

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

ULDC

Charlotte County has completed an initial draft of its new Unified Land Development Code, or ULDC, which is available for public review and comment. The ULDC is a comprehensive revision of all of the County's land development regulations, including the zoning and subdivision ordinances, as well as many other development standards such as landscaping, site and building design, and engineering standards. The creation of the ULDC is an effort to consolidate all of the County's land use regulations into a single ordinance while modernizing the standards, clarifying the presentation and writing of the Code, and working to streamline some procedures. The draft ULDC is still a work in progress, and staff are still preparing some portions of the Code, which are not yet available for public review, but the majority of the draft Code is available at www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityDevelopment/UnifiedLandDevelopmentCode/index.asp. Comments are currently being accepted by email, and a more interactive site will be available soon. Public review and comment will continue for several months as the ULDC is finalized, and public meetings and input sessions will be scheduled in the near future.

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 the ditch was completed prior to March 1 and is now on hold for the Florida Scrub Jay nesting season. Construction will resume in July and is expected to be complete in December 2013. A tortoise relocation permit has been submitted for 38 burrows.

Pirate Harbor Rock Ledge Removal – Rock ledges were found during a previous maintenance dredging project. Removal of the rock ledges is not considered maintenance dredging and required a new standard Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) General Permit to remove the rock. Charlotte County Seawalls completed all rock removal and dredging. Channel markers have been placed per permit and all work has been verified by the Engineering Consultant. This project reached completion well ahead of schedule.

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. The mangrove trimming is complete and dredging is underway. Dredging was projected to be completed in late June 2013, however weather and Landfill delays may extend the completion date.

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 July 2013. Construction is projected to begin in January 2014.

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 90% design plans area expected June 14, 2013. This project should be ready to go out for bid in July 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 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; they are currently conducting the 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. Construction is dependent upon the outcome of the engineering services contract. 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 it is advertised for bid.

Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging will be conducted within the Manchester Waterway to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. Johnson Engineering is gathering survey and historical data to prepare the permit application for maintenance dredging of the area. Permit applications were submitted to the FDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The FDEP permit was issued however the ACOE permit is still pending. Bid specifications are under review in the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation.

Northwest Port Charlotte Exterior Channel Dredging – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system and connecting them to the Myakka River navigation channel. ACOE and FDEP permit authorizations have been finalized. The preconstruction meeting was held and temporary spoil sites have been secured. Construction is scheduled to begin July 1, 2013.

South Gulf Cove Turn Basin – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock, the only existing location for vessels with any substantial size and draft to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Johnson Engineering is currently reviewing historical file records and is conducting fact finding activities.

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.

Coastal Engineering staff gave a formal presentation to the BCC on May 28, 2013 and received approval to seek permitting to place an engineered structure at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction or installation of additional structures in the future in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts.

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 the 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. Charlotte County staff and Giffels-Webster Engineers (GWE) are preparing contract documents for submission to the Purchasing Department in June 2013. GWE submitted the final drainage permit to FDOT. Construction is scheduled to start in September 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 completed in 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 in April 2013 with 131 people attending the program. This is an ongoing, annual project designed to educate students and their parents about water resources. They learn 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. 100% design plans are expected June 20, 2013. This project should go out for bid in July 2013.

Rotonda West Drainage Study – This drainage study is being conducted at the request of the Rotonda MSBU Advisory Committee. The study includes data gathering, modeling of the existing drainage system, and recommended drainage improvements. The final drainage study report was received by the County. Authorization was received from the MSBU committee for the consultants to start on Task 2 of the scope of services which includes developing an improvement plan to existing conditions and a project budget analysis.

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. 90% design plans are expected June 17, 2013 with construction 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. The pre-construction meeting was held June 4 with construction starting on July 8, 2013.

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 presented the annual report to the MSBU at their regularly scheduled meeting in May 2013.

