

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Single family permits showed a 21% increase for the month of March over March 2015.

Single family permits showed a 36% increase YTD over 2015.

On Monday, Maryann Franks (Permitting & Licensing Supervisor) presented information to Goodwill Industries regarding Home Occupations (Minor), BTR, CNC and information on starting up a business at a commercial location. Pamphlets & applications were provided.

Community Services

Tringali Recreation Center

During our annual week long closure our staff partook in multiple cleaning and organizing opportunities, while also setting aside time to do some much needed training. The time was much needed as just over the horizon is the beginning of our summertime programs. We are certainly looking forward to the opening day of our Youth Basketball League, which is still open for registration ages 4 to 17. We are also still actively pursuing coaches as well. Staff is also hard at work preparing for the next instalment in our Super Mini Series, Golf, while also preparing to add a new activity to it in Music and Dance Camp. As always I hope you enjoy another beautiful day in paradise, and don't forget to stop in and see your friends here at Tringali Recreation Center, where there's always something new and exciting going on.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 4/20 through 4/26, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 384 paid admissions, was visited by 103 pass holders and had 68 water aerobics participants.

Extension Services

- Home and Garden Show - Event Center - MG Display on Tree Planting – April 23rd and 24th
- Newspaper Article for April 25 – “Blooming in a neighborhood near you!”
- Meeting with Lacy and Damaris - Garden Program – April 25
- CED Meeting – April 25
- 4-H Leader Appreciation – April 25
- 2016 MG Training Class - “Nematology” - Dr. Billy Crow, UF/IFAS – April 26
- Limited commercial landscape maintenance pesticide license – April 27
- 2016 MG Training Class - “Tropical Fruits” - Dr. Jonathan Crane, Tropical Research and Education Center – 9April 29
- Arbor Day - Tree planting demo, free tree giveaway, plant vendors and “Tropical Fruits” by Dr. Jonathan Crane, Tropical Research and Education Center – April 29 to April 30

Natural Resources

This week staff participated in the annual Vineland Elementary Earth Day celebration. In what has become an annual event staff utilized our special Gopher Tortoise camera to raise awareness regarding the Gopher Tortoise and environmental protection. Staff conducted several educational sessions with approximately 80 students total. Students were excited to see the tortoise in the burrow and full of questions regarding the tortoise. These opportunities are enjoyed by staff almost as much as the children as this is an opportunity to raise awareness among tomorrow's future leaders.

Staff members, Kevin Howard and Matt Bondi, submitted applications to become full Gopher Tortoise agents as a portion of their continuing education. As agents staff will benefit the county as qualified professionals certified to conduct Gopher Tortoise surveys and eventually, when necessary, relocations in proposed development areas.

In addition to these and other actions staff also managed to treat approximately 20 acres of exotic flora species, mainly cogon grass. The treatment and control of exotic species within our native landscape is a necessary component of land management and resource protection. Many of our native wildlife species rely on native plants for food and as exotic flora outcompete our natives the food source is decreased and often the exotic plants provide little or no food value in place of the native species.

- Ten new and exciting obstacles have been purchased for the Annual Tippecanoe Mud Run
- Wilsons and Snowy Plovers were observed in the beginning stages of courting on Gasparilla Island North (Boca Grande)
- Sea Turtle nesting season officially starts May 1st



Human Services

Our Senior Services Division was notified that we would receive approximately \$10,000 in additional State grant funds for the Home Care for the Elderly and Community Care for the Elderly Programs in the grant cycle ending June 30. These funds will provide home care services for the frail elderly in our community. The new grant cycle begins July 1, 2016.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity/Division of Community Development conducted a 4-day site monitoring visit to review client and fiscal files and the Department's administrative operations of the grant-funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. During the exit interview, the monitor indicated that in her preliminary findings there were no findings requiring corrective action. She also complimented both Human Services and Fiscal Division staff for their courtesy and cooperation. The written report is expected by the end of May.

Public Works

Engineering Division 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.

Crews are working at the intersection of SR 776 / CR 771 for the next couple of months installing new traffic signal mast arm foundations, new turn lanes and other miscellaneous items.

Crews are building multiple roadway sections north and south of the Bridge 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. New deck slabs have been installed and the new deck will be poured in the next week or two.

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.

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 between Achilles Street and Kings Highway.

- Crew #1 is currently installing the new 48" gravity sewer system near Maracaibo Street.
- Crew #2 is currently installing the stormwater drainage systems along the side streets entering Midway Boulevard
- Crew #3 continues to install well point dewatering systems along the sewer pipe installation.

Abscott Street to Bermuda Street: The primary drainage system has been installed in this area.

Hardey Street to Amstead Street: The primary drainage system has been installed in this area.

Willoughby Street to Maracaibo Street: The primary drainage system has been installed in this area.

Shilo Street to Loveland Boulevard: The primary drainage system has been installed in this area. Crews are now installing the 48" sanitary sewer green pipe starting at Loveland Boulevard heading west.

