

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Desoto Ditch Bank Stabilization – Subsequent to clearing the canal banks, it was discovered that the slopes had degraded resulting in erosion. Design and reconstruction of the slopes is necessary to prevent future degradation. Construction of the northernmost 300' of ditch was completed prior to March 1, 2013 and is now on hold for the duration of the Florida Scrub Jay nesting season. Construction will resume in July and is expected to be complete in December 2013.

Pirate Harbor Rock Ledge Removal – Rock ledges were found during the maintenance dredging project c390303. Removal of the rock ledges is not considered maintenance dredging and required a new standard Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) general permit in order to remove the rock. All permits are in hand for this work; the contractor has completed rock areas 1, 2, and 3 and is 50% complete with Rock Area 4. Construction is expected to be completed in late August 2013.

Rampart Boulevard Improvement Project – This project provides for the design and expansion of Rampart Boulevard from a two-lane to a four-lane roadway, from .5 miles west of the I-75 Corridor to Loveland Boulevard. This project includes intersection modifications at Kings Highway, sidewalks, and street lights. Construction is complete at the intersection of Kings Highway; the new lanes are open to traffic. Construction continues east of the intersection to Kings Gate entrance. The contractor is currently working on the stormwater ponds. This project is projected to be completed in July 2013. *PSA released 1/16/13, expires 7/31/2013 - Phase II of the Rampart Boulevard Roadway Improvement Project began on November 14, 2012. This announcement is being re-issued to remind the public that traffic delays are anticipated in the vicinity of Rampart Boulevard and Kings Highway through the end of July 2013. During this time there will be lane closures and minor traffic delays. Motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to exercise caution throughout the work area.*

South Bridge Waterway Maintenance Dredging – This project, conducted at the request of property owners, is a restoration dredge of all existing manmade canals and access channels within the waterway system. The intent of this project is to restore safe navigation by removing 16,000 cubic yards of silted material. Mangrove trimming is complete and dredging is underway; this project should be finished in late June 2013.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

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 will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Johnson Engineering is preparing documents for submission to the permitting agencies and will have the 90% plans ready for review in May 2013. The final Public Information Meeting is scheduled May 21, 2013 and construction is anticipated to begin in December 2013. *PSA issued 4/16/13, expires 5/22/13 - Charlotte County will hold a Public Information Meeting to present the design plans for the CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening Project on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at the Tringali Recreation Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Charlotte County and Johnson Engineering staff will be present to answer questions. Charlotte County residents are encouraged to attend. Location: Tringali Community Center, 3460 North Access Road, Unit 1, Englewood, FL 34224.*

Gardens of Gulf Cove Sidewalks – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle. The 60% design plans were reviewed by County staff and the design engineer is addressing comments. This project should be ready to go out for bid in June 2013.

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements are required before widening this section of the corridor. This project includes increasing the drainage capacity under US 41 at three locations in addition to the widening of Midway from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway. The design engineer submitted the plans to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for review in conjunction with a permit

application. Design is scheduled to be completed in August 2013 with construction projected to begin in late 2013.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek 6' Dredging Project – The Alligator Creek Waterway Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to a depth greater than -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. This project also includes maintenance dredging to existing permitted conditions. Coastal Engineering is in the process of gathering data for a permit application and is conducting an environmental resource survey. Permitting is anticipated to be completed by January 2014.

Buena Vista Waterway Maintenance Dredging – The Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway MSBU committee requested a survey of the access channels. Based on data collected, the committee wishes to seek engineering design and permitting for dredging of access channels. Due to the fact that Coastal Engineering cannot add construction related services to post Tropical Storm Debby restoration, Stantec will assume the role and provide construction services under a separate account. All permits have been issued for this project and the bid package is ready. The Project Manager is working with the Community Services Department to provide sand from this dredging project for beach re-nourishment. Once the details are worked out, this project will go out for bid. Construction is expected to begin in July 2013.

Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Spot dredging will be conducted within the Manchester Waterway to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. Permit applications were submitted to the FDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The FDEP permit was issued and the bid package is ready. This project will go out for bid upon receipt of the ACOE permit. Construction is projected to begin in late June 2013.

