

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Ben Bailey, Building Official and Shaun Cullinan, Zoning Official gave a presentation at the Beaches and Shores Committee meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11 providing a much appreciated update on current beach issues and the steps the county is taking to move forward.

The Planning & Zoning recommended approval of Murdock Village changes on Monday, Oct. 10 allowing the project to move forward with committee support.

Community Services

Administration

The Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors received a micro grant from the National Association of Realtors to help Community Services build a new disc golf course at the South County Regional Park. The \$1,500 grant from the National Association of Realtors is being matched by the PGPCNP Association of Realtors. The Placemaking Micro-Grant is intended to fund "lighter quicker cheaper" projects that improve a neighborhood with small, inexpensive, incremental placemaking projects which will help to make the neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. The addition of a disc golf course at South County Regional Park will provide an additional recreation activity to Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active in Charlotte County.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park just had the last Tampa Bay Instructional League Game on Friday, 10/07. There was a Perfect Games Baseball Tournament held over the weekend, Oct. 7-9. There was approximately 5,640 in attendance over the three-day tournament.

Harold Avenue Park

Last week Charlotte County was asked by the State of Florida to do whatever we could to provide shelter to east coast residents that were evacuating in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew. Harold Avenue was selected as a shelter site. Through the efforts of our Community Services staff, Emergency Management Staff, and volunteers, we were able to provide a safe haven for 51 evacuees, all of whom expressed deep gratitude for the comfort we were able to provide. This week Harold staff continued their work on the Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 29. Staff has distributed all promotional activities to the schools in hopes of a great turnout. Daughters at Play (DAP) is continuing to rent the gym, practicing throughout the week with games on Saturdays. Harold Avenue has confirmed dates for a Men's and Women's Pickleball league that is set to start in November. The deadline for regular signs ups for Harold Avenue's Youth Basketball Leagues ended on Oct. 12. Late registrations are still being accepted through Nov. 11 with an increased fee where spots are available.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 10/5 through 10/11/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 138 paid admissions, was visited by 21 pass holders and had 49 water aerobics participants.

Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center

This past week we had Room B booked for Utilities Training for 2 days, 20 people each day. We had a very large wedding for 185 with set up on Friday for four hours and the nuptial's on Saturday. This next weekend we are looking forward to a Sweet Sixteen Party for sixty and another large wedding for 140.

Extension Services

- Home and Garden Show Master Gardener Booth - Event Center – Theme - "Crotons and Coleus" – Oct. 8 & 9
- Newspaper Article for Oct. 10 – "Downy mildew on viburnum - a disturbing mess"
- Soil & Water Meeting – Oct. 10
- Manager Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – Oct. 10
- CED Meeting with Brenda and Dr. Gutter - Conference Call – Oct. 11
- "Beneficial Organisms" - Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society - Englewood – Oct. 11
- Ambassador Program - Tringali Recreation Center – Oct. 12
- Zoning Officials Workshop – Oct. 14

Parks

Clark Park is complete. Invasive trees removed & hydro-seeding has grown in and has been added to the lawn mowing contract. Now open to the public as an open lot on Shell Creek for fishing on the banks.

Harbour Heights butterfly garden is complete. Rebuilt path, plants installed mulch added, irrigation system rebuilt, sod installed on 'future expansion' area and is growing. Turned over to local community garden group.

Picnic tables, trash & recycling containers and reservation box installed at new 20 x 20 ft. pavilion at Harbour Heights. Open for rental reservations.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Charlotte County Sports Park parking lot seal and stripe began Oct. 10, 2016 and should take two to three days, weather permitting. This project also includes installation of new curbing at the player's entrance.
- Loveland Water Treatment Plant door replacement is seventy-five percent complete.
- Emergency Vehicle Repair Facility facade stucco repair work is seventy-five percent complete.

Operations

- Event Center backup generator project stakeholder meetings are to be scheduled this week to begin the engineering analysis for sizing the appropriate generator for this facility.
- Live Oak Point Park restrooms will have their paper towel dispensers installed as of Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016 and then cleaned for the opening.

Project Management

- The parking area was striped with stop blocks installed at the Bay Heights Boat Ramp. The final site grading was performed before the landscaping installation.

