

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Stone Crabs started a 9-game home game series here at the Charlotte Sports Park on Wednesday, May 11. They went 1-1 with the Palm Beach Cardinals. Friday, May 13 they held a double header to make up for a game that was rained out. Unfortunately, the Stone Crabs lost both those games to the Jupiter Hammerheads. Saturday, May the 14 was Breast Cancer Awareness night where the team wore special PINK jerseys that were later auctioned off, the Stone Crabs came away with a victory that night followed by some fireworks! That would be the only victory for the Stone Crabs in their series with the Hammerheads falling on Sunday, May 15. There is an ongoing series currently with the Daytona Tortugas, which the Stone Crabs are 0-2. Games are scheduled for May 18 and 19. GO STONE CRABS!

On Sunday, May 15, the Charlotte Sports Park also hosted Prostyle Baseball. 4 practice fields were utilized for the tournament and 420 fans came out to enjoy some baseball!

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue Recreation Center wrapped up their youth basketball league signups this past Tuesday, but are still taking on late registrations in some age divisions. There was such a great turn out that the age divisions filled up to the point a waitlist had to be created. Next week starts the official practices for the summer youth basketball league, with rosters being developed and sent out to coaches this week! A&D Girls' basketball finished their season with their playoffs this past Saturday. Summer camp is right around the corner and we are hustling to make final preparations for the start. Currently the first session for our Discovery Camp is full and a few spots are still open in our Explorer Camp.

### Tringali Recreation Center

What another fantastic beautiful week here at Tringali Recreation Center. This week staff continued in their efforts to add new children and coaches for our upcoming coed youth basketball league. Registration is still open and will conclude on May 27th so get in those last minute registrations in if you're planning on being evaluated and drafted that week. This week we also expanded our Pickleball to include not only advanced and intermediate play time, but also to include classes available to beginners in the area. Finally two of our staff members attended the lunch periods at L.A. Ainger Middle School this week and spoke with the youth to gain an insight on many new potential programs. We look forward to all the new ideas and new faces yet to come in the coming weeks, and we welcome any new suggestions on activities that might help us better serve the community. As always the Tringali team wishes you another spectacular week here in paradise, and we hope the horizon stays sunny and warm for all.

### Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 5/11 through 5/17/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 170 paid admissions, was visited by 47 pass holders and had 38 water aerobics participants.

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for May 16 – "Wow-watermelons!"
- 2016 MG Training Class - Plant Propagation - Dr. Roy Beckford – May 16
- Parade of Plants (Master Gardener Trainee Presentations) – May 16
- Travel to Gainesville for GI-BMP In-Service – May 17
- GI-BMP In-Service - Gainesville – May 18
- 2016 MG Training Class - Wildlife Management & Invasive Wildlife - Ralph Mitchell – May 20

## Natural Resources

- Currently we have the following shorebird nests:

Boca Grande:                2 Snowy Plover nests  
                                      20 or more Least Tern nests  
                                      4 Black Skimmer nests  
                                      1 Wilson's plover nest

We also had our 1<sup>st</sup> four sea turtle nests of the season on Boca Grande as well!

Stump Pass State Park: 29 Least Tern nests

Palm Island:                20 Least terns' nests  
                                      Potentially 1 Wilson's plover nest  
                                      Black Skimmers are also starting to nest in our shorebird mitigation site which was created for our federal FDEP permit for the stump pass erosion project.

- Sea Turtles are finally nesting on Charlotte county beaches, no exact nest numbers at this time. We have also had our 1<sup>st</sup> four sea turtle nests of the season on Boca Grande as well.
- We had 3 Natural Resources coastal staff members attend the Annual FWC Sea Turtle Stranding Training on 5/10/16 in Naples. This is available for individuals who are on the FWC list-serve and approved to respond to stranding's.

This week staff attended a training session conducted by FWC. As bear populations rise more interactions between citizens and bear will occur. While Charlotte County has few bears the Big Cypress region has a robust population and numbers are on the rise. In the east part of the county several sightings have been documented and there is strong evidence of predation of penned livestock. It is important at this time we provide information to the public regarding the behavior of black bears and how to avoid encounters with bears.

Staff also transported the final materials recently purchased for the annual trail race. Jamie Scudera recently found an opportunity to purchase some well-designed and already constructed obstacles for just over the cost of materials.

Another staff member, Matt Bondi, recently completed the permitting process and has received agent certification for gopher tortoise activities including survey, hand shovel excavation and bucket trapping as well as marking and transportation. This is a useful certification and will save the county on costs of some development projects.

## Parks

- The Higgs Park playground was treated for ants, based on a customer complaint.
- A dead palm was removed from the water at Ainger Boat ramp.
- The fence around the Carmalita Horse Arena was removed in advance of new clay.
- A "sidewalk ends" sign was installed at Port Charlotte Beach to alert cyclists.
- Two finger piers at Harbour Heights, deemed unsafe, were closed off.
- A new park sign was installed at Clark Park.

## Human Services

Senior Services staff co-hosted Communities for a Lifetime's (CFL) 3rd Annual Tech Boot Camp at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School. Approximately 30 attendees were paired with 5th graders to learn how to use technology i.e. cell phones, tablets, readers, and laptop computers. CFL plans to continue to sponsor this annually for interested seniors in our community.

Department staff co-hosted and participated in the second Harry Chapin Mobile Food Pantry Distribution at the Family Services Center. Over 180 families received fresh, nutritious food in two hours. A licensed navigator for the Affordable Care Act was also on hand to help people waiting in the line for the food distribution secure health care coverage through the Health Care Marketplace or provide assistance with Medicare premiums and prescription drug coverage.