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

Rotonda West Bridge Lighting – The Rotonda West Street and Drainage MSBU Advisory Board requested the installation of decorative lighting to the five bridges over the Rotonda River. Bridge Locations: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive, Rebel Court. Wright Construction completed the installation of an electric power system to feed the decorative lighting planned under the first phase of this project. Construction Contract: Solo Electric, Construction Schedule: 10/12/2015 – Spring 2016

The installation of decorative lighting is complete. FPL is working on the connections at the Cape Haze Bridge.

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 contractor is expected to complete Rio Togas Road by April 29 and has begun construction on Vincent Avenue.

Sidewalks - Gulfstream Boulevard – This project will consist of an 8' sidewalk installed from an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard at Snow Drive continuing to Rosemont Drive. Design includes a connection to an existing sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting: 3/20/2011 – 6/25/2013, Procurement: through Sept. 8, 2015, Construction: to begin upon substantial completion of the South Gulf Cove Sidewalk project (Spring 2016).

The Board of County Commissioners awarded the construction contract to Bonness, Inc. on Oct. 13, 2015. A pre-construction meeting was held on Oct. 20, 2015 and a notice to proceed date of Nov. 9, 2015 was agreed

upon. This sidewalk is being constructed as part of a larger contract and construction will not start until the sidewalks in South Gulf Cove are substantially complete.

Construction crews will be on site and construction will begin the week of April 25, 2016.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (April 25, 2016) – *Sidewalk construction is scheduled to begin along Gulfstream Boulevard, from Snow Drive to Rosemont Drive, in Englewood East on Wednesday, April 27 which may cause intermittent, temporary lane closures affecting traffic patterns through July 2016. Traffic signs, message boards, and flaggers will be on-site as needed to direct traffic.*

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. Final punchlist items are in progress.

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

Trenching for irrigation is complete and main system components have been installed. Work within the median is anticipated to begin Monday, April 25. Inside lane closures are expected as work progresses.

Shoulder work is underway this week with roadside planting and placement of drip irrigation. Requests have been made to FP&L and CCU to provide utility services to the irrigation system.

Landscaping Projects – in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Midway Boulevard Median Landscaping – This project provides for median landscaping with irrigation along Midway Boulevard between Yancey Street and Harbor Boulevard. Landscape materials may include trees (Palm, Weeping Yaupon, Crepe Myrtle), shrubs (Silver Palmetto, Bluestem Palmetto, Fountain Grass), and groundcover (Purple Lantana). Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled April 26 with bid opening May 11. This 60 calendar day construction project has an estimated budget of \$53,000.

Toledo Blade Boulevard Median Landscaping – This project provides for median landscaping with irrigation along Toledo Blade Boulevard between US 41 and Hillsborough Boulevard. Landscape materials may include trees (Palm, Japanese Blueberry, Crepe Myrtle), shrubs (Saw Palmetto, Ixora, Fountain Grass), and groundcover (Coontie, Purple Lantana, Asian Jasmine, Starburst Pentas). Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled April 26 with bid opening May 11. This 60 calendar day construction project has an estimated budget of \$112,000.

US 41 Landscaping at Waterway Crossings (Microtunnel Locations) – This project provides for landscaping with irrigation along US 41 at the Elkcam, Fordham and Pompano Waterway drainage crossings. Landscape materials may include trees (Sand Live Oak, Sabal Palm, Slash Pine), shrubs (Saw Palmetto,

Fakahatchee and Cord Grass), and groundcover (Coontie, Leather Fern). Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates

This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled April 26 with bid opening May 11. This 60 calendar day construction project has an estimated budget of \$125,500.

Winchester Boulevard Median Landscaping and Buffer – Charlotte Engineering & Surveying is working on the 30% design plans which are due May 15. A public meeting will be held by CES with local stakeholders to present the 30 % design plans and solicit public input.

Maintenance & Operations Division (April 20 – April 26)

A total of 31 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	22,500 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 2,750 SF in South Gulf Cove 9,950 SF in Lemon Bay 21,530 SF in Burnt Store Village
Small pipe install:	52 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 120 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Menzie ditch cutting:	70,000 SF in Road & Bridge West
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 4 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte Cleaned 15 culverts in Lemon Bay Cleaned 66 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
Boom mower:	Cut 64,175 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 3,330 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 1,192 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 68,355 CY in Englewood East
Debris removal:	Removed 8,500 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 1 ton 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 Division (April 20 – April 26)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 0
- Landing rate counts taken: 2
- Traps set: 1
- Service requests: 14

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 18
- Sites inspected: 13
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

Visual assets in the form of photographs and videos are important in destination marketing because these days, more potential visitors make vacation decisions based on visually experiencing a destination. The week of April 27 – 29, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau conducted a photo shoot in order to capture professional images reflecting the area's brand. These professional images, coupled with images submitted through the "Show Us Your Charlotte" photography campaign, will be used in marketing Charlotte County as a tourism destination.