

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 9/17/13

Community Development

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Placida Road - The original scope of this project was to widen Placida Road from a two to a four lane divided roadway from Cape Haze Drive to the Boca Grande Causeway with curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike facilities. The BCC decided to postpone road widening to a future date, and redesign the project to incorporate safety improvements. It was also decided to advance the sidewalk/multi-use trail portion of Phase 2 to be worked concurrently with Phase 1.

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. A Change Order has been negotiated and is currently in the approval process.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – The design contract was awarded to Giffels-Webster Engineers on July 17, 2013. The 60% design plans are in progress and are expected to be available for review by the end of September, 2013. Design will continue through January 2014 with construction projected to begin in June 2014.

Rotonda Boulevard Sidewalks - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West. These three sidewalk projects 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 be advertised separately.

East & North – Purchasing is reviewing the bid package and we returned our comments to them on September 11, 2013. We expect this project to be advertised in the next couple of weeks.

West – We are working to finalize a plan that will reduce/eliminate utility conflicts within the next couple of weeks. We anticipate this will reduce the cost of the sidewalk construction.

Winchester Corridor Phase Three – This project includes the construction of a new 4 lane divided roadway from SR 776 to Placida Road (CR 775). Construction of the Winchester Roadway project should begin in late 2013. While construction is ongoing, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur. Towards the end of construction of the roadway, the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project and constructed. Bids were opened on September 4, 2013. A recommendation to award this project will be presented to the BCC for approval on September 24, 2013. We have begun negotiating a scope and fee with a design consultant to modify the plans at the Winchester Boulevard/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North.

Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (Aug 13 – Sept 8, 2013)

Burnt Store Road Project – (Pedestrian Features – preemption conflict with Seminole Gulf Railroad) A consultant has been retained to finalize preemption timings for submission to FDOT for approval. Upon FDOT approval, the preemption timings will be forwarded to Seminole Gulf Railroad for design. 90% lighting plans review is underway.

Edgewater Phase Two – After meeting with FP&L to discuss lighting pole issues in regards to power lines, traffic signal plans were revised and completed except for some minor work on utility relocation.

Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (Aug 13 – Sept 8, 2013)

- Repaired gate arm struck by motor vehicle on the Tom Adams Bridge.
- Repaired 28 non-functional roadway lights in the north part of the County.
- An Iterus Video Detection demonstration was provided to all Lighting District personnel by manufacturer's representative regarding new programming and feature enhancements.
- All Employees attended First Aid and CPR certification through American Red Cross.
- Offsite improvements began for Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store) inspections are underway. A drill shaft and pedestrian features are being installed; work is ongoing.
- Working to incorporate IT fiber and ATMS fiber into one pull box. Ongoing.
- Installed temporary radar detection to replace a bad loop detector at SR 776/Toledo Blade.
- Responded and repaired sensor issues at the South gulf Cove boat locks. Ongoing problem.
- Traffic signal preventative maintenance was performed at the following locations:
 - SR 776/San Casa Boulevard
 - SR 776/Oriole
 - Olympia/Nesbitt
 - Marion/Nesbitt
 - US 41 NB/Virginia
 - US 41 NB/Olympia
- Due to outer sheathing conductor dry rot all conductors in the traffic signal disconnects were replaced at the intersection of SR 776/North Access Road (Merchants Crossing).
- Replaced two defective/damaged Coho incident management cameras with two Bosch incident management cameras, Jones Loop & I-75 Ramps.
- Replaced damaged illuminated street name sign blanks at Bayshore/Edgewater, Marion/Taylor, US41.
- Repaired illuminated street names signs at US41/Murdock Circle, SR776/Murdock Circle, and SR776/US41.
- Controller database was changed to eliminate flash operation to 24 operation at the following locations:
 - Cochran/Publix/K-Mart
 - Harbor/Peachland
 - Conway/Olean
 - Harborview/Rio De Janeiro

Locates Performed: 202 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 96 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls: 27 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (Aug 13 – Sept 8, 2013)

SR 776/Gulfstream Phase 4 – Construction is underway. Conduit is being installed by directional bore and relocation of light poles is underway.

Paving Projects

2012 North/South Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, the Road & Bridge District, Burnt Store Village, and Tropical Gulf Acres.

The Greater Port Charlotte District is approximately 98% complete. The Restoration process is continuing slowly due to the extremely wet conditions but should be completed on schedule. Paving has begun in the Deep Creek area.

2012 West County Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roadways in Gulf Cove, Rotonda Lakes and Rotonda Sands.

The paving operation is complete in Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Lakes. Paving continues in Gulf Cove which is approximately 90% complete. The contractor is working on restoration, however due to extremely wet conditions from the recent rains this process is moving slowly.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted two (2) playoff games for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with attendance: Tuesday, 9/3 – 554; Sunday, 9/8 – 613.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Watch - that - little white ball go - across the table. Ping-Pong, score! Table Tennis has shown a 57% increase in participation. Table Tennis is held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and every Friday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Vivian Hall Gymnasium. Residents are welcome to drop by with their paddles and balls for a few hours of pickup games. In other news, Sunday was the kickoff of the Adult Women's Flag Football League. Under the supervision of Recreation Specialist, Stafford Milligan, 4 team composed of a 15 woman roster dawned the field at Franz Ross Park. Games for the Adult Women's Flag Football League are held on Sundays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The players will participate in an 8 week regular season followed by a single elimination playoff series.

