

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 are: Thursday, Sept. 3 – 794; Saturday, Sept. 5 – 1824; Wednesday, Sept. 9 – 558.

The Charlotte Stone Crabs will be home again September 12th for another playoff game, with possibly more to come.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue was shut down the week of 8/31-9/5 for our annual maintenance and staff trainings. The entire staff worked hard to get our building up to date and looking nice. Inventory, organizing, painting, washing, re-washing, power-washing, training, and maintenance were some of the things the staff at Harold accomplished. We'd like to thank our regular volunteer Eddie for coming in and doing touch ups on our paint throughout the building. And a big thank you to the entire staff at Harold for taking the time and effort to make Harold Avenue the wonderful place that it is.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

There was a meeting held on Thursday for Public Works with about 50 people attending. On Friday we had time reserved for wedding set-up. Saturday the wedding was held with 60 guests.

For the week of 9-2 through 9-8, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 144 paid admissions, was visited by 27 pass holders and had 111 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 9-2 through 9-9, South County Regional Park Pool had 306 paid admissions, was visited by 140 pass holders and had 51 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 7 swim practices resulting in approximately 140 "splashes." The Charlotte High Swimmers returned with 7 swim practices resulting in 413 "splashes." Charlotte High School hosted a swim meet Tuesday, Sept. 8, where we had 4 schools attend and approximately 175 swimmers, 20 divers. Intersession Camp has started and we have South County campers for 34 "splashes!"

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 8-30 through 9-5 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 144 paid admissions, 121 water aerobics participants and was visited by 176 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 100 swimmers. Lemon Bay Swim Team practiced 5 times for a total of 150 swimmers. Lemon Bay High School held their first home swim meet on Saturday, Sept. 5. There were approximately 100 spectators at the meet.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for September 7 – "Invasive orchid resurgence in Charlotte County"
- Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ANRAC) Meeting – September 10
- District IV Green Team Meeting – September 11

Parks

As of Wednesday, Sept. 9, a significant amount of vegetation was cut back at Bissett park to open up space.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Operations

Draft Report for the Strategic Space Study from Fleischman Garcia of the Family Services and Cultural Center is to be given for review and comments. Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to review and comment.

Project Management

The Fire Training Building contractor was approved by BCC on September 8th. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for September 21st. The contracted duration for construction is 240 days.

The Construction Manager for the District 1 office was approved at the September 8th BCC meeting. Purchasing will schedule the start of negotiation meetings with the contractor.

The consultants are compiling the bid documents for the Bay Heights Boat Ramp. All other bid documents are completed awaiting the bid documents. The construction permit documents are being finalized by the consultants before submitting the building department.

SWFWMD permits were received for shoreline mitigation plans for Bayshore Live Oak Park. This shoreline has been continually battered by storms and wave erosion. Plans are being made to fortify the shoreline to reduce erosion and damage to facilities. The USACOE permit is still under review.

Human Services

A retired veteran contacted the Veteran Services Office and indicated he was moving and wanted to donate his furniture to a family in need. Veteran Services staff contacted an individual, affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, who was able to organize volunteers, vehicles, and trailers to deliver a complete household of furniture to a veteran living in Punta Gorda. What a caring veteran community we have!

211 Supervisor, Dr. Faezeh Andrews, trained a new C.A.R.E. (Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies) volunteer to man the 211 phones for the Labor Day weekend. The volunteer expressed her appreciation of the 211 zip code data information posted on the website as she uses it to identify areas to provide Domestic Violence education and prevention in the Charlotte community.

Public Works

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

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 www.GoEP2.com

Motorists should use caution as a new traffic pattern is implemented at the Edgewater Dr. / Harbor Blvd. intersection Monday, Aug. 24 through Friday, Sept. 18. Be aware of different lane shifts as utilities are installed while keeping the intersection open to traffic.

Altoona Street will reopen to thru traffic from Edgewater Drive to Webster Avenue Monday, Sept. 21. Crews are continuing installation of a new sewer main under Altoona Street.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek Dredging – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 1/6/2013 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) combined the -5' MLW Maintenance Dredging project with the proposed -6' MLW project even though they are different in their scope.

The FL Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit was received for the -6ft MLW project which includes public interest in the form of purchasing and donating an YSI Water Quality Monitor to the "Friends of CHAP."

The ACOE issued their public notice and received one request for additional information from National Marine Fisheries specific to Essential Fish Habitat. Coastal Engineering Consultants responded to the ACOE, supplying them with the requested data; a letter of informal consultation was sent by the ACOE to the National Marine Fisheries for review in February 2015.

On April 9, 2015, staff requested that the Sea Edge ACOE permit be extended which is under review. The review, conducted by the NMFS, included a request for additional information which was answered by Coastal Engineering Consultants; the ACOE permit is still pending.

The National Marine Fisheries' review has been in process since April, 21, 2015. Once the review is complete the project then can be permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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 permit application and drawings are complete and were submitted to State and Federal permitting agencies; correspondence between the County and ACOE confirmed that the review is underway. The Marine Marker Plan is also under review by the permitting agencies.

