

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

Spring Training is winding down here at the Charlotte Sports Park. On March 25th we had the Minnesota Twins visit the Stadium and 4563 fans enjoyed the game. We had a game on Easter Sunday against the Toronto Blue Jays and had 4794 fans in attendance. Yesterday March 30th the Boston Red Sox brought their team along with 3549 fans. We have our final Home Game for the 2016 Spring Training Season against the Pittsburgh Pirates. All together we have seen 56,053 fans visit our complex for the 2016 Spring Training Season. Go Rays!

Tringali Recreation

Tringali Park finished hosting the 16th annual "Fit for Life" Senior Games this past Sunday, it was open to amateur athletes 50 years of age and over, with 11 different sports available for participation at multiple recreation facilities and private venues throughout the county. There was an estimate of 635 registered for the games and registration was opened about a month earlier than previous years. Positive feedback was given from participants for overall organization and staff efforts. Results for events can be found on the following link in the weeks to come: <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices/SeniorGames/>.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

This past week was an exciting one at Harold Avenue Recreation Center where Harold Avenue Staff was in charge of hosting the 52nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at North Charlotte Regional Park. Multiple vendors, such as Haven Dance, You Fit, Modern Woodmen of America, Sunny Days Ice Cream, One Blood, Bisque It Studio, Staywell, Charlotte County Fire/EMS, Charlotte County Sheriff's Department, Florida Poison Information Center, All Children's Hospital, Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Club, Southwest Florida Counseling Center and Chick-Fil-A came out to support. There was a variety of activities, games, contests, and raffles and barely no one walked away without some kind of prize or craft. Kids from 0-10 years old collected 25,000 eggs over the four hunts that were held for the different age groups. Many compliments were given by patrons and later shown in participant surveys how enjoyable the event was overall.

Registration for summer camp has increased quite a bit over the past week with many newcomers. Last week marked the end of the Harold Pickleball Leagues for a while as many people are heading back up North. The A&D girls' basketball league is coming along strong for it being their first season.

South County Regional Park and Pool

- Water Aerobics has had 223 participants
- Pass holders visited the pool 664 times
- 1230 visitors paid admissions.
- Learn to Swim Spring 1st session concluded with parent and child class of 3 children with parent and 5 Preschool Aquatics with 1 child.
- We start session two today with a Preschool 1 and 2 class running this session.
- Charlotte County Blue Fins Swim Team held 34 regular and an additional 4 for the spring break week resulted in 1520 "splashes"
- Staff spent 60 hours on maintenance
- Staff spent 76 hours on in-service training.
- Spring Break camp saw 240 swimmers
- Blue Fins helped us host the Senior Games on March 14 where 15 athletes competed in 14 events
- Registrations for Summer Camp Swim slots have filled with little availability left to date.

- Work continues on the Whale tales program being provided to kindergarten classes throughout the county, currently working with the drowning coalition and Sally Jones school to bring the program to the kindergarten class in May or June of this year.
- Class times and schedule has been confirmed for the grade 2 swim initiative we will be hosting area grade two students from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily for 3 weeks in May.
- With daylight saving time change coming into effect we have moved pool operational time back to 6:00pm on weekends.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation

We had our usual square dancing group 'Promenaders' on 3/24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. with 50 people in attendance. On Sat. 3/26 was a big 'sweet 15' birthday party from 2-6 p.m. with about 60 guests.

Mon. 3/28 and Wed. 3/30 was the usual popular Tai-Chi class from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of March 23 through March 30 Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 422 paid admissions, was visited by 103 pass holders and had 111 water aerobics participants.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for March 28th – "From pineapple tops come pineapples"
- FNP Program Assistant Interviews – March 28th
- South Central Monthly CED Conference Call – 1 pm – March 28th
- 2016 MG Training Class – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm - March 29th – "Home Turf" – Me
- FNP Program Assistant Interviews – March 29th
- Maria Manor Site Visit – 2:30 pm – Pothos Vine Issue
- Managers Meeting - MCRL - Administration Conference Room – 3:15 pm
- Call Charlotte Simmons and Amy Holton – Mini-Grant and Training – March 30th – 10:30 am
- Extension Staff Meeting – 3 pm – March 31st
- 2016 MG Training Class – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm - April 1st – "Why Landscapes Fail" – Donna Worthley

Natural Resources

This week the surveys at Prairie Creek Preserve (east side) were completed. This survey is conducted annually and is now part of the compliance with the Habitat Conservation Plan agreement with US Fish and Wildlife. In 2007-2008 a contracted survey indicated the number of Scrub Jays on Prairie Creek Preserve to be 24. Since that time the number of birds has increased and currently we have an estimated 36-41 individual Scrub Jays on the preserve.

In addition to the survey staff received notice the portion of the Blue Ways Trail system (phase 2) will be permitted and pilings and signage will be installed. The Blue Ways Trail system is a state wide network of scenic waterways. The permitting and signage of this project will provide connectivity to other areas of scenic beauty for recreational kayak and canoe use.

Parks

Supported two events, Ribbon cutting of the Burnt Store Road Water Treatment Plant and the Easter Egg Hunt at NCRP.

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 – 10/1/2016.

The intersection of Ingraham Boulevard East at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) is now open to traffic.

Crews will be working at the intersection of SR 776 at CR 771 this week installing new drainage structures.

Crews are building multiple roadway sections north and south of the Bridge and concrete crews are installing sidewalks and curbing in multiple sections of the project. Bridge Construction crews are working on the western section of the new Bridge over the Butterford Waterway.

