

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Shaun Cullinan taped a "News You Can Use" segment with CC-TV about upcoming sign code round tables and the opportunity for citizens to provide their input through the web survey.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park was the host facility for Florida Scout Ball's Baseball Showcase this weekend, June 4-5. Over 1,200 spectators came out rain or shine to watch and cheer on their favorite baseball players. Several College scouts were on hand to determine the best talent.

The Charlotte Stone Crabs will be starting an 8 game home streak June 8. Go Stone Crabs.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue Recreation Center's summer camp has many new faces as well as returning faces. The camp is getting into full swing with the campers already having multiple field trip days and guest speakers. Additionally, the youth basketball league started its regular season this past weekend. This year marks the most kids that Harold has had in its Youth Basketball League with over 380 kids registered.

Tringali Park & Recreation Center

We had quite the eventful week here at Tringali Park. First off, our seasonal recreation specialist, Ben Owings, received a part-time position at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. We loved having Ben with us here, but we wish him all the best at his new job! I'm especially grateful for his help during Super Mini Sports Golf the last 2 weeks. Once again, we had a splendid time with the kids and their parents. Their enthusiasm for the sport of golf even took me by a surprise. I always try to make it fun for them and the evidence is in their laughter.

On Saturday, June 4, Tringali Recreation Center was represented at the Englewood Library's "Summer Reading Kickoff." We hosted a table, promoted upcoming events, played games with the kids and encouraged them to 'Get up, get out and get active!' Despite the incredible heat, we played basketball, golf and soccer outside the library. I also brought out my guitar and played some tunes for the children. Some of them even sang along! It was a great way to promote interest in our Super Mini Music and Dance Camp coming up later this summer. Hope you have another fabulous week in beautiful Charlotte County!

Port Charlotte Beach Pool & Recreation Center

For the week of 6/1 through 6/7/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 222 paid admissions, was visited by 24 pass holders and had 48 water aerobics participants.

The Recreation Center continues to hold many Parties, Weddings and Celebrations.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for June 6 – "It's wild, but not coffee"
- Collier County Extension Master Gardeners - Turf Talk – June 8
- Friends for Extension, Inc. Meeting – May 9

Natural Resources

This week staff initiated the vegetation plot survey component of the Florida Communities Trust grant requirement. Florida Communities Trust, funded by the Florida Forever program has awarded Charlotte

County millions of dollars for acquisition and maintenance of our environmental parks and preserves. The grant program awards money based on the land to be acquired and/or managed as well as the planned use of the property. The grantee is required to maintain the property, secure the property and monitor the property. Currently staff are working to monitor the vegetative plots established on the FCT properties. The data collected during these surveys will be utilized in the future for management plans and goals.

Staff responded to a report of a nuisance alligator. Each year toward the end of our "spring" and before the rains begin to fall that alligators seek mates and habitat. South County Regional Park host several large ponds full of fish and all manner of birds. Fish and birds compose a large portion of alligator diet and the water provides excellent cover. While alligators can reportedly run quite fast they have poor stamina and so rely on burst speed and ambush to capture food. Alligators are not aggressive but certainly can seem aggressive especially during this time of year and even more so when they perceive humans as a threat. Like all wildlife alligators will more often retreat when given that option but if they are fed and lose the natural fear of humans they can become a problem. Any area that has water can potentially have an alligator. The alligator can tolerate a wide range of salinity but prefers low concentrations. The best course is to assume when around fresh water that an alligator is near and to be vigilant. Charlotte County has a "leash law" that requires the owner to 'maintain control of their animal.' The leash law doesn't specify the animal be on a tether but having your animal leash may save your animal's life around water.

Staff continued exotic treatment efforts at Amberjack Environmental Park this week. Species treated include Brazilian pepper, cesar weed and lygodium. The treatment of exotics coupled with prescribed burning are the two most important components of land management. Total area treated is approximately 2 acres.

Parks

- Rotonda rest rooms repainted and reopened after vandalism
- Assessed damage at all parks from tropical storm Colin
- Replaced guard rail at Ainger Creek park
- Cleaned the maintenance shop at Harbor Heights park
- Received final inspection on new 20' x 20' pavilion and access sidewalk at Harbor Heights park

Historical Center

The Charlotte County Historical Center had a great response to the new History Quest program. There were 21 participants at the instructional meeting on June 3, and already 36 geocache finds for the month of May.

