

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

The Snowbirds are back in full swing. Harold Avenue has been packed daily with open Pickleball and Table Tennis participants. The Basketball league got back under way this past Saturday and Sunday and the kids had a great weekend after some much needed Holiday rest. All the teams outside of the 5-8 year old league will be making their playoff push over the next month!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center and Pool

Last Thursday we had 60 people attend the square dancing. Friday and Saturday Tools for Success had an attendance of 62 people.

For the week of 1/6 through 1/12, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 57 paid admissions, was visited by 31 pass holders and had 130 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park Pool

For the week of 1-6 through 1-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 206 paid admissions, was visited by 123 pass holders and had 24 water aerobics participants. CCS Blue fins held 9 practices for a total of 180 “splashes.”

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool

For the week of 1/3 through 1/9 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 372 paid admissions, 1235 water aerobics participants and was visited by 180 pass holders. The Bluefins held 4 practices with approximately 70 swimmers. The January Lifeguard Training class started with 4 students.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Jan. 11 – “Fireworks in the landscape”
- Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting – Jan. 11
- Community Landscaping Meeting - Public Works Conference Room – Jan. 13
- Home and Garden Show - Event Center – Jan. 16 & 17

Natural Resources

This week staff was active in Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park. Along with the increased activity come increased litter and user issues. The season is upon us and once again our guests from the north as well as other countries have come to Florida to enjoy the nice weather and beautiful scenery. Staff has made a concerted effort to maintain our properties in this time of increased use and have gone the extra step to ensure guest safety and security by collaborating with Sheriff Department personnel to coordinate our efforts and address areas of concern. Our goal is to encourage recreational use of our Environmental Parks while maintaining a sense of security for our guests. Staff has also worked to repair fences at various locations.

In addition to the efforts at Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park, staff has been involved in an anticipated gopher tortoise relocation project. Parks and Natural Resources Staff will obtain the necessary permits for this project as well as conduct the excavation of this project. Staff has completed the permit application and the coordination with the recipient site.

Parks

Installed new park rules signs and picnic benches at McGuire Park.

Historical

The Charlotte County Historical Center did 5 tours of the historic Cookie House Jan. 5-9 at Cedar Point Environmental Park with a total of 142 adults and 6 children.

The Prehistoric Snowbirds presentation on January 12 in collaboration with Florida Public Archaeology Network and Lifelong Learning Institute had 75 attendees.

Public Works

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

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 building multiple roadway sections north and south of the bridge. Concrete crews are installing sidewalks and curbing in multiple sections of the project.

Zep Construction will begin removing the western section of the existing bridge at the Butterford Waterway on January 18.

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

Excerpts from www.GoEP2.com

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Jan. 11, 2016) – *The intersection of Lake View Boulevard and Edgewater Drive will close at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18 until further notice. Lake View Boulevard will be closed between Webster Drive NW and Edgewater Drive. Traffic will be routed on a local detour. Local traffic from Edgewater Drive will also be routed on a detour. Visit www.GoEP2.com for a detour map. The west access to Spring Lake Park from Edgewater Drive will be closed indefinitely. Beginning Jan. 18, follow the detour and signage from the park lot at Lake View Boulevard at Webster Avenue NW to gain entry to Spring Lake Park and its boat ramp. Edgewater Drive remains closed to through traffic between Midway Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard.*

Thomas Marine Construction will replace and widen three bridges along the Edgewater Driver Corridor in Port Charlotte across the East Spring Lake, West Spring Lake and Sunrise Waterway. The contractor

anticipates leaving one of the spans open at all times for marine traffic. Any channel restrictions or temporary closures will be coordinated with the Coast Guard and published in the Local Notice to Mariners.

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

Construction of the storm drainage systems is underway; crews are currently installing 60" concrete pipe and a second crew will begin installing 54" concrete pipe on Jan. 18. Nine concrete drainage structures and over 1100' of concrete pipe has been placed on this project.

The current area of construction is from Achilles Street to Kings Highway; this area is CLOSED to traffic.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Peachland FOR 5.11 – This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. The new structure will replace two 48" culverts and a 50' weir with one 8'x10' box culvert with a 5' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 8/3/2015 – 3/11/2016.

