

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: Saturday, Sept. 12 – 694 (Championship Game); Sunday, Sept. 13 – 355 (Championship Game). Congratulations! The Charlotte Stone Crabs are the Florida State League Champions! Their final run was from a bases loaded walk in the 13th inning.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue is enjoying a good turnout for our daily drop-in Pickleball and Table Tennis. This month Harold is offering Youth and Adult Basketball Open Gym in the evenings. Adult Open Gym numbers are doing well. Weeknights have also seen a good turnout for Charlotte County's Wellness at Work Yoga and Jazzercise classes. Last week Harold played host to St. Charles Middle School Girls Volleyball games and this past Saturday Harold Avenue hosted a basketball tournament that packed the gymnasium all day. The staff is currently gearing up for the upcoming season of Youth Basketball that starts in October.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

Zumba and Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Thursdays have had around 10 to 15 people per class. On Wednesday we had the Buckeye Horseshoe Neighborhood Watch meeting. Friday and Saturday we had a wedding set-up, ceremony, and reception for 134 guests. This coming week we have a Charlotte County Utilities meeting scheduled for Monday. On Tuesday we have the 2 Circles Neighborhood Watch Program. Expected attendance is 30. Wednesday is the Youth Sports Council Meeting. We have another round of Zumba and Tai Chi classes scheduled for Thursday. Lastly, on Saturday we have the large Charlotte County Historical Society Lobster Bake. The Expected attendance is 200.

For the week of 9-9 through 9-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 56 paid admissions, was visited by 18 pass holders and had 24 water aerobics participants. The pool was closed Tuesday 9-16 and 17 for emergency repairs.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 9-9 through 9-16, South County Regional Park Pool had 126 paid admissions, was visited by 109 pass holders and had 58 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."

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for September 14 – "Doveweed – gentle name, aggressive weed!"
- Horticulture Team Meeting – September 14
- Invasive Exotic Wildlife Workshop - September 16 - Immokalee, Florida

Parks

- Submitted specification changes to Purchasing department to improve annual port-o-let RFP
- Installed weir dam at Harbour Heights to help diagnose retention pond problems
- Met with Facilities to design ADA projects at Darst Park and Boca Grande fishing pier
- Gave deposition with CC Legal on Bayshore Park personal injury case
- Developed recurring maintenance task list for Parks/Ballfields equipment operator

Natural Resources

This week the majority of staff time was spent in the preparation and completion of FCT annual reports. This process is part of the grant agreement. Through this report we establish an ongoing pursuit of the commitments made to Florida Communities Trust and the Florida Forever program. Some of the information detailed in this report includes prescribed fires, exotic management practices, installation of amenities, general maintenance and educational outreach opportunities, including guided walks.

In addition to the work with reporting our activities, staff also directed the initial phase of an ongoing management activity in Amberjack Environmental Park. The overstory reduction of available perch trees in and around the existing Scrub Habitat is essential to the survival of various bird species commonly found in Scrub habitat. Perch trees provide options for avian predators to sit and observe the habitat and scan for potential prey.

Human Services

Family Services Manager, Lori North and Juvenile Diversion Program Coordinator, Thaddeus Boston participated in a statewide Civil Citation Roundtable in Largo, Florida. This opportunity allowed staff to hear what other organizations that provide screening, assessment, and civil citation services across the State are doing to determine best practices. The Human Services Department served 34 youth during the month of August.

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. Maps depicting the specific areas to be paved are available on the 2015 Paving Program webpage located at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/Pages/default.aspx> Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: March 2015 – Early 2016

Midway 9 and Peachland 4 Areas: Substantially complete.

Midway 7 Area: The leveling course has been placed on Orlando Boulevard and base repairs are underway.

Deep Creek Phase 1 Area: Phase 1 paving in the Deep Creek MSBU is complete; restoration continues.

To date, approximately 42,625 tons of S-III asphalt has been placed in the Greater Port Charlotte and Deep Creek areas. The time complete is 84.2 percent and the work completed is 54.7 percent.

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 September.

- Installation of drainage pipes and utilities continues. Approximately 99% of the utility pipe and 99% of the drainage pipework has been installed. 95% 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 30% 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. Paving of the structural course on the southbound lane began Sept. 14 and will continue over the next several weeks.
- Crews have installed street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project; this portion of the project is nearing completion. According to FP&L's work schedule, street lighting on the east side of the project is going to be illuminated within the next 2 weeks.
- 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 77% complete.

Traffic Advisory: PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Sept. 11, 2015) – Please be advised that Saragossa Lane, between Burnt Store Road and Trading Post Road, will be closed to traffic Tuesday, Sept. 15 through Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. Construction includes a roadway realignment at the intersection of Burnt Store Road and Saragossa Lane. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to drive safely and exercise extreme caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction workers.

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.

Due to heavy rainfall, crews are experiencing extreme difficulty with the wet material which has delayed progress.

- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #1 is currently removing the old sewer system and Crew #2 is installing the new storm drain systems.
- Crews #3 and #4 continue to work on the reconstruction of the intersection of San Domingo and CR 771.
- 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 53% complete.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Sept. 15, 2015) - The temporary road closure on San Domingo Boulevard at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) has been extended to Wednesday, Sept. 16 as inclement weather has delayed progress. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of San Domingo Boulevard entering South Gulf Cove. Traffic is detoured via Ingraham Boulevard; variable message boards, flashing arrows and traffic control devices are in place to assist travelers through the construction area. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert and exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction workers.

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 be closed indefinitely from Edgewater Drive to Webster Avenue as crews continue work in the area.

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

Median construction is progressing nicely. Remnants of the old median have been cleared and the area has been prepped for the placement of new fill materials.

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

A "Kick off Meeting" is scheduled this week with County staff, Forsberg Construction and private utility companies. Work is scheduled to begin at Achilles Street moving towards Kings Highway the week of Sept. 21, 2015.

Silt fence installation will begin in areas east of Achilles Street to Kings Highway and vegetation clearing, at retention pond locations, will begin the week of Sept. 21, 2015.

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.

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 energized the street lights and they are all functional.

Substantial completion was issued to the Contractor and final punch list items are 99.9% complete.

As-built drawings were submitted and record drawings will be finished by the end of September to complete this project.

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: through 3/3/2017, Procurement Process: Spring 2017, Projected start of Construction: TBD

The first Public Meeting to unveil the design proposals will be held Oct. 7, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Burnt Store Road Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Burnt Store Road and Cuneo Road (3 blocks north of Notre Dame Boulevard).

Design schedule:

- 30% plans are due March 11, 2016
- 60% plans are due Aug. 12, 2016
- 90% plans are due Dec. 2, 2016
- 100% plans are due Feb. 3, 2017
- Final bid contract documents are due March 3, 2017

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 -6' 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.

The National Marine Fisheries' review has been in process since April, 21, 2015. The review moved from phase 2 to phase 4 on Sept. 10. Once the review is complete the project then can be permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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.

The FDEP issued the Final Order (Permit) for the project on Sept. 2, 2015. Upon completion of the review by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the ACOE will then issue their permit which is anticipated by late September – early October; as of Sept. 9 the NMFS review is in phase 2 of 4.

Maintenance & Operations (for Sept. 9 - 15, 2015)

A total of 53 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, and asphalt repair.

Drainage line & grade:	5,500 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 6,850 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 5,900 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Small pipe install:	172 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 72 LF in Englewood East
Menzie ditch cutting:	66,000 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 76,660 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 15,055 CY in Northwest Port Charlotte Cut 23,502 CY in Rotonda West Cut 20,369 CY in Road & Bridge North
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 24 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 5 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte Cleaned 4 culverts in Road & Bridge South Cleaned 2 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Sidewalk Maintenance:	Maintained 3,280 LF of sidewalks in Greater Port Charlotte
Road grading:	Graded 6,833 SY on Farabee Road
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 0.37 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Debris removal:	Removed 4,320 pounds of debris from Greater Port Charlotte

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.

Contract Services

- ROW Mowing in South County has been completed for the month of August in all areas.
- The August Cycle for Specialty Mowing has been completed and the first round of September is in progress.
- ROW Mowing in North County has been completed in all areas for the month of August.
- ROW Mowing in West County has been completed in all areas for the month of August.
- Sweeping for the month of August has been completed.
- ROW Mulching and Power Shearing in Northwest Port Charlotte have stopped due to the excessive accumulation of ground water in the ditches making it impossible to operate without doing considerable damage to the swales.
- The Grading contractor had mobilized to the Charlotte Ranchettes and has been working intermittently due to the excessive amount of rain water accumulation; this will be ongoing for the next few weeks.
- Charlotte County Seawalls was awarded the small dredging project located in Presque Isle Lake, off of Tennyson Blvd., in Port Charlotte. A preconstruction meeting was held and we are currently waiting for the temporary right of entry (TRE); upon receipt of the TRE, a PO will be issued to commence work.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (for Sept. 9 - 15, 2015)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 102,022
- Landing rate counts taken: 38
- Traps set: 26
- Service requests: 30

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 22
- Sites inspected: 13
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is pleased to announce Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected during July 2015 totaled \$ 209,339. This is up 17.7 percent compared to July 2014 which collected \$177,886. To date, Fiscal Year collections (Oct. 2014 – July 2015) total \$ 3,205,532 which is up 19 percent over the previous year.

With the July collections, Charlotte County has exceeded the Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected in a single fiscal year in the history of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau and two months of collections remain in the year.

Charlotte County levies a 5 percent Tourist Development Tax (TDT) on accommodation stays 6 months or less in addition to the 7 percent sales tax. The first 3 percent is spent for tourism promotion and marketing support and the fourth and fifth percent are used to fund the debt for the bond for the recent renovations at the Charlotte Sports Park.