

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Winchester and Flamingo Signalization – This project provides for signalization of the intersections at Flamingo/SR 776 and a future intersection at Winchester/CR 775 once the Winchester Road extension is complete. This is a Construction Manager at Risk contract.

The traffic signal at SR 776/Flamingo is operational but there is still minor work that needs to be completed at this location.

Traffic signal work continues on SR 775 just south of St. Francis of Assisi Church in preparation for the Winchester Boulevard roadway extension. Activation of this traffic light will coincide with the completion of the Winchester Boulevard extension.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Placida Road Phase 1 - Rotonda Blvd. West to Cape Haze Drive – Design plans are in progress to provide for safety improvements including a 2.9 mile bicycle-pedestrian path from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive, intersection improvements at Lemon Bay Golf Course, Bantry Bay, Cape Haze Drive and Panama Drive and resurfacing of Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway.

We are working on a change order to the scope of services with Giffels – Webster on the portion from Rotonda Blvd West to Cape Haze Drive.

Placida Road Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – The original scope of this project was to widen Placida Road from a two to a four lane divided roadway from Cape Haze Drive to the Boca Grande Causeway with curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike facilities. The BCC decided to postpone road widening to a future date, and redesign the project to incorporate safety improvements. It was also decided to advance the sidewalk/multi-use trail portion of Phase 2 to be worked concurrently with Phase 1.

This project is currently in negotiations with the design firm, Giffels - Webster Engineers, to finalize the scope of services to provide for safety improvements including a bicycle-pedestrian path.

Winchester Corridor Phase Three – This project proposes the construction of a new 4 lane divided roadway from SR 776 to Placida Road (CR 775). In order to start the construction process of the new roadway and remain eligible for FDOT funding, the County has opted to construct the intersections at SR 776 and CR 775 as soon as design and permitting are complete. Roadway construction between the two intersections will begin once the intersections are complete and FDOT funding becomes available.

Specifications have been identified to add to the construction contract prior to release for bid. The construction bid package is expected to be delivered to the Purchasing Department by the end of May 2013.

Paving Projects

2012 North/South Paving Program – Paving is complete in Burnt Store Village, Tropical Gulf Acres, Midway Areas 3, 4, 5, 6, Peachland Area 1, Elmira area 1 and Hillsborough area 9. Peachland, Midway, and CR-74 Road and Bridge paving is also complete. The Contractor is currently paving in the Greater Port Charlotte area. As of May 20, 2013 the total asphalt placed for this contract is 128,827 tons.

2012 West County Paving Program – The paving operation is complete in Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Lakes with approximately 59,755 tons of asphalt placed. The Contractor continues to work on restoration in both of these areas. Paving continues in Gulf Cove and as of May 20, 2013 the contractor has placed approximately 41,378 tons of asphalt in this District.

Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (April 23 – May 22, 2013)

Burnt Store Lakes – MSBU decorative lighting project plans were reviewed and comments were provided; Technical Specifications were incorporated in the plans. This contract was awarded and we are waiting for the preconstruction meeting to be scheduled with On Power Services.

Burnt Store Road Project – Meetings have been held with County Legal staff and Seminole Gulf Railroad staff to discuss a resolution; awaiting correspondence. Pedestrian features cannot be opened or activated at the Jones Loop crossing until resolved. Phase 3 lighting plans are complete.

CM at Risk - Flamingo/SR 776, & Winchester/Placida - Inspection work began at Flamingo/SR 776. All conduits and pull boxes have been installed at Placida/Winchester and at Flamingo/SR 776. Flamingo has been energized and was fully operational on April 29, 2013.

Edgewater Phase Two – Traffic signal and roadway lighting engineers have been replaced; plans review and comment is on-going.

Rampart and Kings Highway – All phase 1 work has been installed and phase 2 conduits are being installed. Traffic signal work has been completed but still awaiting installation of incident management camera. Some roadway light bases have been installed. Little progress has been seen.

Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (April 23 – May 22, 2013)

Replaced defective Incident Management Camera at Kings Highway/Veterans Boulevard.

Replaced broken astro brackets at SR 776/San Casa Blvd, and Kings Highway/Midway.

Began preparation for next budget cycle. Ongoing.

Replaced pedestrian pole and assembly damaged in a motor vehicle accident at Placida/San Casa.

Plan and field reviews undertaken for the following projects: Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store), Midway Phase 2, Gasparilla Rd and Burnt Store Phase 3.

Working with fiber contractors to incorporate IT fiber and ATMS fiber into one pull box and allow IT additional fiber as part of replacement runs due to termination of COMCAST contract.

Traffic signal preventative maintenance completed: Aaron/Olean, and Harbor/Peachland.

