

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

We wrapped up our fall-winter season of youth basketball on a great note with the semi-finals and championship games Saturday, Feb. 20. Congratulations to our champions, the 9/10 division Huskies, 11/12 division Warriors, 13/14 division UConn and 15-17 division Miami. Josh Ulmaniec, coach for the 13/14 division Duke team received the coach's award for the season. This award goes to coaches that go above and beyond what is required and expected of our volunteers. Senior games are filling up with registrations rolling for the games that take place in March. Summer camp for kid's registration has also opened up so registrations are steadily coming in. Snowbird Classic is starting games this Friday and Harold staff along with the Facilities staff is ensuring that everything is ready to go.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

Wed. Feb. 17 there was a meeting of the Charlotte County Charter Review with Charlotte County Commissioners and about 30 people. On Thurs. Feb. 18 there was a Tai Chi class with 50 people. Late afternoon starting from 5:30 to 9 p.m. the Promenader's danced away with 58 people.

Friday was a buzz with decorating and setup for the 50th Anniversary celebration taking place on Saturday with 200 guests, fun was had by all.

Sunday brought another round of set up and decorating for a large wedding starting at 9 a.m., then on to the ceremony and reception with 180 guests in attendance.

Tai Chi was here Tues. Feb. 23rd in the am, and a sheriff's meeting in the evening from 4:00-8pm.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool

For the week of 2/17 through 2/23, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 328 paid admissions, was visited by 81 pass holders and had 237 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park Pool

For the week of 2/20 through 2/24, South County Regional Park Pool had 258 paid admissions, was visited by 326 pass holders and had 26 water aerobics participants. Charlotte County Swimming Blue Fins held 18 practices for a total of 360 "splashes." CCS hosted an inter-county dual swim meet where we had 30 swimmers compete. Swim lessons are currently registering for spring session which starts March 8 and we are working closely with the area schools to program the grade two swim initiative beginning in May.

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool

For the week of 2/14 through 2/20 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 453 paid admissions, 154 water aerobics participants and was visited by 115 pass holders. The Blue Fins held 4 practices with approximately 50 swimmers.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for February 22 – "Snapdragons should be a number one winter annual"
- Quarterly Business Meeting - Q1 - Community Services – February 22 - Murdock - Room B-106
- Master Gardener Radio Show – February 23 - WCCF 1580
- Customer Satisfaction Survey Training – February 24
- Agventure - Charlotte High Ag Barn - 200, 3rd Graders – February 25
- Landscape Gardening Series - "Pruning Trees and Shrubs" – February 26

Natural Resources

- This week staff conducted the first prescribed burn of the season. The prescribed burn was on Biscayne Trust Conservation Easement. This burn was conducted for ecological management purposes but also as part of a WHIP grant agreement.
- In addition to the burn staff conducted a training on the proper use of herbicide on the environmental parks. The course was for the volunteer staff which often participate in various activities in the area.
- Staff also engaged in joint operations with CCSO personnel in site safety and security actions on Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park as well as Biscayne Trust Conservation Easement.

Parks

- Cleaned and reopened Bissett and Deep Creek restrooms after new epoxy floor was installed
- Repaired/rebuilt several issues in Bissett restroom building
- Upgraded swing sets at Lake Betty and Deep Creek parks with ADA children's seats.

Human Services

The Human Services Department and Veteran Services Division is pleased to announce the hiring of Charlotte County's new Veteran Services Officer, Larry Brown. Larry comes to the County from Brandon, Florida and is originally from Baltimore, MD. Master Sergeant Brown (Retired) served 20 years in the United States Air Force. After his military retirement, Larry served veterans working for the US Department of Veterans Affairs in various capacities including Veterans Benefit Counselor, Ratings Specialist, Veterans Services Representative, Decision Review Officer, Team Coach and Assistant Services Center Manager. Welcome Larry Brown.

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.

Construction crews are currently removing the western section of the existing bridge at the Butterford Waterway and are constructing the new bridge.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Feb. 23, 2016) – *The intersection of Ingraham Boulevard East at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) will be closed Tuesday March 1 for approximately 3 weeks. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of Ingraham Boulevard East entering South Gulf Cove. Traffic is detoured via San Domingo Boulevard and Keystone Boulevard; variable message boards and traffic control devices are in place to assist travelers through the construction area.*

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. (Feb. 24, 2016) – *The intersection of Port Charlotte Boulevard and Edgewater Drive has been reopened. Port Charlotte Boulevard is now accessible to through traffic between Chelsea Court and Edgewater Drive. Edgewater Drive remains closed to through traffic between Midway Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard.*

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](#).

