

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Last week our staff here at Harold Avenue got to spend time with their families for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Youth Basketball also had the week off from practices and games as well. Pickleball attendance has started to increase, thanks to our friends coming back from the northern states. With our Pickleball league doing so well on Fridays we are looking at adding an additional league in January!

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Pool

For the Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center there was a wedding on Nov. 28 with 50 people; Mon. and Tues. were busy in the office with sales of Parking passes, our northern visitors are back; Wed. Dec. 2 there was a large event with 100 people for the Master's Gardener banquet. The future reservations include a large wedding this Sat. expecting 130 guests. Buena Vista is having their holiday party on Sun. expecting 150 guests. The rest of the week we will be very busy setting up for "Santa's Candyland" that will be held here on Dec. 12. Looking forward to a busy holiday month!

For the week of 11/18 through 11/24, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 108 paid admissions, was visited by 46 pass holders and had 191 water aerobics participants. For the week of 11/25 through 12/1, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 139 paid admissions, was visited by 58 pass holders and had 135 water aerobics participants. The pool was closed 11-26-15 in observance of Thanksgiving.

### South County Regional Park Pool

For the week of 11/25 through 12/2, South County Regional Park Pool had 78 paid admissions, was visited by 156 pass holders and had 53 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 7 swim practices resulting in approximately 140 "splashes."

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Nov. 30 – "Truly muhly"
- MG Christmas Lunch – Beach Complex – Dec. 2
- Work on ROA/POW – Due Dec. 4

### Parks

- Parks staff, along with others from Natural Resources participated in a successful set up and break down of the Waterfest 2015 offshore boat race.
- Purchased, delivered & distributed mulch for Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center flowerbeds, front & side.
- Set up and break down of special events items for Indian Springs cemetery tour.

### Natural Resources

In a busy short week prior to Thanksgiving most efforts were focused on recovery from recent events including the Tippecanoe Trail Run and Waterfest.

In addition to these efforts staff engaged in an educational outreach opportunity with citizens of one of our local communities. I was contacted by a member of the community with concerns regarding snakes within the Florida Landscape. Many people share a common fear or respect (if you prefer) of snakes. Often snakes are destroyed needlessly, particularly if incorrectly identified as venomous. As environmental professionals we are best equipped to address concerns and dispel misconceptions as related to snakes and other species. Matt Bondi and Jason Thompson agreed to speak at a community meeting in the Englewood area to

approximately 100 people. Topics discussed include the numerous snake species common in the area, low potential for envenomation and preventative steps to reduce the potential for interaction with snakes. Identification for specific species was discussed as well as contact information for incidents involving exotic species.

## Human Services

The 2-1-1 Supervisor and Human Services Director met with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition's Executive Director to discuss the status of the 2-1-1 call system conversion to the Community Information System (CIS/HMIS) software. The Board of County Commissioners had already approved this community provider enhancement and staff from both organizations have been working on the implementation for some time. The Homeless Coalition was recently awarded a state Challenge Grant through the Florida Department of Children and Families which will help fund the final conversion process including training on the new system. It is anticipated that the new system will be fully operational by July 1, 2016.

## Public Works

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

**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

Please be advised that traffic lanes will shift on Midway Boulevard commencing Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4 in the vicinity of the Achilles Street intersection as work progresses on storm pipe installation at this location. The speed limit will be lowered to 10 mph through the lane shift (approximately 400 feet) to maintain the safest possible passageway for the traveling public.

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. (Dec. 2, 2015) – *Midway Boulevard, from Achilles Street to Kings Highway, will be closed to through traffic Monday, Dec. 7 as roadway improvements will be conducted in this area through the spring of 2016. Travelers are encouraged to choose an alternate route when possible. Traffic will be detoured via Rampart Boulevard, Avacado Avenue and Achilles Street; variable message boards and traffic control devices will assist travelers through the detour.*

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.

**South Gulf Cove Turn Basin** – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Advisory Board 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. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Construction Schedule: 9/28/2015 – Late 2015

Marine Contracting Group has been dredging the new channel and is about 70% complete. The first As-Built survey was completed on November 30. Once the data is compiled the Contractor will be given further instructions. The Contractor is in the process of moving existing channel markers and installing new markers to delineate the new channel. Material is being trucked from the spoil site to the Charlotte County Landfill.

