

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Desoto Ditch Bank Stabilization – Construction of the northernmost 300' of the ditch was completed by March 1, 2013 prior to Florida Scrub Jay nesting season. Construction resumed in July 2013 beginning with gopher tortoise relocation. Once all tortoises are safely relocated, bank reconstruction will resume.

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalks – Construction is underway from Veterans Boulevard moving southward towards Harbor Boulevard at this time. Directional bores under all side streets have been installed throughout the entire project. Approximately 1400 feet of sidewalk and several driveways have been poured and 1,000+ feet of conduit has been placed for Charlotte County's fiber optic network. There are portions or segments of sidewalk that have not been poured - these locations require drainage basins or pull boxes that will be installed after they arrive.

South Bridge Waterway Maintenance Dredging – Dredging is complete. The contractor is clearing the temporary spoil site, cleaning the road and working on other punch list items.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Rotonda Boulevard Sidewalks (East, North & West) – These three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. The Rotonda Boulevard sidewalks, East, North and West, were going to be grouped together as one project however this plan has been modified; Rotonda Boulevards East and North will be advertised as a single project and Rotonda Boulevard West will go out separately as we are still working through some utility conflicts on Rotonda Boulevard West. The East and North sidewalk project package was sent to the Purchasing Department on July 24, 2013 to begin the procurement process.

Sales Tax Year Three (Rio De Janeiro) Sidewalks – An FPL Right of Way Consent Agreement was approved by the BCC on July 23, 2013 granting temporary right of entry to the project site. Conditional approval to construct the project in a known scrub-jay area has been secured. The pre-bid meeting was held on June 24 and Bids were opened on July 24, 2013. Construction is projected to begin in September 2013.

Sales Tax Year Three (Sunnybrook) Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed from South Access Road to Boundary Boulevard and will connect to future sidewalks on Oceanspray and Gulfstream ending at a future sidewalk on Boundary Blvd as part of a Safe Routes to School Program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. A pre-bid meeting was held June 4, 2013 and bids were opened on June 19, 2013. The Board of County Commissioners awarded the construction contract Frederick Derr & Company on July 23, 2013. Construction is projected to begin in August 2013.

Drainage Projects

GPC Drainage Control Structure Replacement – This project provides for the design and permitting of six water control structures in Greater Port Charlotte (GPC). Group 1 structures - construction is complete. Group 2 structures - design is complete; construction is anticipated to begin in October 2013 which will affect traffic patterns on Peachland Blvd (2 structures) and Forrest Nelson Blvd (one structure).

Little Farm Road Culverts – Weiler Engineering is working closely with South Florida Water Management District in order to design this project in a way that can be permitted. The consultant is revising the model to reduce the amount of culverts to be installed under the road.

Newgate Waterway Spoil Removal - The Newgate Waterway has several large silt deposits and overgrown vegetation within the limits of the water line. This accumulated material is causing an adverse impact on the stormwater conveyance system and needs to be removed. Design is underway and consists of determining how much sediment needs to be removed as well as defining access points and the means and methods of

construction. The design consultant is in the process of compiling information including sediment borings to complete the permitting process. Design/permitting is projected to be complete in September 2013 with construction beginning in November 2013.

US 41 Storm Structures – The Charlotte County Purchasing Department has issued the Notice to Bid. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on August 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Bid Openings are scheduled for August 28, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Construction is projected to start in October 2013.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted five (5) home games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with the below attendance: Wednesday, 7/17 – 357; Thursday, 7/18 – Rained out;

Friday, 7/19 (Doubleheader) – 656; Saturday, 7/20 (Doubleheader & Fireworks) – 1905; and on Sunday, 7/21 – 379.

*The Charlotte Sports hosted a Ripken Baseball Camp, from Thursday, July 18 through Saturday, July 21, for 40 youths.

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted three (3) home games of the Gulf Coast League for the Tampa Bay Rays with estimated attendance of 70 fans.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Shove that ball across the line and SCORE TEAM SCORE! The first two rounds of the Adult Men's Flag Football Finals were conducted on this past Sunday. The eight teams that make up the league competed for a chance to secure a spot in the next round. The Adult Flag Football League Championship Game will take place on Sunday, July 28th at 10:30 am. Games for the Adult Men's Flag Football League are held on Sundays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Franz Ross Park. The players participate in an 8 week regular season followed by single elimination post season playoff series. In other news, participation in regularly scheduled activities at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

For the week of July 14 –July 20 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 61 attend the water aerobics classes and 117 paid admissions.

The Recreation Center had three rentals with expected attendance of 380.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-17 through 7-23-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 500 paid admissions, was visited by 116 pass holders and had 63 water aerobics participants. 12 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 500 "splashes". Learn to Swim Summer session 3 began with 52 students participating in 11 different courses. Staff held 1 Special Olympics Swim practice resulting in approximately 30 "splashes". In addition, Special Olympics held their County Swim Meet where swimmers raced each other to obtain official times in order to qualify for the Area Swim Meet August 17. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 10 swim practices resulting in approximately 600 splashes.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 613 paid admissions, was visited by 89 pass holders and had 86 water aerobics participants. 10 different summer camps visited the pool resulting in approximately 250 "splashes". In addition, the pool hosted the Charlotte County Sherriff's Office Explorers program Friday 7-19, where 25 participants learned SCUBA techniques from the CCSO Dive Team. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes". Oyster Creek-Learn to Swim Session 3 began with 12 students participating in 3 different courses.