Construction is underway; all box culverts are installed. The rock bed for the headwall, wing wall and weir has been installed. The footer for the head wall and wing walls on the north side has been formed.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Jan. 13, 2016) – *Peachland Boulevard, from Torrington Street to Aberdeen Avenue, will be closed to traffic for two hours on Thursday, Jan. 14 between 10:00 a.m. and noon. A large crane will be moved along Peachland Boulevard between the Niagara and Fordham Waterways as work progresses to upgrade the stormwater structures under Peachland Boulevard. Advance warning signs and flagmen will be on site to assist travelers through the detour via Aberdeen Avenue and Beacon Drive.*

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Peachland NIA 5.72 – This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. The new structure will replace a 48" reinforced concrete pipe and a 22' weir with two 36" reinforced concrete pipes with a 6' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 8/3/2015 – 3/11/2016.

The head walls and wing walls have been poured on the north side and rough grading of the south part of the site has begun.

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Sunshine Lake Recharge Wells – This project consists of the installation of two recharge wells to maintain active water flow through the Sunshine Lake. A recharge well will be located at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second adjacent to McGuire Park. Construction Contract: Lee Dean & Sons, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL, Construction Schedule: 9/14/2015 – 1/15/2016

Construction is nearing completion; well shafts have been drilled at both locations and the fence, pumps and stilling wells have been installed.

The contractor is waiting for Florida Power & Light to run electricity to the well pump sites. FP&L's electrical work is anticipated to be done by mid-February.

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; the water level control structure 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. Design: Public Works Engineering Division, Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 9/21/2015 – Jan 2016.

Construction was completed under budget and approximately 10 weeks ahead of schedule. County staff expects as-built drawings by the end of January.

Projects in Design or Negotiation

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/12/2013 – Early 2016, Procurement Process: March – May 2016, Projected Start of Construction: August 2016.

Public Works Engineering Division staff members reviewed the 90% design plans and provided comments to Johnson Engineering. Once the street lighting issue is resolved by the Board of County Commissioners and all easements have been obtained, the 100% design plans will be completed.

Lighting District (Update for month of Dec. 2015)

- Routine street light maintenance: 176 lights were repaired in December.
- Assembled 10 roadway lighting load centers for the Rotonda West Bridge Lighting project.
- Stephen Van Vliet attended and completed Power Industrial Trucks training.
- Replaced roadway lighting conductors that were shorting out - causing an outage along Jones Loop Road. The outage affected all of the lights along the north side of Jones Loop Road between US 41 and Taylor Road.
- Responded to a trouble call to the intersection of Veterans Blvd. at Cochran Blvd. for a left turn light not triggering. No problems were observed from the initial complaint but crews discovered one bad pedestrian push button. The bad button caused pedestrian movement to be constantly serviced while no pedestrians were present.
- Staff monitored contractor activities as the traffic signal was being modified for the closure of Midway Blvd. at Kings Highway.
- Repaired five (5) malfunctioning school flashers as a result of faulty communication modems.
- Responded to the intersection of US 41 NB at Virginia Ave. for a water main break. Utility crews removed a section of pavement to make repairs. When the pavement was removed it cut into the vehicle detection loop wires. Crews placed the movement in a recall state until permanent roadway and vehicle loop repairs can be made.

- At the US 41 Gateway project, crews monitored the relocation of one roadway light pole and conduit in conflict with construction activities.
- Performed routine controller cabinet maintenance at all signalized intersections along Kings Highway.
- Installed new replacement batteries into the UPS (un-interruptible power supply) on Kings Highway at Veterans Blvd.
- Replaced the traffic signal controller on Kings Highway at Westchester Blvd. The controller began generating SDLC (Synchronous Data Link Control) errors causing the intersection to go into a flash condition twice.
- Replaced one street light pole on Veterans Blvd. closest to Loveland Blvd. destroyed as a result of a vehicle accident.
- Assisted the Facilities Department with trouble shooting and replacing strands of LED lights on the Christmas tree at the Murdock Administrative complex.
- Investigated a complaint of a traffic signal not cycling correctly on Taylor Rd. at Airport Rd; crews found a faulty video detection camera connector. The bad connector caused a no-video condition resulting in a constant vehicle call condition.
- Responded twice to US 41 at Murdock for the intersection being in a flash condition. Crews traced the problem to bad solder joints on the compatibility card in the MMU.
- Replaced one LED pedestrian module on Kings Highway at Rampart Blvd. The countdown portion of the insert was not operating correctly.
- Compiled a preliminary deficiency list towards the roadway lighting systems install on the Burnt Store Road widening project.
- Attended weekly progress meetings and participated in underground signal conduit inspections for the US 41 widening project.

