

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Bridge Rehabilitation & Maintenance Program – This project represents a comprehensive maintenance program for Charlotte County Bridges. The two year program provides for cyclical maintenance of Bridges and will range from minimal Bridge maintenance to complete Bridge replacement (to be budgeted separately). Currently, three (3) bridges in Northwest Port Charlotte are being reviewed for Slope Pavement repairs/replacement: Bridges 014040, 014047 and 014052. The construction contract is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid conference was held June 26, 2013 and bid opening is scheduled July 10, 2013.

Burnt Store Road Widening Project Phase Three – This Project consists primarily of engineering design and plan preparation services for the widening of Burnt Store Road, between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road, from a two-lane undivided rural typical section to a four-lane divided suburban typical section. The Project will be comprised of determination of alignment, evaluation of typical section alternatives, stormwater management and drainage improvements, application of access management standards, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, a signalized intersection, (may include street lighting) and utility relocations, additions, and adjustments. Charlotte County Real Estate Services is in the process of acquiring property along Burnt Store Road between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) TRIP Agreement has been executed providing \$3.1 million dollars in funding for construction of the Burnt Store Road Phase 3 project. County staff projects that the bid specifications will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in mid- July. We hope to see the construction contract out for bid in August 2013.

Harborview Road Bridge Over DeSoto Canal – This project is to design and construct a replacement for the DeSoto Canal Bridge on Harborview Road approximately 0.35 miles east of Rio de Janeiro Avenue. This project is currently advertised for bid. The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled July 18, 2013 with Bid Opening scheduled August 7, 2013. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2013.

Parkside - Elkcam Boulevard Multi Use Path – The Community Development Engineering Division will oversee the Design, Project Management, Inspection Services and Permitting of a 10' multi-use sidewalk with street (shade) trees along the west side of Elkcam Boulevard and decorative trees on the east side. Charlotte County Utilities will construct this project.

The County is seeking an Environmental Resource Permit from SWFWMD. The 90% construction and landscape plans are under review. Construction is estimated to begin in September 2013.

A change order was previously added to include landscape design including street trees, irrigation, and associated design specifications. Charlotte County and Johnson Engineering staff met with the Parkside CRA Tree Committee and the following trees were chosen: Street trees - Live Oak, Sweet Gum & Sycamore. Decorative trees: East Palatka Holly, Fringe Tree & Walter Viburnum.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (US 41 to Olean Boulevard) – This project is to conduct a Road Feasibility and Traffic Study (Phase 1) followed by design of roadway improvements (Phase 2) to Harbor Boulevard from US 41, including gateway, to Olean Boulevard. The design will include multi-use paths, curb and gutter, wayfinding, and other amenities.

On May 22, 2013 the County held a Public Meeting at the Cultural Center to present three design options and typical cross sections for the proposed Parkside Harbor Boulevard Improvements. At this meeting residents were encouraged to choose an option and/or provide comments on an alternative design for Harbor Boulevard. Ballots were available at the meeting and opportunities to vote online were provided via the County's website.

The Consultant provided a Summary Report based on citizen's comments. From the comments received by the

public, the majority supports that Olean Boulevard should eventually be widened to 4-lanes and that Harbor Boulevard remain a 4-lane roadway. The construction of sidewalks along both sides of Olean Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard was opposed and the inclusion of additional landscaping, lighting and benches was favored. The inclusion of on-street parking along Harbor Boulevard and/or Olean Boulevard was perceived as not being needed at this time. With the input from the residents, an additional 4th design option and cross section was created which we feel meets the consensus gathered from the public comments.

On July 23, 2013, county staff along with the design consultants will provide a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for their selection of a preferred design option, with respect to the Harbor Boulevard Improvements between US 41 and Olean Boulevard.

Traffic Signing & Marking accomplishments from June 2 – July 1, 2013

- Herbicide = 0 objects (Truck at Fleet for repairs – waiting on parts for steering recall)
- Legends Installed = 312
- New Signs Installed = 31
- Marine Markers Repaired = 31
- Reflective Pavement Markers Installed = 2,408
- Road Striping = 0 Linear Feet
- Signs Inspected = 10,866
- Signs Manufactured = 195
- Signs Repaired = 2,435
- Speed Studies = 15
- Traffic Counts = 39 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 16
- Video Detection Counts = 2

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: Wednesday, 6/26 – 813; Thursday, 6/27 – Rainout; Friday, 6/28 (Doubleheader) – 646

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 84 fans.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Pro Sports Academy Tournament on June 29 and 30. They utilized a total of three fields each day with estimated attendance at 335.

