

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 7/28/15

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

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

Sunday, July 19 - 223

Monday, July 20 - 373

Tuesday, July 21 - 1340

The Florida Scout Ball Tournament was held July 17-19 and had an estimated attendance of 1500 fans. The Charlotte Stone Crabs play at the Charlotte Sports Park July 24 through 29.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

We're playing bas-ket-ball, we're playing bas-ket-ball!!! Basketball is our favorite sport. We love it when our players dribble up and down the court. The players are setting screens, dropping dimes, and scoring baskets. The crowd is going wild! Playing basketball for fun is our kind of style. The Summer Youth Basketball League is well under way at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. The participants of the Youth Basketball Summer League completed Week 6 this past weekend. Currently there are four undefeated teams left in the entire league. The competition is fierce and the players are ready to play, making for an interesting season and upcoming playoffs. The league games are held every Saturday from 8:00 am until 9:00 pm and every Sunday from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm, bringing in over 900 spectators to the building. The Youth Basketball League has five different divisions. Divisions include ages 5-8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, and 15-17. Each league consists of 10 regular season games and ages 9 and above have a post season.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

Last weekend there was a large wedding on Saturday with 100 guests. The Buena Vista neighborhood watch group had a meeting with 50 people. This weekend we have another wedding booked for approximately 150 guests.

For the week of 7-15 through 7-21-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 145 paid admissions, was visited by 32 pass holders and had 67 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-15 through 7-21, South County Regional Park Pool had 362 paid admissions, was visited by 204 pass holders and had 53 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 11 swim practices resulting in approximately 135 "splashes". In addition the moonlight movie had 72 people out for an evening of entertainment. Summer "Learn to Swim" session 2 concluded and we are registering for Summer Session 3, to start July 28. 10 different summer camps attended with 560 children swimming.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for July 20 – "What, when and why"

Crazy about Caladiums Workshop – July 21

Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – July 21

Ambassador Training - Tringali Recreation Center – July 22

UF/IFAS Extension Town Hall Meeting-Live Stream – SWFREC – Immokalee – July 22

Purchasing Focus Group Meeting - Building B, Room 106 – July 24

Natural Resources

This week staff participated in ongoing exotic treatment of Cesar weed. Cesar weed is a common exotic, they are easily recognized by the “grape-like” leaves and the distinctive small pink flower and while most people may not know this plant by the leaves or flowers nearly everyone is familiar with the “burr” seed structure. The seeds of the Cesar weed are transported by the Velcro like seed pods. These pods are not painful like the sand spur but are pretty annoying just the same.

As part of ongoing projects Staff met with multiple contractors in preparation of work to be ongoing at different properties. In west county staff met with a contractor to discuss the specifics of mechanical treatment of Buck Creek Preserve. Mechanical treatment is essential especially when fire has been excluded from the property for a number of years.

Park security is always an issue. The county has made a large investment in our native communities and habitats and in order to protect those ecosystems fencing repair and maintenance is an ongoing project. Staff met with the fencing contractor in response to a citizen concern that the fence surrounding a preserve appeared dilapidated. Repairs are scheduled.

Summer time is here and monitoring is in full swing. Summer Jay surveys have begun as well as gopher tortoise surveys. These surveys are an important part of management and grant compliance.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Facilities is working with the Loveland Health Department to have their floors cleaned, stripped, and waxed to keep them well maintained and presentable for public and employee use.

Operations

The County’s vendor started a painting project at the Murdock 5-story Administration building which is still in progress. The scope of work includes the three stairwells, their walls and doors. The steps and railings will be done as needed along with loading dock areas. The painting of steps, railings, and most doors will be done on the weekends as this paint needs more time to dry. The painters will post "wet paint" signs in the areas where they are working.

Facilities is working on roof drain washouts from the recent heavy rain storms. Several locations experienced significant washouts where the intense water runoff has washed out the grass, soil, and mulch. As more storms are expected repairs are necessary now. The materials we have used are rip rap and mulch to slow and divert the water so it does not continue. Our goal is to mitigate the existing damages, stop further erosion, and eliminate hazardous conditions.

Project Management

Harbour Heights Drainage, Parking and Court Improvements: As built drawings and close out documents are being prepared by the contractor. The plan to improve the drainage of retention areas #1 and #2 has been developed.

Ann Dever Regional Park new recreation center: the Request for Proposal letter has been sent to purchasing.

Franz Ross Drainage, Parking and Lighting: The contractor has started the clearing.

Franz Ross Football Field: The revised change order for re-design to include soils testing by a sports field specialty lab is being processed so work can begin.

Port Charlotte Beach Park fishing pier and boardwalk: the north deck has been opened to the public by Community Services and close out documents are being prepared.

Fire Station #10 Fire Sprinklers: Purchasing is working with the contractor to provide prices for the items that were left out of their bid package. This is being done because bids for this project were limited to one contractor.

Harbour Heights Boat Ramp: Charlotte County has decided to completely replace the ramp and not repair it and the design is underway.

North Charlotte Regional Park new recreation center: the Request for Proposal for design services has been sent to purchasing.

