

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Administration

Charlotte County Community Services and VFW Post 5690 hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at North Charlotte Regional Park's Veterans Memorial Walkway. Approximately 75 people attended the event, including veterans from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and Iraq and Afghanistan. The Port Charlotte High School NJROTC Cadets provided the Color Guard and Rifle Salute. Rachel Miller read her Voice of Democracy winning essay "My America." The Voice of Democracy essay contest is sponsored by VFW Post 5690 and Charlotte County Public Schools.

### Charlotte Sports Park

The SW Florida Lung Cancer Research Council Run/Walk, was held at the Charlotte Sports Park on Saturday, 11/7 with an estimated attendance of 450.

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue held our Youth Basketball Jamboree this weekend. Our facility saw over 300 kids and their families on Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. At 3 p.m. on Saturday we had our 15-17 youth basketball skills evaluation. Everything ran smoothly thanks to the hard work from our League Coordinator Cedric Vales. Special thanks to all our staff for holding a parent meeting Saturday for our youth basketball league. We are looking forward to this season!

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Pool

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation is busy filling up with meetings and parties such as: Human Services meeting on Nov. 6. On Nov. 7 the Speak Easy had an all-day event and on Nov. 8 there were 300 guests for a "Sweet 16" birthday party.

For the week of 11/4 through 11/10, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 110 paid admissions, was visited by 65 pass holders and had 11 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 1/4 through 11/11, South County Regional Park Pool had 106 paid admissions, was visited by 215 pass holders and had 64 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 56 "splashes."

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for November 9 – "A ribbon palm for your landscape"
- Charlotte Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting – November 9
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – November 9
- Master Gardeners Officers Meeting – November 13
- Program at Maple Leaf Village – November 14
- Work on Reports of Accomplishments (ROA) and Plans of Work (POW)

## Human Services

The Human Services Department has begun taking applications for Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Down Payment assistance. For more information on the eligibility requirements for this program please contact the Housing Division at 833-6503. Funding for this program comes from grant dollars through the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program.

The Department's Juvenile Diversion Program Coordinator met with 6 community agencies to establish host agreements for the Civil Citation Program. As a result, the number of locations youth in the Program can work to satisfy community service hours have been expanded. New partners include Englewood Sports Complex and Charlotte County Solid Waste in Englewood.

## 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 – Mid-February 2016

Midway 7 Area: Paving and restoration is underway.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the addition of Veterans Boulevard to the 2015 Paving Program on Oct. 13.

Utility work is complete on Elkcarn Boulevard and the road is now ready to be paved. Ajax Paving was contacted and agreed to provide the services needed at the unit prices bid. A change order was approved on Nov. 10 adding Elkcarn Boulevard and 20 calendar days to the paving contract.

Ajax Paving has completed the paving projects in the Midway 9, Peachland 4 and Deep Creek Areas.

To date, approximately 60,299 tons of S-III asphalt has been placed in the Greater Port Charlotte and Deep Creek areas. The time completed is 85.04 percent and work completed is 53.18 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 – 1/2/2016

Rio Togas Road will re-open to traffic on Monday, Nov. 9. This closure was necessary to perform roadway realignment activities at the intersection of Burnt Store Road and Rio Togas Road.

The excavation of all ponds is complete. Grading and sodding of swales continues on the west side and work is progressing on the final box culvert.

Installation of drainage pipes is complete. The installation of utilities continues; approximately 99% of new utility pipes are installed and 97% 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 45% 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 6,300 feet of asphalt has been paved on the southbound lanes. Paving of the structural course on the southbound lane will begin in late November.

Street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project is operational; the eastern side of the project is nearing completion. Lighting conduit is being installed on the west side and is approximately 75% complete.

Please note that traffic has shifted to the east side of the new roadway and the speed limit was 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.

Traffic Advisory: PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Nov. 6, 2015) – *Please be advised that Peppercorn Road, between Burnt Store Road and Nutmeg Road, will be closed to traffic Monday, Nov. 6, through Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. Construction includes a roadway re-alignment at the intersection of Burnt Store Road and Peppercorn Road. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. This work is being conducted in conjunction with the Burnt Store Road (Phase 3) Widening project. More information about this project is available at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left. On behalf of road construction crews, please drive safely.*

**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.

- Traffic has been switched to the new travel lanes on CR 771 (Gasparilla Road), between Marathon Boulevard and Ingraham Boulevard, crossing the new bridge section.
- San Domingo Boulevard has been reopened.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crews #1 and #2 are removing old utility lines and installing new storm drain piping heading toward SR 776.

Please note that planned construction activities are contingent upon weather conditions.

Port Charlotte, Fla. (Nov. 4, 2015) – *Traffic is scheduled to be switched to the new travel lanes on CR 771 (Gasparilla Road), between Marathon Boulevard and Ingraham Boulevard, crossing the new bridge section. The speed limit in this area will be reduced to 25 MPH along the entire length of the traffic switch. Message boards and signage will be on-site indicating the lane shifts. The San Domingo Boulevard intersection will be re-opened during this time. On behalf of the construction crews, please use extreme caution when traveling through this area. This work is being conducted in conjunction with the CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening project; more information about this project is available at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – click Project Status Updates in the Popular Links list on the left.*

The Public Works Department, on behalf of Halfacre Construction Company, reminds motorists to remain alert and use extreme 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](http://www.GoEP2.com)** – The Edgewater Drive and Midway Boulevard intersection will reopen at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10 with a new roundabout. Motorists are reminded to yield to traffic already in the roundabout, obey signage and use caution while driving the new traffic pattern. Edgewater Drive remains closed to through traffic between Midway Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard.

