

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Stone Crabs took on the Dunedin Blue Jays on June 15 at 10:05 am and came out with a 4-2 victory. Many Charlotte County employees were in the stands, as the game was an employee appreciation event. The Sports Park staff is working diligently planning many baseball tournaments and special events for the upcoming summer and fall season.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

This past week at Harold Ave Recreation Center our campers went on a field trip to Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre for a showing of 101 Dalmatians. The kids and counselors had a great time. This week we did our field trip a day early and the Explorer Camp went to Treeumph to climb on the ropes course while the Discovery Camp went to the Imaginarium for a fun-filled day. Harold Avenue Youth Basketball League completed its 3rd week of the regular season and it continues to go well. This week Harold welcomed our new part-time recreation specialist, Benjamin Owings to our staff.

Tringali Recreation Center

It was another eventful week here at Tringali Park, even though our biggest happening took place off of the premises. A special thanks goes out to Heather Bergeron at Fish Cove Adventure Golf. She allowed me to take my Super Mini Sports class out to play mini golf. Needless to say, it was 18 holes of fun and mayhem. The children really loved it. It was great to see them using the skills they learned in our previous sessions. If you've never been to Fish Cove, the location is just stunning. It is located just before the bridge to Punta Gorda, so you get a breathtaking view of the water while you play. With a refreshing breeze riding over the waves, the weather was absolutely perfect. We also held our graduation ceremony that night. The kids received their "diplomas," as well as stickers and suckers. We awarded a pair of sunglasses to the first child to get a hole-in-one and it didn't take very long. Jaxson Monna got one on the first hole!

In other news, we are gearing up for our first Friday night movie of the summer. On Friday July 1 at 7 p.m. we will be showing a movie at the Community Center. It's a free event and open to all ages. We will also have refreshments available for sale, as well as other games and entertainment. We hope to see you out there!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

This past week we had one meeting of the Youth Sports Council with 25 participants and a Retreat/meeting for Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau with 6 participants. We also had a wedding and reception setup on Friday and event on Saturday for 126 guests. We are gearing up for a very busy weekend with the Community Services Rec. Fest on Friday, and three weddings. The Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center floor will be getting a new look with new wood plank style ceramic tile. The recreation center hall will be closed June 27 through July 14, but the office will be open.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 6/15 through 6/21, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 246 paid admissions, was visited by 16 pass holders and had 45 water exercise participants.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for June 20 – "A universe of cosmos"
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – June 20
- GI-BMP Training – June 22
- Overall Advisory Committee Meeting – June 23
- Banyan Tree site visit - 229 Chasteen Street – June 24

Natural Resources

This week staff assisted the IT department in the removal of trees that were inhibiting communications. Several Australian pines were removed in the area of Carmelita Park. Unfortunately, this effort did not completely restore the communication required and additional reduction is necessary.

Staff also completed the annual vegetative survey of Amberjack Environmental Park. This is part of the grant award agreement with Florida Communities Trust. While this data is used to a grant condition it also provides us with ongoing feedback in management efforts. The data gathered can provide staff direction in terms of future management actions.

A two-day training session was offered by county administration to a select group of Parks & Natural resources staff. The training focused on teaching staff how to become proficient as website administrators for Charlotte County's upgraded department website.

Shorebirds are continuing to nests after the loss of some nests and hatchlings due to Tropical Storm Colin that impacted our area the week of June 6. This Tropical storm Colin wasn't a direct impact to Charlotte County, but the storm caused more erosion in many areas of our coastal line which is habitat to the shorebirds as well as the sea turtles nesting areas. The shorebird hatchlings that made it through the storm are starting to fledge. The sea turtles are nesting in high numbers even though some nests were impacted by Tropical Storm Colin.

Registered for CHNEP (Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program) workshop "Communicating your Science" which will be on Oct. 26. This Gulf of Mexico Coastal Training Program is a regional collaboration designed to deliver relevant information to coastal professionals on issues to the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico and to find relevance for who we want to reach.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Front Desk Security Barrier Installation complete at Public Works main office.
- Ceiling, soffit, fascia repairs to the concession/restroom building at Franz Ross Park are 70% complete.
- Exterior paint project for Environmental building at Cedar Point Park complete.
- TLC has started the design process for the new electrical switch gear for the Charlotte Sports Park. The existing gear is deteriorating needs to be replaced to avoid future problems.

Operations

Final Design Review for Accessibility Improvements Group III are underway. We plan to have the bid out on street in July for construction.