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 29, 2016) – *To facilitate additional utility repairs, Lauzon Avenue will remain closed indefinitely to through traffic east of Abhenry Circle to Sheeley Street.*

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.

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 installing concrete pipe from the roadway to pond sites in multiple locations.

Beginning the week of March 28 - crews will concentrate on the new 48" gravity sewer system between Kings Highway and Achilles Street.

Midway Boulevard remains closed to through traffic from Achilles Street to Kings Highway.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Advisory Board requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive. Construction Contract: Bonness, Inc., Construction Schedule: 11/9/2015 – April 2016

Construction began on Ingraham Boulevard, near CR 771 and continues into the development.

One Day Closures Scheduled:

- Ingraham/Calumet Boulevard intersection will be closed on Tuesday, March 29
- Calumet/San Domingo Boulevard intersection will be closed on Wednesday, March 30.

These intersection closures are necessary as work progresses towards the completion of sidewalks, crosswalks and curbing in the South Gulf Cove subdivision.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (March 28 , 2016) – *The Ingraham/Calumet Boulevard intersection will be closed on Tuesday, March 29 and the Calumet/San Domingo Boulevard intersection will be closed on Wednesday, March 30. These intersection closures are necessary as work progresses towards the completion of sidewalks, crosswalks and curbing in the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Detours will be posted and traffic signs, message boards, and flaggers will be on-site as needed to direct traffic.*

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. Construction Contract: Valley Crest Landscape and Maintenance, Construction schedule: 3/29 - 5/12/16

The Board of County Commissioners awarded the construction contact to Valley Crest Landscape Maintenance on March 22. The pre-commencement meeting was held March 23 at which time the intended start date of Tuesday, March 29 was established.

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.

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, Construction schedule: 3/29/2016 – 6/7/2017.

To keep residents and visitors informed about this project, a new website, www.TomAdamsBridge.com, has been created. The website contains project status updates, traffic advisories, artist renderings of the project, frequently asked questions and a registration form to sign up for email alerts throughout the duration of the project. For information about the Tom Adams Bridge project, call 941-249-9667 or email advisory@tomadamsbridge.com.

Quinn Construction began foundation work for the new Tenderhouse on March 29; pile driving is the first activity the Contractor has scheduled.

Intermittent lane closures are expected for the delivery of materials. Motorist need to be alert and follow flaggers' instructions to keep traffic moving.

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

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: TBD (Funding for construction has not been allocated.)

The first Public Meeting to unveil design proposal options was held Oct. 7, 2015 and citizens provided input on the design options. These design options were presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Nov. 24, 2015.

30% plans have been received and reviewed by both County and FDOT staff, and have been returned to Johnson Engineering to make adjustments and continue with the development of the 60% design plans which are due in August.

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

Sidewalks - Harbour Heights – This project consists of constructing approximately 2.75 miles of 5' wide sidewalks within the Harbour Heights MSBU District. Sidewalks are proposed along the following six (6) roadways: Sunnybrook Road (from triangle at Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Peace River Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. to San Marino Dr.), San Marino Drive (from Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Broadpoint Drive (from Voyageur Dr. to Washington St.), Sulstone Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. south to end), Voyageur Drive (from Broadpoint Dr. to end). Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting (Public Works Engineering): 6/27/14 – May 2015, Procurement: Early 2016, Construction: TBD

Contract documents are complete and have been submitted to the Purchasing Department for review and bid advertisement. Temporary rights of entry have been acquired for 13 driveways that need work completed outside of the right-of-way limits.

Coastal Projects

Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging – This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system. Project area includes: Balboa, DeSoto, Dover, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, San Salvador, and San Marino canals and associated channels within the Peace River. Brush cutting, for line of

sight/navigation, was added to the contract. Design Contract: Stantec, Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/17/2013 – March 2016, Procurement Process: March – May 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

Due to delays in permitting, a significant amount of time has elapsed since the initial survey was conducted therefore another survey was needed to verify quantities and revise the bid specifications. Brush cutting, to aid line-of-sight navigation, will be added to the scope of this project.

This project is currently advertised for competitive bid. The pre-bid conference is scheduled April 13 with bid opening April 27.

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: March 2015 – Early 2016, Procurement Process: March – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016

Bid documents have been submitted to the Purchasing Department for review and advertisement.

Maintenance & Operations (March 23 – March 29)

A total of 69 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	19,200 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 19,700 SF in Gulf Cove 9,120 SF in Harbour Heights 3,670 SF in Deep Creek
Small pipe install:	8 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 88 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Menzie ditch cutting:	160,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 15 culverts in Gulf Cove Cleaned 1 culvert in Grove City Cleaned 64 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 2 culverts in Deep Creek Cleaned 4 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Boom mower:	Cut 13,556 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 1,294 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 27,785 CY in Grove City Cut 2,800 CY Rotonda Heights Cut 16,665 CY in Rotonda Lakes Cut 3,353 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 6,620 CY in Rotonda West Cut 8,840 CY in Tropical Gulf Acres
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 6.09 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.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (March 23 – March 29)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 675
- Landing rate counts taken: 1
- Traps set: 1
- Service requests: 7

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 7
- Sites inspected: 3
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

In order to attract more association groups to hold their meetings in Charlotte County, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau recently hired Susan Tobin to work the Florida association meetings market. She has more than a decade in event management experience and is a Certified Meeting Professional and Certified Association Executive, both of which are distinguished accreditations in the association meetings industry.