Last week, we visited 142 summer campers at Harold Ave and South County Parks with our Harbor Explorers program. Children learned the story behind the historic Cookie House and the vast marine life that was studied there.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Contractor preparing estimate to repair/replace damaged pool decking at South County Regional Park.
- Family restroom door replacement at Englewood Beach Park to be completed by June 10, 2016.
- Awaiting permitting to replace main entrance door of Rebecca Neal Owens Senior Meals location at Harbour Heights Park.
- Exterior paint and stain at Environmental Center building at Cedar Point Park is near completion.
- Facilities assisted with office and furniture changes to accommodate a new temporary employee in Fiscal Department starting June 6.

Operations

All Facilities Buildings annual inspections of roofs and gutters were performed. This is to identify any debris either clogging the drains or debris built up on the roofs. The roofs were cleaned and the drains were inspected to make sure they were draining freely. The inspections were part of preparations for Tropical Storm Colin and our upcoming tropical storm season.

Project Management

- Port Charlotte Beach Fishing Pier Lighting: LED light poles at fishing pier are complete.
- Charlotte County Event Center Interior Lighting Retrofit: Installation of new energy efficient LED high bay lighting to replace the existing metal halide lighting the main room and in the back of house receiving area is in progress, with anticipated completion this summer.
- South County Library and Archive: A third public workshop will be held on August 2 at 4 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center (Myakka River meeting rooms A-B); 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda. The meeting will include a presentation of the design development, including display of site plans, floor plans, exterior images, and exterior and interior renderings.
- The preliminary design plans came in for the three recreation center renovations and a review meeting was held with stakeholders. These recreations centers are Harbour Heights, Tringali, and South County Regional Park.
- The Harbor Heights shuffleboard shade structure and pavilion have reached substantial completion and expected to be reviewed early next week.
- The engineering design is being completed for the El Jobean Fishing Pier.
- Charlotte County has begun the design process for new recreation centers at Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park and North Charlotte Regional Park. The design professionals have been hired and the surveying work has begun.
- Port Charlotte Beach Floating Dock and Seawall Improvements: A contract has been awarded to Innovative Marine Structures of Port Charlotte to begin work on replacement of the seawall near the boat ramp and sailing dock. The new 239 foot seawall will include new sheet pile and concrete camp. This project will also include an additional 80 foot floating dock with an aluminum gangway to be used for non-motorized sailboats, canoes, or kayaks. The whole project will be ADA compliant, which allows for handicap accessibility. Also included is an additional sidewalk, staging area, and two handicap parking spaces. The new compliant gangway will make it much easier for the Boat Sailing Program to include handicap students in more events like the regatta
- The restroom has been installed at Cape Haze Pioneer Trail. Other construction continues.

Human Services

Veteran Services

Assistant Veteran Services Officer, Terry Keene coordinated with FDVA to expedite a claim for a Vietnam Veteran with a terminal illness due to a service related condition. After coordinating with family, hospice and FDVA, VA has all the required information to grant an immediate award of benefits. The Veteran also invited Terry to a pinning ceremony to honor his service this month.

Veteran Services staff was contacted about a WWII veteran client whose home was destroyed by fire on June 6. Terry Keene and Larry Brown helped coordinate local service organizations and donations and spread the word about the veteran needing assistance. Additionally, they contacted the VA directly in order to update his pending pension application as a HOMELESS veteran, significantly reducing his time in the processing queue.



Veteran Administrative Assistant Ivey Winkler assisted a veteran in obtaining information on various inpatient and outpatient Substance Abuse counseling services at both the Port Charlotte Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Bay Pines VA Hospital.

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

All base repairs have been completed in Deep Creek. Paving operations have been delayed due to inclement weather conditions. The amount of work completed to date is .52% and the amount of contract time that has elapsed is 9.9%

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.

New traffic signals have been installed at the intersection of SR 776 and CR 771.

Crews are building multiple roadway sections at Marathon Boulevard and areas north and south of the Bridge. Concrete crews are installing sidewalks and curbing in multiple sections of the project. Work continues on the approach slabs and traffic barrier wall.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (June 3, 2016) – *The intersection of Marathon Boulevard West at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) will be closed Monday, June 6 for approximately 3 weeks. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of Marathon Boulevard West. Traffic is detoured via Sawyer Circle; variable message boards and 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 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

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 Hanby Street.

- Crew #2 is currently installing the stormwater drainage systems along the side streets entering Midway Boulevard near Maracaibo Street.
- Crew #3 continues to install well point dewatering systems along the sewer pipe installation.
- Crew #4 is currently installing storm drain systems at Port Charlotte Middle School.

Engineering Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

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 (BCC). Design Contract: Florida Transportation Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: Summer 2016 - TBD

A Public Meeting was held Thursday, April 14 to present four (4) alternative design options and solicit public input to improve traffic flow on Olean Boulevard. Public input was documented and presented with the [design options](#) to the BCC on May 24.

