

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

The Sarasota County Building Department has graciously agreed to help out with building inspections through our mutual interlocal agreement until such time that we are properly staffed. This letter is to provide notice that you may periodically see a Sarasota County inspector and truck at your job sites doing inspections for the next 4-6 weeks. We are asking the contractors to please provide this information to your homeowners and customers to avoid any questions in performing the inspections.

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

We had our final Spring Training game of the 2016 season on Thursday March 31. The Charlotte Sports Park saw 3,717 fans as the Rays took on the Pittsburgh Pirates. There are still Minor League games being played in our practice fields as well as preparation for the Charlotte Stone Crabs home opener on Saturday April 9th at 6:05 P.M. Our team is working diligently on recapping the Spring Training season to ensure that next year's Spring Training Season is bigger and better! We wish our friends from the Tampa Bay Rays good luck on their upcoming season!

### Tringali Recreation

This past week at Tringali Park has been as lively as ever. Over the weekend we participated in April Pools Day at the Oyster Creek Pool. Speaking of water, much of this week has also been devoted to preparing for our Big Surf XVIII Youth Fishing Tournament which takes place this Saturday, April 9th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Staff has been hard at work collecting sponsors for bait, food, and goodies for our goodie bags. Big Surf XVIII will take place at scenic Englewood Beach, and is free for ages 3 to 13. So come on out and enjoy a beautiful morning in paradise with the Tringali Crew.

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue is starting April off strong with sign-ups for various activities taking place. First, summer camp sign-ups for the Harold Avenue location has spots filling up quickly. Sign-ups for our summer season of the youth basketball league is in full swing with a lot of new interest via walk-in or phone call and returning players from other seasons. Tennis league sign-ups have been handed in by the bundles within the past week to get ready for the next season already. Our second card reader to be used in conjunction with our new Active system also was installed allowing for two desks to be utilized for sign ups, check-ins and other sales which should greatly improve customer service.

### Port Charlotte Beach Pak Pool

For the week of March 30 through April 5, Port Charlotte Beach Pak Pool had 427 paid admissions, was visited by 103 pass holders and had 45 water aerobics participants.

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for April 4 – "The little sunflower that could - the beach sunflower"
- 2016 MG Training Class - "Palms" - Donna Worthley – April 4
- County Strategic Plan Meeting - Extension Version – April 6
- 2016 MG Training Class - "Florida Friendly Landscaping" - Tom Becker – April 7
- Invertebrates - Uplands class – FMNP - Ralph Mitchell – April 8

## **Natural Resources**

This week staff continued surveys of Scrub Jays on county property. The Amberjack Environmental Park was surveyed with some help from volunteer Glen Mclean. While no Scrub Jays were sighted this year many other bird species were identified and documented. These annual surveys are part of the grant award monitoring as well as HCP agreement.

In addition to listed species surveys staff continued the work on the updated trail system. Many of the county properties do not have established trail maps and others have established trail maps but need to be updated. This project is an effort to streamline the trail system and minimize some confusion for our guests.

Staff also worked an employee appreciation event at Icehouse Brewery. This event was organized by the employee appreciation committee and by all reports a huge success.

The environmental fencing proposed to be installed at Englewood Beach was approved by the Manasota Key Advisory Board and all Gopher Tortoise burrows within 25 feet of the fence have been identified, flagged and GPS by Natural Resources staff. We are currently waiting on the fence permit to be issued by the Building Construction Services Department. Natural Resources staff will be present on site to ensure that no tortoise burrows will be disturbed during the placement of the fence.

The Piper Road expansion Gopher Tortoise survey was completed by Natural Resources staff. A total of 17 potentially occupied burrows were identified although preliminary plans indicate not all 17 will need to be relocated as they are over 25 feet away from the disturbance area. Staff will update the tortoise survey and apply for a relocation permit through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) once the date to commence construction has been identified by the Public Works Department.

## **Parks**

- Installed dedicated bench at Anger Fishing Pier
- Installed bollards at Harold Ave. Park for traffic control
- Pulled tree stumps and removed debris at Bissett Park
- Installed new basketball nets at G.C. Herring park
- Installed new picnic tables at Allapatchee Shores Park
- Supported the Harbour Heights ½ Marathon & 5K race
- Supported the Lucky Duck Race at Kiwanis

## **Human Services**

The Family Services Manager and Civil Citation Coordinator attended a facilitator training in Tallahassee for the "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" program. This model program has been successfully implemented throughout the country and has helped over 50,000 people in poverty take charge of the lives, get support from their community, and create resources for themselves and their families. Staff has already begun meeting with community partner agencies to piggy back and coordinate other self-sufficiency initiatives such as the Bridges Out of Poverty training model.