Extension Services

- *Newspaper Article for July 22nd – “Now trending – wet plants, bark peelings and fried fronds”
- *Site Visit – Bougainvillea problem - Birchwood Condominiums – Harbor View Road – July 22nd – 10:30 am
- *CED PolyCom Meeting – July 22nd – 1 pm
- *Managers Meeting – 1 pm – Cannot attend due to CED PolyCom Meeting
- *Public Perceptions of Agriculture in Southwest Florida – 4 pm – Focus Group – East Port
- *MG Radio – 10 am – WCCF – 1580 – July 23rd
- *Container Plants in Public Places Meeting – 2 pm – July 23rd
- *Overall Advisory Committee – July 24th – 7:30 am
- *Friends for Extension, Inc. Meeting – July 25th – 11:30 am
- *Weed ID & Management for LCLM Class – July 27th – Collier County Extension Service, 10:00 am

Libraries and Historical

We are wrapping up our Summer Reading programs and this year seems to have been our most popular ever! Programs continue year around at the Libraries and we have some really unique features coming up. The Incredibly Bad B Movie Series continues on August 14 with, “Teenagers from Outer Space”! This movie involves teens from outer space and giant lobsters and really is “incredibly bad!” The movie will be shown at the Mid-County Library on Aug. 14 at 6p.m. with discussion to follow.

Coming soon - a new collection of E-Books and Library Kiosks to select E-books on. One Kiosk will be located in each library and the E-book collection will be available on line. We are very excited to offer this service in Charlotte County, watch your local library for our kick off date.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the John F. Kennedy Assassination. The Charlotte County Historical Center at 22959 Bayshore Rd will be offering a program on Friday, November 22 at 1:30p.m. that everyone is invited to. The lost JFK tapes-the Assassination will be an educational video presentation with discussion to follow. Contact the Charlotte County Historical Center at 941-629-7278 for further details.

Facilities and Construction Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Recently our technicians completed the rehabilitation of the Cookie House at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. The cabin, so named because of the “stove wood construction” using cross-section cuts of wood that resembled brown cookies when mounted in mortar, was originally built by John F Bass, Jr. founder of the Bass Biological Laboratory & Zoological Research Supply Company in 1931. The company became the first full-time marine station on the Florida mainland and their mission was to promote scientific marine exploration in Southwest Florida. The Cookie House was moved from its original location at the Bass Biological Laboratory site near the former home and garage of Mr. Bass, on the west side of New Point Comfort Road, in 2005 and became a Charlotte County Historical Marker with the approval by the Historical Advisory Committee on April 11, 2007.

Facilities took on this monumental task of carefully preserving and rehabilitating the Cookie House by using all period correct materials and also incorporating as much original materials as possible. Some of the materials used were period correct rough cut wood which were repurposed from an old tobacco company building, ax cut half round river recovered logs, and metal diamond shaped sings that mimic the original asbestos shingles.

Facilities is proud to say that our in-house carpenters, Rich Bokoski and Dennis Meadows completed this incredible restoration task themselves along with the help from our in-house electrician Ed Leonard completing the knob and tube wiring and lighting fixtures. Visit this beautiful restoration at Cedar Point Environment Park and see our handy work.



Project Management

Within the past week, the Facilities Department conducted monthly partnership workshops with each of two of our customer-agencies, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and the Community Services Department. These workshops provide an excellent opportunity to coordinate all current and pending projects and discuss other topics of mutual concern in a productive spirit of teamwork and cooperation.

The Musco poles and green light fixtures will be delivered the week of July 29th for the Harold Avenue and Harbor Heights sports lighting projects

For the Port Charlotte Beach Park, the engineering design is being done to replace the pilings and decking on the fishing pier and replace the beach boardwalk decking. New lighting will also be installed. The fishing pier and the boardwalk are heavily used by the public for a variety of activities.

Human Services

At its regular Board of County Commissioners meeting, the Board approved the submission of the certification to accept State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds in the amount of \$350,000 for State Fiscal Year 2013-2014. This grant from Mortgage Settlement funds will be used in accordance with the approved strategies in the County's Local Housing Assistance Plan, unless otherwise amended.

The Human Services Department continues to provide home energy assistance to low-income households through the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Last week, \$10,226 was approved to eligible households for assistance with their electric bills.

Public Works

The BCC approved a change order to the Don Pedro/Knight Island road grading contract in the amount of \$25,000. Due to unusual road conditions on the island, the residents, Public Works, and the contractor have agreed to test new materials on selected areas of roadways. Additional road grading will be necessary since the test areas will need to be re-graded after each new material is tested.

Charlotte County Seawalls was approved as the contractor for the \$201,000 maintenance dredging project requested by the Advisory Committee for the Buena Vista Grassy Point & Sunrise Waterway MSBU.

David M. Jones, Jr., and Associates, Inc. and the County's Landscape Committee made a presentation to the BCC of their concept plans for the Port Charlotte Gateway Project. The Board directed the Committee to develop a Memorandum of Agreement in order to begin implementing the plans for the Kings Highway/I-75 gateway to Port Charlotte to include signage and landscaping. Funding for the project needs to be determined.

Two guardrails damaged by accidents were repaired on Bermont Road (CR 74), and west of Bronco Road. The sidewalks were poured, line and grade was completed and the area "dressed" on Aaron Street between Hepner and Gladis Avenues.

Tourism

As part of its continuing marketing outreach effort for the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center and other area meeting facilities and hotels, Charlotte County Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Society of Association Executives (FSAE) Annual Conference, July 10-12 in Tampa. The conference, attended by approximately 350 association executives and destination representatives, provided multiple educational and networking opportunities to create and expand relationships necessary to implement tourism sales strategy for the association meetings market.