

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Picture Day for Youth Basketball was on Saturday, 12/5. It was nice to see all the girls and boys with their hair done and smiling big for the camera! The Pickleball League held here at Harold Avenue has turned out to be a huge success. This week is their final week and we have plans for running two leagues starting in January!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Pool

Celebrations at Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center included the Master Gardner's Club large banquet on Dec. 4. We hosted a wedding on Dec. 5 with 130 guests and on Dec. 6, Buena Vista neighborhood watch had their Christmas party with 180 people attending. On Dec. 7 we started decorating the center for Santa's Candyland coming up Dec. 12. We are expecting at least 400 children to attend.

For the week of 12/2 through 12/8, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 43 paid admissions, was visited by 29 pass holders and had 120 water aerobics participants

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Dec. 7 – “The African violet – a gift for the holidays”
- County Account Meeting - Group 3 – Dec. 7
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – Dec. 7
- Overall Advisory Committee Meeting – Dec. 10
- Work on UF/IFAS Self-Evaluation – due Dec. 18
- Georgene Bender Retirement - Plant City Campus – Dec. 11

Natural Resources

This week Staff has been addressing a number of issues that arise each year as our northern friends return to us for the winter. Among the activities Staff met with adjacent landowners regarding overgrown vegetation and fence line concerns in West County. Staff provided information and suggestions for maintenance of private property outside the park boundary fence line and an overall plan for actions in the future which will enhance the park property and benefit our neighbors.

In addition to individual consultations Staff completed vegetation surveys as part of the Gopher Tortoise Monitoring Report. The report is part of our annual responsibility per the recipient site permit.

Historical Center

The Charlotte County Historical Center started the season with a bang! A self-guided tour of Indian Spring Cemetery was held on Wed., Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Punta Gorda's Founders Celebration. 37 extremely engaged citizens attended, some of which stayed for over 2 hours speaking to our living historians. A pioneer butter-making presentation was held at the North Port Library's 1800s Holiday Celebration on Sun. Dec. 6 from 2p.m. to 5 p.m. to 180 adults and 103 children. On Mon., Dec. 7, 29 members of Junior Leadership Charlotte were given a one-hour private tour of Indian Spring Cemetery to learn about cemeteries as cultural resources. Get up and get history Charlotte County!

Human Services

Senior Services Case Management staff attends and continues to participate in the Communities for a Lifetime Committee. This past meeting discussed upcoming events for 2016 to include Savvy Social Security Planning for Boomers; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; Seniors and their medications; and Gardening to stay active and healthy. Senior Services staff also attended the first meeting of the Community Health Initiative Partnership (CHIP) newly created subcommittee which will focus on senior needs in Charlotte County.

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

Veterans Blvd: The milling and paving operations have begun and are scheduled to be complete by Jan. 01, 2016, weather permitting.

Olean 2 Area: Paving is complete and the restoration is scheduled to begin.

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

To date, approximately 81,041 tons of S-III asphalt has been placed in the Greater Port Charlotte and Deep Creek areas. The time completed is 94.89 percent and work completed is 72.63 percent.

Traffic Advisory: PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Nov. 6, 2015) – *Please be advised that there will be intermittent lane closures on Veterans Boulevard beginning Monday, Nov.16. Travelers in this area should expect delays or seek an alternate route if possible. Construction includes milling and resurfacing the travel lanes on Veterans Boulevard. Flaggers and traffic control devices will be on site to assist travelers through the construction area. Weather permitting, construction is expected to conclude on or before Dec. 18. On behalf of road construction crews, please drive safely.*

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

Cabana Road is closed and is expected to re-open December 8.

The excavation of all ponds is complete. Grading and sodding of swales continues on the west side. Work is complete 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 99% of the old utility pipes have been removed.

Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 99% complete on the northbound side and 80% complete on the southbound side. Paving of the structural course on the remaining southbound lanes began November 30 and will continue thru December 8.

Street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project is operational. Lighting conduit is being installed on the west side and is approximately 96% complete. Street Light bases are being installed.

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.

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 are currently working on the new roadway south of Ingraham Boulevard towards Keystone Boulevard.
- Bridge construction is scheduled to resume after the Holidays.