Human Services

Human Services Director and Family Services Manager attended Developing Community Solutions – A Seminar on Affordable & Workforce Housing. The seminar was sponsored by Team Punta Gorda and the Bernice Russel Community Development Corporation. Attendees included key community leaders representing government, non-profit, businesses, housing developers and community advocates. The guest speaker was Anthony Jones, CEO of the Bright Community Trust and formerly with the Community Development Department in Pinellas County. Mr. Jones provided the group with information on some successful strategies to enhance community housing. Seminar sponsors invited attendees to future task force

meetings that will continue exploring and implementing strategies to increase affordable and workforce housing availability in Charlotte County.

Housing Manager was invited to speak at the Partners in Progress meeting this week in Orlando to discuss the Lakeshore property designed for Special Needs individuals. The Lakeshore quadplex was funded with housing grants and is considered a best practice design.

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

The paving and restoration in Deep Creek has been completed. A punch list will be generated to take care of any outstanding issues. The contractor has completed paving and restoration in the Peachland 7 area and the Ridge Harbor area in the PGNU District. They are continuing to perform base repairs in the Peachland 6 area. The paving in Peachland 5 area has resumed and is almost complete. To date there has been approx. 44,408 tons of asphalt placed in this contract. The amount of work completed to date is 25.5% and the amount of contract time that has elapsed is 32.8%.

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

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Sept. 20, 2016) – *Please be advised that traffic will detour starting the week of Oct. 17. A portion of Hayworth Road (in the vicinity of Breezeswept Ave.) will be closed. Traffic will be routed on a short detour using Page St. and Montrose Ave. Travelers are encouraged to choose an alternate route when possible. Mail delivery, emergency services, and access to local residences will be maintained during construction.*

Construction crews are currently installing the new 8" gravity sewer from Maracaibo to Amstead. Crews are working on site work preparation for the new road, concrete curbing and sidewalk between Achilles and Kings Hwy. Crews also continue to maintain miscellaneous drainage and safety items throughout the project.

Excerpts from www.midwayupdate.com

Sharp Street to Birchcrest Boulevard: The contractor has installed a new water main in this area.

Harriet Street to Neil Armstrong Elementary: The contractor has installed a new water main in this area.

Noble Terrace to Broom Court: The contractor has installed a new water main in this area.

Conway Blvd. to Page St.: The contractor has installed a new water main in this area.

Hayworth Rd. to Alton Rd.: The contractor has installed a new water main in this area.

Morley St. to Orlando Blvd. (PCMS): A new parent pick-up has been installed in this area.

Alton Rd. to Beacon Dr.: The construction crews have cleared Retention Area 'E' of large vegetation. There is no other significant work in this area.

Abscott Street to Bermuda Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.

Hardey Street to Amstead Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.

Willoughby Street to Maracaibo Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.

Shilo Street to Loveland Boulevard: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.

Kings Highway: Road is closed at Midway and Kings Highway as contractor installs 16" water main line. Please see current detour map.

Retention Area C-1 – The construction crews have cleared Retention Area 'C-1' of large vegetation. There is no other significant work in this area.

Retention Storm Water Pond C-2 – The construction crews have cleared stormwater pond "C-2" of large vegetation. The contractor is preparing to install the primary outfall pipe network that will discharge to the Yale Waterway.

Page Street Outfall – New water main crossings have been installed along Page Street leading to Stormwater Pond "C-2."

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

Sidewalk Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Placida Road Safety Improvements (Rotonda Boulevard West to Boca Grande Causeway) – Safety improvements include the construction of a 10' wide bicycle-pedestrian path between Rotonda Boulevard West and Boca Grande Causeway and roadway/intersection improvements including:

- 1) Northbound left turn at Panama Drive.
- 2) Southbound left turn at Bantry Bay.
- 3) Southbound deceleration lane at Cape Haze Drive.
- 4) Mill and resurface between Rotonda Boulevard West and Boca Grande Causeway.
- 5) Standard street lighting between Rotonda Boulevard West and Cape Haze Drive.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: through Spring 2016, Procurement Process: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2016

Charlotte County Utilities added a reclaimed water line and force main sewer to this project which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Conducting utility work in conjunction with construction of the multi-use path and safety improvements will minimize disruption to residents and businesses within the project limits.