Northwest Port Charlotte Exterior Channel Dredging – This project is to facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system and connecting them to the Myakka River navigation channel. The ACOE and FDEP permit authorizations have been finalized for this project. A re-survey of the access channel was conducted in November 2012 and temporary spoil sites have been secured. The preconstruction meeting was held and construction will begin July 1, 2013.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – The purpose of this project is to continue monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging of Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. Extensive field investigations are in process and numerical modeling began in October 2012. A post Tropical Storm Debby damage analysis is underway and the County has initiated the process of seeking reimbursement from FEMA. Coastal Engineering presented the outcome of the modeling and made a recommendation to the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee in April 2013. A formal presentation will be made to the BCC on May 28, 2013.

Suncoast Waterway Maintenance Dredging – This project is designed to facilitate safe navigation within the Suncoast Waterway system by removing 18,000 cubic yards of silted material. The construction contract was awarded to Marine Contracting Group with the notice to proceed scheduled July 1, 2013.

Drainage Projects

US 41 Storm Structures – This project involves engineering and permitting for directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South US 41 Access Roads within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway north of the US 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway north of the US 41 Access Road. 100% design plans are under review by County staff. GWE is preparing the final drainage permit for submission to FDOT. Construction is scheduled to start in August 2013.

Miscellaneous Projects

Manasota Key Community Plan Design – The Manasota Key MSBU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. Weiler Engineering is gathering community input for the plan. A community meeting was held March 26, 2013 at Lemon Bay High School. Final plans should be complete by July 2013.

Manchester Lock Education - This is an educational based program that was required by the Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Manchester Lock System removal. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center has been contracted to provide water quality education to elementary age school children throughout Charlotte County. Elementary school class trips in the Alligator Bay Education program were conducted on April 18, 2013. This is an ongoing, annual project designed to educate students and parents on water resource issues; learning what actions they can take to protect our community's natural water resources and the environment.

Rotonda West Bridge Lighting – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested electricity to five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Boulevard East, Boulevard West, Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. 90% design plans were received for staff review. FTE is addressing staff comments. Construction is projected to begin in July 2013.

Rotonda West Entrance Way Signs – This project will provide new signs at seven (7) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit. The second and final community meeting was held with Johnson Engineering and the Rotonda West Board of Directors on March 13, 2013. 60% design plans were received in late April 2013 and construction is estimated to begin in November 2013.

South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping – This project is to provide beautification and enhance entries to Burnt Store Lakes. It includes installation of landscaping and decorative lighting at the request of the property owners within the South Burnt Store MSBU. Funding is provided from assessments in the South Burnt Store Street and Drainage Unit. This project was awarded to On Power Services on May 14, 2013; construction is estimated to begin in late May 2013 after the preconstruction meeting.

South Gulf Cove Water Quality – The South Gulf Cove Waterway MSBU requested that the County provide water quality samples at five separate locations throughout their canal systems. This is an ongoing program with sampling conducted every quarter. An annual presentation is made to the MSBU regarding the status of the water quality. Benchmark Labs provides water sampling and test results while the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) compiles the raw data and prepares an annual report. CHEC will be compiling the historical data and presenting their report to the MSBU during their next scheduled meeting in May 2013.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

There were a total of three (3) Extended Spring Training games at the CSP last week with an estimated total of 75 total fans.