The Veteran's Memorial Park concept plans were received from the consultant. The staff met and reviewed the two concepts selecting the finalist. The finalist was discussed with comments compiled and forwarded to the consultant. The consultant will complete the mark-ups finalizing concept. The construction manager selection will meet the Board of County Commissioners on July 28 for approval.

Human Services

Family Services has interviewed for a new Civil Citation/Neighborhood Accountability Board program specialist to assist our youth make wiser choices through these juvenile diversion programs. Other department staff, including the Director, are taking the required training courses to better serve the community. The new program specialist is expected to begin employment in early August.

Veteran Services assisted the father of a US Navy Sea Bee, currently deployed to Afghanistan, obtain a VA Certificate of Eligibility for a home loan that his son had requested months before. The father was having difficulty acquiring the document himself so the Veteran Services Officer contacted the VA Home Loan Department and was able to obtain the requested document. The Veteran's family is now looking forward to purchasing their first home in Charlotte County.

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 – Early 2016

Midway 9 Area: This area is substantially complete.

Peachland 4 Area: This area is substantially complete.

Midway 7 Area: Base repairs are underway on Orlando Boulevard; upon completion the Contractor will place the leveling course.

Deep Creek Phase 1 Area: Base repairs are underway; paving will follow.

To date, approximately 25,729 tons of S-III asphalt has been placed in the Greater Port Charlotte and Deep Creek areas. The time complete is 63.5 percent and the work completed is 45.9 percent.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (July 14, 2015) – Roadwork will be conducted July 16 and July 17 on Deep Creek Boulevard (from Sandhill Boulevard to Aysen Drive) and on Aysen Drive (from Deep Creek Boulevard to San Felix Street) to repair base failures in advance of paving operations. Deep Creek Boulevard and Aysen Drive will remain open to traffic however periodic lane closures will cause intermittent traffic delays. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert and exercise extreme caution when traveling through construction zones.

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 has completed the traffic barrier wall and pedestrian parapet wall on the new bridge deck.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #1 is concentrating on new utility installations from CR 771 east towards Cattle Dock Rd.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #2 is installing storm drain systems from Marathon Boulevard north to SR 776.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #3 is working on sidewalk construction south of Marathon Boulevard and is importing fill material for road construction from San Domingo Boulevard to Marathon Boulevard.
- Additional crews are on-site completing stormwater retention ponds.
- Overall construction is 43% 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.

East entrance to Spring Lake Park off Edgewater Drive is closed until completion of Spring Lake Bridge construction.

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase 2 – 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

Forsberg Construction is providing staff with material submittals for review.

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.

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

All contractual construction items are complete; punchlist items and demobilization of equipment is projected to be complete by the end of July.

- Elkcarn Waterway: Complete
- Fordham Waterway: Complete
- Elmira Blvd: Complete

Projects in Design or Negotiation

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

CES/American has been selected as the design firm; the contract is currently being negotiated.

Coastal Projects

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-Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015

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

This project is currently advertised for competitive bid. The pre-bid conference is scheduled July 29 with bid opening scheduled August 19, 2015.

Maintenance & Operations

July 15-21, 2015

A total of 31 new requests were received related to brush, drainage, asphalt repair, and debris.

Drainage line & grade:	8,750 SF in South Gulf Cove 750 SF in Englewood East 12,400 SF in Harbour Heights 7,500 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 2,475 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Small pipe install:	56 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 112 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte 24 LF in South Gulf Cove 24 LF in Englewood East 48 LF in Road & Bridge South
Menzie ditch cutting:	160,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 86,680 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 23,950 CY in Rotonda West Cut 24,500 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 48,802 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 12,388 CY in Harbour Heights Cut 5,338 CY in Cook & Brown
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 24 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 13 culverts in South Gulf Cove
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.27 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Trash/Debris removal:	Removed 10,740 pounds of debris throughout the County

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 15-21, 2015

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 92,203
- Landing rate counts taken: 66
- Traps set: 36
- Service requests: 43

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 17
- Sites inspected: 25
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Other Projects

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: 04/01/2013 – 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 Quality Enterprises will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on July 28, 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.

Bids have been received and tabulated. A recommendation to award the construction contract to Quality Enterprises will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on July 28, 2015.

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands is recognized for world-class fishing and the tourism office consistently promotes angling opportunities. Earlier this month (July 17 – 20), the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted four outdoor writers who specialize in writing about fishing destinations. All four were from outside the state and members of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association, in which the Bureau is a member. During their weekend visit, the group stayed at the Weston’s wannaB inn and got on the water with Capt. Chris O’Neill and Capt. Leroy Bennett of Tail Chaser Charter Services and caught goliath grouper, considered to be a “monster fish” due to their massive size. Possessing and harvesting goliath grouper is prohibited and the visiting journalists each caught and released at least one with sizes ranging from 150 – 300 lbs. This was the first time each of these journalists have caught this species of fish. The next day was spent off shore fishing with Capt. Rick Paolillo and Capt. Chris Fanelli with King Fisher Fleet where the journalists caught grouper and variety of snapper in which they enjoyed at Lock ‘N Key restaurant that night. One angler arrived a day early and fished with Capt. Mike Slattery of Palm Island Outfitters. 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.

