

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 2/16/16

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

It has been a busy week here at the Sports Park. Spring Training preparations are in full swing! We held our mandatory Event Staff Training on Tuesday, Feb. 9. It was nice to see all the returning staff and meet all the new faces. Representatives from the Tampa Bay Rays then conducted Rays University followed by a hot dog dinner and beverages, provided by Jared Forma and the Charlotte Stone Crabs. Pitchers and Catchers report soon. GO RAYS!

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

All Harold Avenue Youth Basketball League divisions completed their regular seasons this past weekend. That marks an end to the year for the 5-8 year old division. All players had a great season and received medals for their participation. Meanwhile the leagues four other divisions will kick off the first round of their playoffs this coming weekend. It's going to be a lively weekend at Harold Avenue and we wish all the team's good luck!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center & Pool

Kids Fest was a rousing success! We say 200 plus children and their families for more than 400 people at the event. The event is designed to engage the children with games and activities so the parents or guardians can gather information about all the programs Charlotte County has to offer. This year, not only did the kids get to participate and have fun, they stayed for the entire event. Kids were playing games, winning prizes, and getting to interact with Law enforcement and Recreation staff.

This past week weekend at Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center, we had the Regatta here. With lots of tourists, spectators and participants, even the wind, rain and cold weather couldn't stop the fun. Thursday was registration, and we were seeing around 130 people come through the Recreation Center. Friday was more registration and the much anticipated 1st Regatta Dinner. In total we had more than 200 visit PCB. Saturday, the best day for racing, we saw more than 300 throughout the day and dinner. There were no incidents and everyone involved from staff to volunteers did a great job. So for the weekend at Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center we saw more than 630 visitors and contestants.

For the week of 2/3 through 2/9, Port Charlotte Beach had 100 paid admissions, was visited by 25 pass holders and had 143 water aerobics participants.

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool

For the week of 1/31 through 2/6 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 134 paid admissions, 157 water aerobics participants and was visited by 113 pass holders. The Blue fins held 4 practices with approximately 60 swimmers.

South County Regional Park Pool

Over the past two weeks South County Regional Park Pool had 486 paid admissions, was visited by 230 pass holders and had 15 water aerobics participants. Charlotte County Swimming Blue fins held 18 practices for a total of 360 "splashes." Cold Weather has slowed down our attendance with the winds contributing to water temp dipping into the 70's.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Feb. 8 – "Tart, but beautiful - the calamondin"
- Soil and Water Conservation District Board – Feb. 8

- Fiscal Training - MCRL Administration Conference Room – Feb. 8
- Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training – Feb. 9
- Hibiscus Club Talk - Royal Palm Retirement Home in Port Charlotte –Feb. 9
- Master Gardener Mentor Breakfast – Feb. 10
- Landscape Garden Series - “Backyard Citrus” – Dr. Mongi Zekri – Feb. 12

Natural Resources

As the season progresses staff has moved forward with plans to burn and manage habitat. Part of the management will include some vegetative reduction through mechanical means. Some of the areas the County manages have not been burned in many years and have over time accumulated a large quantity of fuels. Through roller chopping and grinding those fuels are reduced/lowered in profile and thereby making prescribed fire efforts safer and more easily managed. After the initial fire future fires will be much more manageable and safe. With this integrated approach staff will be able to enhance properties that have had little management in the past. The benefit will be increased habitat quality and also public safety.

Natural Resources staff also conducted a gopher tortoise excavation in Englewood. This action was an effort to save any gopher tortoise as well as any possible commensals possibly dependent on the gopher tortoise. In this case no tortoises or commensals were located on site and no animals were harmed in the effort.

Natural Resources staff met with CHEC staff and volunteers at Cedar Point Environmental Center. This meeting was to promote and further the cooperative effort of management of the west county environmental parks and to further the relations between the two groups. Staff will be taking an increasing role in the guidance of the volunteer efforts on locations.

Natural Resources staff are revising the trail maps for our Parks and Preserves. The existing trail systems can be confusing and staff is working on simplifying the trails in an effort to become more user friendly.

Natural Resources staff conducted an onsite visit of Ann Dever Regional Park. The purpose of the visit came at the request of citizen concerns surrounding a survey of the park boundary. At question, the northern property line shared by the mobile home park. Staff met with citizens and discussed possible placement of a fence line between the two properties. Also discussed during the visit were possible mutually beneficial working relationships as it pertains to the maintenance of the property line and the introduction of invasive species.

