

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The dates and attendance figures from the Charlotte Stone Crabs games at the Charlotte Sports Park:

Friday, July 10 - 420
Saturday, July 11 - 613
Sunday, July 12 - 503
Monday, July 13 - 570

The Charlotte Stone Crabs play at the Charlotte Sports Park on July 19 - 21.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Over the past few weeks the staff of Harold Avenue Recreation Center had to weather the storm of CHANGE. Although the idea of change can be difficult the staff worked together as a team to make this time of transition run smoothly. Now that the smoke has cleared and the dust has settled we are happy to announce the Cedric Vales, a Seasonal Recreation Specialist at Harold Avenue Recreation Center, has stepped into the role of coordinator for the Center's Basketball Leagues. In other news, Harold Avenue Recreation Center's regularly scheduled programs continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

During the week there was an event for "Buckeye Horseshoe" group, they had a team banquet. Saturday was a large wedding with 150 people, and Sunday there was a large baby shower with 62 in attendance.

For the week of 7-8-15 through 7-14-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 254 paid admissions, was visited by 42 pass holders and had 73 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted 1 private swim lesson series.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-8-15 through 7-15-15, South County Regional Park Pool had 600 paid admissions, was visited by 176 pass holders and had 42 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 11 swim practices resulting in approx. 175 "splashes." Summer "Learn to Swim" session 2 began with 40 participants 7 of which are part of the American Red Cross Centennial Campaign and have received scholarships through this program. Twelve different summer camps attended 30 times with 618 children swimming.

Special Olympics had 2 practice meets in preparation for the county meet on July 25, and have 11 athletes.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 7-5-15 through 7-11-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 875 paid admissions, 124 water aerobics participants and was visited by 173 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 100 swimmers.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for July 13 – "Got to love those heart-shaped leaves"
Horticulture Team Meeting – July 13
Friends for Extension Meeting – July 14
Tree Pruners Work on Courtyard Oaks – July 15 & 16
Crazy about Caladiums Workshop – July 18
School Garden Workshop – July 18

Fields

Installation of new Bermuda sod has been completed at Franz Ross football field and the game and practice fields at Carmelita football. They will still need a few weeks to fill in and root but the hard part is done.

New Bermuda sod is being installed on fields 2, 4 and 5 at South County Regional Park. Weather permitting they should be completed within the week. Once they have rooted in and can be opened for use we will start on fields 1 and 3.

Repairs to all scoreboards at Harold Avenue have been completed and everything is working as it should.

Natural Resources

On July 1, 2015, Roger DeBruler attended a workshop in Tallahassee at the FWC headquarters on issues pertaining to Derelict Vessel Statues and Protocols for the State Legislators. The primary issues were state funding problems and making the State's DV program proactive instead of reactive. Approximately 90% of the meeting was pushed into funding issues, while only 10% covered statutory and legislative issues. All in all it was a good meeting to converse with other DV/AV managers, Law enforcement, legislative assistants and commissioners from around the state. The DV director and FWC are planning on holding multiple informational meetings around the state in the next month or so to educate the stakeholders on possible changes in the DV program.

On July 13, 2015 while assisting the Punta Gorda Police Marine Division with abandoned vessels on the Peace River, two vessels were tagged with Abandoned Vessel Notice Stickers for violations on expired registrations and storage issues. The owners of these vessels will be notified of the violation.

This week in addition to the flora and fauna species monitoring and exotic treatment activities staff usually conducts we participated in preparation efforts associated with the annual Freedom Swim. The Freedom Swim is an annual event that takes place in Charlotte Harbor.

As we are all aware Florida summer makes for some very exciting weather events. Many may not know that Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. This lightning activity is result of multiple conditions associated with being a peninsula and located in the subtropics. The nearly year round growing season combined with lots of lightning this time of year means active wildfire. This is why Florida's ecosystems are referred to as pyrogenic. Staff has spent some time this year doing some standard housekeeping as a result of some wildfires associated on or near county managed lands. Florida Forrest Service and local fire departments are often called upon to respond and control these fires. Much of the housekeeping involved mending of fences that were cut to allow quick access to the wildfires or replacement of locks that were cut to allow access to gates.

Staff also assisted in an ongoing utilities project by conducting gopher tortoise surveys on potentially affected lots. As a species of special concern it is important for the county to make every effort to mitigate/minimize impacts to protected species in the course of improvement projects. We, the county, have to abide by the laws that protect listed species the same as any other entity. As we have trained and certified staff this assistance means a cost savings to the county as we continue to provide the best services to the citizens of Charlotte County.

This week staff attended a training session with Kevin Edwards, GIS department. The use of maps is essential to the execution of successful projects both within our department and in coordination with other departments or divisions. Maps are also an important component of the land management process. They are used in the ongoing tracking of exotic treatment programs, prescribed fire actions and specific amenities and use associated improvements on the properties we manage day to day. With good map making skills we

can convey ideas and projects to others in different agencies that may never have seen the properties we manage.

