

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

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.

The Scope of Services for the change order is complete. We are now in the process of reviewing and negotiating the fee structure. We expect to bring this before the BCC for approval in September 2013. Design is projected to be completed in January 2014 with construction starting in June 2014.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – The design contract was awarded to Giffels-Webster Engineers on July 17, 2013. Design will continue through January 2014 is approximately 13% complete. Construction is projected to begin in June 2014.

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. We recently provided the latest set of plans to the Purchasing Department to begin the procurement process. The complexity of the project will require extensive review to ensure the quality of the contract documents. We have added the signalization of the Winchester/SR 776 intersection to this contract.

Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (June 13 – July 15, 2013)

CM at Risk - Flamingo/SR 776, & Winchester/Placida – Walk-through inspection held at SR 776/Flamingo with FDOT staff; punch list items are complete and final acceptance has been issued. The traffic signals have been placed at the future intersection of Winchester/Placida and is nearing completion; punch list is being prepared.

Edgewater Phase Two – Traffic signal plans review and meetings with consultant, Project Engineer and Project Manager have been held. Meetings with FPL have been held to discuss lighting pole conflicts with power lines; agreement has been reached on the layout. Traffic signal section is still under review.

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalk Project – This project is underway and lighting inspection is underway for ITS conduits for fiber optic cable and pedestrian enhancements to the traffic signal at Peachland.

Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (June 13 – July 15, 2013)

- Fiber optic maintenance conducted in all traffic signal cabinets; jumpers replaced, fiber cleaned and wick checked for operation.
- Repaired and replaced one of the marker lights hanging on the span on the Tom Adams Bridge.
- Roadway lighting maintenance throughout County 180 lights repaired or replaced in this time period.
- Plan and Field reviews undertaken for the following projects: Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store), Midway Phase 2, Gasparilla Road and Burnt Store Phase 3. Reviews complete comments submitted.
- Working to incorporate IT fiber and ATMS fiber into one pull box and allow IT additional fiber as part of replacement runs after eliminating COMCAST contract.
- Repaired parking lot lights at Harold Avenue Park for Parks and Recreation. .
- Four separate calls received and responded to for sensor problems at the South Gulf Cove boat locks.

- Repaired illuminated street name sign at Cochran/Publix, US 41/Burnt Store Road, Jones Loop/ Indian Springs and US 41/Airport Road.
- Continue work with contractor for the City of Punta Gorda's multi use trail project for conflict with pull boxes and fiber optic cable to minimize damage.
- Replace all yellow indications at SR 776/Oriole that were dim and brought them into compliance with current ITE specification.
- Replaced two defective/damaged Coho incident management cameras with two Bosch incident management cameras.
- Replaced roadway lighting conductors on Veterans near Loveland damaged by either heat or lightning and replaced conductor on US 41 near Murdock Circle damaged by either heat or lightning.
- Field tested and performed maintenance on all battery back-ups for traffic signals.
- Programmed school flasher for year round schools: Sally Jones Elementary and East Elementary.

Locates Performed: 254 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 114 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls: 16 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

Lighting Projects: SR 776/Gulfstream Phase 4 Lighting plans are complete. This project is currently advertised for bid with a preconstruction meeting scheduled July 30, 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 July 18, 2013 the total asphalt placed for this contract is 137,401 tons. The Greater Port Charlotte District is approx. 88.6% complete; once this district is complete the Contractor will be working to complete the change orders for this contract.

2012 West County Paving Program – The paving operation is complete in Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Lakes. Paving continues in Gulf Cove and as of July 18, 2013 the contractor has placed approximately 50,954 tons of asphalt in this district, which is approximately 74.4% complete.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park:

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Tuesday, 7/09 – 413; Wednesday, 7/10 (Rain Delay) – 296; Thursday, 7/11 – 904.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 85 fans.

