

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Charlotte County's Community Development Director, Claire Jubb, spoke to the Northwest Port Charlotte Community League about the duties and services offered by the Community Development Department. This is part of the departments outreach program and any organization wanting to know more about the department can contact them on 941.743.4158.

Charlotte County is committed to protecting our citizens and business owners through proactive enforcement of local and state contractor licensing requirements. Community Development staff partnered with the state Division of Finance Services Workers Compensation and Fraud Investigation staff to conduct two sweeps in Charlotte County. The sweeps targeted the Deep Creek area of the county focusing on the area impacted by the recent tornado, along with the area west of the Myakka. There were 44 sites inspected between the two target areas resulting in the issuance of local citations, a local stop work order, state stop work orders for violation of workers compensation regulations and one arrest by the DFS Fraud Division. For more information or to check if your contractor has the correct license, call Community Development on 941.743.1201 or visit our website at www.charlottecountyfl.gov.

After several years of discussion, the Board of County Commissioners adopted revisions to the Floodplain Management Ordinance on March 8, 2016. The revisions were needed primarily to make it consistent with model language developed by federal and state agencies. In addition, revisions were made to make it consistent with the Florida Building Code. The revisions also make it more consistent with regulations in neighboring jurisdictions. There are no costs to County government nor is additional staffing proposed resulting from the revisions. The County will continue to maintain a Class 5 rating thus offering up to a 25 percent discount to flood insurance policy holders.

Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Senior games Table Tennis and Basketball held at Harold Avenue was a great success with many people competing and enjoying some healthy competition. Numerous medals handed out for winners in our different age groups and categories. We also had Florida primary elections at Harold Avenue with continuous rotating doors. The Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt was in the works for months and was held March 19 at Bayshore Live Oak Park with a good number of attendees. Charlotte County Public Schools also had their spring break so we had an influx of kids coming out to the facility to stay active.

Tringali Recreation Center

Tringali Park has been in the thick of the 2016 Senior Games. The number of participants has well eclipsed last year's event and according to the competitors so has the fun. We've increased the number of hours Pickleball uses the recreation center and as a result the number of participants have tripled compared to last month. We're gearing up for our annual youth fishing tournament, Big Surf XVIII, which will take place April 9 at Englewood Beach. It's a free event open to children ages 3 to 12, where they will be taught the fundamentals of fishing from local fishing gurus as well as enjoying some good ole' barbeque.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

On March 10 we had the Promenader's enjoy their night from 6:30-9 p.m. dancing the night away with about 50 people.

March 11 we had another very popular Tai Chi session 12:30-2 p.m. About 50 people

March 12 we had an inspirational speaker 12-2:30 p.m. She has a broadcast she does about how she has overcome drug addiction and is trying to inspire others that may be facing their own personal crisis. It was attended by 30 people.

We also had the supervisor of elections open to the public March 14-16 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for March 14 – “Dollarweed is a taxing problem for lawns”
- 2016 MG Training Class – March 14 “Citrus” – Dr. Mongi Zekri
- Measuring Outcomes of Landscape Site Visits and Individual Teachings: 2016 Update – March 16 – webinar
- Managers Meeting - MCRL - Administration Conference Room- March 16
- 2016 MG Training - Me – “Woody Ornamentals”– March 17
- McGuire House Meeting – Cultural Center – March 17
- Annual Leave – March 15 and 18

Natural Resources

March is the time staff conducts annual Scrub Jay Surveys. These are important as the Florida Scrub Jay is a federally listed species. Staff conducts these surveys in March because it coincides with the beginning of nesting season. During nesting season the Scrub Jays will defend territory and respond to calls from other Scrub Jays. Staff uses recorded calls from other Scrub Jays to induce a reaction from resident birds. This reaction will provide us with the number of birds in the family group but also an idea of the occupied territory of the Scrub Jays. Over time we can determine the relative success of each family group as well as population trends across the county monitored parks and preserves. This monitoring also meets the requirements of grant award compliance as well as the Habitat Conservation Permit agreement. This week staff completed surveys on 2 properties and will continue to survey until the end of the month.

