

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs ended their 9 game home streak with a win against the Daytona Tortugas 3-2 on Thursday, May 19th. Way to go Stone Crabs!! Over the weekend Suncoast Travel Ball occupied the back practice fields. A total of 620 fans came out to enjoy some competitive baseball. A special shout out to our Recreation Specialist, Michael Jordan, and our Maintenance Coordinator, Jeremy Wilkerson, for working the tournament out in the hot Florida Sun. Thank you so much Mike and Jeremy!

### Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue Staff Youth Basketball League concluded its initial registration period for its Summer Basketball League and currently sit at over 370 kids registered. The divisions have been changed from the past. The league will now run 6u, 8u, 10u, 12u, 14u, and 17u divisions. There is a total of 40 teams in all divisions combined. Harold Avenue conducted its Youth Basketball League Coaches Meeting this past week. We are currently holding the first week of practices for the Summer Youth Basketball League and will be holding our annual Jamboree this Saturday!

### Tringali Recreation Center

I was lucky to work with Troy on our visit to Ainger Middle School this week. It was fun to meet all the students, play games and listen to their suggestions. Some of the more interesting entries were an Anime/Manga Club and a horseback riding club. Special thanks to assistant principal, Bradley Gibson, who welcomed us to promote our events at the school regularly in the future. He also invited us to the Open House for parents, held the week before school resumes in August.

Meanwhile, our Elementary Friday Fun Night had the largest attendance we had seen in 2016. This night was fun for all, with raucous games of dodgeball, capture the flag and everyone's favorite... Ga Ga Ball. This relatively new game has become a staple of Fun Night, as well received as the pizza we serve. For even younger children, we kicked off the 5th sport of our Super Mini Sports program, Golf. It always puts a smile on your face, seeing youngsters making their first introduction to a sport. Golf was no exception and the parents seemed to have as much fun as the kids. I'm looking forward to spending the next 4 weeks with these future link masters.

### Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 5/18 through 5/24/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 212 paid admissions, was visited by 29 pass holders and had 34 water aerobics participants.

### Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for May 23 – "A new twist on a common plant"
- 2016 MG Training Class - Invasive Plants & Weeds - Ralph Mitchell – May 23
- CED Meeting/Managers Meeting - Sports Park – May 23
- Master Gardener Radio Show (WCCF) – May 24
- Quarterly Business Meeting (Q2) - Community Services - Sports Park – May 25
- Extension Staff Meeting – May 26
- 2016 MG Training Class - Wrap-Up – May 27

### Natural Resources

This week staff participated in a Jay Watch training exercise at Tippecanoe Environmental Park. This training opportunity was a great opportunity for the county to interface with another group that works with Florida Scrub Jay data collection and monitoring. The exercise was led by Marianne Korosy. Marianne is PhD.

coordinator Audubon Jay Watch. A biologist by trade, Marianne has a great deal of interest, knowledge and experience in addition to love and respect of the species. Jay Watch is an important group in the preservation of the species. They help to collect the reproductive data as well as territorial and nesting data for Jays in the region. The training was a great experience for staff as well as Jay Watch volunteers.

Staff participated in a gopher tortoise survey in the Harbor Heights area. This survey is part of an inter-departmental cooperation effort with Public Works. Natural Resources staff often assist other departments in an effort to better serve the citizens of Charlotte County. In this capacity the county saves a great deal of money otherwise paid to consultants to conduct the field survey and possibly any relocations required.

Staff also led another Employee Appreciation event. This was the second of 2 kayak/paddle board trips. These events, established by the Employee Appreciation Committee, are a way for the county to show employees their work is valued and the effort is noted. There are several of these events and all employees are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you have questions regarding these events please contact Bonnie Blair.

### **Parks**

- New park entry sign at Kiwanis park, finishing up 3 in total
- Repaired storm drain clean outs in retention area at Port Charlotte Beach
- Treated for weeds Higgs shuffleboard courts
- Cleaned out yard at Rotonda maintenance area of all large debris collected from parks
- Recycle can and trash can inventory by park finished

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- Request for letters of interest are in Purchasing Department for Placida Boat Ramp repairs.
- Repairs were made to navigation lights at the Tom Adams Bridge in Englewood.