Sidewalks - Burnt Store Lakes – The South Burnt Store MSBU Advisory Board requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. Approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks will be constructed at: Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road, Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road, and Rio Togas Road from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road. Construction Contract: V&H Construction, Construction Schedule: 2/29/2016-Spring 2016

The Board of County Commissioners approved award of the bid to V&H Construction on Jan. 26. A pre-construction meeting was held on February 10 and a notice to proceed was issued for February 29.

The contractor will be starting on Rio Togas Road.

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.

- Black base and the structural courses have been paved.
- The sidewalk has been poured on the south side.
- The swales have been graded on the south side and along the sidewalk.

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.

- Storm drain pipe and basins are complete.
- Water main work on the south side is complete.
- Sod has been placed on the north side.
- Sub-base material for the sidewalk has been installed.

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 complete and pumps are operational. Calibration of the stilling wells is underway and should be complete next week.

Projects in Design or Negotiation

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. Bid opening has been extended one week from Feb. 24 to March 2, 2016. Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. in the Purchasing Division Conference Room.

Coastal Projects

Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging – Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 2/1/2014-November 2015, Procurement Process: Late 2015-Spring 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2016 (150 day contract)

The permit application was submitted to FDEP on July 23, 2014. FDEP issued their permit but had to send the application to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was sought for the presence of the Smalltooth Sawfish. A request for additional information was received from NMFS on Jan. 12, 2015 regarding the seagrass areas adjacent to the channel. Johnson Engineering provided the requested data. The ACOE permit was issued on November 6, 2015.

The project is currently advertised for competitive bid; the pre-bid conference is scheduled Feb. 22 with bid opening on March 9 in the Purchasing Division Conference Room.

Stump Pass 10 Year Beach and Inlet Management Plan – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed

at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 4/16/2012 – Early 2016, Procurement Process: Spring 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

The US Fish and Wildlife Service agency prepared a new Biological Opinion (BO) for this Project. It is noted that the Red Knot was recently listed on the threatened and endangered species list, thus a new BO was necessary to review the project for migratory birds including Piping Plover and Red Knot as well as sea turtles.

The FDEP issued the Final Order (permit) for the project on Sept. 2, 2015. The review by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is complete and the County has received ACOE approval.

The review of construction drawings and bid specifications is complete. The State Parks (Division of Recreation and Parks) issued a concurrence letter for an updated easement that would allow construction on the upland portion of the park property. The County worked through the negotiations with the State Parks Division and is waiting on the revised easement. Due to delays in the permitting process, the revised project schedule is as follows:

Bid the Project After Receipt of Federal Authorization

- Start bid process end of March with advertising for 30 days.
- Bid opening anticipated at end of April with award in May.
- Set Notice to Proceed for Summer of 2016.

Updated Construction Schedule

- Mobilization in July 2016.
- Offshore borrow sand placement on Don Pedro and Knight Islands Aug-Oct 2016
- Dredge Stump Pass Oct-Nov 2016
- Manasota Key Work (structure and backfill) Nov 2016-Jan 2017

Drainage Projects

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Lion Heart Waterway at Peachland LIO 4.03 – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Blvd. at the Lion Heart Waterway. The new structure will replace two 60" metal pipes with two 10'x10' box culverts. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: through January 2016, Procurement Process: Feb – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016

The 90% design plans are being reviewed by staff. Final updates to the project specifications are in progress. Bid documents are expected to be sent to the Purchasing Department by mid-March.

Maintenance & Operations (Feb. 17-Feb. 23)

A total of 57 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	22,000 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 5,510 SF in Deep Creek
Small pipe install:	48 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 24 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Large pipe install:	24 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	21,000 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban

	80,000 SF in South Gulf Cove
	40,000 SF in Englewood East
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 16 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 6 culverts in South Punta Gorda Heights Cleaned 15 culverts in Gulf Cove
Boom mower:	Cut 27,519 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 26,960 CY in Road & Bridge West Cut 4,737 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 4,000 CY in Charlotte Ranchettes
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.5 tons of material to repairs locations throughout the County
Debris removal:	Removed 2,860 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.

Irrigation system upgrades; large shrub removal and ornamental plant replacements were performed at the US 41 Revitalization phase I project.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Feb. 17-Feb. 23)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 9,649
- Landing rate counts taken: 6
- Traps set: 1
- Service requests: 18

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 21
- Sites inspected: 2
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the XSITE Show in Tallahassee on February 16 to network with over 70 meeting planners from the association market. In addition, staff had the opportunity to schedule one on one appointments with a dozen of these planners to discuss the details and specs of potential future business and educate them on what our destination has to offer. The show directly resulted in receiving one RFP on site as well as strong leads for five additional meetings/conferences.