Project Management

- Charlotte County Sheriff's District 1 office guaranteed maximum price is scheduled for July 14th for Board approval. The county environmental section is scheduling the gopher tortoise survey in preparation for their relocation if construction approval is granted.
- Permits have been submitted for the relocation of osprey nests through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at sports lighting retrofit projects at both North Charlotte Regional Park and at Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park. It is anticipated that this work will take place in the fall while the nests are inactive.
- The engineer provided the revised El Jobean Pier renovation plans. The plans are under review before processing for bid documents.
- Port Charlotte Beach floating dock and seawall construction is expected to start July 25, 2016.

- Spring Lake Park plans are being revised and are expected to be 100% by next week. Plans include rebuild of wooden deck board walks, work on the retention pond, and install of seawall in parking area.

Human Services

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Southwest Florida conducted its annual monitoring for the grant programs funded through the Department of Elder Affairs. Fiscal, client and administrative files and documents were reviewed. During the exit interview, the AAA monitor indicated there were no findings or corrective action in their preliminary review. The final report is expected in July or August.

The management team for the Human Services Department held a strategic planning session to review BCC and Department goals and to set priorities for 2016-2017. Succession planning and staff development were also discussed and a PowerPoint on building trust both within and outside the organization was presented.

Public Works

Roadway Projects in Construction (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 1.9% and the amount of contract time that has elapsed is 12.7%

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 have installed sidewalks from the Butterford waterway north to SR 776. Crews have also completed the concrete curbing in multiple sections of the project including the new turn lanes on SR 776.

The bridge approach slabs and traffic barrier wall are now completed.

Please note that planned construction activities are contingent upon weather conditions.

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

The new storm drainage systems is completed from Achilles to Kings Hwy on the south side of the roadway. Crews are installing concrete storm drain in various locations on the north side of the project between Achilles Street and Kings Highway.

- Crew #1 is currently installing the new 48" gravity sewer system near Achilles Street. Over 4,000' has been installed to date.
- Crew #2 is currently installing stormwater drainage systems along the side streets entering Midway Boulevard near Willoughby Street.
- Crew #3 continues to install well point dewatering systems along various areas of the project assisting other crews for underground utility pipe installation.
- Crew #4 is currently installing storm drain systems at Port Charlotte Middle School.
- Crew #5 is working on excavation at Pond C-2 off Page St.

Excerpts from 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.

Abscott 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.

Kings Highway: Road is closed at Midway and Kings Highway as contractor installs 16" water main line.

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

Roadway Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/12/2013 – May 2016, Procurement Process: June – October 2016, Projected Start of Construction: 11/15/2016.

Johnson Engineering provided 100% plans to County staff for final review. Charlotte County Utilities is reviewing the final utility plans for approval and signing of the required permits.

The County sent the 100% Plans to FPL Underground to finalize their plans so they can be incorporated into our set of plans for construction bidding.

Stormwater Projects in Construction (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

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, Construction Contract: Andrew Sitework, Construction Schedule: 6/20/2016 – 2/2017 (180 calendar day contract)

Quasar was closed Monday June 20 at the two canal crossing locations. The erosion control items and the MOT have been installed. Work is now starting to clear the construction area.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (June 9, 2016) – Quasar Boulevard will be closed between Abner Street and Aken Street (at Niagara Waterway) and between Beacon Drive and Inverness Street (at Fordham Waterway), on Monday, June 20 and will remain closed through January 2017. These road closures are necessary during construction as work progresses to upgrade the stormwater control structures beneath Quasar Boulevard at these two canal crossings. Traffic will be detoured north to Peachland Boulevard. Advance warning signs and detour signs will be installed to direct traffic.

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, Construction Contract: Andrew Sitework, Construction Schedule: 6/20/2016 – 2/2017 (180 calendar day contract)

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PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (June 9, 2016) – Quasar Boulevard will be closed between Abner Street and Aken Street (at Niagara Waterway) and between Beacon Drive and Inverness Street (at Fordham Waterway), on Monday, June 20 and will remain closed through January 2017. These road closures are necessary during construction as work progresses to upgrade the stormwater control structures beneath Quasar Boulevard at these two canal crossings. Traffic will be detoured north to Peachland Boulevard. Advance warning signs and detour signs will be installed to direct traffic.

Stormwater 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 – 6/14/2016, Projected Construction Schedule: July 2016 – Feb 2017

The construction contract was awarded at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on June 14. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for June 27. The Notice to Proceed date will be established at that time.