## Public Works

**Engineering Division 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):

- **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 Waterway Bridge pile driving is underway.
- **Sunrise Waterway Bridge to Harbour Boulevard:**
  - Force main and gravity sewer are both complete under the Harbor Boulevard intersection.
  - Gravity sewer construction is underway from Harbor Blvd. to the Sunrise Bridge.

**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.

**Excerpts from [www.TomAdamsBridge.com](http://www.TomAdamsBridge.com):**

Pile driving is complete for the new Tenderhouse on the north side of the bridge. Crews are now working on the foundation above the waterline and construction of the Tenderhouse should now begin to pick up speed.

A seven day bridge closure is anticipated sometime between June 15 and August 15. The contractor is required to give a two-week notice prior to the closure and an alert will be issued at that time.

The Contractor is utilizing an alternating one-way traffic pattern for delivery of materials, especially concrete. This will continue throughout the length of the project. The delays should not be any longer than would occur for a bridge opening.

**Engineering Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement**

**Sidewalks - Parade Circle Sidewalk Connections** – The Rotonda West MSBU Advisory Board requested that sidewalks be installed along the feeder roads leading to Parade Circle. Construction will consist of six (6) sidewalks, six (6') feet wide, approximately 900 lineal feet each, starting at the Parade Circle and continuing to the next roadway intersection but not going through the intersection at the following locations:

- Oakland Hills Road to Annapolis Lane
- Pebble Beach Road to Mark Twain Lane
- Pinehurst Road to Mariner Lane
- Broadmoor Road to Broadmoor Lane
- Long Meadow Road to Long Meadow Lane
- White Marsh Road to White Marsh Lane

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: thru Fall 2015, Procurement: Spring 2016, Construction: TBD

Phase 2 sidewalk connections: A Request for Bids is currently advertised. The pre-bid conference was held April 28 and bid opening is scheduled May 18. Construction is projected to be complete within 120 calendar days upon Notice to Proceed.

Phase 3 bike path connections: Staff reviewed the 60% design plans and are awaiting the 90% plans.

**Drainage Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement**

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Lion Heart Waterway 4.34 (Kenilworth Blvd.)** – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Kenilworth Blvd. at the Lion Heart Waterway. Construction will consist of replacing (2) 72" corrugated metal pipe culverts with (2) 8'x10' box culverts and a 64' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: January – December 2016, Procurement Process: January – March 2017, Projected Start of Construction: April 2017

Johnson Engineering is gathering survey information for the design.

**Landscaping Projects - In Construction**

**Gateway Landscaping: SR 776 (US 41 to Murdock Circle)** – 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 –6/30/2016

Median and roadside landscaping is nearing completion. Trenching for irrigation is complete and main system components have been installed. Utilities have been connected to the irrigation system.

Preliminary punch list items are in progress and the substantial completion inspection is scheduled Friday, May 20.

### **Landscaping Projects – in Design, Negotiation or Procurement**

**Gateway Landscaping: Toledo Blade Blvd. (US 41 to Hillsborough Blvd.)** – 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

A recommendation to award the construction contract is in progress. Utility coordination is underway for water and electric.

**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 was recently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting was held April 26 with bid opening May 11. Bid tabulations are in progress. This 60 calendar day construction project has an estimated budget of \$53,000.

### **Maintenance & Operations Division (May 11 – May 17)**

A total of 40 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, sidewalk repair, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	26,985 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 11,350 SF in Englewood East 7,970 SF in Burnt Store Village
Small pipe install:	136 LF in Harbour Heights 101 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Menzie ditch cutting:	90,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 66 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 6 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 1 culvert in Northwest Port Charlotte Cleaned 10 culverts in Lemon Bay Cleaned 6 culverts in Grove City
Road grading:	Graded 15,000 SY on Don Pedro Knight Island Cleaned 2 culverts in Rotonda West
Boom mower:	Cut 39,597 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 13,436 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 52,580 CY in Rotonda Lakes Cut 22,400 CY in Road & Bridge West Cut 835 CY in Englewood East
Debris removal:	Removed 7,700 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County

Asphalt repair: Utilized 9.82 tons of material to repair 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 (May 11 – May 17)

#### Mosquito Control

- Acres treated 9,903
- Landing rates taken 1
- Traps set/collected 5
- Citizen requests 10

#### Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated 39
- Sites Inspected 18
- Mitigation sites maintained 1

### Tourism

Congratulations to Capt. Ralph Allen, owner of King Fisher Fleet in Punta Gorda, Fla., who was inducted into the Charlotte County Tourism Hall of Fame on May 12 during the annual Charlotte County Tourism Luncheon at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. More than 100 members of the Charlotte County tourism and business community gathered to celebrate culinary tourism. Prior to a delicious lunch prepared by SAVOR, local restaurants Farlow's On The Water, Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar & Grill, Peace River Seafood, Rum Bay Restaurant and Village Fish Market, served up offered delectable samples from their menus. Emily Ellyn, Food Network's Retro Rad Chef, gave the keynote address about the seven key ingredients that make a great foodie community and radio personality Chris Kelly served as emcee.



Each year, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau conducts marketing, sales and promotional campaigns to increase awareness of and visitation to Charlotte County. In addition to generating economic contributions, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is also focused on developing soft adventure or eco-tourism, a low-impact industry enabling the county to preserve the invaluable natural resources that contribute to its ecological health, distinguish the area and draw visitors. During calendar year 2015, Charlotte County welcomed an estimated 395,800 visitors and tourism generated an estimated \$345,067,400 in direct expenditures and made an estimated \$526 million economic impact in Charlotte County. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the power of tourism in Charlotte County.