

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Buena Vista Waterway Maintenance Dredging – This contract was awarded to Charlotte County Seawalls on July 23, 2013. The preconstruction meeting was held July 24, 2013 with construction beginning September 5, 2013.

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 March 1, 2013 prior to Florida Scrub Jay nesting season. Construction will resume after August 5, 2013. The necessary Gopher Tortoise relocation will take place the week of August 12, 2013.

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. Construction began July 17, 2013 and will continue through January 2014. The contractors are currently dredging in the Apollo Waterway.

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. Dredging is underway and will continue through February 2014.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

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 by August 9, 2013. This project should be ready to go out for bid in September 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. Design is scheduled to be completed in August 2013 with construction projected to begin in late 2013.

Coastal Projects

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. Surveys of the basin are complete and meetings with the Permitting Agencies are forthcoming.

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. The Charlotte County Purchasing Department issued the Notice to Bid. The pre-bid meeting will be held on August 8 with bid opening scheduled for August 28, 2013. Construction is projected to start in October 2013.

Miscellaneous Projects

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 August 9, 2013 with construction projected to begin in November 2013.

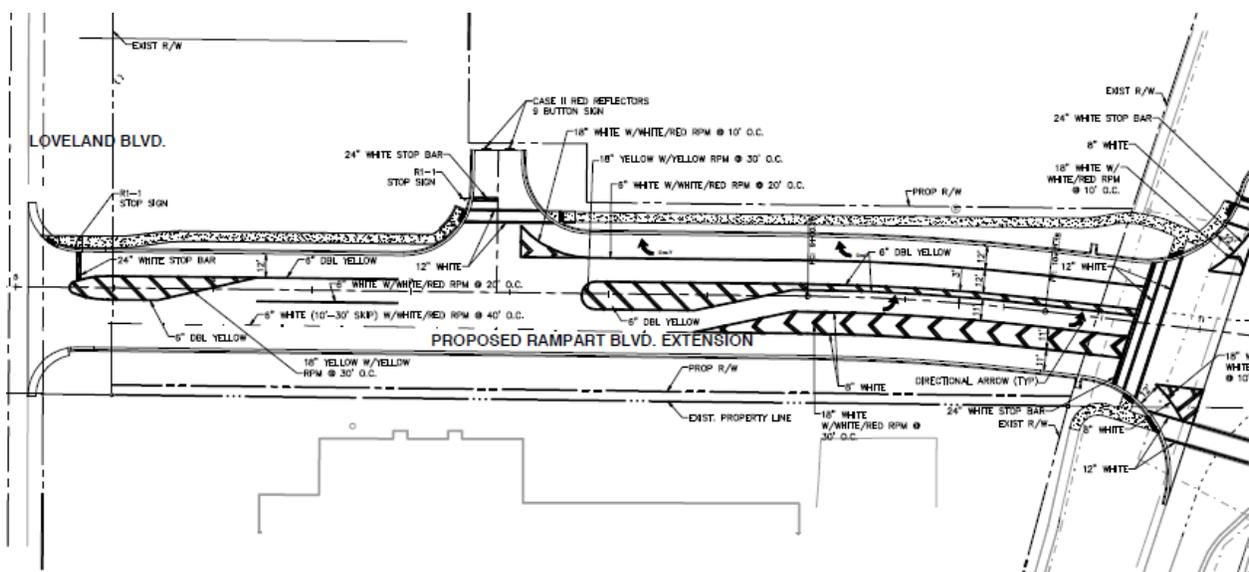
Highlighted Projects

South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping Features

Decorative lighting and landscaping is underway at the entrances to Burnt Store Lakes. This week the contractor installed 30 Royal Palms at 5 separate locations. Decorative light poles are expected to be installed by the second week in September.

Rampart Boulevard Extension/Widening

The Rampart Boulevard Extension/Widening Project is located west of I-75 from the entrance of Kings Gate Community to Loveland Blvd. This construction project is part of a Developers Agreement between Charlotte County and Benderson Development. The Phase I portion of this project has been completed and is currently being used as a connector from Loveland Blvd to Kings Hwy. This will be the main connector accessing Kings Highway once Phase II of the Midway Boulevard Widening project is completed. Phase II of this project consists of widening Rampart Boulevard from Kings Highway to the entrance of Kings Gate Community from a two lane roadway to four lanes, new sidewalks, extensive stormwater improvements and new street lights. Construction is projected to be completed in September of 2013.



Rampart Blvd Phase I Extension 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 attendance: Friday, 8/02 – 647; Saturday, 8/03 – 761; Sunday, 8/04 – 424.

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

On Friday, the participants of the 2013 Summer Camp Program completed their "Great Escape." During the

course of the week, the campers along with counselors decided to go on a whirlwind of adventures. Their days were filled with carnival games, dodge ball games, trips to the zoo and sailing in the ocean on a raft. The camper's adventure came to a close by being able to launch pies made of whipped topping onto the faces of two of their counselors. What a "sweet" way to end such an adventurous summer. 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 28 – August 3 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 43 attend the water aerobics classes and 307 paid admissions.