Community Services

Administration

Charlotte County Community Services partnered with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office on a Team Parkside event at McGuire Park on Saturday, June 8. Over 100 residents in the Parkside Community Redevelopment District were able to speak with the Sheriff's Office on crime prevention and many other topics. The Community Services Department brought activities from the Port Charlotte Library, UF/IFAS Extension Service, Parks and Natural Resources, and Harold Avenue Recreation Center.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Friday, 6/7 (doubleheader) – 320; Saturday, 6/8 – 1013; Sunday, 6/9 – rain delay/game cancellation.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Prospectwire Baseball Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, 6/8 and 6/9. The estimated attendance at this event was 2000 patrons.

The Gulf Coast League Season for the Tampa Bay Rays began on Saturday, 6/8. This season will consist of thirty (30) games being played through early September at the Charlotte Sports Park.

Harold Avenue Recreation

The Summer Youth Basketball League is in full swing at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. On this past Saturday the participants completed the second game of the season. In addition to working as a team the participants have the opportunity to earn individual recognition. Weekly, the players that scored the most points; have the best hustle and the best overall game performance will be individually recognized. The participants of the Summer Youth Basketball League play games consisting of two 20 minute halves allowing them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills that they acquired. The Youth Basketball Summer League will continue with eight more weeks of regular season games and a post season tournament to be played on Saturday's beginning at 8 am.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 6-5 through 6-11-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 541 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 17 water aerobics participants. 12 summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 400 splashes. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 11 swim practices resulting in approximately 550 "splashes". The Blue Fins also held a Swim Meet Saturday June 8 with 160 swimmers and their families attending. Spring Learn to Swim Session 4 concluded it's make up lessons and Learn to Swim Summer Session 1 began with 20 students participating in 5 different courses.

SCRCP attended Sunsplash for their weekly field trip in Summer Camp. There were 109 kids and 12 staff for the trip. The trip went well and the kids really enjoyed themselves.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 637 paid admissions, was visited by 94 pass holders and had 80 water aerobics participants. 12 different camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 260 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

Learn to Swim Summer Session 1 began with 16 students participating in 3 different courses.

The JM Berlin/Rotary Skate Park held the Summer Skate Bash (7th opening anniversary) event Saturday June 8. The event was a great success, with 150 participants enjoying contests, free food and drinks and raffle giveaways.

Libraries and Historical Division

The Summer reading program has started for youth, teen and adult reading clubs. Come by any Library and sign up today!

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for June 10th – "Some lantanas are better than others"

Managers Meeting – June 10th – 1 pm – Mid-County Library

Meeting with Nancy Johnson, Team Punta Gorda – 3:30 pm – Office – June 10th

Dr. Vavrina meeting with Tommy Scott – Mid-County Library – June 11th – 1:30 pm

UF/IFAS Extension Dean, Dr. Nick Place, Lunch With Bucky McQueen – 11:30 am – June 12th

Master Gardener Field Trip to Citra – Turf Field Day – June 13th

Annual Leave – June 14th

Human Services

Family Services staffs have recruited four new volunteers from the community to serve on the Neighborhood Accountability Board. Mass volunteer recruitment and training will be conducted in August. There are currently 35 community volunteers that serve on the Board.

The client file transfer protocol has begun between Senior Services and the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elder Affairs in preparation for managed care organizations' supervision of long-term care for seniors on Medicaid Waiver and Assisted Living Waiver - community based services. The entire transfer and enrollment process will be completed for implementation by September 1, 2013. There are approximately 75 case managed seniors that we be transferred out of the Department's senior services division.

Tourism

Brazil is one of Florida's top feeder markets for tourism and Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff conducted two educational sessions to key Brazilian tour operators and travel agents the end of May in Rio de Janeiro. Members of Charlotte County's tourism industry were invited to participate in the educational training and Place in the Sun sent a representative. Two top Brazilian media outlets attended which resulted in an article published that week in the travel trade publication, Mercado e Eventos. The next step in attracting Brazilian visitors to the destination is to gather wholesale rates from area accommodations and forward them to the tour operators. (<http://www.mercadoeventos.com.br/site/noticias/view/95604/charlotte-harbor-ganha-representacao-no-brasil-e-divulga-destino>)

Utilities

Staff is working on improvements to various lift stations in the county service area; one in Rotonda is in process for receiving a full upgrade and two are receiving odor control units.