The Army Corps of Engineers has not asked for an informal review of this project from the National Marine Fisheries Services as of Aug. 31, 2015.

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. A substantial "hard bottom" area was discovered and is being surveyed to determine the extent of the area and potential impact to the project.

A meeting was held at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce; stakeholders discussed this project in detail and the study appears to be on track for completion this winter.

Coastal Engineering Consultants should have the draft Erosion Study report to staff by Sept. 24, 2015. Upon receipt of the draft report, Engineering Division staff will meet with Charlotte County Administration to review the draft Erosion Study - followed by a review by the Beaches and Shores Committee in October. Upon completion of these reviews, another stakeholder meeting will be held on Manasota Key. If there are no unexpected delays, the Erosion Control Study should be complete in November 2015.

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 complete. 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 therefore 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.

Through continued correspondence with Federal and State Regulatory Agencies an alternative approach to the seagrass mitigation plan is under review.

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.

Staff will conduct another contract negotiation meeting with DMK Associates on Sept. 2, 2015 to refine the cost and scope of services.

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: 6/1/2013 – Spring 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Bids were opened Aug. 19, 2015 and the project was awarded to Marine Contracting Group of Punta Gorda, FL. The preconstruction meeting was held Aug. 27 at which time the Notice to Proceed date was established for Sept. 28, 2015.

Maintenance & Operations (for Sept. 2 - 8, 2015)

A total of 78 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, and asphalt repair.

Drainage line & grade:	10,060 SF in Burnt Store Village 6,050 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 4,680 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 2,500 SF in Gulf Cove 3,500 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Small pipe install:	192 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	40,000 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 8,500 CY on Neal Road

	Cut 57,883 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
	Cut 15,485 CY in Northwest Port Charlotte
	Cut 27,903 CY in Rotonda West
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 41 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
	Cleaned 3 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
	Cleaned 20 culverts in Englewood East
	Cleaned 2 culverts in Rotonda West
	Cleaned 2 culverts in Rotonda Lakes
	Cleaned 1 culvert in Deep Creek
	Cleaned 6 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Sidewalk Maintenance:	Maintained 1,520 LF of sidewalks in Greater Port Charlotte
Road grading:	Graded 38,000 SY on Don Pedro Knight Island
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 17.03 tons of material to repair locations throughout Punta Gorda Non-Urban
	Utilized 1.45 tons of material to repair locations throughout Greater Port Charlotte
Debris removal:	Removed 10,080 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.

Street trees were planted as part of the Elkcarn Boulevard Improvements project.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (for Sept. 2 - 8, 2015)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 25,146
- Landing rate counts taken: 66
- Traps set: 36
- Service requests: 18

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 23
- Sites inspected: 15
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Solid Waste

Charlotte County's Solid Waste Division received two additional Bigbelly containers which were installed at Bayshore Park and Rotonda Community Park in conjunction with the contract between Charlotte County and the County's solid waste franchise hauler, Waste Management. To date, the Solid Waste Division has placed six Bigbelly systems in parks throughout Charlotte County.



Bigbelly systems have separate collection containers for trash and recyclable materials. Each container has a solar powered compactor which increases the capacity each container can hold (up to four times the capacity of a traditional 35-gallon trash can) reducing the frequency of times the container needs to be serviced. When a container reaches capacity, a built in sensor reports the status of the container into the CLEAN (Collection, Logistics, Efficiency and Notification) System dashboard which notifies staff that the container is full and needs to be emptied. The notification process eliminates the need for staff to travel to each location to check trash receptacles to see if they need to be emptied.

Charlotte County will continue to receive two additional Bigbelly systems per year through the end of the contract in 2020.

23 hazardous waste inspections were conducted at local business during the month of August. Inspections insure that local businesses are properly processing and disposing of hazardous waste as well as providing educational guidance to the Community.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful is gearing up for their annual golf tournament scheduled Oct. 3, 2015. This is the first year that the event will be held at the Riverwood Golf Course which is considered to be one of the finest courses in Florida. This is the only fundraiser that Keep Charlotte Beautiful organizes. The event is open to the public and participants will be served a breakfast and lunch in addition to having many great prizes. Sponsorship opportunities are available and teams of four may sign up for \$300.00.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful is the recipient of a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as they met all requirements for the award. The FDOT grant helped fund programs such as the Great American Cleanup, Adopt-A-Road, Drive It Home, and community greening projects. These projects, driven by thousands of volunteers, contribute significantly to keeping our community clean making Charlotte County a great place to live.

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff presented to local fishing guides who attended the For-Hire Fishing Workshop last week (Sept. 9). The all-day workshop was organized and hosted by Florida Sea Grant and UF/IFAS Extension and held at the Charlotte County Environmental Campus. Chip Futch, Marketing Director, and Jennifer Huber, Public Relations Manager, shared ways charter captains (fishing guides) can work with the tourism office and market their guiding business through leveraging various opportunities ranging from website listings to hosting members of the media.