

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs are on game 7 of a 9 game home series. The Stone Crabs have come away with 2 victories and 4 losses. Hopefully they will turn it around for the last 2 games of the series. Go Stone Crabs!

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Summer camp continues to roll on at Harold Avenue as we are now in week 5 of the 11 week session. This week all the campers at Harold Avenue are enjoying a fun time on a field trip to Sun Splash. Also this week the camp gets treated to a little history story telling with our Historical Guest Speaker's presentation on "A Pirates Life for Me". We might have to have all these land lovers scrub the deck or have to walk the plan! Also this past weekend Harold Avenue Youth Basketball completed the 4th week of the regular season hosting games this past Saturday and Sunday. This weekend the kids will get a break from game action as there are no games scheduled on 4th of July Weekend. They'll get an extra practice in and be ready to make the stretch run as we are fast approaching the midway point of the season. Table Tennis numbers remain steady this month as we are getting good numbers for the minimal space we can offer them due to camp. Pickleball numbers are looking pretty good as well this month when the kids are away swimming at SCRP and on Field Trips.

Tringali Recreation Center

All of our staff are excited about our new program that debuts this Friday, July 1 at 7pm. It's called Tringali Twilight Theatre. Every first Friday of the month, we'll be showing a family friendly movie on our big screen in the Community Center. This event is absolutely FREE of charge. Concessions will be available for purchase. There will also be games, trivia contests and entertainment before the movie starts at 7:30pm. So join us along with Snoopy, Woodstock and the whole gang this Friday evening!

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 6/22 through 6/28/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 398 paid admissions, was visited by 29 pass holders and had 38 water exercise participants. In addition, Lifeguard staff conducted one private swim lesson series.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

It was a very busy week at the Port Charlotte Beach center. On Thursday, June 23, we had an after-hours wedding set-up from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. in Room B. Friday June, 24 we had an employee 'Rec Fest' in room A with lots of ice cream. Later in the day we had a large wedding with 100 people. Saturday June, 25 we had a family reunion in Room A. Sunday, June 26, we had another large wedding with about 100 people. Monday the demolition of the floors has begun, a lot of noise and dust! This will last approximately to July 14.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for June 27 – "Bromeliads and mosquitoes"
- CED Meeting – June 27
- Master Gardener Radio Show (WCCF 1580) – June 28
- Florida Association of Counties: The UF/IFAS Country Store - Hyatt Regency Orlando Florida – June 29
- Extension Staff Meeting – June 30

Natural Resources

This week staff completed the vegetation plot surveys at Amberjack Environmental Park. This monitoring is part of the Florida Communities Trust grant award agreement but also a means to track changes in the structure and composition of the vegetative communities as a result of management techniques.

Staff also assisted with the relocation of stone from the JB yard site to Tea Street. This stone will benefit the county in the construction of barricades while maintaining a more natural feel in the Parks and Preserves.

As of this morning 06/08/16 we have a total of 96 sea turtle nests at stump pass beach state park. Furthermore we have over 30 nesting least terns in the roped area at the pass. On Friday, June 17, we had received a phone call that some terns had laid eggs outside of our bird lines. We went out to assess the situation that afternoon just before a storm came through. The tides were high, it was raining, and the terns were nesting dangerously close to the water. We extended the lines as best we could but thought that there would be no way the nests would survive the night. But they did! There is a small shoreline path outside the boundaries that we left so stump pass visitors could still maneuver around the bird area, but some of the terns have set up just on the edges of our string and flagging type roping. Visitors have been so kind and careful of their surroundings. Every time I am at stump pass I have numerous people come up to me wanting to know more about the birds. It's very rewarding to me that people are noticing the terns and that they are genuinely wanting to help them and learn more about them. Two weeks have gone by now and the birds are still as content as ever. Let's keep our fingers crossed that soon we will have some hatchlings!



Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Installation of new ventilation fans started at Burnt Store Waste Water Treatment Plant. The relocation and addition of the new fans will help keep harmful chemicals away from the employees.
- All permits for Van Lenten water booster office and bathroom buildout have been approved and work will begin shortly.

Operations

All elevator inspections at county facilities are complete with no violation or issues reported. Modernization of Justice Center's elevator controls will begin in November. These controls must be replaced as the manufacturer no longer supports the controls currently in use.

Project Management

- The Board adopted a funding strategic for reorganization of space within the Justice Center to accommodate growth over the next five to seven years. Beginning next year with relocation of the Clerk of Courts archive center, implementation will be phased in over four years.

- The Construction Manager is compiling the design development cost estimate for Jail infirmary with a progress review scheduled for June 30.
- The contractor is installing storm water system at the Bay Heights Boat Ramp site and construction is continuing in the boat ramp area.
- Construction Manager at Risk for the West County Annex went out June 24, 2016.

Human Services

Family Services staff assisted a family of six, which was residing on a lanai, with move-in costs necessary to rent their own home. The client was advised to set up an appointment with the Social Security office to reinstate her son's SSI, which she did. Staff also completed a Season of Sharing application with the family. It was approved, so their rent for July will be drastically reduced as they settle into their new home and get their son's SSI benefits going again. Human Services also provided a bucket of cleaning supplies to the family to assist in promoting good tenant behavior. The family was extremely grateful for all of the help.

The Human Services Department received the final monitoring report from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. These programs are federally funded and pass through DEO. All recommendations and responses have been accepted by DEO and the monitoring file is closed. Formal monitoring reviews are scheduled by DEO approximately every 2 years.

Public Works

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

South Gulf Cove Sidewalks – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Advisory Board requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive. Construction Contract: Bonness, Inc., Construction Schedule: 11/9/2015 – April 2016

Sidewalks are installed and final punchlist items are nearing completion. The MSBU Committee requested that the benches and garbage cans be relocated to San Domingo Park. The proposal was not accepted by the Committee and has been tabled for the present time.

Landscape 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. 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.

A final walk-through is scheduled June 29.

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)

Utility coordination and MOT planning is underway.

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)

Utility locates are underway and maintenance of traffic plans are in progress.

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).

Planting operations are underway including the installation of palm trees and shrubs. The contractor is working along the US 41 Access Roads however this project is not expected to affect traffic.

Maintenance & Operations Weekly Accomplishments (June 22 – June 28, 2016)

A total of 68 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, guardrail repairs, asphalt repairs, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	16,490 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 8,250 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 9,550 SF in Englewood East 8,600 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Small pipe install:	96 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Menzie ditch cutting:	160,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 36 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 7 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 3 culverts in Gulf Cove Cleaned 5 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
Boom mower:	Cut 27,111 CY in Englewood East Cut 22,828 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Debris removal:	Removed 22,210 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 2.5 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: 22,571
- Landing rate counts taken: 48
- Traps set: 6
- Service requests: 59

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 14
- Sites inspected: 9
- Mitigation sites maintained: 1

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau held a marketing program meeting last month (June 27) in which they shared research and national and regional travel trends and reviewed marketing strategies to attract visitors to Charlotte County in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. About 20 members of the Charlotte County tourism industry participated representing accommodations, restaurants, services and other segments of the industry.