Altoona Street remains closed from Edgewater Dr. to Webster Ave. until further notice. West Spring Lake Bridge, East Spring Lake Bridge and Sunrise Waterway Bridges are closed to vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Lauzon Street is closed from Sheeley Street to Lakeview Avenue for the duration of project.

**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.

Up-to-date project information, maps, timelines and schedules are available at <http://midwayupdate.com>. Please call toll free (866) 556 2200 if you have additional questions.

Construction Contract: Forsberg Construction, Construction Schedule: 6/30/2015 – Summer 2018

Forsberg Construction completed the 60" concrete pipe from the Niagara Waterway across Achilles Street. The contractor will start the 24" drainage system at Achilles Street and then start the 54" concrete pipe out of the waterway across Achilles Street.

Once this portion of the drainage system is installed, Achilles Street will re-open and Midway Boulevard will close to through traffic while construction crews move eastward installing the remainder of the utilities.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Oct. 1, 2015) – *Detour Planned for Week of Oct. 12; Storm pipe construction will begin at the Niagara Waterway and continue east along Midway Blvd. Achilles Street (south) will be closed at Midway to allow for large pipe installation. Traffic will be detoured around Burlingame Ave and Hardey St. Please refer to Maps/Detour page.*

**Excerpts from <http://midwayupdate.com/news/>** – Nov. 11: The contractor is now installing some of the deepest and most difficult drainage pipes for this project – from the Niagara Waterway to Achilles Street. These pipes are 54" and 60" in diameter, installed approximately 14 feet deep, and will move storm drainage from the new roadway and surrounding properties. Additionally, the contractor is installing new utility lines. Achilles Street (south) will remain closed until these lines are completed in this area.

**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, Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 9/21/2015 – Late 2015.

The Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure Project is intended to meet the lake level modification recommendation of the study. The control structure will be constructed at the North Tamiami Trail access road, located at the downstream end of Sunrise Waterway. The structure will raise the water level in the upstream water bodies approximately 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.

Construction is approximately 80% complete. The concrete weir structure is complete and fabri-form slope protection has been installed on both the north and south sides of the waterway.

The access road remains closed to through traffic however it is being prepared for restoration and resurfacing. Access to businesses remains open during construction.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Sept. 2, 2015) – *Please be advised that the North Tamiami Trail access road, between Elkcam Boulevard and Caring Way, will be closed to thru-traffic starting Monday, Sept. 21, 2015. This road closure is necessary to install a water control structure and pipe under the access road at the canal crossing. Advance warning signs will be on site to assist travelers through the detour. The new water level control structure, placed at the downstream end of the Sunrise Waterway, is designed to restore and enhance the water quality of Sunshine Lake by raising the water level in the upstream water bodies. Weather permitting, this project is expected to be complete within 180 days. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to drive safely and exercise extreme caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction workers.*

### **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 proposal options was held Oct. 7. Over 70 interested citizens were in attendance; some provided input to the proposed design concept options which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for review and recommendation on Nov. 24.

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

### **Maintenance & Operations (for November 4 - 10, 2015)**

A total of 67 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, and asphalt repair.

Drainage line & grade:	31,745 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 14,740 SF in Deep Creek 1,250 SF in Rotonda West 8,500 SF in Gulf Cove
Small pipe install:	48 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 32 LF in Road & Bridge North
Menzie ditch cutting:	193,200 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater 85,500 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater
Boom mower:	Cut 10,030 CY in Northwest Port Charlotte Cut 48,588 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 26,310 CY in Gulf Cove
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 51 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 10 culverts in Road & Bridge North
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.28 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Debris removal:	Removed 21,780 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 November 4 - 10, 2015)

### Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 40,780
- Landing rate counts taken: 10
- Traps set: 15
- Service requests: 17

### Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 21
- Sites inspected: 3
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

## Tourism

Little Gasparilla Island will shine in the national spotlight when HGTV's Island Life airs two episodes featuring the Southwest Florida barrier island and Realtor Sue Paskert of Palermo Real Estate Professionals. The initial episode, titled "A Couple Sells a Business to Move to a Secluded Home on Little Gasparilla Island," will air at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 11. Air date of the second episode has not been announced.

An HGTV crew spent two weeks in July on Little Gasparilla Island shooting two episodes for the second season of the popular series. They worked with Realtor Sue Paskert, Palermo Real Estate Professionals, who will be featured in both episodes. The initial episode follows Mike and Carina Connolly from Las Vegas as Ms. Paskert helps them search for a full-time residence on the island.

The Charlotte County Film Office assisted the show producer with providing film footage of the area and local contacts. The crew of eight spent two weeks at Hideaway Bay Beach Condominiums on Little Gasparilla Island.

In the television industry, reality TV has a number of sub-categories. For example, shows about buying beachfront property, or living on an island, are in a category called fantasy destination programming.

About the series, HGTV says "Most people only fantasize about living on an island, but we'll prove that an Island Life is possible for anyone. Tropical dreamers will be shown island properties that fit into any budget, from ultra-affordable to totally outrageous. We'll follow everyday families in search of their own slice of paradise, and prove that fantasy can be reality."