### **Lighting District Projects – November Accomplishments**

- Installed replacement LED traffic signal displays furnished by FDOT. The replacement displays were installed at I-75 NB off ramp at Kings Highway, I-75 NB off ramp at Jones Loop Rd. and I-75 SB off ramp at Jones Loop Rd.
- Diagnosed and repaired the incident management camera at I-75 NB off ramp and Kings Highway. Crews had to replace the Ethernet cable between the signal controller cabinet and camera.
- The school flashing beacons on Sheehan at Noble Ter. and Wilmington NB were converted to solar power. After Florida Power and Light disconnected power to the electrical services, crews removed the electrical service components at each of these locations.
- Installed a new electrical service onto the existing service pole for FDOT's decorative lights on the US 41 bridges over the Peace River.
- Assisted the Facilities Department with decorating the Christmas tree at the Murdock Administrative complex.
- Re-installed the incident management camera after repairs were made to the camera at Cochran and Kohl's Plaza.
- Installed a railroad pre-emption informational sign onto the mast arm at US 41 and Aqui Esta/Cooper.
- Responded to a trouble call regarding the intersection of Toledo Blade at Hillsborough Blvd. for a vehicle detection issue. Crews adjusted the time of day parameter in the video detection processors.
- Repaired the vehicle detector panel at Placida Rd. and the east access to Merchants Crossing Plaza. Crews found Bus Interface Unit #9 (BIU9) was malfunctioning causing detection issues.
- Replaced one street light pole damaged during a vehicle accident on SR 776 just west of Spinnaker Blvd.
- Replaced one street light pole damaged during a vehicle accident on SR 776 at Sunnybrook Blvd.
- Investigated vehicle detection calls at two separate locations which utilize radar as the method of detecting vehicles. The radar unit Olean and Aaron was adjusted while the unit at Kings Highway and Harborview Rd. required replacement.
- Repaired one non-functional illuminated street name sign on Cochran at the entrance to Kohl's Plaza. While onsite, crews also repaired a faulty pedestrian push button.
- Replaced the school flasher sign on Carmalita St. at Narranja St.
- Responded to numerous school flasher trouble calls at the end of daylight savings time.
- Replaced one pedestrian signal pole damaged as a result of a vehicle accident on SR 776 at Coliseum Blvd.

- Installed new pedestrian push buttons that no longer meet FDOT standards, replacement of pedestrian signage and count down displays on Placida Rd. at Rotonda Blvd, Lemon Bay High School, and east access to Merchants Crossing Plaza. All materials were furnished by FDOT.
- Completed traffic signal preventative maintenance at the following locations: Cooper St and Carmalita St.
- Attended weekly progress meetings and participated in underground signal conduit inspections for the US 41 widening project.

**Traffic Management Center (TMC)**

- Implementation of coordination timings for Cochran Blvd. from Publix Shopping Center to Peachland Blvd. which is in the monitoring stage of implementation. Travel time studies will follow.
- Updated yellow and red clearance interval timing of all Charlotte County owned traffic signals.

**Locates Performed**

There were 303 requests for underground utility locates received, generating 65 tickets for locates.

**Trouble Calls**

There were 8 trouble calls received, responded to, and problems of various natures resolved.

**Maintenance & Operations (Nov. 25 – Dec. 1, 2015)**

A total of 27 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, and asphalt repair.

Drainage line & grade:	9,450 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 4,600 SF in Gulf Cove 2,064 SF in Deep Creek
Menzie ditch cutting:	110,600 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater
Menzie ditch digging:	5,900 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater 6,000 SF in Road & Bridge South
Boom mower:	Cut 14,374 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 11,110 CY in Grove City Cut 2,125 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 7 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 2.09 tons of material to repair locations throughout Rotonda Heights
Debris removal:	Removed 1,480 pounds of debris from locations 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.
- Pruning of palms was completed throughout the County.

**Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Nov. 25 – Dec. 1, 2015)**

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 0.4
- Landing rate counts taken: 6
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 2

## Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 4
- Sites inspected: 8
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0



Mosquito Control Division staff members, Brian Grieg and James Hall, participated in the 2015 Nature Fest at the Charlotte County Sports Complex on November 21. They presented a number of educational programs aimed at informing the public about the operations of the Public Works' Mosquito Control Division. The narrators gave a magnificent presentation on ways to prevent mosquito breeding around homes and yards. Live visual aides were used including: a working CDC lighted mosquito trap, mounted adult mosquitos with magnification for viewing, live mosquito larvae, live mosquito fish, a live chicken named

Henny Penny, a diorama of a common residential home and yard, and a back drop of mosquito control content and pictures.

Henny Penny was the star of the booth bringing in lots of children and adults alike. When adults asked questions regarding the use of chickens, the Florida Arbovirus Surveillance program was explained emphasizing the important role that chickens play to further develop national public health strategies for the distribution of arbovirus surveillance, prevention, and control. The data that is collected is provided to national, regional and local public health officials, elected government officials, and the public.

The diorama was a great visual aide sparking the interest of both children and adults. All were asked to identify objects around the home that could potentially hold mosquito larvae like the ones displayed on the table. All attendees were enthusiastic and pointed out many possible areas mosquitos could use for breeding. Children were “deputized” with a stick-on badge to remind them to be on the lookout for breeding sites around their homes that they could report to their parents or guardians.

It was the intent to educate both younger and older generations about the work that the Mosquito Control Division does, and about the dangerous diseases sometimes carried by certain mosquitos. Based on comments and traffic flow at the booth, the event was very successful; over 100 “Florida Resident’s Guide to Mosquito Control” pamphlets and as many fly swatters were distributed to attendees. Both Brian Grieg and James Hall gave exceptional performances.

## Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended Visit Florida’s annual meetings market trade show, Florida Encounter, Amelia Island earlier this month (Nov. 30 – Dec. 2.) In addition to attending various networking functions, staff met one-on-one with over two dozen meeting planners and introduced these decision makers to what our area has to offer in terms of accommodating a variety of meetings, conferences and trade shows. Participation directly resulted in several leads as well as valuable exposure of our destination to the more than 100 meeting planners in attendance specifically shopping Florida locations for their future meetings.