Harold Avenue Recreation: Last week 42 campers and their counselors escaped to Rio de Janeiro. During the course of their stay the campers were immersed within the culture of Rio. They were given the opportunity to design their own carnival masks and tour Rio's beautiful rainforest. In other news, program participation is on the rise at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Year-round programs such as Tae Kwon Do and Drop-In Gym showed a 60% increase. The summer camp showed an increase of 17% while Trimmastics and Dog Obedience continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool: For the week of July7- July 13 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 25 attend the water aerobics classes and 163 paid admissions. The Recreation Center had two rentals with expected attendance of 175

South County Regional Park and Pool: For the week of 7-10 through 7-16-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 478 paid admissions, was visited by 111 pass holders and had 30 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 500 "splashes". Learn to Swim Summer Session 2 continued due to many cancellations for bad weather. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 10 swim practices resulting in approximately 50 "splashes". In addition, the Blue Fins hosted a swim meet Saturday 7-13 with 120 swimmers and their families attending. Staff held 1 Special Olympics swim practice which unfortunately was cancelled after 15 minutes due to a thunderstorm.

Week 8 of Summer Camp 2013 is wrapping up. The campers from Harold Ave and South County had Water Day at South County Park. They used both bounce houses and the pool for their water fun filled day.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool had 669 paid admissions, was visited by 88 pass holders and had 41 water aerobics participants. 10 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". Learn to Swim Summer Session 2 continued due to many cancellations for bad weather. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

Extension Services:

- Newspaper Article for July 15th – "Okra – love it or just admire it!"
- Horticulture Team Planning Meeting – July 17th – 9:30 am
- How to get the most out of the performance process and make it more interactive and meaningful – July 19th – Murdock – 1 to 4 pm

Libraries and Historical:

48 members of the Punta Gorda Boating Club enjoyed the outreach program Charlotte County's Civil War Blockade Runners offered by Historical Coordinator Jackie Brown last night (Wednesday, July 10) at the Punta Gorda Sailing Club located on Retta Esplanada in Punta Gorda. The talk covered the area's blockaders (Robert Johnson, James McKay & cattlemen Joel & Jesse Knight & Jacob Summerlin) as well as the Civil War skirmish on the Myakka River in December 1863.

Libraries are busier than ever and a great place to cool off in the heat of summer! Come on in and enjoy some of our wonderful offerings including: new books, magazines, DVD's, books on audio, Summer Reading Clubs, non-fiction, computers, games, puzzles, paperbacks, smiling faces and lots and lots of programs!

Our famous "Incredibly Bad B Movie Series" continues with the movie "Teenagers from Outer Space". This free movie will be presented on August 14, at Mid-County Regional Library at 6 p.m. Come join the fun!

This is a very important time for Libraries; we are planning for our future. We would love to have your input and comments! Please fill out one of our Library Surveys. You can pick up the survey at any library or you can find it on the Library website. We would love to hear from you!

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Our work to keep Charlotte County parks safe and in the best possible condition continues. Carmalita Park in Punta Gorda has seen some subtle repairs. Lighting in the concession stand was improved and exit signs repaired. In addition repairs to the smoke detector were completed.

The efforts of our technicians continue to keep everything at the Charlotte Sports Park running smoothly. They have completed repairs in the men's room in the Minor League Coaches Office, corrected lighting problems with the flood lighting, the commissary's walk in freezer, and the grill area. Our electrical technicians repaired and restored power in the Ticket Office and Guest Services. The storm, that occurred on June 27th, during a Stone Crabs game, damaged the batter's eye (solid-colored screen that allows the batter to see the pitched ball against a sharply contrasted uncluttered background) and fencing. Safety of the players being paramount, it was repaired. In our continued vigilance to maintain a high level of efficiency at the ball park, a work order was placed for the general service of all county refrigeration equipment.

Oyster Creek Park at 6791 San Casa Boulevard in Englewood was also in need of some attention. The photocell sensor which turns the pavilion light on at dusk and off at dawn was inoperable. The actual sensor needed replacement and is now functioning properly. Similar work was required and completed at Tringali Park, 3460 McCall Road in Englewood. Speaking of Tringali Park, repair work was required in the rest room areas. Technicians made all the necessary repairs.

Project Management

Fire Station 6 remodel is progressing with the exterior sanitation system structures and piping installed and connected to the utilities. The framing is complete on the interior living quarter walls. The parking apron was demolished and removed from site. The next milestone is the plumbing and electrical installation in the framed walls.

A new rest room facility is being constructed next to the new playground at Bayshore Live Oak Park. This new facility is nearing completion.