Charlotte County Human Services has begun taking applications for the 2016 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which started April 1, 2016. This federally funded grant of \$373,601. Is expected to assist approximately 987 low-income households with their home energy bills over the next year. There is no county match requirement for this program and households must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines. Family Services staff also met with the FPL Consumer Services Manager to discuss LIHEAP and the Care to Share programs.

## Public Works

### **Engineering Construction Projects** (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

**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](http://www.GoEP2.com)**

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (March 29, 2016) – *To facilitate additional utility repairs, Lauzon Avenue will remain closed east of Abhenry Circle to Sheeley Street until further notice.*

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:**

- Storm sewer and gravity sewer are complete. Lighting and yard drains are in progress.
- Curb, sidewalk, driveways and paving (except wearing surface) are nearly complete on the north side roadway from Midway to the West Spring Lake Bridge, including Lakeview Blvd and the new roundabout.
- Curb, sidewalk and paving (except wearing surface) are nearly complete on the south side roadway from Sheeley Street to the West Spring Lake Bridge.
- Temporary roadway on the south side has been removed and new roadway base is in progress.
- The new sewer lift station at Altoona is nearing completion.
- Bridge handrails are in progress on West Spring Lake Bridge.

#### **West Spring Lake Bridge to East Spring Lake Bridge:**

- Storm sewer and re-use main are nearly complete.
- Roadway base is in progress for the West Tarpon roundabout.
- Bridge piling and retaining wall is complete on the west end of the East Spring Lake Bridge. Piling and deck construction are underway.

#### **East Spring Lake Bridge to Sunrise Bridge:**

- Storm sewer and re-use main are nearly complete.
- Sunrise Bridge construction is scheduled to begin in early spring.

#### **Sunrise Bridge to Harbour Boulevard:**

- Force main and gravity sewer are both complete under the Harbor Boulevard intersection.
- Gravity sewer construction resumes the first week of April from Harbor Blvd to the Sunrise Bridge.

**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.

**Hardey Street to Amstead Street:** Construction Crews A & B have completed the primary drainage system in this area.

**Willoughby Street to Maracaibo Street:** Construction crews have completed the primary drainage system in this area.

**Shilo Street to Loveland Boulevard:** Construction Crew "A" completed the primary drainage system to Loveland Blvd. and is preparing to begin the installation of the 48" sanitary sewer green pipe starting at Loveland Blvd. Construction Crew "B" completed the primary drainage system to Shilo Street.

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 is almost complete. The contractor is placing sod along the pathway as well as landscaping. The concrete crews will be back on site the week of April 11 to finish up the last sections.

### **Engineering Projects in Design or Negotiation**

**Olean Boulevard Widening - Design Phase 1** – The purpose of Design Phase 1 is to solicit input from the community and various stakeholders to develop alternatives for improvements to Olean Boulevard, from US 41 to Harbor Boulevard, and to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Design Contract: Florida Transportation Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/5/2015 – TBD

A Public Meeting is scheduled Thursday, April 14 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952. Florida Transportation Engineering will be presenting four (4) alternatives to improve Olean Boulevard. Public input is requested at this meeting before a recommendation is made to the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Engineering Drainage Projects in Design or Negotiation**

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Quasar FOR 4.60** – This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. The new structure will replace two 60" reinforced concrete pipes and a 50' weir with one 8'x10' box culvert and a 6' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/01/2013 – 10/01/2014, Procurement Process: 1/20/2016 – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016.

Bid opening was held March 30. The construction contract is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners for award on April 26.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Quasar NIA 5.09** – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar

Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. The new structure will replace two 48" metal pipes and a 44' weir with two 48" concrete pipes and a 20' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2013 – 9/1/2014, Procurement Process: Jan – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016

Bid opening was held March 30. The construction contract is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners for award on April 26.

### **Landscaping Projects - In Construction**

**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

Work within the median is scheduled to begin Monday, April 11. Inside lane closures are expected as work progresses.

The Contractor is working in the shoulders marking plant and materials locations, trenching for irrigation; removing sod and preparing plant beds.

### **Landscaping Projects – In Design or Negotiation**

**Toledo Blade Boulevard Gateway and Thoroughfare Landscaping** – This project was designed by David M. Jones & Associates and is now in the Purchasing Department undergoing review prior to advertising the construction contract for bids.

**Midway Boulevard Medians Landscaping** – This project was designed by David M. Jones & Associates and is now in the Purchasing Department undergoing review prior to advertising the construction contract for bids.

**US 41 Microtunnel Landscaping** – This project was designed by David M. Jones & Associates and is now in the Purchasing Department undergoing review prior to advertising the construction contract for bids.

**Winchester Boulevard Medians and Buffer Landscape** – Charlotte Engineering & Surveying is working on the 30% design plans which are due May 15.

**Jones Loop/I-75 Gateway** – County staff is currently in negotiations with Johnson Engineering to determine the scope of services and fees for planning and design.