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

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.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Nov. 20, 2015) – *Harbor Boulevard will be closed north of Edgewater Drive to local traffic ONLY from 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 30 through 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 21. Drivers will not be able to access the Edgewater Drive intersection from the north and can follow a local detour to U.S. 41. Harbor Boulevard south of Edgewater Drive will be accessible via Edgewater Drive at U.S. 41. Motorists are asked to use caution and obey signs while navigating detours as crews complete construction in the area.*

Excerpts from www.GoEP2.com (week of Dec. 7)

Harbor Boulevard is closed north of Edgewater Drive to local traffic ONLY from 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 30 through 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 21. Drivers will not be able to access the Edgewater Drive intersection from the north and can follow a [local detour](#) to U.S. 41. Harbor Boulevard south of Edgewater Drive will be accessible via Edgewater Drive at U.S. 41.

Edgewater Drive remains closed to through traffic from Midway Boulevard to Harbor Boulevard. Please check detour map for access routes. Altoona Street remains closed from Edgewater Dr. to Webster Ave.

www.GoEP2.com (ongoing)

Edgewater Drive closed to thru traffic. 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.

The intersection of Edgewater Drive and Harbor Boulevard was transitioned from a traffic signal to a four-way stop. Motorists are asked to use caution and obey signage while traveling through the area. The final build-out will include new mast arms, traffic signals and pedestrian facilities.

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

Midway Boulevard is closed for construction from Achilles Street to Kings Highway. Detours are in place.

Forsberg Construction completed the 60" and 54" concrete pipe installations and installed new water reuse lines from the Niagara Waterway across Achilles Street. Forsberg Construction is now working on pond sites, utility lines and storm drainage systems in this area.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Dec. 7, 2015) – Midway Boulevard, from Achilles Street to Kings Highway, is now closed to through traffic 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. Mail delivery, emergency services, and access to local residences will be maintained during construction. On behalf of road construction crews, please drive safely.

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 – Jan. 2016.

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 currently underway and is advancing quickly. The concrete weir structure is complete and fabri-form slope protection has been installed on both the north and south sides of the waterway. Guardrail is back up and construction is nearing completion.

Traffic Advisory: PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Dec. 1, 2015) – The North Tamiami Trail access road, between Elkcam Boulevard and Caring Way, has reopened to traffic. The installation of the water control structure and pipe under the access road at the canal crossing is complete.

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: TBD, Projected start of Construction: Funding has not been allocated for construction at this time.

The first Public Meeting to unveil design proposal options was held Oct. 7. Over 70 interested citizens were in attendance; some provided input to the proposed design concept options which was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for review and recommendation on Nov. 24.

The BCC recommended alignment Option #2, standard street lighting, and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway north to the Tern Bay property line, then the sidewalk will continue on the east side only for the remaining length of the project.

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

Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase 2 – The Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CHCRA) is interested in providing continuous pedestrian access from Bayshore Live Oak Park to Chester Roberts Park and to improve boater access to the harbor. Phase 2 includes the design of pedestrian connections from the promenade (located along the east side of US 41 northbound travel lanes) including a boardwalk crossing underneath the US 41 Bridge, a stairway connecting the promenade to the US 41 Bridge sidewalk, a fishing pier and a water taxi dock facility. Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/15/2013 – 7/17/2015, Procurement Process: Late 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2016

Meetings with the design firm continue; 100% design plans were submitted to FDOT the week of October 19 and are under review. The design team submitted the plans to the permitting agencies and is waiting for their responses.

Maintenance & Operations (Dec. 2 – Dec. 8, 2015)

A total of 40 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, debris removal, asphalt repair, and shoulder repair.

Drainage line & grade:	13,493 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 800 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 9,361 SF in Deep Creek 6,235 SF in Gulf Cove
Small pipe install:	112 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 104 LF in Lemon Bay
Menzie ditch cutting:	164,950 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater 130,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Menzie ditch digging:	4,500 SF in Road & Bridge South
Boom mower:	Cut 92,233 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 13,444 CY in Gulf Cove
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 20 culverts in Gulf Cove Cleaned 3 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte Cleaned 20 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 5 culverts in Grove City Cleaned 14 culverts in Deep Creek Cleaned 34 culverts in Burnt Store Village

Asphalt repair: Utilized 4.09 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Debris removal: Removed 2,760 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.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Dec. 2 – Dec. 8, 2015)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 0
- Landing rate counts taken: 2
- Traps set: 3
- Service requests: 5

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 20
- Sites inspected: 24
- Mitigation sites maintained: 3