Parks and Natural Resources staff attended a Gopher Tortoise training course as part of a professional development plan. We now have several staff members that are Authorized Agents, certified to conduct surveys, as well as 2 members certified in all aspects of gopher tortoise survey, marking, transport and release as well as excavation.

Staff submitted an application to the U.S. Coast Guard in relation to phase 2 of the Blue Ways Trail system. The Blue Ways Trail is a statewide paddling trail for kayak and canoe enthusiasts. Last year we began the process by collecting GPS data along the proposed route. Staff then presented the data to DEP, ACOE and the USCG for permitting. This rigorous permitting process is nearly complete and phase 2 will soon be completed.

Staff met with representatives of the Fiddler's Green community to discuss issues regarding access to Amberjack Environmental Park. The representatives of the community wanted to access the Park as part of an emergency egress in the event of a fire. Staff explained that this was not an appropriate access as the potential for any fire would most likely come from the park and as such the community would not wish to exit their community through a park that had an uncontrolled wildfire blazing.

Natural Resources staff tagged a total of 4 abandoned/derelict vessels in Charlotte County, one of these vessels is scheduled to be removed this week.

Natural Resources staff also assisted the Reef Ball Foundation with a grant application to install reef balls in Charlotte County's reefs. For more information on the Reef Ball Foundation you may go to <http://www.reefball.org/>

The Charlotte County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) meeting was held at the Natural Resources office on March 9th from 5:30 to 7:30. All committee members were present as well as staff members from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Several Charlotte County citizens were also in attendance and provided their comments as well. Overall, the meeting was a success and it is anticipated that one more committee meeting will be scheduled within the next month incorporating the changes requested by the committee members.

Human Services

Charlotte 2-1-1 hosted Bowman Inc. representative who provided staff with intensive 3 day training on the migration of 2-1-1 data base software to the Community Information System (CIS). This project was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in a cooperative memorandum of agreement with the Homeless Coalition who serves as the community administrator for CIS. Funding for this conversion comes from a grant that the Homeless Coalition has received. After full implementation of the migration which is expected to go live April 1, 2016, community organizations/partners will receive training on the new system.

Human Services hosted and staff participated in Harry Chapin's Food Bank distribution of food at the Family Services Center in Parkside on March 15, 2016. This is the first time that the mobile food bank was at the Center. Approximately 150 grateful families received food including frozen meat and fresh produce; strawberries, cabbage, potatoes.

Public Works

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

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

Maps depicting the roadways to be paved within each district are available; please see Project Maps. Construction Contract: TBD, Construction Schedule: Spring 2016 – Late 2016

2016 Paving Program bids were opened and tabulated. Public Works Engineering will present a recommendation to award the project to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, Ajax Paving, Inc., at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 22. Estimated budget: \$18,791,824.

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 – 10/1/2016.

The intersection of Ingraham Boulevard East at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) remains closed through March 25 to reconstruct the intersection of Ingraham Boulevard East entering South Gulf Cove. Traffic is detoured via San Domingo Boulevard and Keystone Boulevard.

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.

Bridge Construction crews are currently building the western section of the new Bridge over the Butterford Waterway.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Feb. 29, 2016) – *The intersection at Chaillett Road at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) will be closed for approximately 3-4 months. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the southbound lanes and the Butterford Waterway Bridge on CR 771. Traffic is detoured via Chardon Road; traffic control devices are in place to assist travelers through the construction area.*

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase 2 (EP2) – 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 – 4/24/2017

Excerpts from www.GoEP2.com

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (March 10, 2016) – *A portion of Lauzon Avenue will close at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 14 through 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 24. Lauzon Avenue will be closed to through traffic east of Abhenry Circle to Sheeley Street. Follow detour for access to Edgewater Drive. 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.

