

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs game on 6/15 was cancelled due to rain. They played a doubleheader on 6/16. Attendance for this week was as follows: 6/16- 1460; 6/17 – 663; 6/18 – 952; 6/22 – 314 Game called due to rain, SC Win! The Charlotte Stone Crabs are home 6/22 – 6/25, 6/27 – 6/30.

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Last week the staff at Harold Avenue Recreation Center welcomed their new Senior Program Coordinator, Mike Massoglia. Please help us to welcome Mike, not just to Harold Avenue, but to Florida.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

The deck is coming along very well and should be finished soon. This weekend we have a large baby shower booked for Saturday. For the week of 6-17 through 6-23-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 294 paid admissions, was visited by 53 pass holders and had 52 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted two private swim lessons.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 6-17-15 through 6-24-15, South County Regional Park Pool had 433 paid admissions, was visited by 154 pass holders and had 56 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 11 swim practices resulting in approximately 250 “splashes”. In addition, we had 1030 summer campers from our camp and various other summer camps attend with 120 of South County Summer Camp participants starting swim lessons. Summer Learn to Swim session 1 continued with 11 classes and 51 participants. We registered one new private swim lesson series.

### Extension Services

Newspaper Article for June 22 – “Olive trees – yes and no”  
South Central Monthly CED Conference Call – June 22  
MG Radio, 1580 WCCF – June 23  
Green Industries-Best Management Practices Training – June 24  
Sunrise Kiwanis – Talk on Extension – June 25 at the Cultural Center  
Extension Staff Meeting – June 25

### Historical

The Charlotte County Historical Center has successfully completed the Community Meetings concerning its Long-Range Planning. Meetings were held across the county in Punta Gorda, Murdock, and Englewood locations for citizen input.

Summer programs are off to a great start! The Harbor Explorers outreach program engaged kids about the Charlotte Harbor ecosystem and its historic ties to the Cookie House. This program was held on June 11 and 12 with 38 attendees each day.

Did you know that local native tribes built mounds aligning with the Summer Solstice? Attendees of our Midsummer Merriment program on June 19 learned of this area’s tie to the Summer Solstice as well as world cultural history after a yoga session and Swedish Maypole dance! There were 36 attendees and positive verbal comments from the public for having programs in Bayshore Live Oak Park.

## Parks

- Two new swing sets installed at Harold Avenue Park, including ADA & infant seats and 2 belt swings
- Two new ADA beach chairs purchased and deployed at Englewood Beach Park
- Attended initial meeting with Waterfest 2015 representatives to plan preliminary event at Englewood Beach November 2015.

## Fields

Installed 3 new flag poles. A 40ft at South County Regional Park, 40ft at Ann Dever and 35ft at Carmelita . All 3 flags are lit with a solar powered light and strategically placed to be visible from almost anywhere in the park.

## Human Services

On June 23, David Donohew received an award from the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart at the BCC meeting held at Murdock for his dedication to wounded veterans of Charlotte County. David was honored for his hard work in naming Charlotte County, through the CCBC a “Purple Heart County.” David also had 40 Combat Wounded Veterans parking signs with the Purple Heart logo on them, placed on County property to assist wounded veterans in parking closer to the buildings. David worked with the County Commissioners and established the Combat Wounded Veterans Appreciation Program that is given out the second BCC meeting of each month to a Purple Heart Recipient/Combat Veteran and he was instrumental in the design and having the two VA Vans “wrapped’ with the Combat Wounded decal.

## Public Works

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

**CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening** – The purpose of this project is to widen CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from SR 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. This 790 calendar day project is funded by the 2009 Sales Tax, Road Impact Fees, Gasoline Tax and a State Grant. Construction Contract: Construction Manager at Risk, Halfacre Construction, Woodruff and Sons, Inc. will be performing on-site construction, Construction Schedule: 07/07/2014 – 09/04/2016.

- Zep Construction completed the concrete deck on the bridge and will start the barrier wall and utility cradles this week.
- Woodruff and Sons crew #1 is concentrating on new utility installations on the west side near Sawyer Circle. A directional bore is being installed under SR 776, just east of CR 771, to provide for a new water main on the north side of SR 776.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #2 is installing storm drain systems, from Marathon Boulevard south to Rotonda Boulevard East, to prepare for the construction of the new northbound lanes.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #3 is working on sidewalk construction south of Marathon Boulevard and is importing fill material to begin road construction from San Domingo Boulevard to Marathon Boulevard.
- Additional crews are on-site completing stormwater retention ponds.

Overall construction is 42% complete.

**Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two** – This is the last phase of a multi-year widening project of Midway Boulevard. The project limits are from Sharpe Street (just east of Harbor Drive) to the intersection of Kings Highway (about 2.25 miles). Design includes four lanes of traffic with center turn lanes, new sidewalks on both sides, closed drainage system, new traffic signals at Beacon Drive, new pedestrian crossings at the

schools, new lighting, and a new water and sewer system along the corridor. Temporary sidewalks, meeting the ADA requirement, will be installed during construction to maintain all pedestrian access. The road may be closed to through traffic at times however mail delivery, emergency services and access to local residences will be maintained during construction. This project was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Sales Tax Referendum. Construction Contract: Forsberg Construction, Construction Schedule: June 30, 2015 – Summer 2018

Construction will begin June 30, 2015 from Achilles Boulevard to Kings Highway. Project signs have been installed on the west and east ends of the project.

**From: <http://midwayupdate.com/>** (June 23, 2015) - The Contractor will be mobilizing and setting up the construction yard during the month of July. Contractors Planned Schedule: Construction Activities for the rest of this year will be focused on the east end of the project from the Niagara waterway (Achilles street) to Kings Highway. Storm Drainage work to begin mid-August and continue through mid-November along Midway Boulevard in the area between Achilles to Shilo Street.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Peachland FOR 5.11** - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. The new structure will replace two 48" culverts and a 50' weir with one 8'x10' box culvert with a 5' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 06/05/2015 – October 2015

The construction contract was awarded to Quality Enterprises at the BCC meeting on May 26, 2015. The pre-construction meeting was held June 9, 2015. Work is scheduled to begin on August 3, 2015.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Peachland NIA 5.72** - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. The new structure will replace a 48" reinforced concrete pipe and a 22' weir with two 36" reinforced concrete pipes with a 6' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 08/03/2015 – October 2015

The construction contract was awarded to Quality Enterprises at the BCC meeting on May 26, 2015. The pre-construction meeting was held June 9, 2015. Work is scheduled to begin on August 3, 2015.

**U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs** – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcarn, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South US 41 Access Roads within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcarn Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – 6/30/2015

- Elkcarn Waterway: Zep Construction is currently working on punchlist items.
- Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction is currently installing the final riprap and fabric form on the southbound side which is projected to be completed next week.
- Elmira Blvd: Zep Construction is currently working on punchlist items.

Overall construction is approximately 97% complete.

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

**Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes** - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks: Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road, Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road, and Rio Togas Road from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road. Design Contract: Banks Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – Late 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late Summer/Early Fall 2015

Budget adjustments have been made allowing for construction to begin on Vincent Avenue, Saragossa Lane, and Rio Togas Road this year. Bid specifications are being finalized by staff. This project is expected to go out for bid in July 2015.

**Sidewalks – Gulfstream Boulevard** - This project consists of an 8' sidewalk installed from an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard at Snow Drive continuing to Rosemont Drive. Design includes a connection to an existing sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting: 3/20/2011 – 6/25/2013, Procurement: April – July 2015, Construction: TBD

Design is complete and the bid package is in the Purchasing Department undergoing review in preparation for bid advertisement. Public Works anticipates that this project will be advertised for bid in July 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 100% design plans and bid specifications which are under review by County staff.

## **Coastal Projects**

**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.

The spoil site has been identified for temporary use for permitting. The permit application and drawings are complete and were submitted to State and Federal permitting agencies.

**Manasota Key North Beach Erosion Study** – Public Works Engineering requested Letters of Interest (RLI) from the Library of Engineering Firms to complete a Regional Beach Erosion Study (BES) on the north end of Manasota Key, from R monument 1 to R monument 15, upon the request of citizens affected by critical beach erosion. Upon completion of the study, this information could be used to develop funding strategies and further the project into permitting. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: Summer 2015 – Late 2015

The erosion study shall include the following:

- a) Beach Profile Surveys
- b) Erosion Analysis
- c) Sand Volume Analysis
- d) Conceptual Restoration Plans
- e) Natural Resource Surveys
- f) Develop Funding Approaches and Strategies to Mitigate Total Cost
- g) Participate in Stakeholder Meetings
- h) Provide Potential Cost Estimates
- i) Provide Permit Feasibility Analysis

Coastal Engineering Consultants completed the initial surveys and will continue to refine the data and conduct additional survey work as needed.

**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

The Board of County Commissioners approved the commencement of negotiations with DMK Associates of Englewood on June 23, 2015; negotiations are underway.

**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 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permits have been issued.