Traffic signal preventative maintenance completed at Kings Hwy/Village Drive, Midway/Suncoast and, Olean/Elmira.

All traffic signal grounding has been tested for compliance.

Cochran/Veterans - installed concrete pole and riser for traffic signal. Relocated one lighting load center (from FPL pole) with the assistance of FPL.

Annual testing of Malfunction Management Units complete for all traffic signals in the County.

Removed electric school flasher at Coliseum and Darnell Avenue and replaced with a solar unit.

Replaced and consolidated several fiber optic facilities and service locations for efficiency.

Meeting with contractors for the City of Punta Gorda's multi use trail project along US 41 to minimize the possibility of damage to fiber optic cable.

Locates Performed

210 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 91 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls

20 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (April 23 – May 22, 2013)

Construction is complete at SR 776/San Casa Boulevard. This project is closed.

SR 776 & Gulfstream Phase 4 submittal was reviewed and comments provided. Awaiting construction to begin.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Friday, 5/17 – 555; Saturday, 4/18 – 2380 (with post-game fireworks); Sunday, 4/19 – 450; Monday, 4/20 – 0 (Rainout).

The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting home games each evening for the Charlotte Stone Crabs through Thursday, 5/23.

There were a total of four (4) Extended Spring Training games at the CSP last week with an estimated total of 68 total fans.

Tringali Recreation

Wednesday, May 15, 2013, from 6:00pm-8:00pm Charlotte County Community Services introduced Tringali's new indoor rock-climbing wall. Attending the event were Community Services Director Tommy Scott, Deputy County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker, Commissioners Bill Truex, Christopher Constance, Ken Doherty & Stephen Deutsch. Organizations attending the event were Kids Creating Change, D.A.R.E., Brownie Troup, Clowns like Us, and Wells Fargo. There were approximately 70 people that attended the ribbon-cutting for the indoor rock-climbing wall. Kids and some adults used their spider skills to climb the 8 ft. by 72 ft. indoor rock wall. There was also a bounce house, face painting and balloon animals to add to the festivities of the evening.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Go, go, g-o. Go team go! The Summer Youth Basketball League has officially begun at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. The Preseason Jamboree was held on this past Saturday. During the course of the day, the center played host to 220 players and 450 spectators. Tip off took place at 8:00 am. The participants played in 20 minute scrimmages allowing them the opportunity to become familiar with the rules and regulations of the league. The league will continue with 10 regular season games and a post season tournament to be played on Saturday's beginning at 8 am. In other news, participation in Trimmastics, Tae Kwon Do and Dog Obedience continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Pool

For the week of May 12-May 18 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 74 attend the water aerobics classes and 246 paid admissions.

The Recreation Center had two rentals with expected attendance of 150. Tickets for the Dance with Daddy went on sale and we anticipate 70 people at the event.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 5-15 through 5-21-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 368 paid admissions, was visited by 127 pass holders and had 27 water aerobics participants. Spring Learn to swim session 4 began with 10 classes and 46 students participating. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 9 swim practices resulting in approximately 600 "splashes". Sally Jones elementary school held their end of the year party with approximately 150 students attending.

Summer Camp Staff will start training on May 24. They will train for 2 days to prepare for the summer program that starts on May 28th.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 136 paid admissions, was visited by 68 pass holders and had 50 water aerobics participants. Myakka elementary school had their end of the year party with approximately 125 participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes". The Pool was closed Saturday and Sunday due to a mechanical failure.

Libraries and Historical Division

This year Libraries and Historical continue the celebration of "VIVA FLORIDA 500" which is the anniversary of Ponce de Leon's visit to Florida and to Charlotte County. With that in mind our Summer Camps at the Historical Center continue the theme of history. "In a Conquistador's Footsteps" will be the first one for ages 7-12. Call the Center at 629-7278 for more information.

Groundbreaking Reads is the adult Summer reading club theme this year and there will be programs every Saturday from June 8 until July 27 at 10:00 a.m. All adults are invited to come join in the fun of this free program series!

Come spend time in our Libraries this summer. They are cool, relaxing and you can use our collection to go world traveling on a zero budget!

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for May 20th – "What Do You Know About Hibiscus?"

2013 Master Gardener Training – "Program Development and Presentation" - May 21st h – 9:30 am to 12:30 pm – Master Gardeners, et al.

PGI Plant Clinic – "Weeds" – 2pm

2013 MG Training – "Palms" & "Basic Composting" - May 23rd - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm – Donna Worthly, Master Gardener & Allison Turner, Horticulture Program Assistant, respectfully.