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 two 72" corrugated metal pipe culverts with two 8'x10' box culverts and a 64' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: Jan. – Dec. 2016, Procurement Process: Dec. 2016 – Feb. 2017, Projected Construction Schedule: April – Dec 2017

Johnson Engineering has completed the survey, the existing base plan, and the geotechnical investigation. The engineering firm is coordinating with the utility on the aerial crossing. The 30% design plans are scheduled to be submitted for review June 17.

Sidewalk Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Cape Haze Drive – Design and construction of approximately 3,400 linear feet of sidewalk along Cape Haze Drive, from Arlington Drive north to approximately 450' north of Links Lane, where Cape Haze Drive becomes a four lane road. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: March 2015 – Summer 2016, Procurement: TBD, Construction: Early TBD

90% plans have been received and are being reviewed by staff. CCU presented a change order to the current design contract to add a water main replacement to this project.

At the May 4, 2016 MSBU Advisory Board meeting, a motion was made to reduce the width of the sidewalks from 8' to 6'. Johnson Engineering is revising the final sidewalk design plans to accommodate the reduced width. Notification and coordination with SWFWMD will occur.

Landscape 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: 5/23 - 8/21 2016 (90 calendar days)

Reclaimed water meter installation is complete and trenching for irrigation is underway. Cypress trees have been planted and ground preparations are underway for plant beds. Electrical service connections are ready for Florida Power and Light to install their meter.

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. Irrigation, electrical services and maintenance of the landscaping and irrigation system is included in this project. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. Funding is provided, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: DMJ & Associates, 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.

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). The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates, Construction Contract: MRT Lawn and Garden Center, Construction Schedule: 6/21 – 8/20/2016 (60 calendar days)

Work began June 21 with permitting and utility locates. Plant bed preparations will follow.

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: 6/27 – 8/26/16 (60 calendar days)

The preconstruction meeting was held with Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service on June 17 at which time Notice to Proceed was established for June 27.

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: 6/20 – 8/19/2016 (60 calendar days).

Work began June 20 with permitting and utility locates. Plant bed preparations will follow.

Landscaping Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Gateway Landscaping: I-75 at King's Highway – This project provides for roadside landscaping along I-75 at the Kings Highway interchange, as programmed by FDOT's Bold Landscape initiative. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. Design Contract: David M. Jones & Associates, Design Schedule: through Fall 2016

Design is nearing completion. Construction plans have been submitted to FDOT to request permitting of the Community Aesthetic Feature. The County's request to extend the FDOT Irrigation and Landscape Permit was granted through July 10, 2017. Construction is pending completion of the FDOT I-75 road widening project in the vicinity of Kings Highway.

Gateway Landscaping: Jones Loop at I-75 – This project provides for roadside and median landscaping along Jones Loop, from Mac Drive to Piper Road, at the I-75 interchange. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design Schedule: June – Dec. 2016.

Design is in progress; base plan, preparation and site investigations are underway.

Gateway Landscaping: US 17 at I-75 – This project provides for roadside landscaping along US 17 at the I-75 interchange. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting schedule: June – Dec. 2016.

Design is in progress; base plan, preparation and site investigations are underway.

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: CES/American, Design/Permitting Schedule: Early 2016 – 8/22/2016

A public input meeting was held with local stakeholders on June 8 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 Weekly Accomplishments (June 15–June 21, 2016)

A total of 96 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, asphalt repair, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	10,650 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 10,500 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 800 SF in Harbour Heights 6,530 SF in Englewood East 1,650 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Small pipe install:	116 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte 24 LF in Deep Creek 20 LF in Englewood East 72 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban 32 LF in Charlotte Ranchettes
Menzie ditch cutting:	100,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 7,500 SF in Gulf Cove
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 27 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 10 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 1 culvert in Gulf Cove Cleaned 1 culvert in Placida Area
Boom mower:	Cut 24,444 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Debris removal:	Removed 8,370 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Shoulder repair:	Repaired 0.9 mile of shoulder in locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 7.64 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

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 21,778
- Landing rate counts taken: 56
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 76

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 20
- Sites inspected: 8
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

Central Florida News 13 and Tampa Bay News 9 "Florida on a Tankful" TV reporter Scott Fais filmed two stories in Charlotte County (June 22 and 23). One was about the snorkeling eco-venture trips offered in Gasparilla Sound with the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves and the other was about Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary. The first story is expected to air in July on these 24-hour news stations which reach more than 2 million households in the Tampa Bay and Central Florida. His trip was coordinated by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau and he is planning a return trip in July. He has filmed several other segments over the last few years and this type of media coverage keeps Charlotte County visible in key feeder markets and encourages visitation to the destination.

