety Improvements Phase 1** (Rotonda Blvd. West to Cape Haze Drive) – Safety improvements include: a 2.9 mile bicycle-pedestrian path from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive, intersection improvements at Lemon Bay Golf Course, Bantry Bay, Cape Haze Drive and Panama Drive and resurfacing of Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: through Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Utility design should be complete in the late spring of 2015. Construction plans are on hold at approximately 80% pending completion of utility plans. Utility plans are currently at 60% and have been submitted to CCU for review.

**Placida Road Safety Improvements Phase 2** (Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway) – This project provides for a continuous walkway along Placida Road from SR 776 to the Boca Grande Causeway. This multi-use path will run along the northwest side of Placida Road and will be 10' wide to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: through Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015.

Utility design should be complete in the late spring of 2015. Construction plans are on hold at approximately 90% pending completion of utility plans. Utility plans are currently at 60% and have been submitted to CCU for review.

**Sidewalks – Cape Haze Drive** - Design and construction of approximately 3,400 linear feet of sidewalk along Cape Haze Drive, from Arlington Drive north to approximately 450' north of Links Lane, where Cape Haze Drive becomes a four lane road. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: March 2015 – Fall 2015, Procurement: Fall 2015, Construction: Early 2016

Johnson Engineering was selected to design this sidewalk project. Staff met with the Engineering firm to confirm the scope and fee for the project. 30% design plans are expected to be received by June 2015.

**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: thru Spring 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

Johnson Engineering submitted the 90% design plans which are under review by County staff.

**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: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Final construction plans and specifications were received on February 3, 2015, and are under review. The bid package is expected to be delivered the Purchasing Department by the end of April 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 – 01/31/2015, Procurement Process: thru June 2015, Projected Start of

Construction: June 2015

This project is currently advertised for competitive bid. The pre-bid conference is scheduled April 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Complex, Building B, Room 106-B. Bid opening is scheduled May 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

### **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 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 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 a 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.

Staff has requested that the Sea Edge ACOE permit be extended.

**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: May 2014 - Winter 2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2016

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 was reviewed and approved by the MSBU Committee; a second change order was submitted to facilitate the new design.

A pre-application meeting was conducted with the FDEP and ACOE to determine project feasibility. Both agencies view the project as favorable. FDEP commented that the FWC Department of Aquaculture will need to comment on the shellfish habitat designation and the ACOE stated that NMF will need to do the same in regards to the Smalltooth Sawfish habitat.

**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 Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which may facilitate permitting.

The ACOE informed the County that the NMFS review is underway however, according to the NOAA Web site, the project has been under review since Sept of 2014. Staff contacted the NMFS reviewer who stated they are working on the backlog from June of 2014.

Requests for Letters of Interest are due to the Purchasing Department from the Engineering Firms on April 16, 2015.

**South Gulf Cove Parallel Lock** – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Benefit Unit Advisory Committee is concerned about the congestion of the existing lock and boating restrictions imposed when the existing lock is in under maintenance/repair. The MSBU recommends an additional lock parallel to the existing one.

This project provides for engineering, permitting and construction management services for the creation of a new parallel lock located next to the existing South Gulf Cove lock. The design of this project is funded by assessments in the South Gulf Cove Waterway MSBU. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: TBD, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

Public Works Engineering submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Library of Engineering Firms to conduct engineering, permitting and construction management services to construct a new parallel lock located next to the existing South Gulf Cove Lock. A Pre-Submittal Conference is scheduled April 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Complex, Building B, Room 106-B. The Proposals are due to the Purchasing Department by 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2015.

**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.

County Staff and CEC held a telephone application conference with the ACOE; the project may change slightly to allow additional fill to be placed behind the structure. This will provide for quicker impoundment of the groin.

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

### **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 approaches.

### **Maintenance & Operations**

#### **April 15-21, 2015**

A total of 26 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, and asphalt repairs.

- Drainage line & grade: 10,600 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte  
600 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban  
10,300 SF in Road & Bridge South
- Small pipe install: 16 LF in Greater Port Charlotte  
24 F in Peace River Shores  
24 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
- Menzie ditch cutting: 229,500 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater  
100,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
- Boom mower: Cut 17,200 CY in Rotonda Heights  
Cut 7,600 CY in Road & Bridge South  
Cut 36,166 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
- Culvert cleaning: Cleaned 31 culverts in Englewood East  
Cleaned 1 culvert in Rotonda West  
Cleaned 1 culvert in Road & Bridge West  
Cleaned 38 culverts in Greaser Port Charlotte
- Major outfall: 1,557 SF in Englewood East
- Trash/debris removal: Removed 3,460 pounds of debris in Greater Port Charlotte

### **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: Spring 2015, Construction: TBD

Design plans and contract documents are 100% complete and have been sent to the Purchasing Department for review in preparation for bid solicitation.

## **Tourism**

Numbers are in for the 2015 USA BMX Sunshine State Nationals held Feb. 13 – 15, 2015, in partnership between Charlotte BMX and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau. More than 600 riders participated plus 1,965 family members and spectators attended. The event attracted participants from 30 states and 10 countries. Over \$19,000 in tourist development tax was generated by 1,535 utilized hotel room nights. Organizers estimate this event generated approximately \$700,000 in direct expenditures for Charlotte County which equates to over \$42,000 in state sales tax. The Charlotte Harbor VCB and Charlotte BMX will submit a bid to host another National event in 2016.