The project was put out to bid on Sept. 7, 2016. A Pre-Bid meeting was held on Sept. 15, 2016. The bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016.

Maintenance & Operations Weekly Accomplishments (Sept. 28 – Oct. 4, 2016)

A total of new 95 requests were received related to drainage, brush, asphalt repairs, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	5,500 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
	10,200 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
	6,900 SF in Englewood East

Small pipe install:	32 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 20 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 32 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 15 culverts in Punta Gorda Non-Urban Cleaned 5 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte Cleaned 6 culverts in South Punta Gorda Heights East
Menzie cutting:	153,000 SF in Mid Charlotte Stormwater 140,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
Asphalt repair:	Utilized tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Boom mower:	Cut 15,828 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 95,070 CY in Englewood East Cut 34,600 CY in Northwest Port Charlotte Cut 18,660 CY in South Gulf Cove Cut CY in Town Estates Cut 13,180 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban

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: 57,760
- Landing rate counts taken: 27
- Traps set: 32
- Service requests: 6

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 15
- Sites inspected: 2
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

At the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) 52nd Annual Conference held in Lakeland, Fla., Oct. 5 – 8, The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast Visitor & Convention Bureau received first place in the Industry Public Relations Program category in the Excellence in Craft competition. The honor recognized the VCB's 60-second "Experience Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands: 2016" video which highlights the destination's nature-based activities.

Last month, the Florida Outdoor Writers Association awarded the same video with the First Place Excellence in Craft Award in the Corporate/Tourism Promotion category. The video was edited, produced and published in 2015 by Chip Futch, the Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast VCB Director of Marketing, and was utilized in the VCB's 2016 marketing program to lure visitors into the Southwest Florida community of Charlotte County. It has been viewed more than 2.4 million times through campaigns. The video contains segments filmed by

various videographers who are Anton Fresco, David Sussman of DW Sussman Photography, Russ Weston, Alex Carabes, and Sean and Brooks Paxton of Shot Locker Productions.

Prior to the conference, the Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted six outdoor communicators during educational visits with an emphasis on fishing out of Punta Gorda and Englewood Beach. The trip has already resulted in at least two published articles and the VCB is optimistic more positive editorial coverage will be generated as a result of the trips. During the SEOPA conference, Jennifer Huber was one of speakers during a panel discussing media relationships between destination marketing organizations and members of the media.

Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast VCB staff attended the Travel, Events, and Management in Sports (TEAMS) Conference & Expo, Sept. 27-29, 2016 in Atlantic City, NJ, which provided educational sessions as well as various networking opportunities. As part of the program, the Bureau met one on one with over twenty event organizers to discuss the potential of Charlotte County hosting one or more of their events. Several strong leads were generated and/or relationships created with a variety of organizations including Game Day USA, Savage Race, International Slow Pitch Softball, Powerman Duathlon, Red Frog Events, National Senior Games, Elite Tournaments, Sunshine State Games, Junior Sports Association and Archery Tag. The VCB is actively gathering more information and evaluating the feasibility of hosting 10 different events discussed during these appointment sessions.

Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast VCB staff attended the Florida Society of Association Executives Education Expo on Oct. 5, 2016 in Tallahassee which provided educational sessions and the opportunity to network with dozens of association market meeting planners. In addition, staff conducted one on one sales calls meetings with 10 different associations including the Florida Psychiatric Society, Florida Propane & Gas Association, Florida Surveying & Mapping Society and the Florida Bankers Association several of which generated strong leads for future business.

Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast VCB staff coordinated a meeting planner familiarization tour in September which included four meeting planners from the Greater Tampa and Tallahassee areas. This two-day function edified the planners as to what our destination has to offer the meetings market and included visits to the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Palm Island Resort, and Fishermen's Village, along with site inspections of several hotels, attractions and restaurants with private dining space. The purpose of hosting these meeting planners was to introduce them to Charlotte County's capabilities in hosting future meetings and events.