Tringali Recreation

Saturday, May 11, 2013, from 8:30am-11:00am Charlotte County Community Services hosted for the fifteenth year the "Big Surf" fishing tournament. This is a catch and release fishing tournament and is also a free event open to kids 3 to 12 years of age. There were 59 registered participants accompanied by parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. The young anglers are placed in two divisions, 3 to 6 years old and 7 to 12 years old. At check in each child was given a rod, reel and tackle box furnished by Fish Florida and a tote bag. The tote bags were compliments of Pirates Dream which contained hats furnished by Yamaha and other fishing and safety materials. At the end of the tournament each participant was treated to a cook-out sponsored by Winn-Dixie. Immediately following the cook-out trophies were presented to the biggest (19 ½"), smallest (5"), most caught (10) and most unusual (flounder) fish in each age division. Fun was had by all who attended this event.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Basketball Season has officially begun at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. The registrants of the Co-Ed Summer Youth Basketball League began practicing on this past Tuesday. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and adrenaline as the teams prepared for the upcoming season. The Jamboree Tip-Off will be Saturday, May 18th at 8:00 a.m. with regular season games beginning on June 1st. The Co-Ed Youth Basketball League is one of Harold Avenue Recreation Center's most popular programs. There are currently 220 participants registered in the league. The Co-Ed Summer Youth Basketball League is open to area youth ages 5 to 17 years of age.

Port Charlotte Beach and Pool

For the week of May 5-May 11 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 36 attend the water aerobics classes and 255 paid admissions.

The Recreation Center had two rentals with expected attendance of 284.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 5-8 through 5-13-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 276 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 23 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 8 swim practices resulting in approximately 560 "splashes." Charlotte High School special Education and Edison Collegiate held their end of the year parties resulting in approximately 30 and 40 "splashes" respectively. Spring Learn to Swim session 3 continued with resulting in approximately 100 "splashes."

South County was used last week by Edison Collegiate High School and Charlotte High School for end of year parties for their students.

Hoops of Hope used the facility on Saturday for a basketball tournament.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 278 paid admissions, was visited by 94 pass holders and had 97 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes". LA Ainger Middle School held their end of the year party where approximately 300 students enjoyed the pool, skate park and multipurpose field. Learn to Swim Spring Session 3 continued resulting in approximately 21 "splashes". The Water Safety Instructor course continued with 5 students

Libraries and Historical Division

John Mallory is a great young man who is having an Eagle Scout Court of Honor tonight! John spent hours working on the Atrium at the Mid-County Library to achieve the Eagle Scout status. The Ceremony will be tonight May 14 at the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church and we will be there to celebrate with John! All of our patrons are enjoying the newly renovated Atrium!

June 1st is the Summer Reading Kick Off at the Mall. The fun starts at 1pm until 4pm at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall near the movie theaters! There will be events for the whole family and tables from all of Community Services-Come join in the fun!

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for May 13th – "Everything you did not know about lovebugs"
- Managers Meeting – May 13th – 1 to 3 pm – Mid-County Library
- 2013 Master Gardener Training – "Plant Propagation" - May 14th – 9:30 am to 12:30 pm – Dr. Bob Rouse from Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee
- Rec Manager Interviews – 8 am to 2:30 pm – Mid-County Library – May 15th
- 2013 Green Industries Best Management Practices In-Service Training – Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Balm – May 16th – 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Farm Safety Day – May 18th – 8am to 2 pm - Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee.

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Two new roof top A/C are scheduled to be delivered to the Cultural Center later this week. They are replacements for the existing two units, final installation schedule will be firmed up after meeting with Cultural Center Operations Manager.

The remainder of the seven main air handlers at Murdock Administration building are in the process of being refurbished. This will allow extended service until the systems are replaced.

Renovations to dock at Lake Betty Park are now completed.

Fire Station #6 had a sewer back up remediated.

An existing book drop was relocated and a new book drop box was installed at Englewood Library.

Operations

The new office area for five State Attorney's Office employees will be complete when phones are installed. This space which was previously a file room has had new carpet installed, painted, electrical and data drop work is also completed.

Project Management

The Jail sanitation grinder systems materials arrived, the contractor mobilized today will start installing tomorrow.

Construction documents for the Historical Center rehabilitation have been received and are under review.

The project architect made a site visit to the Bayshore Park restroom project.

At Harold Avenue Park the work has started on the softball field concession building.

Human Services

County Veteran Services Officer, David Donohew and Assistant Services Officers, David Rockow and Terry Keene attended the semi-annual Florida Department of Veteran Affairs Training/Recertification program this week. All three Officers passed the required exam and have been recertified to provide assistance with VA claims for Charlotte County veterans and their families.