**King's Highway/I-75 Gateway** – David M. Jones & Associates is working on the design. The Landscape and Irrigation permit has been received but the Community Aesthetic Feature permit application is under review by FDOT. Construction is pending completion of the FDOT I-75 widening project.

**US 17/I-75 Gateway** – County staff is currently in negotiations with Johnson Engineering to determine the scope of services for planning and design.

**Burnt Store Village Buffer** – Charlotte Engineering & Surveying designed this project. Bids for construction have been received and opened. One the bids have been tabulated, a recommendation will be made to award the construction contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.

### **Lighting District Projects – Update for Month of March**

#### **Charlotte County CIP Projects**

- Edgewater Phase II - Installation of roadway lighting conduit and pole bases is underway.

- Burnt Store Road Phase III - All poles on the West side of the road have been installed and are operational. Contractor to be addressing punch list items soon.
- Rotonda Bridge Lighting - All light poles have been installed. Waiting for FPL to energize the systems.

### **Lighting District Projects**

- Responded to complaint - school flashing beacon was not operational on Placida Road at Lemon Bay High School and on McKenzie St. westbound. At both locations a battery was found to be bad and required replacement.
- Installed replacement LED traffic signal displays furnished by FDOT. The replacement displays were installed on US 41 at Murdock Circle and SR 776/Veterans.
- Installed replacement LED traffic signal displays for County signalized intersections on Midway at Lakeview Boulevard and Kings Highway at Harborview Road.
- Upgraded video detection processor firmware on US 17 at Bermont Road, Marion Avenue at Nesbit Street, Jones Loop Road at Taylor Road, Jones Loop Road at Indian Springs Cemetery, Taylor Road at Airport Road, Kings Highway at I-75 North Bound Ramps, Kings Highway at Rampart Boulevard and Olympia Avenue at Nesbit Street.
- Upgraded the cellular modem to 3G at eighteen (18) school zone warning beacons and restored communications to four (4) locations.
- Responded to a trouble call after normal business hours for a light pole struck during a vehicle accident on SR 776 at Oceanspray Blvd. Crew replaced the transformer base.
- Responded to a trouble call after normal business hours for a pedestrian pole destroyed during a motor vehicle accident on Olympia Ave. at Nesbit St. A crew secured the area then returned on a later date to make permanent repairs.
- Responded to a trouble call after normal business hours for street light pole destroyed during a motor vehicle accident on Kings Highway, two poles north of Elmira Blvd. A crew secured the area and a replacement pole will be installed on a later date.
- Responded to a trouble call after normal business hours for a stop sign warning beacon destroyed during a motor vehicle accident on Marion Ave. at Maude St. A crew secured the area then returned on a later date to replace the warning beacon pole.
- Replaced one street light pole on Veterans Blvd., closest to Lake of Tuscan Apartments after it was knocked down as a result of a motor vehicle accident in January 2016.
- Up-righted, leveled, and plumbed one pedestrian signal pole on Kings Highway at Village Drive/Tiseo Drive. The pole appeared to have been struck by a motor vehicle.
- Assembled and wired together all components for two roadway lighting load centers to be used on the Edgewater Drive widening project.
- Due to increased failures and ever increasing maintenance costs, replaced two incident management cameras within the City of Punta Gorda. New cameras were installed on US 41 southbound at Marion Ave. and at the south foot of the Barron Collier Bridge.
- On Feb. 24, a tornado struck the Deep Creek area of Charlotte County. Damaged during this event was the traffic signal on Rampart Blvd. at Luther Rd. The signal controller cabinet was pulled and twisted from its foundation. A crew installed a new signal controller cabinet. All of the electronic components were re-useable and transferred into the new cabinet.
- Investigated complaints of numerous roadway lights not working on SR 776 in the area of San Casa Blvd. Crew discovered a total of 14 lights were not operational. Two (2) circuit breakers were tripped and two light poles required repairs.
- Installed a "Right Turn on Red After Stop" sign on Beach Rd. at SR 776.
- Completed traffic signal preventative maintenance at the following locations: Midway Boulevard at Lakeview Boulevard, Kings Highway at Harborview Road
- Monitored the relocation of decorative street lighting conduit along Rio Togas Rd. as a result of the sidewalk project.

- Attended weekly progress meetings and participated in underground signal conduit inspections for the US 41 widening project.

**Traffic Management Center**

- Installation of new traffic signal timings on US 41 from Airport Rd. to Burnt Store Rd.
- Fine tuning new signal timings for Kings Highway from Sandhill Blvd. to Village Dr.
- Fine tuning traffic signal coordination timings for Jones Loop Rd. from I-75 to Indian Springs Cemetery Rd.
- Monitoring spring training traffic flows and adjusting signal timings as needed.
- Continue migrating new software for Incident Management Cameras to server for use within TMC.
- Continue monitoring of US 41 traffic signals due to Edgewater Rd. closure.
- Continue efforts promoting the TMC’s Twitter account for traffic incidents. Over 220 followers and increasing.

