

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 8/25/15

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The date and attendance figures from the Charlotte Stone Crabs game at the Charlotte Sports Park on Aug. 16: 288. The Charlotte Stone Crabs will be home again Aug. 19th through the 25th the following week.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Playoffs are here! Our youth basketball league ended regular season this past Saturday and we just want to recognize our 5-8 year old players and coaches for all their hard work and dedication. Our older teams are gearing up for two weekends full of an exciting single elimination playoff tournament. Also, our staff is thrilled about a third computer that was delivered last week. This computer will allow us to provide faster outstanding service to our community!! On a sad but happy note we bid farewell to one of our long time Recreational Specialists, Shalonda Harris. She was accepted into the University of Florida! We wish her the best of luck!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

The center was reserved on Saturday for an Anniversary party with 80 expected guests. On Sunday it was reserved for a wedding with an expected 70 guests in attendance. Going into the week we have reservations for a neighborhood watch meeting Tuesday. For the week of 8-12 through 8-18-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 169 paid admissions, was visited by 28 pass holders and had 96 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the same week, South County Regional Park Pool had 180 paid admissions, was visited by 151 pass holders and had 67 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Summer Session 4 began with 19 students participating in 6 different classes. Charlotte High School swim and dive team held 7 practices resulting in approx. 280 "splashes." The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 practices resulting in approx. 270 "splashes."

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Aug. 17 – "Sweetgum as a shade tree"
- South Central Monthly CED Meeting – Conference Call – Aug. 17
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – Aug. 17
- Receiving Groundcover to Plant – Aug. 18
- Plant Groundcover – Aug. 19
- Admin Meeting with Dr. Vavrina – Administration Office in Murdock, 5th floor – Aug. 18
- Citrus Expo – Lee Civic Center – Aug. 20

Parks

- Requested 2 multi-function copier/fax/scanners, one for Chadwick Beach and one for Kiwanis maintenance buildings, and a second laptop for Chadwick Beach to supplement the one at Kiwanis. Thereby, giving all Parks staff ability to check email, submit work orders, research specifications, etc. for greater productivity.
- Met Facilities and fabricator at HH Park to review design and placement of shuffleboard shade structure, footers and new shelter/sidewalks, discussing unique user groups and access patterns of amenities.
- Installed barrier to block volleyballs from going under boardwalk but not limiting tortoise access at Englewood Beach.

Natural Resources

This week staff have been very busy with permit/grant required monitoring and reporting efforts but have also managed to complete other projects as well.

In addition to the yearend reporting responsibilities staff directed a mechanical treatment of vegetation on Buck Creek Preserve. This action will greatly increase site security as it will open up dense heavy growth to visual inspection by law enforcement.

Staff also took some time to review some aerial photos and lot review some properties as development may meet mitigation thresholds established in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Staff also submitted a permit application for the ongoing Blue Ways Trail project. The Blue Ways Trail system is a state wide trail system established for kayak and canoe travel. This presents an opportunity for residents and tourists to experience the natural aquatic ecosystem in a low impact manner. The Phase II portion of this project will encompass the Flamingo waterway area and provide signage to trails easily accessed by multiple points in the area.

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 Contract: Gibbs & Register, Construction Schedule: 3/10/2014 – 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 89% of the drainage pipework has been installed. 90% of the old utility pipes have been removed.
- Over 98% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 99% complete on the northbound side and 25% 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.

Traffic Advisory: PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (July 29, 2015) – *Please be advised that Cape Horn Boulevard, between Burnt Store Road and Trading Post Road, will be closed to traffic Monday, Aug. 3 through Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015. Construction includes a roadway re-alignment at the intersection of Burnt Store Road and Cape Horn Boulevard. 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.*

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 includes 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: 7/7/2014 – 9/4/2016.

- Woodruff and Sons' Crews #1 and #2 are concentrating on new sewer force main tie-ins this week; this work is scheduled to occur during overnight hours.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crews #3 and #4 are working on the new road base and reconstruction of the intersection of CR 771 at San Domingo Boulevard entering South Gulf Cove.
- Woodruff and Sons' will be paving a portion of the new roadway in next couple of weeks, shifting traffic to the new bridge, and working on the remainder of new roadway lanes south of San Domingo Blvd.
- Overall construction is 49% complete.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Aug. 17, 2015) - A temporary road closure is scheduled on San Domingo Boulevard at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) beginning Tuesday, Aug. 25. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of San Domingo Boulevard entering South Gulf Cove. Weather permitting, intersection reconstruction is expected to be complete by Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015. Traffic will be detoured via Ingraham Boulevard; variable message boards, flashing arrows and traffic control devices will assist travelers through the detour. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert and exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.

Harbour Heights Median Improvements - This project consists of installing curbing, irrigation and landscaping within the existing medians on Sunnybrook Road and Broadpoint Drive. Construction Contract: Stage Door II, Inc. of Apopka, FL, Construction Schedule: 8/24/2015 – 11/22/2015

A recommendation to award the construction contract to Stage Door II, Inc. of Apopka, FL was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 28, 2015. A pre-construction meeting was held July 29; Notice to Proceed was established for Aug. 24, 2015. All work shall be completed within 90 calendar days of Notice to Proceed.

Traffic Advisory: PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Aug. 19, 2015) – Median improvements are scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 24, 2015 within the existing medians on Sunnybrook Road and Broadpoint Drive (between Desoto Drive and Rushmore Avenue) in the Harbour Heights area. Median improvements will consist of installing curbing, irrigation and landscape material. Advance warning signs will be posted along the roadway to caution travelers that they are entering a work zone. Weather permitting, this project is expected to be complete within 90 days. This work is being conducted in conjunction with the Harbour Heights Median Improvements Project; more information about this project is available at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left.