Johnson Engineering recently reviewed the cost estimate and completed a pre-construction update survey to insure the dredge quantities were still accurate prior to bid solicitation. This project package is in the Purchasing Department undergoing preparation for bid solicitation.

**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.

The ACOE submitted permit documents to the State Historic Preservation Office for 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 agency is 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; approximately 80% of the easements have been obtained.

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 to provide for quicker impoundment of the groin. To date, the changes are viewed as favorable by the Army Corps of Engineers.

A marine marker survey has been completed and the results were shared with staff; the Signing and Marking crew relocated marine markers to better delineate the channel.

Senate Bill 2500-A passed which provides funding for Beach Management Projects and could provide Charlotte County's Stump Pass project \$2.5 million. Staff is awaiting final correspondence from the State to complete this action.

#### Projected Permitting Schedule:

- May 2014 - June 2015: Permit processing with FDEP & USACE
- June 2015: FDEP permit
- July 2015: USACE Permit

#### 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.
- Mulch top dressing, of landscape plant beds and tree rings, was completed throughout South Gulf Cove.
- Flower bed crop rotation was completed at the Manasota Key traffic circle.
- Plant material enhancements were completed at the US 41 Revitalization Phase I project.

## Maintenance & Operations

A total of 45 new requests were received related to brush, drainage, asphalt repair, shoulder repair, and debris.

Drainage line & grade:	3,660 SF in Harbour Heights 11,250 SF in Englewood East 9775 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 2,550 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 10,940 SF in Road & Bridge South
Small pipe install:	148 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 76 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte 40 LF in Englewood East 80 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Menzie ditch cutting:	93,800 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater 130,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 163,500 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 15,950 CY in Rotonda Lakes Cut 7,600 CY in South Gulf Cove Cut CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 59,443 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 45 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
Trash/debris removal:	Removed 13,340 pounds of debris throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 11.71 tons of material throughout the County

## Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control

### Mosquito Control:

Acres treated	41,410
Landing rate counts taken	60
Traps set	1
Service requests	65

### Aquatic Weed Control:

Sites treated	20
Sites inspected	6
Mitigation Sites maintained	3

## Other Projects

**Manasota Key Community Plan Design** – The Manasota Key MSTU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. The first phase of this project consisted of a conceptual master plan completed by Weiler Engineering in December 2013. Phase 2 is the design of construction ready plans consisting of the top priorities as identified by the MSTU Committee. Design Contract: Weiler Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: July 2014 – Late Spring 2015, Construction: N/A

The 60% design plans for the Gulf Blvd. sidewalk were received Dec. 31, 2014. A Community Meeting was held at the Tringali Community Center on Wed., Feb. 4, 2015 to present the 60% sidewalk plans. At this time the Gulf Blvd. sidewalk project is on hold until a survey is mailed to all property owners and input is gathered.

The 60% design plans for the North Beach Road commercial section have been received and are being reviewed by staff.

The MSTU is scheduled to meet on July 29, 2015 to decide how to move forward.

**Rotonda West Bridge Lighting** – The Rotonda West Street and Drainage MSBU requested the installation of decorative lighting to the five bridges over the Rotonda River. Bridge Locations: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive, Rebel Court. Wright Construction completed the installation of an electric power system to feed the decorative lighting planned under the first phase of this project. Design Contract: Florida Transportation Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: through Spring 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

This project is currently advertised for bid. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled July 15, 2015 and the bids are due on August 5, 2015.

**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: through July 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 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.

This project is currently advertised for bid. A pre-bid conference is scheduled June 17 with bid opening scheduled July 1, 2015.

## **Tourism**

Last month, the Charlotte Harbor VCB hosted eight journalists during a media familiarization trip. Journalists were from Florida, Las Vegas, Brazil and Costa Rica including journalists from Azul airline’s and Allegiant Air’s inflight publications. These familiarization trips guide journalists in developing story to then share with their readers. Editorial content generated from these types of trips assist in promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination.

Rogério Almeida, one of the Brazilian writers, has published an article about Palm Island Resort in the publication Revista D&A (in English, Magazine D&A). It’s a lifestyle publication focusing on architecture, design, trends, dining, events, art and luxury for the state of Paraíba, located on Brazil’s East Coast, north of Rio de Janeiro (about a 33-hour drive). Circulation is about 50,000.

Rogério is a well-respected writer, broadcaster and professor. During IPW in Orlando last month (the largest U.S.-based tour and travel trade show), he received one of the top travel journalist awards.

The article can be viewed at <http://issuu.com/revistadea/docs/revistadea36>, page 112. Please note, the article is in Portuguese.