

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Administration/PIO

Community Development

Active Construction Projects

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. The Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit authorizations have been finalized for this project. The preconstruction meeting was conducted and temporary spoil sites have been secured. Construction will commence on July 17, 2013 with 180 days to complete the project.

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.

Dredging was projected to be completed in late June 2013 however weather and Landfill delays have extended the completion date of this project until July 23, 2013 due to delays outside of the contractor's control.

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 temporary spoil sites have been secured and prepared for use. The dredging is projected to commence on or about July 15, 2013.

Sunshine Lake Algae Removal – Sunshine Lake has had a habitual issue with an algae problem. Based on the water quality study that was completed, it was determined that the next course of action to help correct the problem would be to dredge the algae from the lake. After the lake is dredged, re-charge wells will be installed (via a separate contract) in order to maintain active water flow through the lake.

Algae removal is underway. The process is going smoothly however algae removal is taking the contractor longer than had originally anticipated. The updated schedule has them completing the algae removal in early October. Once the algae has been removed, the County shall initiate installation of a recharge well at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second recharge well to be located adjacent to McGuire Park. Engineering staff attended a permit pre-application meeting with SWFWMD pertaining to the installation of a weir structure to be located within the lake/canal system. Following this meeting, staff is developing the scope of services and construction costs to seek both funds and authorization to from County Administration and the BCC.

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. A change order was approved by the BCC to add additional time to the design contract due to a bridge design modification and additional utility structures. Design is projected to be completed in January 2014 with construction beginning in May 2014.

Coastal Projects

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 may not add construction related services to post Tropical Storm Debby restoration, Stantec will assume the role and provide construction services under a separate account.

We are asking the BCC to award the construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Charlotte County Seawalls, during their scheduled meeting on July 23, 2013; a preconstruction meeting is tentatively scheduled July 24, 2013 with construction projected to begin in August 2013.

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 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The FDEP permit was issued however the ACOE permit is still pending. The bid process is on hold until October 1, 2013 due to budget constraints.

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 reviewing the historical file records and is conducting fact finding activities. Surveys of the basin are underway.

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. Easements associated with the project are being re-established.

Community Services

Bayshore Live Oak Park

Charlotte County Community Services announced the opening of the playground at Bayshore Live Oak Park. The custom themed playground features a large hollowed oak tree with slides and climbers, "tire" swing, traditional swings, turtle spinner, and a manatee. A sharpie fishing boat and cracker cow for climbing and play tie the playground into the history of Charlotte Harbor.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted one home game for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following date with the below attendance: Wednesday, 7/03 – 3096.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 75 fans.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the IBC Nations Tournament on July 6 and 7. They utilized a total of three fields each day with estimated attendance at 700.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Last week 36 campers and their staff took time out from their great adventure to celebrate their independence as citizens of the United States. During the course of the week the campers were led through activities that taught them about the American Flag, the Bald Eagle and the true meaning of Independence Day. In other news, area residents took advantage of Harold Avenue Recreation Center's Gymnasium during the break. The center showed a 100% increase in its Drop in Gym Program.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

For the week of June 30- July 6 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 18 attend the water aerobics classes and 174 paid admissions.

The Recreation Center had one rental with an expected attendance of 120.

South County Regional Park and Pool For the week of 7-3 through 7-9-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 428 paid admissions, was visited by 122 pass holders and had 6 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 300 "splashes". Learn to swim Summer Session 3 continued with 8 different classes and 30 students. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 10 swim practices resulting in approximately 500 "splashes". Staff held 2 Special Olympics swim practices resulting in approximately 70 "splashes".

Oyster Creek Regional Pool Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 582 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 88 water aerobics participants. 10 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for July 8th – "Fall in love with heart-shaped leaves"

Site Visit – Boca Grande - Hazeltine Nurseries - coconut palms - struck by lightning – July 8th -10:30 am

Managers Meeting – July 8th – 1 pm – Mid-County Library

Plant Propagation - Port Charlotte Library - (941) 625-6470 - 2280 Aaron St, Port Charlotte, FL – July 11th

Insect Identification and Management - Mid-County Regional- Saturday, July 13th at 10:00 am

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Operations

July is in the middle of the summer holidays so we are going to focus on work that the Facilities Management Department is doing to keep our parks attractive, safe and useful.

Cedar Point Environmental and Ainger Creek Park are scheduled to have damaged deck boards replaced with Trex decking, a brand of eco-friendly wood-alternative outdoor living product that combines lasting beauty and performance, to promote longer life to these amenities. Hathaway Park had some dock re-decking done using this product.

Our waterfront parks have some special needs to keep them safe and functional. At Bayshore Live Oak we repaired and replaced loose handrail posts. We also made repairs and replaced sections of sidewalk damaged by tropical storm Andrea and installed rip rap along 100+ feet of shoreline. (FYI, rip rap rock is used on any waterway or water containment where potential water erosion exists.)

Port Charlotte Beach needed a rotting exterior door replaced. New flooring replacement in the rec center is scheduled for July and some repair work to complement the renovated pool deck has been done. Paper ticket rolls were replaced in the parking meters and meters not accepting coins were repaired.

Drinking water is important at all our parks. Backflow prevention devices must be tested and certified to insure the quality of the drinking water. This month we checked over 25 backflow devices, two of which were at Carmalita Park and South County Regional. At North Charlotte Regional the water fountains not properly operational were repaired. A damaged water fountain at Cape Haze Pioneer Trail will be replaced with one that is ADA compliant. The water supply line to the ice machine at Harold Ave. Park was repaired.

Operations

Operations continues to improve on both security and energy efficiencies by replacing the incandescent exterior lighting at Murdock Administration Complex with more energy efficient LED Bulbs. We also have installed LED Security flood lighting to brighten the rear of our Administration entrance.

Project Management

The engineering design work is now completed for review of the additional work requested by Transit for parking lot project. This will provide an improved road and drainage for the entry to Transit and the Sheriff's training range.

All inspections required as part of the Justice Center space study have been completed.

Human Services

After 15 years of hard work, planning and fund raising, the Veterans Fountain of Freedom became a reality Wednesday night, the 3rd of July 2013, at the Kiwanis Veterans Garden in Laishley Park, Punta Gorda. The ceremony was attended by approximately 200 people. Also present was County Commissioner Bill Truex, State Representative Ken Roberson, Charlotte County Veterans Council President Kim Lovejoy, and many local Veterans Organizations. The National Anthem and "God Bless the USA" was sung by hometown vocalist Marcella Brown. During "God Bless the USA", fireworks were set off and the Freedom Fountain was lit for the first time. The US Paratroopers, led by Charlotte County's Assistant Veteran Services Officer, David Rockow, served as Honor Guard to the event.

Tourism

Staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau attended the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism 13th Annual Membership Meeting June 28 – 30 in Cocoa Beach. Florida SEE is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to maintaining a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness and stewardship of Florida's natural and cultural heritage. As the professional authority for the ecotourism industry in Florida, they administer a state certification/recognition program that promotes sustainable tourism and assists ecotour providers to become environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially and culturally responsible. The organization is considering Charlotte County as the location for its 2014 Annual Membership Meeting.