Traffic Management Center

- Traffic signal coordination timings for Cochran Blvd. - in monitoring stage of implementation. Travel time studies have been completed by consultant for season.
- Attend Traffic Incident Management team tri-county meeting in Ft. Myers.
- Continue monitoring of US 41 traffic signals due to Edgewater Rd. closure.
- Webinar - Crash Investigation and Reconstruction Technologies and Best Confirmation
- Continue monitoring and fielding complaints as the need arises. Responding to information requests.
- Continue efforts promoting the TMC's Twitter account for traffic incidents. Over 150 followers and increasing.

Locates Performed

283 Requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 60 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls

13 trouble calls received responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

Maintenance & Operations (Jan. 6 – 12, 2016)

A total of 35 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, shoulder repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	24,390 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
	10,500 SF in South Gulf Cove

Small pipe install:	134 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte 20 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	140,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 19,000 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
Boom mower:	Cut 80,309 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 12,496 CY in Road & Bridge North Cut 12,600 CY in Road & Bridge West Cut 1,700 CY in South Punta Gorda Heights East Cut 1,200 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Debris removal:	Removed 9,560 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 2.2 tons of material to repairs 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.

Contracted Services

- Sweeping for the month of December 2015 has been completed.
- The power shearing contractor has finished the Charlotte Ranchettes and is currently working in Tropical Gulf Acres.
- Specialty mowing is ongoing in all locations for the 1st cycle in the month of January 2016.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Jan. 6–12, 2016)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 77
- Landing rate counts taken: 1
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 0

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 1
- Sites inspected: 17
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Traffic Signing & Marking (Update for the month of Dec. 2015)

- Herbicide: 3,047 items sprayed
- New Signs Installed: 9
- Legends Installed: 491
- Marine Signs Replaced: 36
- RPM's Installed: 1,290
- Signs Inspected: 11,322
- Sign Maintenance: 1,204
- Signs Manufactured: 90

- Striping: 34,622 feet (6.58 miles)
- Traffic Counts: 33 stations (32 traffic counts and 1 classification count)
- Trouble Calls (after hours): 4

Installed the first post mounted radar speed sign at Beach Road and Swepston Bridge – this solar powered sign not only lets motorists know the speed they are traveling, it also alerts drivers when they travel over the posted speed limit. This new installation also performs traffic counts, speed counts, and classification studies.

Tourism

Last summer Drake, a fatherless teen from the Tampa Bay area, was selected by the Majesty Outdoors Foundation as a TideChanger to embark on a one-of-a-kind outdoor adventure to fish for monster fish in the waters of Charlotte Harbor. In addition to the memories of landing the catch of a lifetime, Drake received a college scholarship from the Majesty Outdoors Foundation. The heartwarming experience starring Drake will air in Season 7, Episode 4 of Majesty Outdoors Television which begins airing Jan. 19 at 9:30 a.m. on the Pursuit Channel.

Under the mentorship of Majesty Outdoors host Bill Blodgett and Englewood fishing guide Capt. Chris O'Neill, Drake fishes for goliath grouper which can weigh up to 700 pounds. Capt. Betty Staugler, a Charlotte County Florida Sea Grant Agent, also appears in the half-hour show which features some of Charlotte Harbor's beautiful scenery and exhilarating world-class fishing in Boca Grande Pass. The episode was filmed in July and includes the Weston's wannaB inn on Manasota Key which served as the headquarter accommodations during filming.

The Majesty Outdoors Foundation is a 501-c(3) non-profit working to bring awareness to the fatherless epidemic and enact change by offering fatherless teens hope, faith and the beauty of the great outdoors through providing maiden outdoors adventures. Through its mentoring program, the foundation has impacted the lives of more than 3,000 fatherless children. Since Majesty Outdoors Television's inception in 2009, nearly 75 teenagers have appeared on the show and all are eligible for college scholarships.