The Board of County Commissioners approved widening the roadway to 2 lanes in each direction with a continuous, center left turn lane, to be used in both directions. Design includes a 10' sidewalk on the south side of Olean Boulevard and decorative lighting as defined in the Parkside Master Plan.

Staff will report back to the BCC with cost estimates to extend the project limits from Harbor Boulevard to Easy Street, to replace the existing 6' sidewalk on the north side of the roadway between Harbor Boulevard and Arron Street, and to replace the standard light source in the decorative lighting with more efficient LED lighting. This report will be provided to the County Commissioners later this summer.

Staff is now negotiating with Florida Transportation Engineering to design and permit the roadway project. Design is anticipated to begin within the next 60 days.

Once design is complete, all permits and necessary rights-of-way are acquired, the County will advertise for construction bids. Estimated land acquisition is \$3,941,000.

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 Doredo Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying. Construction contract: Jones Landscape, Construction schedule: May – August 2016.

Inclement weather has delayed ground work preparations this week.

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 scheduled June 17.

US 41 Landscaping at Waterway Crossings (Microtunnel Locations) – This project provides for landscaping 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)

Work is projected to begin the week of June 20 and should be complete within 60 calendar days.

Landscaping Projects – in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Gateway Landscaping: Jones Loop at I-75 – This project provides for roadside landscaping along Jones Loop at the I-75 interchange. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design Schedule: through November 2016.

A purchase order to engage design services with Johnson Engineering was approved by Charlotte County Administration on June 7.

Gateway Landscaping: US 17 at I-75 – This project provides for roadside landscaping along US 17 at the I-75 interchange. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting schedule: through November 2016.

A purchase order to engage design services with Johnson Engineering was approved by Charlotte County Administration on June 7.

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

A public input meeting was held Wednesday, June 8 with local stakeholders to present the 30% plans depicting existing conditions, tree locations for medians and buffers, the irrigation main line and booster pump location. Public input was received and the 60% design plans are in progress. Shrubs and groundcovers, along with more irrigation detail, will be presented in the 60% plans.

Maintenance & Operations Division (June 1–7)

A total of 47 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	20,210 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 7,450 SF in Englewood East
Small pipe install:	40 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 74 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Large pipe install:	64 LF in Road & Bridge South
Menzie ditch cutting:	120,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 29 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 3 culverts in Englewood East
Boom mower:	Cut 37,186 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 11,000 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cut 4,277CY in Northwest Port Charlotte Cut 38,200 CY in Englewood East
Debris removal:	10,700 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Shoulder repair:	Repaired 2.2 miles of shoulder in locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 6.6 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 (June 1-7)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 955
- Landing rate counts taken: 1
- Traps set: 3
- Service requests: 7

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 11
- Sites inspected: 2
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Solid Waste Division

Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB) attended the Peace River Elementary Fair night on May 6th where students received a prize for spinning the wheel and giving correct answers to questions regarding recycling and keeping our community clean.

KCB recognized the Recycle Bowl Winners at the Charlotte County School Board meeting on May 10th and handed them certificates as well as prizes.

KCB received the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program grant from Keep America Beautiful to place ash receptacles along the Harbor Walk in Punta Gorda in an effort to keep cigarette butts out of our waterways.

This month we had the Charlotte County Student Celebration on May 23rd. There were 140 people in attendance. At this ceremony, the students were recognized for their efforts in the KCB Calendar Art, Recycle Bowl, Boy Scout and Girl Scout volunteers, KCB Youth Advisory council, and Student of the year. All teachers were presented with a rose for their efforts to help the students achieve these honors.

The 2017 KCB calendar was completed and printed 3 months ahead of the historical timeline to allow for an earlier and more effective timeline for distribution.

Participated in the Team Parkside meeting with residents and educated the participants of the proper way of getting the most out of the sanitation services offered in the county as well as those available from the Solid Waste Division.

One homeless camp was cleaned up in the Murdock Village with a total of 9,920 pounds of debris collected and disposed of.

Three felony arrests were made as a result of the investigative efforts of the Illegal Dumping Staff.

Tourism

FADMO (Florida Association of Destination Marketing Organizations) Marketing Summit took place last month (May 18-20) at Saint Petersburg Beach. Destination marketing industry representatives from many Florida counties gathered to attend a wide variety of interactive sessions, network with other DMOs, meet with advertisers and attend papers on topics such as resident outreach (tourism's major positive on resident

quality of life), tracking real-time emotional reaction to destination video elements and a large interactive session "DestinationNEXT" from DMAI (Destination Marketing Association International). The session, as always, includes state legislative session wrap-up as it pertains to the tourism industry by the FADMO industry advocate, Matt Forrest of Ballard | Partners. Juli Pennock, Chip Futch and Lorah Steiner of the VCB attended the conference.