Harold Avenue Recreation Bokwa! Experience exercise in a whole new way. There is no counting or choreography involved. All participants are encouraged to feel their way to better health by becoming one with the music. Bokwa does not require the participants to be great dancers. The participants just have to know the letters of the alphabet and numbers. The instructor directs them on which letter or number to form with their steps as they move to the latest beats. Bokwa is so fun that the participants do not realize how many calories they are actually burning. Instructor, Chantal Bex invites residents to come out and experience Bokwa on Monday's from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

South County Regional Park and Pool For the week of 6-26 through 7-1-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 434 paid admissions, was visited by 106 pass holders and had 41 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 400 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 10 swim practices resulting in approximately 500 "splashes". In addition, the Blue Fins held their annual swim-a-thon fund raiser Saturday 6-29, and the three branches all attended resulting in approximately 150 "splashes". Special Olympics held one practice resulting in 35 "splashes" and cancelled one practice due to inclement weather. A Moonlight Swim was held 6-29 and 47 people dodged the rain to participate.

Summer Camp from South County Park took 135 children to Englewood Beach for their field trip this past week. Punta Gorda Police Department youth basketball continue to use South County Regional Park for their home games.

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool The pool had 618 paid admissions, was visited by 97 pass holders and had 52 water aerobics participants. 10 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Moonlight Movie scheduled 6-29 was cancelled due to lightning and high winds.

Extension Services Newspaper Article for July 1st – "A rash of poison ivy"

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Family Services ADA bathroom remodel is 40% finished.
Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool stabilization project is 25% complete
Building B lower roofs bid was awarded to Sutter Roofing.
Public Works Administration Building remodel is 100% complete
Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool stabilization project is 25% complete

Operations

Facilities staff are the first to arrive on site at the Murdock Complex. Therefore we are first responders and over the years we have encountered many unusual issues, however, recently we had a "new" event. The attached picture is of Dumplin', a beautiful rooster who made his way to the Administration Complex. With the kind and talented assistance from the Property Appraiser and Clerk of the Court's staff we were able to catch and hold Dumplin' and keep him safe until Animal Control came and took him to the Peace River Wildlife Sanctuary in Punta Gorda. A follow-up call was made and Dumplin' has been relocated to a new home where he is no doubt king of the roost!

Project Management

Facilities received the final draft of an energy audit of the County's energy and water consuming devices and equipment. Recommendations include what improvements represent good opportunities for energy savings. Cost of improvements would be funded through ongoing energy savings.

Fire Station 6 remodel is completing the material submittal process. The demolition of the slab is completed with underground plumbing installed passing building inspection. The slab will be poured allowing for the renovation construction to proceed. The next milestone is having the walls framed and rough electrical and plumbing installed in the walls.

Human Services

Transit staff attended a special ribbon cutting ceremony by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce for the new Epiphany Health-wrapped Dial a Ride bus. The ceremony was at the Epiphany Health Center also known as Blue Ocean Health care located on Gertrude Avenue in Port Charlotte.

Veteran Services staff had a son of a widow that they had been assisting come to the office and relayed that they had finally won the widow's claim for Aid & Attendance benefits. The claim was begun many years ago and the widow was awarded benefits. An audit revealed that she had received an overpayment because of income vs. medical bills. Veterans staff contested that it was not correct and compiled 3 years' worth of documentation; requested a waiver; and reinstatement of the pension with back payment. The claim was adjudicated in the widow's favor and she was paid back in the amount of \$80,000.

Tourism

The Florida Anthropological Society has chosen to host their 2014 Annual Conference at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center May 8-10, 2014. The conference is projected to attract 200-250 attendees from across the state and generate approximately 150 room nights for local hotels. In addition, many of these attendees are likely to stay an extra day or two to explore the destination further, resulting in additional economic impact.