Also this week, the nationally affiliated Wounded Warriors Family Support Organization sent 40 reserved parking signs for our County's Combat Wounded Veterans. These courtesy reserved parking signs will be posted at County facilities and parks. Most are expected to be installed by Memorial Day. The Sign depicts the Purple Heart. Appropriately, the Board of County Commissioners designated Charlotte County as a Purple Heart County in February of this year.

Family Services Staff and three youth volunteers participated in the 2013 Postal Carriers Food Drive. The Department's food pantry received approximately \$5,000 worth of food from this community-wide event. Donated food from the generous residents of Charlotte County will provide food to assist families during the summer months.

Transit dispatcher, Sandra Maldonado, completed a three-day basic interpreter training program. The interpreter program covered the role of the interpreter, ethics, responsibilities, and dynamics of cross cultural interaction as well as business practices and vocabulary. Sandra is now a certified-trained interpreter.

Public Works

The Zemel Road Landfill Permit renewal was submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to obtain a 20-year operation permit for the landfill. Previous permits were only valid for five years. Public Works Solid Waste Operations Division has been working with HDR Engineering, the Solid Waste Engineer of Record, to obtain this expanded permit from FDEP.

The Peachland Boulevard road work was completed with 3,000 square feet of line and grade, a new catch basin and sidewalk repair. A pipe-set job was started on Aaron Street with elevation shots completed and the bottom of the ditch area cleared so the excavator can set the pipe. The flail mower cut 11,058 cubic yards in the Coral Ridge and Cooper Street area and the Menzi cleared 42,200 square feet on the Jones Loop ditch. The shoulder-repair crew completed 2.4 miles of work on Jones Loop Road and the drainage crew finished 8,400 square feet of swale at Durkee and at Glen, then removed debris on Leah. The outfall crew installed and paved three road crossing pipes in the Northwest Port Charlotte area.

The Board of County Commissioners approved assessment rate increases at their MSBU Workshop for: Boca Grande Street & Drainage MSBU to expand their iguana control program; Harbor Heights Waterway MSBU for a dredging project; Northwest Port Charlotte Street & Drainage MSBU for a paving program; and South Gulf Cove Street & Drainage MSBU for Phase I of their sidewalk project.

The BCC approved an ordinance amendment to create a formal Advisory Committee for the Don Pedro/Knight Island MSTU. The Island will be represented by five members from specific geographic areas with a sixth member at large. The advertisement for vacancies will be posted on the May 28, 2013 BCC agenda, although applications have already been received due to the interest by Island residents.

Tourism

The Englewood-Cape Haze Area Chamber of Commerce received a grant from Visit Sarasota County and funding from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau to produce a promotional video for the Internet and Jerry Jones, the Charlotte Harbor VCB's Director of Film, Television and Digital Media participated in the one-day shoot earlier this month (May 7). So a tightly scheduled day began with kayaking at Grande Tours, then onto a boat at Cape Haze to capture paddleboarding, fishing and shelling on the beach. By the time the sun had set, they also visited three restaurants – to show great food and ambience – and a beautiful golf course by Lemon Bay. Selected shots will be edited together and set to music to create a 90-second video for the web highlighting the food and fun in the Englewood area.

Last week (May 8) Jennifer Huber, Public Relations Manager for the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, was invited to present during a round-table discussion about marketing and public relations during the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance and Florida Public Relations Association Marketing Symposium in Lakewood Ranch. She shared tips, suggestions and case studies from the Bureau on how organizations can gain media attention for their service or product.

Utilities

Initiated the removal of hydrogen peroxide injection at lift station 302 and installing a Siemens odor control unit saving approximately \$30,000 annually in chemical costs.

Audited treatment processes at Burnt Store WTP and decreased unaccounted for water by 2.2% for the SWFWMD 2012 water audit.

Retrofitted 100 older meters in Deep Creek area with 100 newer automated style.

Treatment Facilities and Engineering staffs are in the process of designing an upgrade for the piping at the West Port reclaim water pumping station. The installation will be accomplished in-house.