Parks

Supported Charlotte Harbor Regatta 2016, four day sailboat race with 60+ boats

Historical Center

Highwaymen Art in the Park by the Charlotte County Historical Center was well received Tuesday, Feb. 9 at Bayshore Live Oak Park. Participants learned the history and culture of these unique African-American landscape painters and then created their own work of art of the beautiful Charlotte Harbor scenery.

Human Services

The Human Services Director and Family Services Manager attended the Florida Association of Counties Human Services Administrators (FACHSA) mid-year roundtable workshop. One statewide topic included discussion with representatives from the Florida Agency on Health Care Administration (AHAC) of policy and process issues regarding the State mandate for counties to fund out of county medical care through the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA). Other priority topics for discussion included: the required mandate

of counties for the disposition of indigent remains; homeless programs and funding; and legislative updates impacting Health and Human Services programs.

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. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: March 2015 – Mid-February 2016. The 2015 Paving Program is complete.

2016 County Paving Program – The purpose of this project is to resurface Charlotte County roadways in the following districts:

- Greater Port Charlotte
- Deep Creek
- North West Port Charlotte
- Punta Gorda Non-Urban
- Peace River Shores
- Rotonda Heights
- Road & Bridge

For more information about the roadways to be paved within each district, please see the Project Maps. Construction Contract: TBD, Construction Schedule: Spring 2016 – Late 2016

The 2016 Paving Program is currently advertised for competitive bid with an estimated budget of \$18,791,824. Pre-bid Conference: 9:00 a.m., February 11, 2016, Bid Opening: 2:00 p.m., March 9, 2016

Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase 1 – This project is to design and construct pedestrian and boater access to Charlotte Harbor. Phase 1 includes replacement of the seawall, construction of a restroom facility, small boat launch, parking area, and pedestrian promenade located at the foot of the north-bound US 41 Bridge. Once completed, new amenities will enhance the public's waterfront experience. The project area is closed to the public during construction however residents and tourists are encouraged to visit Bayshore Live Oak Park to continue fishing and enjoying recreational activities.

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) Funds to construct this project. Notice to Proceed was issued by FDOT on Dec. 11, 2014. 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 CDM Smith on November 12, 2014. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 5/18/2015 – February 2016.

- The contractor is currently installing the irrigation system.
- The restroom facility has been fabricated and should soon be delivered to the site.
- Colored and ribbed concrete is being finalized within the next week in preparation for the installation of pavers.
- Decorative lighting has been placed but is not energized at this time.

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

The intersection of Port Charlotte Boulevard and Edgewater Drive will close at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 through 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The intersection of Lake View Boulevard and Edgewater Drive is closed until further notice. To gain entry to Spring Lake Park and its boat ramp, follow the detour signs from the intersection of Lake View Boulevard and Webster Avenue NW. Trailer parking is free at the Spring Lake Park boat ramp for the duration of the project. Drivers: please use caution entering and exiting Boat Ramp.

Lake View Boulevard is 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.

Edgewater Drive remains closed to through traffic between Midway Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard.

Motorists are asked to use caution and obey signage while navigating detours as work crews complete utility installation and roadway reconstruction in the area.

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](#).

Projects in Design or Negotiation

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. This project is funded by the Charlotte County Redevelopment Fund and will be reimbursed up to \$1,410,580 through a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Design Schedule: 10/15/2013 – 7/17/2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

The design has been completed and approved by FDOT; the LAP agreement will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Feb. 23 for review and execution. The design team submitted the plans to the permitting agencies and is waiting for their responses.

SR 776 / US 41 Gateway Landscaping – The purpose of this project is to landscape and beautify the gateway area to the western portion of Charlotte County on SR 776 from US 41 to Murdock Circle. The addition of landscape materials, decorative trees including palms and oaks, shrubs, ground cover, sod and mulch will augment the appearance of the gateway to western Charlotte County. Irrigation, electrical services and maintenance of the landscaping and irrigation system is included in this project which is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: DMJ & Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: Completed Fall 2015, Procurement Process: 2/2/2016 – Spring 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2016

This project is currently advertised for competitive bid with an estimated budget of \$238,000.