Public Safety

Fire/EMS:

Home fire safety checks: We are only half way through 2013 and CC Fire/EMS Engine Companies have already check/provided over 140 smoke detector within our community through the smoke detector program! This service is provided by on duty firefighters/EMT addressing resident's request to come into resident's homes and check and/or replace smoke detectors. Residents also are provided a "home safety check" which identifies a possible safety issue but also praises and reinforces a resident's safe practices.

Community Christian School toured Fire/EMS Station on July 11, 2013. The group, both children and adults, were able to see their tax dollars hard at work. The tour included all of the Special Operation equipment and tools, fire engine, ladder truck, and ambulance, and the station. A great opportunity to show the group how hard personnel train for the unexpected and how we are keep our community safe.

Fire prevention: 2 fire extinguisher classes for the public this week, a group day home and a doctor's office. The digital fire extinguisher training equipment, also funded last year through grant monies, is another example of how Fire/EMS is working within the Community in education and prevention.

Marine Operation: On Friday, July 12, joint training with both CC Fire/EMS and CCSO Marine Operations Teams. Familiarization of vessels and rescue procedures were shared amongst agencies to ensure an efficient and effective rescue should our citizens have an emergency on or in our many waterways. (Great media coverage)

Emergency Management - Volunteerism alive and well in Charlotte:

- The Charlotte County CERT Team is in the process of redeveloping its leadership team to make it more sustainable. The new leadership team will be made up of 5 members from throughout the County and the hope is to expand the training and continue to promote a theme to "Resolve to be Ready."
- The County's (VRC) Volunteer Reception Center conducted its second round of training on Monday night in an effort to keep the County to manage volunteers in case of a disaster. The VRC will operate in conjunction with our partners at the Salvation Army.

Human Services

Veteran staff coordinated assistance and community funds for a former WWII POW veteran to aid in providing transport to Bay Pines for a compensation evaluation.

The installation of fare boxes in all of Transit's Sunshine Ride buses has been completed. Sunshine Ride buses fare boxes are now compatible with Dial-a-Ride fare boxes which will provide for greater efficiencies in receipt reconciliation.

Family Services staff participated in a statewide managers' workshop for agencies administering the federal

Community Services Block Grant program. The working group identified issues, opportunities, solutions and plans for improving relationships with each other, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (grantor) and the communities at large. Ongoing dialogue and commitment were supported by the agencies.

Public Works

1. Two catch basins were completed on Aaron Street between Hepner and Gladis Avenues and the area was prepared for 6,000 square feet of sod as well as line and grade in the swale area.
2. The Public Works' Solid Waste Division received the Landfill Operations twenty (20) year operational permit for the Zemel Road Landfill from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This permit will be in effect until the year 2033. The permit acknowledges the total Charlotte Count- owned 640 acre landfill site. The current Class I landfill footprint is a 108-acre cell contained within a soil-bentonite slurry wall, and has an estimated life expectancy of 18 years. It is anticipated that the Landfill will undergo a 194.25 acre expansion at the appropriate time in the future to allow continued use of this facility. It is expected that the expansion would consist of a lined landfill cell subject to applicable FDEP rules at time of the construction application.

Tourism

The Associate Executive Director of the Association of Florida Colleges recently toured Charlotte County for potential meetings. Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff arranged for site visits and accompanied her as she toured various Charlotte County businesses including hotels, restaurants and the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. She viewed the area as viable location for her upcoming meetings.

Utilities (CCU)

CCU received a replacement septic hauler tanker truck this week, which is used almost daily to pump out septic tanks retrofitted into the Low Pressure Sewer (LPS) system as well as pumping out lift stations during heavy rain events. Having this type of vehicle in our fleet saves CCU thousands of dollars annually from paying for outside contracted services.

Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility has been chosen to receive the Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators' Association (FWPCOA) 2012 Safety Award for Class "C" Wastewater Plants. It will presented in August during the Fall State Short School Awards Luncheon in Fort Pierce. Criteria to be met for the award is based upon the sound safety and health programs in place, as well as the standard operating procedures in place. A good safety program must embody proper attitudes toward injury and illness prevention by employers, supervisors and employees, with cooperation among all parties. Certifications of staff for First aid, CPR, AED, and other training relating to safe work practices all counted toward selection of this year's winner.