### **Operations**

- Event Center Generator RLI Packages are being ranked for selecting a firm to evaluate and engineer a backup generator for the Event Center.
- The new landscaping at Harbour Heights Park was successfully added to the Facilities Landscape Contract. On Tuesday May 31st the contractor will be out to clean up the identified areas and begin the services identified in the contract. This area should show significant improvement after next week and then continue with the normal schedules throughout the year.

### **Project Management**

- Harbor Heights: The Shade structure and Pavilion is expected to be complete June 1st. The Shade Structure is being painted Friday with the canvas being installed next week. The Pavilion is being installed next week as well. The retention ponds are scheduled to begin construction the week of 5/30.
- McGuire Park: The 60% construction plans have been issued and will be reviewed for approval next week. Currently working on gathering quotes for the demo of the tennis and basketball courts
- CARE Expansion: Bids are due June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Charlotte County has begun the design process for a new recreation centers at Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park and North Charlotte Regional. The design professionals have been hired and the surveying work has begun.

## Human Services

Deedra Dowling, Case Manager Supervisor for the Senior Services Division was recognized by the Our Charlotte Elder Affairs Network (O.C.E.A.N) at its annual Sunflower Luncheon on May 25, 2016 as OCEAN's Member of the Year for 2016. This prestigious award was given to Deedra by her community colleagues for her almost 30 years of dedicated work in improving the lives of Charlotte County seniors. Over the many years of service, Deedra has made an impact on the lives of hundreds of frail and disabled seniors and their families. Nominated by her staff and wholeheartedly endorsed by her Director, Victoria Carpenter, Deedra embodies the true spirit of customer service and going above and beyond to meet the needs of her clientele.

In addition to her plaque, Deedra was given \$2,000 by O.C.E.A.N. True to her nature, Deedra has donated this money to meeting the home care needs of the seniors who are on a waiting list for services.

Congratulations & way to go, Deedra!

## Public Works

**Engineering Division 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

[Paving Maps](#) depicting the roadways to be paved within each district are available on the Project Status Updates website. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: 05/09/2016 – Fall 2017

Base repairs in Deep Creek began May 9 and are nearing completion. Paving was scheduled to begin on May 22, but was re-scheduled to begin the week of May 30.

**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 will be installing new traffic signals and paving the new turn lanes at the intersection of CR 771 and SR 776 this week.

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 completed the second phase of the new bridge deck. Work continues on the approach slabs and traffic barrier wall.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (May 25, 2016) – *Installation of new traffic signals will begin at the intersection of SR 776 and CR 771 on Thursday, May 26. This work will be conducted over several nights, from 8 p.m. - 4 a.m., intermittently over the next 7 days. Travelers may experience delays as temporary lane closures will be necessary at times. Traffic control devices will be in place and State Troopers will be onsite when necessary.*

**Midway Boulevard Widening Phase 2** – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard from Sharpe Street 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 ADA requirements, will be installed during construction to maintain all pedestrian access points. 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. Construction Contract: Forsberg Construction, Construction Schedule: 6/30/2015 – Summer 2018

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

Children are naturally curious about construction sites therefore parents and caregivers should monitor their children's outdoor activities and keep them at a safe distance from all construction activities this summer including heavy equipment and large vehicles. Construction workers are instructed NOT to talk to children. Construction activities will not be conducted on school grounds during school hours.

The Contractor will be paving a new parent pickup entry drive at Port Charlotte Middle School off of Orlando Boulevard at McNulty Avenue this summer while school is out. The new parent pick-up drive will be ready this fall and will allow for better traffic flow when construction starts in this vicinity.

Construction of 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 Amstead Avenue.
- 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.
- Crew #4 will begin survey work and layout for all construction activities at Port Charlotte Middle School.

Abcott Street to Bermuda Street: Installation of utilities and drainage systems continue.

Hardey Street to Amstead Street: Installation of utilities and drainage systems continue.

Willoughby Street to Maracaibo Street: Installation of utilities and drainage systems continue.

Shilo Street to Loveland Boulevard: Installation of utilities and drainage systems continue. 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.

**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):**

The Tenderhouse foundation is complete; piles have been driven and the concrete cap has been formed and poured. The Contractor will now begin building the floors and walls of the Tenderhouse.

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 a Traffic Advisory will be issued at that time

The Contractor is utilizing an alternating one-way traffic pattern for delivery of materials, especially concrete, which will continue through the duration of the project. Any traffic 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: Bids were opened May 18 and a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 14. 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 4.03 (Peachland Blvd.)** – 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

Bids were opened May 18 and a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 14. Completion time is 180 days upon Notice to Proceed.