Pre-bid Conference: Feb. 10, 2016

Bid Opening: Feb. 24, 2016

Tom Adam's Bridge Rehabilitation Phase 2 – This rehabilitation project will replace the existing Tenderhouse, electrical and mechanical equipment. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide a gateway to Manasota Key and will feature a standing seam roof, color coordinated with the Bridge, and large observation windows designed to withstand hurricane winds. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the Bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the Bridge tender's view is obstructed. The existing Tenderhouse will be removed providing a scenic outlook for pedestrians. The existing concrete railing and guardrail will be removed and replaced with a steel traffic barrier and aluminum handrail, which will allow for widening the sidewalk to a minimum of five (5) feet. The sidewalk surface will be topped to correct slope and alignment issues, making easier for pedestrians to cross the bridge. The rehabilitation project also includes the replacement of the existing traffic gates, traffic signals, the approach slabs, abutment wall cap, slope pavement, and the Bridge will be repainted. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying, Design/Permitting Schedule: 7/2/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Complete 7/14/2015, Projected Start of Construction: 4/18/2016

Quinn Construction is submitting shop drawings so work can begin on April 18.

Coastal Projects

Manasota Key North Beach Erosion Study – Public Works Engineering requested Letters of Interest (RLI) from the Library of Engineering Firms to complete a Regional Beach Erosion Study (BES) on the north end of Manasota Key, from R monument 1 to R monument 15, upon the request of citizens affected by critical beach erosion. Upon completion of the study, this information could be used to develop funding strategies and further the project into permitting. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: Summer 2015 – Early 2016

The erosion study shall include the following:

- a. Beach Profile Surveys
- b. Erosion Analysis
- c. Sand Volume Analysis
- d. Conceptual Restoration Plans
- e. Natural Resource Surveys
- f. Develop Funding Approaches and Strategies to Mitigate Total Cost
- g. Participate in Stakeholder Meetings
- h. Provide Potential Cost Estimates
- i. Provide Permit Feasibility Analysis

Coastal Engineering Consultants completed the surveys and refined the data. Additional survey work will be conducted as needed. A substantial "hard bottom" area was discovered and surveyed to determine the extent of the area and potential impact to the project.

A meeting was held at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce to present the findings; stakeholders discussed this project in detail and the study appears to be on track for completion in early 2016.

The draft Erosion Study Report and the stakeholder presentation were reviewed and approved by staff. Engineering Division staff met with Charlotte County Administration to review the draft Erosion Study report. A review by the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee was held on Oct. 1. and an update was provided during the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meeting held Nov. 5.

Staff met with Charlotte County Legal Services to review options for funding this project through a Municipal Services Taxing Unit. The BCC reviewed the proposed taxing district boundary on Nov. 24, 2015 and an Ordinance establishing the Unit was approved and signed Dec. 8, 2015.

A stakeholder meeting was held January 11 at the South Manasota Sandpiper Key Association. More information will be available upon receipt of the final report.

Maintenance & Operations (Feb. 3 – Feb. 9)

A total of new 89 requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	18,800 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,050 SF in Gulf Cove 12,780 SF in Deep Creek
Small pipe install:	192 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	13,500 SF in Road & Bridge South 130,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 25 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 5 culverts in Grove City Cleaned 2 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 3 culverts in Tropical Gulf Acres Cleaned 4 culverts in Rotonda West Cleaned 2 culverts in Placida Area Cleaned 5 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cleaned 1 culvert in South Gulf Cove
Boom mower:	Cut 34,098 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 3,800 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 30,150 CY in Englewood East Cut 7,535 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 5,386 CY in Murdock Village
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 6.5 tons of material to repairs locations throughout the County
Debris removal:	Removed 2,540 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.
- Gregg O'Connor, Project Manager, earned a FDACS Public Right of Way Pesticide Applicator License.

Contracted Services

- Specialty mowing cycle for the month of February has started; this month only receives one cycle.
- The Power Shearing Contractor has pulled out due to standing water in the ROW in Gulf Cove and Englewood East. The areas are being monitored; once the ROW is drier the Contractor will return.
- The Pipe Lining Contractor has started cleaning and TV inspection of pipes in Rotonda and Deep Creek in preparation for lining.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Feb. 3 – Feb. 9)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 13,199
- Landing rate counts taken: 15
- Traps set: 2
- Service requests: 118

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 11
- Sites inspected: 23
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff traveled to New York City Feb. 10 to participate in reception for members of the media. VISIT FLORIDA arranged the event which was attended by approximately 35 members of the media with outlets ranging from traditional print publications to online magazines and blogs. The writers and editors represented publications as Brides, Budget Travel and Travel & Leisure Magazine Staff shared what's new in Charlotte County in order to provide story ideas for future newspaper, magazine and online articles. During the event, Visit Florida previewed its new Attraction Finder website which allows visitors to find attractions based on interest and location. Also during the event, Instagram and Twitter posts with images and the hashtag #LoveFL were streamed. Each participating Partner was asked to contribute at least 10 posts throughout the event.