The Recreation Center rental facilities remains closed to the public while new floors are installed. The office remains open.

South County Regional Park

Summer Camp ended on 8/2 with another successful season. Programs for the week of 8/5 were cancelled to allow maintenance to be done to the building in preparation for Fall programs and Fiscal year 2013-2014.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for August 5th – "Ixora – now blooming their heads off in a landscape near you!"
- Managers Meeting – August 5th - Administration Conference Room – 1 to 3 pm
- Tree Meeting – Cultural Center – August 6th – 8:30 am
- Ambassador Program - Mid-County Regional Library, Meeting Rooms A & B – August 7th – 8 am to 12:30 pm
- BMP Group Meeting (B-MAP) – Hendry County Extension Office – 1 to 5 pm – August 7th
- Site Visit - 18050 Garvin Ave, Port Charlotte – Oak – 10:30 am – August 8th

Libraries and Historical

School has started and the students and their whole families are already coming in with homework! We will be offering some back to school open houses in our libraries for parents and teachers to see what is available for homework help.

In our Charlotte County Libraries we are preparing for the "Affordable Health Care Act" and focusing on ways to help the Community with sign ups and information. We will be developing a plan for October 1st when this is expected to be rolled out.

Facilities Construction and Maintenance

As children in Charlotte County get ready to go back to school, they will soon be utilizing the libraries doing research for their reports and papers. Our technicians went through each library to ensure proper lighting and addressing plumbing and electrical issues. They ensured all automatic and handicap doors functioned properly.

The Mid County Regional Library at 2050 Forrest Nelson Boulevard in Port Charlotte has been the recipient of our technicians' expertise. They repaired smaller pot holes resulting from the large amount of rain this summer in the parking lot and when necessary made referrals to Public Works. The technicians repaired faucets in the restrooms, and assisted with the rearrangement of furniture. Repairs were made to faulty lighting fixtures in the book drop off area and above the discharge station. Similarly our HVAC technicians have been in the building to assure a constant heating and air environment, maintaining efficient air flow and temperature.

The Port Charlotte Library at 2280 Aaron Street has also been spruced up. Old cabinets and a sink were removed replaced by new cabinets and a sink with new faucets.

The Library at 424 West Henry Street in Punta was also in need of some attention. The automatic door was not so automatic and thus repaired. The lighting in the parking lot was evaluated and repaired to ensure public safety.

Last but certainly not least is the library at Tringali Park, 3450 McCall Road, Englewood. To improve the safety of pedestrians entering the library, our technicians installed additional bollards (series of short posts) set at intervals to delimit the sidewalk entrance area to exclude vehicles. Our HVAC technicians repaired AC units

that were making strange and unusual sounds. Next week we will feature the work done for the Englewood Library expansion and renovation project.

All in all, our county libraries are in good repair. The buildings are well prepared to welcome the students back as they start the new school year.

At the Charlotte County Jail Expansion on-going outage issues with the A/C systems have been identified. HD-5 serving "housing-dormitory" has had the refrigerant piping re-worked to the proper size as specified by Trane and is currently operating as designed. There are an additional four systems that require this re-work as a means of reliability and operation.

Project Management

Charlotte County's Transit Building parking and drainage project contractor has begun resurfacing the entrance road and is regrading the swales to correct drainage issues.

Siemens submitted their final energy audit report to Charlotte County on August 01,2013.

Human Services

On August 5, 2013, Veterans Service Officer David Donohew met with the Jewish Children and Family Services-JCFS- at the Homeless Coalition to discuss the approved Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant for Charlotte County.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program under the Housing Division will hold Open Houses for two newly constructed homes as follows:

1. 2345 Elkcam Blvd.; on 8/14/2013 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
2. 21251 Austin Ave.; on 8/24/2013 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

The program has eight new homes for sale or rent to income qualified individuals. All houses are three bedrooms, two bath homes with a single car garage and are all located in the Parkside area of Charlotte County. Buyers will need to seek financing through a commercial lender or mortgage company.

Public Works

The Public Works' Solid Waste Operations Environmental Crimes Deputy and Illegal Dumping Code Enforcement Officer charged two individuals with four counts of felony littering, bringing total arrests for the year to 23 with a total of 41 arrests since August 2011. This team receives complaints from citizens who find illegally dumped material throughout the County. They aggressively investigate each incident to find those responsible for the illegal dumping.

Municipal Service District Representatives met with advisory committees for Harbour Heights Street and Drainage, Burnt Store Village Street & Drainage and, West Charlotte Stormwater Utility MSBUs.

Tourism

The former SW Florida Visitor Center at Jones Loop and I-75 will now be operated by the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Charlotte County, Englewood and North Port Chambers of Commerce and the Charlotte County Visitor and Convention Bureau. Area realtors have volunteered to staff the Visitor Center each day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. however, the Center will be open 24 hours a day as it is contiguous with a convenience store. The initial arrangement for the operation of the center is for 4 months. If all goes well, the lease will be extended for a year. The reaction from the hospitality community and retail community has been very positive.