Extension Staff Meeting – May 23rd – 3:00 pm

Site Visit - 3264 Park Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33982 – Oak Problem – 10:30 am

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Sealing and Striping of the Public Safety Complex is complete.

Maintenance on the Grace Street Building (where the Health Dept. moved out) has begun.

This includes overall clean up, touch up and to get this building so that it can be used or given to other County departments.

The Remodeling has begun on ADA bathroom at the Family Services Building.

The relocation of several Mail/Drop boxes at various locations was completed to increase Building Safety features.

An ADA drinking fountain was installed along Bayshore Rd. Park

ADA drop down shower benches were installed at Oyster Creek Pool Restrooms in handicapped shower stalls to accommodate wheelchair bound people.

To aid CCU personnel, an ice machine was relocated from Walenda St. Water Booster Station to the Golf Course Water Booster Station To aid CCU personnel.

Numerous minor Electrical/Lighting, Plumbing, Building Maintenance calls were remediated to assist various departments throughout the county and ensure uninterrupted services.

Operations

Admin maintenance staff will be working on the outside grounds for the rest rest of this week, focusing on areas that were recently cleared and starting to regrow.

The CCSO Fire Suppression Bid has gone out to public. The pre bid meeting is scheduled for this Friday.

Project Management

The renovation at Fire Station 6 started Monday. Selective demolition will happen this week. IT is removing and relocating equipment and point of presence cabling.

The soil was excavated for Jail Grinder with site materials stockpiled to complete project. The vault will be installed this week after installing couplers in the main piping.

The items from the public comments pertaining to the Harbour Heights drainage and parking improvement are being added to the plans and specs.

The existing softball concession building located on Harold Avenue has been demolished.

The surveyors and the environmental consultant have performed their Field work for the Port Charlotte Beach Floating Dock.

Fire/EMS & Public Safety

On May 15th the Charlotte County Office of Emergency Management conducted an exercise of the Marine Response boats in the Charlotte County area. Charlotte County Fire & EMS, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Punta Gorda Fire Department, Punta Gorda Police Department, Boca Grande Fire Department, Englewood Fire Department, Cape Coral Fire Department, Florida Wildlife Commission, and the US Coast Guard Reserve all participated in the exercise. The scenario involved a fire and explosion aboard a tour boat loaded with 45 passengers. All of the passengers had to be off loaded by the emergency responders and taken to Laishley Marina for evaluation and treatment. The exercise was evaluated according to federal guidelines and paid for by a Homeland Security Grant. All of the participants saw the exercise as valuable training due to the high volume of boating traffic in Charlotte Harbor.

Human Services

Charlotte County Transit assisted with a Marine Resources Full-Scale Exercise on May 15, 2013. The intent of the exercise was to solve problems as a team. The exercise scenario involved a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response to a charter boat that went into distress and had multi-casualties within the Charlotte County waterways. Transit's role in the exercise was to transport two busloads of wounded victims.

The Department's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program's (LIHEAP) outreach program resumed this week. Staff began services in Englewood on 5/21/13 and will continue to serve Englewood residents on Tuesdays. Outreach to area seniors will resume on 5/23/13.

Public Works

The following maintenance related activities were undertaken by Public Works – M&O this past week.

- Repaired 12 LF of Sidewalk at the intersection of Indiana St. and Elkcam Blvd.
- Replaced 24 LF of guardrail at the intersection of Torrington and Veterans due to a vehicular accident.
- Installed 88 LF of lot-pipe on Aaron Street.
- Vegetation control included 29,523 CF of Flail Mowing on Birchcrest and Circlewood.
- Menzi #2 cleared 123,280 SF of drainage ditch in the Jones Loop and Quincy area.
- Repaired 2.4 miles of road shoulder on Jones Loop.
- 13,500 SF of swale was regrade on Leah & Alan and Lander & Dalewood.

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau partnered with the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference

Center to attend the Capital Events Trade Show last week (May 14, 2013) in Tallahassee to network with various meeting planners from the association market. Of the more than 70 meeting planners in attendance staff had the opportunity to meet one on one with over two dozen of these planners most of whom have a history of hosting meetings in Southwest Florida. In addition, we received a request for proposal at the show for the Florida Propane Gas Association Annual Training conference and are currently compiling a proposal to host this meeting in 2014 and 2015.

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Sports Summit last week (May 15-17, 2013) in Clearwater Beach. In addition to providing an annual update on Florida Sports Foundation initiatives such as the grant program and the Sunshine State Games, the Summit featured round table discussions with experts representing different topics within the industry as well as presentations outlining events available for bid from several event owners including ASA Softball, USA Judo, USA Volleyball, USA Fencing, and the Florida High School Athletic Association.