

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 8/23/16

## Community Development

The new Commercial Code Brochure has been distributed and has been well received by the community.

Don Jascomb and Shaun Cullinan met with Ruth Buchanon and Randy with the City of North Port's Economic Development Department for a brief meet and greet with their new employee. Shared issues and projects were discussed and talked about ways to further the relationships between the entities.

Community Development is setting up their Civic Voice website and will launch very soon. Civic Voice allows citizens to engage with projects online and join the conversations relating to community growth and expansion.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Transfer of Density Units Program roundtable discussion was Aug. 19.

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted two of the Gulf Coast League games in the past week. The first game was Tampa Bay Rays vs Boston Red Sox with 100 in attendance and the second game was Tampa Bay Rays vs Baltimore Orioles with an attendance of 120. The Stone Crabs began a 6 game home stretch last night with a win over Jupiter!

### Harold Avenue Park

Harold Avenues Youth Basketball league 6u and 8u divisions finished up their summer seasons this past Saturday. The kids received their medals for all their hard work and effort over the last 12 weeks. The remaining divisions are now in their playoffs and championships. First round of playoffs was held on 8/20 and 8/21, with the semifinals and championship games being held on 8/27.

### Tringali Park

Hello from Tringali Park! Today's good news is all about our Open House on 8/20. We've been working hard to get everything set to make a great impression on our community. This event offered plenty of information about upcoming programs, as well as entertaining presentations and clinics. It began at 11 a.m. at the Community Center, at 11:30 a.m. there was a Jazzercise demonstration. At noon, a Ballet demonstration followed by karaoke. At 1 p.m., Buck Buckmaster gave a presentation on how to achieve a "bully free community". Finally, at 2 p.m., local musicians, The G Men, will be performed live onstage. Down at the gymnasium, there was plenty of other programs to check out. At 11:30 a.m., there was a Super Mini Sports Clinic for kids aged 4-6. At 12:30 p.m., a Pickleball Clinic took place. A Youth basketball Clinic occurred at 1:30 p.m., followed by open gym play from 2-3 p.m. All the while, the office was open, in order to register guests in upcoming programs. Outside, were featured Inline Hockey, Tennis Clinics, the Truly Nolen Bug Truck and, of course, a Bounce House! Have a great week!

### Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center

On 8/9 we had an evening meditation group and on 8/10 there was a CCSO neighborhood meeting. The weekend was quiet and we started the week off with a Youth Sports Council Meeting on 8/15. The rest of the week the inside will be painted before starting our next busy season.

## **Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool**

For the week of 8/10 through 8/16/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 211 paid admissions, was visited by 31 pass holders and had 35 water aerobics participants.

### **Extension Services**

- Newspaper Article for August 15 – "The butterfly pea - not a butterfly attractor, but it is truly blue!"
- Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – August 15
- Bromeliads and Mosquitoes – August 16
- Gulf Citrus Industry Dinner - Ft. Myers – August 16
- Employee Appreciation Event – August 17
- Citrus Expo - North Ft. Myers – August 18

### **Natural Resources**

This week staff assisted the Sheriff's department with the development of a new facility. Specifically staff conducted several gopher tortoise burrow excavations. No gopher tortoises were recovered during the action.

Staff have continued to work on the FCT grant reports. These reports are nearly complete.

A total of 3 abandoned boats were removed from an island near Thornton Key.

Natural Resources staff has reported that Green Sea Turtles are starting to nest more frequently throughout Charlotte County. Loggerhead Sea Turtles are the species most commonly found on Charlotte County beaches.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

- Carpet installation at Cedar Point Park Visitors Center is scheduled to begin August 22, 2016. A public service announcement was sent noting the facility will be closed for two or three days during the installation.
- South County Park concession and restroom painting is ninety percent complete.
- Final trim installation is in progress and awaiting delivery of glass insert to complete the security remodel at the Medical Examiner's office/reception area.
- The roof coating at the Cultural Center eastern area is complete.

### **Operations**

County Building and Parks Restrooms Cleaning Contract Bids were received. We will be reviewing and recommending vendor(s) for the upcoming new contract term.

### **Project Management**

- A pre-construction meeting was held for the sports lighting retrofit of North County Regional Park and Ann Dever Regional Park. Lighting will be upgraded at the players' football field at Ann Dever and at two soccer fields and three baseball fields at NCRP. Work is anticipated to begin late September/early October 2016.
- Port Charlotte Beach improvements and the seawall installation continues.
- Cape Haze Pioneer Trail first lift of asphalt has been placed in the driveway and parking areas.
- West County Annex "Short List" for Construction Manager at Risk is this week.
- A request for letter of interest for design services at South County Regional Park additions has been submitted to purchasing.

## Human Services

### Family Services Division

- 38 clients were seen this week in the office and 13 clients were seen at outreach locations
- 2 households were provided with food from the food pantry
- 26 home energy and crisis applications were approved for \$8,738 in electric assistance funded through the federal LIHEAP grant
- 1 water assistance application was approved for \$90 funded through the Heartship program
- 3 households were assistance through the Season of Sharing funds totaling \$2,469

Additionally, 2 family self-sufficiency assessments and 2 weekly updates were completed. Also, 1 juvenile civil citation assessment and 5 status updates were conducted.