Public Works

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

Burnt Store Road (Phase 3) 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 – 11/18/2015

- The excavation of all ponds is complete. Grading and sodding of swales continues on the west side.
- Work is progressing on the box culverts; two of the three box culverts are complete and backfilled. Work is scheduled to begin on the final box culvert after the next traffic lane shift scheduled mid to late August.
- Installation of drainage pipes and utilities continues. Approximately 99% of the utility pipe and 88% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 94% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 92% complete on the northbound side and 21% complete on the southbound side.
- The contractor completed the stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and is now placing stabilized sub base on the southbound travel lanes. The first and second course of asphalt has been paved on the northbound lanes - and another 1,500 feet of asphalt has been paved on the southbound lanes.
- Crews have installed street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project; this portion of the project is nearing completion.
- Please note that traffic has shifted to the east side of new roadway and the speed limit is reduced to 35 miles per hour. The entire project length is a NO PASSING zone; extreme caution should be used when traveling in this area.
- Construction is approximately 71% complete.

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase 2 – 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: 1/5/2015 – 2/5/2017.

Excerpts from the GoEP2.com website:

Thomas Marine Construction is driving production piles and will begin replacing and widening three bridges along the Edgewater Driver Corridor in Port Charlotte across the East Spring Lake, West Spring Lake and Sunrise Waterway. The contractor anticipates leaving one of the spans open at all times for marine traffic. Any channel restrictions or temporary closures will be coordinated with the Coast Guard and published in the [Local Notice to Mariners](#) (see Chart 11416). July 2015: West Spring Lake Bridge pile driving begins.

Notice of Intermittent Traffic Delays - Edgewater Drive/Harbor Boulevard Intersection - was published on July 2, 2015 - PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (July 2, 2015) the contractor will be installing the mast arm foundations at the Edgewater Drive/Harbor Boulevard intersection the weeks of July 6 and July 13. Motorists should expect stoppage of traffic as equipment is moved through the intersection.

When the Edgewater Drive Phase 2 Improvements are complete, the Edgewater Drive/Harbor Boulevard intersection will be a signalized intersection with mast arms.

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 new sidewalk and curbing on SR 776 is complete.
- Storm drainage and utility installations are 100% complete.
- The installation of street lights and poles is 100% complete; street lights are expected to be energized by the end of July.
- The SR 776 intersection gravity wall is complete.
- The final lift of asphalt is complete throughout the entire project.
- ADA sidewalk mats are 100% complete.
- Roadway signing and striping is 100% complete.
- Signalization at CR 775 and SR 776 is in the final stages of completion.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held June 15, 2015. Winchester Boulevard South is open to traffic.

Projects in Design or Negotiation

Burnt Store Road Phase 2 Widening – This project is to design and permit a new four-lane divided roadway to include sidewalks and bike facilities between the existing two (2) four-lane projects to the north and south. This section is from the southern end of Burnt Store Road (near Notre Dame Boulevard) to the northern four-lane section of Burnt Store Road, north of Zemel Road. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting schedule: July 13, 2015 - March 3, 2017, Procurement Process: Spring 2017, Projected start of Construction: TBD

Negotiations with Johnson Engineering are complete and the Notice to Proceed was issued on July 13 to begin design. Production Schedule:

- 30% plans due March 11, 2016
- 60% plans due August 12, 2016
- 90% plans due December 2, 2016
- 100% plans due February 3, 2017
- Final bid contract documents due March 3, 2017

NWPC Bridge Inspections and Design Improvements - This project includes an engineering evaluation of seven bridge structures within the Northwest Port Charlotte MSBU and development of a detailed rehabilitation plan to extend the structure's useful life. A consultant will inspect the bridge piles and collect the necessary field data to design structural jackets and supply a report with estimated costs before designing the jackets. The improvements and repairs shall correct deficiencies identified by FDOT consultants to the extent that is practicable. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: TBD, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

BRIDGE #	ON	AT
014041	McPearson Dr.	Hastings Waterway

014045	Chamberlain Blvd.	Apollo Waterway
014047	Chamberlain Blvd.	Markham Waterway
014048	Jacobs St.	Jupiter Waterway
014050	Biscayne Blvd.	Apollo Waterway
014051	Eisenhower Dr.	Venus Waterway
014052	Eisenhower Dr.	Cheshire Waterway

The Purchasing Department solicited Letters of Interest from the Professional Services Library for Civil, Coastal, Engineering and Structural firms which were due June 23, 2015. Once a firm has been selected, a contract will be negotiated.

Parkside - Gertrude Avenue/Aaron Street Multi-Use Path - This project will provide for a 10' multi-use path, landscaping, decorative lighting, a pocket park and signage along Gertrude Avenue, from Caring Way to Aaron Street, and along Aaron Street from Gertrude Avenue to Harbor Boulevard. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: June 2015 – Fall 2015, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

This project was approved by the Parkside Community Development Committee and adopted into the County's Capital Improvements Program on April 28, 2015.