East Spring Lake concrete sheet pile work and West Spring Lake sidewalks are underway

- Midway to West Spring Lake Bridge – The water main, re-use main, and force mains are complete. Storm sewer, gravity sewer, roadway base, curb, sidewalk, paving and lighting are in progress. Currently, progress is primarily focused from Sheeley Street to the West Spring Lake Bridge, including construction of the Lakeview roundabout. Bridge deck arches and sidewalks are underway on West Spring Lake Bridge.
- West Spring Lake Bridge to East Spring Lake Bridge - Work is underway on the storm sewer, re-use main and the West Tarpon roundabout. Bridge pilings are partially complete on East Spring Lake Bridge. Work to continue through March.
- East Spring Lake Bridge to Sunrise Bridge - Storm sewer and re-use main work is underway. Sunrise Bridge construction is scheduled to begin in early spring.
- Sunrise Bridge to Harbour Boulevard - The water main is complete. The force main and gravity sewer are both complete under the Harbor Boulevard intersection.

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 – 3/22/2016.

- The project is substantially complete.
- Final punch list items are being taken care of by the contractor.
- Traffic is back to normal.

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 – 3/22/2016.

- The project is substantially complete.
- Final punch list items are being taken care of by the contractor.
- Traffic is back to normal.

Tom Adam's Bridge Rehabilitation – This 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. The 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. Construction Contract: Quinn Construction, Projected Start of Construction: 3/29/2016.

Quinn Construction will begin foundation work for the new Tenderhouse on March 29. There will be lane closures for the delivery of materials. Motorist need to be alert and follow flagger instruction to keep traffic moving.

Quinn Construction has submitted Shop Drawings for the gear reducers, pedestrian railing, traffic barrier, aluminum window/door framing material and glazing material, all of which have been approved.

ENGLEWOOD, Fla. (March 17, 2016) – *Rehabilitation of the Tom Adams Bridge, located at 1400 Beach Road, will begin Monday, March 29. Construction of the new Tenderhouse foundation will be conducted from barges, but material deliveries will require intermittent, temporary lane and sidewalk closures. To minimize traffic delays, material deliveries are scheduled Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and overnight from 9 p.m. - 5 a.m. and anytime on the weekends. Traffic signs, message boards and flaggers will be on-site as needed to direct traffic. On behalf of roadway construction crews, please drive safely.*

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: Fall 2016, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

Design is complete and approved by FDOT; the LAP Agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Feb. 23 and returned to FDOT for execution. The design team submitted the plans to the permitting agencies and is waiting for their responses.

Maintenance & Operations (March 9 – March 15)

A total of 48 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

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| Drainage line & grade: | 22,275 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 3,140 SF in Deep Creek 15,400 SF in Gulf Cove 5,215 SF in Harbour Heights |
| Small pipe install: | 72 LF in Greater Port Charlotte |
| Menzie ditch cutting: | 105,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater |
| Boom mower: | Cut 77,890 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 74,450 CY in Englewood East Cut 4,259 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 800 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban |
| Asphalt repair: | Utilized 5.23 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.

A Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was executed, whereby the County assumed the landscape maintenance of SR 776 from US41 to Cornelius Boulevard, in order to provide an elevated level of service in the vicinity of the Charlotte Sports Park.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (March 9 – March 15)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 8
- Landing rate counts taken: 0
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 7

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 6
- Sites inspected: 9
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is seeking residents interested in volunteering in upcoming events to register in its new volunteer management program. This module allows individuals or groups to register as potential volunteers for future sporting events, meetings/conferences or other types of activities taking place in Charlotte County. The registration module is user-friendly and allows registrants to select specific areas of interest and duties. As most people know, quality volunteers are a key component to the success of events which generate a positive economic impact and/or enhance the quality of life for a community. Examples of typical events that may require volunteers include the Snowbird Baseball Classic, the Charlotte Harbor Regatta, Englewood Beach Waterfest, and various other sports competitions, conferences, and events. Please consider serving your community as a volunteer while having a little fun. The volunteer registration site can be found at www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com/volunteer.