## Public Works

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

**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.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (July 19, 2016) – *The intersection at Ingraham Boulevard West at CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) will be closed Monday July 25, 2016 for approximately 3 weeks. This road closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of Ingraham Boulevard West entering Rotonda. Traffic is detoured via Rotonda East Boulevard; variable message boards and traffic control devices are in place to assist travelers through the construction area. On behalf of all roadway construction crews, please drive safely.*

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (July 19, 2016) – *Traffic has been shifted to the new northbound lanes while the contractor builds the new South Bound lanes. Reduced speed limits will remain as posted to ensure safety in the construction zone.*

The contractor is currently building the west side of the project. New drainage is currently being installed followed by the new roadway template.

**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 crews have completed switching residents to the new 16" water main from Achilles to Kings Hwy. Construction crews are currently installing the new 8" gravity sewer from Maracaibo to Blaser St. Crews continue to maintain miscellaneous safety items throughout the project. All work at PCMS is completed. Crews are working on excavating material from Pond C-2 off Page St. and site work preparation for new road grading between Achilles and Kings Hwy. Crews have completed the last section of the new 48" gravity sewer from Midway south on Loveland Blvd. Crews have installed new 16" water main form Sharpe St. to Hayworth St., this line is not in service at this time. Crews will continue to work on water main items between Hayworth St. and Sharpe St.

## **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 Dored Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying. Construction contract: Jones Landscape, Construction schedule: 5/23 – 10/20 2016 (150 calendar days).

Cypress, red maple, and sweet bay trees have been planted and utility services have been established. The installation of irrigation is underway and the planting of shrubs and additional trees continues. This project is progressing ahead of schedule.

**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: 7/7 – 9/5/2016 (60 calendar days)

Intermittent, temporary lane closures are expected for the delivery and installation of landscape materials to the medians.

Directional bore drilling is complete and trenching for irrigation is underway. Water points of service are ready at this location however electrical points of service are pending action by Florida Power and Light.

Palms and Japanese Blueberry trees have been planted. Flowering trees, such as Crepe Myrtles, will be planted when the irrigation is complete. Construction is progressing ahead of schedule.

*PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (August 11, 2016) – Intermittent inside lane closures are anticipated on Toledo Blade Boulevard, from US 41 to Hillsborough Boulevard, next week from Monday - Friday, August 15 - 19. Work in this area includes median landscaping and temporary inside lane closures will be necessary for the delivery of landscape materials. Advance warning signs and flaggers will be onsite as necessary. Travelers may experience intermittent, slow moving traffic and/or temporary delays within the project limits and should allow extra time when planning to travel through this area.*

**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 reclaimed water facility connection is in place. Planting and irrigation installations are underway.

Flowering and ornamental trees have been planted along with Palms and ornamental shrubs and grasses.

*PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Aug. 11, 2016) – Intermittent inside lane closures are expected to continue on Midway Boulevard next week, between Yancey Street and Harbor Boulevard, through Friday, Aug. 19. Work in this area includes median landscaping and temporary inside lane closures are necessary for the delivery of landscape materials. Advance warning signs and flaggers will be onsite as necessary. Travelers may experience intermittent, slow moving traffic and/or temporary delays within the project limits and should allow extra time when planning to travel through this area.*

## **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.

The initial survey and environmental site visit is complete. Design is in progress; base plans and sightline analysis is underway to identify potential planting areas and sign locations.

The 30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates have been received and reviewed by county staff and comments returned to the design engineer.

**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.

The initial survey and environmental site visit is complete. Design is in progress; base plans and sightline analysis is underway to identify potential planting areas and sign locations.

The 30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates have been received and reviewed by county staff and comments returned to the design engineer.

**Winchester Boulevard Median Landscaping and Buffer** – This project provides for landscaping with drip 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, irrigation and a proposed buffer. Landscape plants include canopy and ornamental trees, palms, shrubs and ground cover. Design Contract: CES/American, Design/Permitting Schedule: Early 2016 – 8/22/2016.

A second public input opportunity was held at the Tringali Community Center on August 3 to present the 60% design plans and record public input (approximately 15 area residents were in attendance.)

The presentation by CES/American was very informative followed by a short question and answer session. It was noted that funding has not been allocated to construct the buffer portion of the project at this time.

The 90% design plans are in progress and should be received by the county in late September. The landscape consultant has been advised to reduce the overall landscape design to bring the cost of construction in line with the budget which will also reduce the cost of maintaining the landscaped areas after the project is complete.

#### **Maintenance & Operations Weekly Accomplishments** (Aug. 10-16, 2016)

A total of 102 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, asphalt repairs, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade: 13,500 SF in Greater Port Charlotte

	2,500 SF in Grove City
	1,800 SF in Gulf Cove
Small pipe install:	24 LF in Northwest Port Charlotte
	28 LF in Rotonda Heights
	40 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
	128 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 63 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
	Cleaned 2 culverts in Gulf Cove
	Cleaned 8 culverts in Englewood East
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 5.51 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Boom mower:	Cut 11,952 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Debris removal:	Removed 7,560 pounds of debris from 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: 42,826
- Landing rate counts taken: 46
- Traps set: 34
- Service requests: 50

#### Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 13
- Sites inspected: 11
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

### Tourism

Visitor safety is important and in order to provide current and accurate information, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is using [OurSafeTravel.com](http://OurSafeTravel.com) to post critical information visitors need to know. Currently, the site offers information about the Zika virus and water quality and provides helpful information and resource links to assist visitors in making a decision to travel to Charlotte County.