The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert and exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase 2 – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard 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, a 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. Midway Boulevard 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: 6/30/2015 – Summer 2018

Forsberg Construction is working on material submittals for County staff to review. This week the contractor will begin surveying the stormwater retention pond sites, installing erosion control barriers, and will begin clearing the pond sites next week.

From: <http://midwayupdate.com> – 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.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard West – The Rotonda West MSBU Committee requested a sidewalk and bike path along the Boulevards. This project will design and construct approximately 1.4 miles of sidewalk and bike path along Rotonda Boulevard West from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle. Construction Contract: General Contracting Services, Construction Schedule: 1/5/2015 – 7/31/2015.

Construction is complete and final inspections were conducted the week of Aug. 4, 2015. Final punch list items are in progress.

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: 8/3/2015 – 3/10/2016.

The project area has been staked out and traffic safety signs have been installed. Erosion control and vegetation clearing is underway.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Aug. 19, 2015) – *Intermittent lane closures are expected on Peachland Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway, between Hallcrest Terrace and Aberdeen Avenue, from Thursday, Aug. 20 through Thursday, Sept. 4, 2015. Lane closures will be necessary during the next two weeks as work progresses to replace the water control structure under the roadway at the canal crossing. Flaggers and advance warning signs will be on site to assist travelers through this area. Peachland Boulevard will remain open to traffic during construction however pedestrian traffic is closed at the canal crossing.*

The Public Works Department reminds motorists to drive safely and exercise extreme caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction workers.

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 – August 2015

The installation of street lights is complete. Florida Power & Light is expected to energize the street lights by the end of August. Substantial completion was issued to the Contractor and final punch list items are underway.

Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks – Gulfstream Boulevard – This project will consist 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: through Sept. 8, 2015, Construction: TBD. A recommendation to award the construction contract to Bonness, Inc. of Port Charlotte will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 8, 2015.

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: through Sept. 8, 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015. A recommendation to award the construction contract to Bonness, Inc. of Port Charlotte will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 8, 2015.

Coastal Projects

Manchester Waterway Bathymetric Survey – The Manchester Waterway MSBU Advisory Committee requested that a bathymetric survey be conducted within the canals of the Manchester Waterway MSBU. The results of the bathymetric survey will be used to determine the scope of work needed to dredge the canal

system to a depth of -4ft measured at MLW landward of the Bridge and -5ft MLW elsewhere. Design Contract: DMK Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: May – Late Summer 2015

The bathymetric survey is nearing completion. Staff will review the results of the survey with the Manchester Waterway MSBU Advisory Committee for further guidance.

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

FDEP completed the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) ranking on the seagrass impacts for the proposed dredging. Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) investigated sites for a seagrass mitigation project (e.g., fill blow-holes / prop-scars). The initial search for potential mitigation sites did not find enough suitable areas within the vicinity of the project area so a wider search area was examined using aerial photography.

CEC, working in partnership with FDEP and County Staff, completed the field survey of potential seagrass mitigation project areas. The seagrass mitigation plan is currently under review by the FDEP and FWC.

FWC does not agree with the seagrass mitigation strategy; the consultant is seeking clarification and alternate mitigation strategies.

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: DMK Associates, 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. The first negotiation meeting was held on June 24 and a follow-up meeting was held July 20, 2015. The scope and fees are under review by County staff.

The South Gulf Cove Waterway Benefit Unit's Advisory Committee met on Aug. 18, 2015 to discuss the potential consultant fees and construction costs; the Committee would like to continue with the design of this project.

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: 4/16/2012 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 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 is necessary to review the project for migratory birds including Piping Plover and Red Knot as well as sea turtles. This review is scheduled to be complete by the end of September.

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 with \$2.5 million for the Stump Pass project. A presentation was held at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce which included this project and future programs; discussions followed. A congressional visit is scheduled as a follow-up to the presentation and discussions.

Maintenance & Operations (for Aug. 12 - 18, 2015)

A total of 96 new requests were received related to brush, debris, drainage, and asphalt repair.

Drainage line & grade:	10,800 SF in Gulf Cove 3,100 SF in Deep Creek 2,500 SF in Englewood East 5,300 SF in Lemon Bay 4,900 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,300 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 13,300 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Small pipe install:	180 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 24 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban (PGNU) 32 LF in Peace River Shores
Small pipe repair:	1 repair in South Gulf Cove
Menzie ditch cutting:	73,000 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 22,300 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 1,862 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 29,800 CY in Northwest Port Charlotte Cut 32,500 CY in Rotonda West

Culvert cleaning: Cut 2,500 CY in South Gulf Cove
Cleaned 27 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
Cleaned 13 culverts in Gulf Cove

Asphalt repair: Utilized 1.54 tons of material to repair locations in PGNU
Utilized 5.12 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County

Trash/Debris removal: Removed 4,820 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 (for Aug. 12 - 18, 2015)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 128,237
- Landing rate counts taken: 49
- Traps set: 38
- Service requests: 50

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 16
- Sites inspected: 2
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Outdoor Writers Association Annual Conference in Lake City last week (Aug. 19 – 21) to reinforce relationships with outdoor communicators and remind them about Charlotte County's recreation and tourism offerings. Of particular interest was the upcoming opening of Florida Tracks & Trails and the 2016 opening of the Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens. The conference included an exhibitor showcase, craft improvement and story maker sessions and an awards banquet. Jennifer Huber, public relations manager for the Bureau, was a panelist during a craft improvement session offering her expertise in planning educational familiarization trips for visiting journalists.