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

**Burnt Store Village Buffer** – This project provides for landscaping and irrigation to create a buffer along the east side of Burnt Store Road between Zemel Road and Dored Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying. Construction contract: Jones Landscape, Construction schedule: May – August 2016.

Jones Landscaping began work on May 23 with a completion time of 90 calendar days. Utility locates/coordination is in progress.

**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

The substantial completion inspection was held Friday, May 20. Final punchlist items are in progress.

### **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 landscape contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 14. Preliminary communications for utility coordination is underway for water and electric.

This landscape project is anticipated to be complete within 60 calendar days upon Notice to Proceed.

**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, Construction Contract: Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service, Construction Schedule: TBD (60 calendar days)

A recommendation to award the construction project to Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service was approved by Charlotte County Administration on May 24 for a total project cost of \$108,811.50.

This project is expected to be complete within 60 calendar days of Notice to Proceed which will be established at the preconstruction meeting.

**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, Construction Contract: MRT Lawn and Garden Center, Construction Schedule: TBD (60 calendar days)

A recommendation to award the construction project to MRT Lawn and Garden Center, Inc. of Venice was approved by Charlotte County Administration on May 24 for a total project cost of \$120,135.76.

This project is expected to be complete within 60 calendar days of Notice to Proceed which will be established at the preconstruction meeting.

**Winchester Boulevard Median Landscaping and Buffer** – This project provides for landscaping with irrigation along Winchester Boulevard South, from SR 776 to CR 775 (Placida Road). Design services will include preparation of construction drawings, bidding and inspection services for the installation of landscaping, and irrigation of the medians and buffer. The landscape buffer shall be limited to the Eastern side of Winchester Boulevard South between station 58+00 and station 112+00 and may include a combination of landscaping and buffer wall/fencing. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering and Surveying (CES) American, Design/Permitting Schedule: Early – Spring 2016, Procurement Process: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2016

CES American submitted the 30% design plans to County staff for review on May 3. The plans depict existing conditions, tree locations for medians and buffers, the irrigation main line and booster pump location.

A public input meeting is scheduled Wednesday, June 8 at 2 p.m. and will be held at the Tringali Community Center, located at 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood, FL. The design consultant will present the 30% plans to stakeholders and document public input.

Shrubs and groundcovers, along with more irrigation detail, will be presented in the 60% plans.

**Maintenance & Operations Division** (May 18 – May 24)

A total of 42 new requests were received related to drainage, shoulder repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	22,230 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 10,000 SF in Englewood East
Small pipe install:	120 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Large pipe install:	80 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	150,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 50 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 2 culverts in Deep Creek
Boom mower:	Cut 37,603 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 5,204 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 4,940 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 1,000 CY in Road & Bridge North Cut 36,700 CY in South Gulf Cove Cut 30,500 CY in Placida Area
Debris removal:	Removed 5,000 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.7 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 18 – May 24)

**Mosquito Control**

- Acres treated: 8,586
- Landing rate counts taken: 4
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 25

**Aquatic Weed Control**

- Sites treated: 19
- Sites inspected: 9
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control Division staff landed by helicopter at the Peace River Elementary School as a kickoff to "Camp Skeeter" which is an annual event that third graders have been participating in for several years.

The "Day Helicopter" is designated for larval control and is leased through the Sheriff's Department. Students were excited to see the helicopter land and each group had an opportunity to ask questions and take a peek inside the giant Bell- Huey. On Wednesday, Mosquito Control staff will return to the school for classroom presentations on mosquito biology and educate students about how they can help reduce larval habitats in their backyards and prevent bites during summer break.

**Tourism**

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau partnered with the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center to attend the Capital Events Trade Show last month (May 17 – 18) in Tallahassee to network with

various meeting planners from the association market. Of the more than 80 meeting planners in attendance, staff had the opportunity to meet one on one with more than two dozen of these planners most of whom have a history of hosting meetings in Southwest Florida. In addition, the VCB and Event Center staff conducted individual sales calls to seven associations/3rd party planners including the Florida Independent Automobile Dealers Association, Membership Services, JHG Marketing, CMC & Associates, Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association and the Florida Association of Counties.