**Locates Performed**

- 374 Requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 118 tickets for locates.
- Trouble Calls
- 10 trouble calls received responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

**Maintenance & Operations Division** (March 30 – April 5, 2016)

A total of 51 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, shoulder repair, guardrail repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	25,850 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 8,700 SF in Gulf Cove 3,300 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 3,600 SF in Road & Bridge South 11,750 SF in Burnt Store Village
Menzie ditch cutting:	80,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 40,000 SF in Gulf Cove
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 3 culverts in Road & Bridge North Cleaned 1 culvert in Lemon Bay Cleaned 44 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
Boom mower:	Cut 58,816 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 32,360 CY in Rotonda Lakes Cut 3,332 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Debris removal:	Removed 10,200 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.61 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

- Specialty Mowing has begun for the month of April in all areas and there will be two cycles for all locations.
- The Power Shearing Contractor has been working in Greater Port Charlotte and will be mobilizing back to Englewood East this week.
- Charlotte Ranchettes road grading is approximately 60% complete.
- ROW mowing for the month of March in South Gulf Cove has been completed and is now working in Greater Port Charlotte for the month of April.

## Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control Division (March 30 – April 5, 2016)

### Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 1,384
- Landing rate counts taken: 2
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 6

### Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 38
- Sites inspected: 21
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

## Traffic Signing & Marking (March Totals)

- Herbicide: 1,099 items sprayed
- New Signs Installed: 24
- Legends Installed: 539
- Marine Signs Replaced: 87
- RPM's Installed: 236
- Signs Inspected: 3,844
- Sign Maintenance: 862
- Signs Manufactured: 208
- Striping: 225,888 feet (42.78 miles)
- Traffic Counts: 40 stations (37 traffic counts and 3 approach counts)
- Trouble Calls (after hours): 6

## Solid Waste Division

Solid Waste Division staff attended the Heritage Oaks annual community event held for their residents on March 2. Keep Charlotte Beautiful and Solid Waste staff informed the residents of all the curbside services available to them as well as the litter campaign. Keep Charlotte Beautiful gave out reusable car litter bags in exchange for the residents' commitment to "Drive It Home and Keep Our Paradise Litter Free" campaign, 160 attendees took the pledge.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful and Solid Waste Division staff spent a morning with a kindergarten class at Peace River Elementary. The students, who are studying recycling, watched a Wartful Wizard. The movie is about a wizard in a small town and how he was able to make the litter stick to the person responsible for it. The class

then played a recycling relay game to practice what does and does not go in the recycling cart. KCB also left loaner books for the classroom to help with the recycling unit.

Solid Waste Division staff completed the annual Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recycling report for Charlotte County. The State mandate is for 60% recycling for communities with a population of over 100,000 by the end of calendar year 2016 was met at the end of 2015, a full year ahead of the mandate. The increase was achieved by the educational campaign for our residents and businesses as well as an in-depth analysis of the recycling materials originating from Charlotte County and insuring that the County was getting credit for them.

The Solid Waste Division, in coordination with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department inmate work program, conducted a cleanup of trash at the intersection of State Road 31 and Bermont Road. The intersection is frequented by truckers that use it as a rest area and unfortunately many take the liberty of dumping their trash including urine bottles at the intersection. One thousand and nine hundred pounds (1,900) of garbage was collected by the inmates and Solid Waste Division staff.

## **Tourism**

Weekly, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau compiles and distributes a popular calendar of events listing called "This Week's Happenings." It lists various events happening throughout Charlotte County and includes information on festivals, dances, sporting events, stage performances, guided outdoor adventures, art and craft events, lectures, live music and more, including "boomerang events" which give visitors reasons to return. The comprehensive events calendar is distributed to area accommodations, chambers of commerce, businesses, visitors and residents.

The VCB also hosts "Show Us Your Charlotte," a program encouraging photographers of every skill level to submit photos taken in Charlotte County to [www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com](http://www.ShowUsYourCharlotte.com). Each quarter, the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council selects winning photographs based upon the quality of submissions and how well they represent and communicate Charlotte County's tourism offerings. Prizes awarded are gift certificates for restaurants and attractions worth up to \$200.

In order to promote "This Week's Happenings" and "Show Us Your Charlotte," the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau has produced a business card-sized informational card. These cards will be distributed to accommodations, restaurants, attractions, chambers of commerce and other tourism-related businesses throughout Charlotte County so visitors and residents can learn more about these offerings. The cards are also available at the Charlotte Harbor VCB office (18500 Murdock Circle, Suite B-104).