The Engineering Division requested that the Resource Library be utilized to obtain professional engineering services for the design and permitting of the multi-use path, lighting and landscaping within the Parkside Community Redevelopment Area.

Parkside - West Tarpon Boulevard/Ambrose Lane Multi-Use Path - This project includes a 10' multi-use path, landscaping and decorative lighting along West Tarpon Boulevard from US 41 to Ambrose Lane and on Ambrose Lane from West Tarpon Boulevard to Elkcam Boulevard. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: June – Dec 2015, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

This project was approved by the Parkside Community Development Committee on March 3 and adopted into the County's Capital Improvements Program on March 24, 2015.

A Parkside Community Meeting is scheduled July 30, 2015 to review the conceptual project plan. Johnson Engineering is expected to have 30% plans submitted for staff review by September 1, 2015.

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: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Utility design should be complete by August 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: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015.

Utility design should be complete by August 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.

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 August 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The construction contract was awarded to Underground Engineering Services; the pre-construction meeting was held July 9, 2015.

Tom Adam's Bridge Rehabilitation – This project consists of replacing the existing tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide a gateway to the Manasota Key will feature a standing seam roof color coordinated with the bridge and large observation windows designed to withstand hurricane winds. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the bridge tender's view is obstructed. The existing Tenderhouse will be removed providing a scenic outlook for pedestrians. The existing concrete railing and guardrail will be removed and replaced with a steel traffic barrier and aluminum handrail, which will allow for widening the sidewalk to a minimum of five (5) feet. The sidewalk surface will be topped to correct slope and alignment issues, making it easier for pedestrians to cross the bridge. The rehabilitation will also replace the existing Traffic Gates, Traffic Signals, the approach slabs (concrete slab which connect the bridge to the roadway), abutment wall cap, slope pavement (surface under the bridge approaches), plus the bridge will be repainted. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying, Design/Permitting Schedule: 07/02/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Spring-Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Feb 2016.

Bids were opened June 24. A recommendation to award the construction contract to Quinn Construction, Inc. was presented to the Board of County Commissioners July 14 for approval. Completion time is 415 calendar days with liquidated damages of \$3,226 per calendar day.

Drainage Projects

Maintenance & Operations

July 8-14, 2015: A total of 43 new requests were received related to brush, drainage, asphalt repair, guardrail repair, and debris.

Drainage line & grade:	5,000 SF in South Gulf Cove 17,350 SF in Harbour Heights 7,765 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,650 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Small pipe install:	172 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 36 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte 24 LF in Deep Creek
Menzie ditch cutting:	80,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 80,000 SF in Englewood East 71,680 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 4,600 CY in Rotonda Lakes Cut 28,600 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 53,091 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 7,571 CY in Harbour Heights Cut 16,912 CY in Cook & Brown

Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 24 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 11 culverts in Road & Bridge South Cleaned 5 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Shoulder repair:	Maintained miles of shoulder in Road & Bridge North
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 9.19 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Trash/Debris removal:	Removed 5,520 pounds of debris throughout the County

Contracted Services

- ROW mowing in West County has been completed in Englewood East, Grove City, Lemon Bay, Placida, Rotonda West, and Road & Bridge for the Month of July.
- Street sweeping has begun, with primary focus on Road & Bridge roads, and along the major intersections in North, West, and South County for the month of July.
- Specialty mowing is currently working in West county and North county in various locations.

Landscaping Services

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; Melbourne Street Bridge and all county-owned fenced retention ponds.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control

July 8 - 14, 2015

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 74,406
- Landing rate counts taken: 79
- Traps set: 37
- Service requests: 13

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 18
- Sites inspected: 1
- Mitigation sites maintained: 2

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/Summer 2015, Construction: Summer 2015

Construction bids were opened July 8; a recommendation to award the construction contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners upon verification of the bid documents.

Sunshine Lake Recharge Wells – This project consists of the installation of two recharge wells to maintain active water flow through the Sunshine Lake. A recharge well will be located at the north end of Sunshine

Lake and a second adjacent to McGuire Park. Design Contract: RMA Geologic Consultants, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/01 – 07/31/2013, Procurement Process: April - June 2015, Projected Start of Construction: TBD.

Bids have been received and reviewed. A recommendation to award the construction contract to the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder will be presented to the BCC July 28, 2015 for approval.

Tourism

Under the leadership of the Englewood Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Englewood Chamber's Tourism Assembly, Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau and Visit Sarasota County have been working together to launch the inaugural restaurant week called Let's Eat, Englewood, a "culinary adventure without breaking the bank." Scheduled for Sept. 25 – Oct. 8, local restaurants will offer two-course lunches for \$12 and three-course (or more) dinners for \$23. It's an opportunity for locals to try area restaurants and encourage visitors to visit the destination during a traditionally an off season of the year. Visit <https://www.engagewoodchamber.com/lets-eat-englewood> for additional information.