South County Regional Park and Pool

Registration opened for Fall Intersession and new programs such as Badminton have started for the Fall.

For the week of 9-4 through 9-10-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 256 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 49 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Fall session 1 began with 4 classes and 20 students. Charlotte High School Swim & Dive team held 8 swim practices resulting in approximately 400 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes". Special Olympics held 1 swim practice resulting in approximately 20 "splashes".

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 237 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 113 water aerobics participants. Learn to swim Fall session 1 began with one class and 4 students. Lemon Bay High School swim & Dive team held 5 practices resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for September 9th – "Rings around the yard"

East Port Campus Partners to discuss facility items – September 9th – 9 to 10 am

Review Workshop Schedule/Plan – Northshore and Harper Ave BMP Workshop - September 11th – 1 to 2 pm

GI-BMP Training – September 12th – 8am to 3 pm

The Sun Home & Garden expo-type show for the Charlotte Harbor Center – September 14th – Booth and Talks

Libraries and Historical

E books are now in the Charlotte County Libraries and on our web site! You can visit any Library and use our new browsing kiosks to select titles and send them right to your preregistered device or you can select titles online. You may select 4 titles for up to 2 weeks. At the end of the loan period the titles will automatically release from your device back to our holdings.

Facilities Construction and Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Family Services Duct replacement is completed. There were a total of 6 duct systems that were originally made of fiberglass duct board. The replacement ductwork is now metal with an exterior wrap insulation.

Where would we be without the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the personnel under this Command? The technicians in Construction and Maintenance do their part in ensuring the buildings at the Sheriff's Department are maintained in proper working order so they can concentrate on the safety of our

community.

At CCSO Facilities at 7474 Utilities Road, Punta Gorda; there was some electrical re-wiring issues corrected; some old wiring needed replacement; some exhaust fans needed replacement; and some cubicle space was reconfigured requiring adjustment to power cord/whip connections. Two (2) lay in light fixtures that were not functioning were repaired to functional use; this took a little investigative work to trace wiring correction required. Also, our technicians repaired some emergency and exit signage lighting.

The CCSO at the Promenades Mall experienced some lighting outages, and our technicians were called out; they replaced numerous old light bulbs; as a result the building and parking areas are now properly lit.

At the CCSO Airport Hanger, 26613 Airport Road in Punta Gorda, the two (2) outside lights were not working. Our technician removed the wall mount outdoor fixtures and replaced the ballast, lamp, capacitor and photo cell on the two fixtures. The fixtures were then rehung and fully operational.

Operations

Facilities Operations has reviewed and recommended a vendor to inspect and maintain our FM-200 type systems that protect IT rooms in an event of a fire. These systems are to be inspected and maintenance semi-annually.

Project Management

The sanitation grinder at the jail was energized last week and is fully operational. The systems was installed to shred debris traversing down the pipes before Punta Gorda's lift station. The grinder will prevent damage to the lift station causing sanitation problems in the airport area.

Human Services

The Human Services Department recently implemented some purchasing process changes for the Department's food pantry which has resulted in more efficient and effective operations. Purchasing polices allow staff to issue a monthly open Purchase Order (PO) for food purchases (rather than a PO created for each purchase). This has resulted in less staff administrative time associated with food purchases. Secondly, staff worked with IT to obtain access to print online coupons that can be used for our food pantry purchases. Finally, the Department has established a partnership with Publix to purchase bulk food for the pantry. The Department is able to utilize coupons and published advertised specials (including the Buy One Get One Free discounts). Our first purchase under this new process was for \$3,051.72 in retail; however, utilizing the sale priced items and coupons, we paid \$2,315.64. Our total savings on this purchase was \$736.08!

Transit's Sunshine Ride program began a temporary shuttle service on September 3, 2013 which will run through October 4, 2013. The shuttle service is running Monday through Friday from the Englewood Health Center to the North Port Health Center four times a day from each location with the exception of Tuesdays when it runs 3 times a day from each location. The Englewood Health Center is no longer open as of Aug. 31 and this transportation service will help residents travel to and from the North Port Health Center where affordable health care is available.

Tourism

Punta Gorda is a semi-finalist in the "Most Beautiful" category in the user-generated Rand McNally's Best of the Road Small Town in America contest. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau has been using its social media channels to support the City of Punta Gorda and local chambers of commerce efforts to encourage people to vote. The next step in the process is for the City to submit an essay as to why Punta Gorda is the most beautiful along with a video. Bureau staff has been working with the City to produce a brief video showing and telling why it deserves the honor. The Bureau is also encouraging local social media users to use the #bestoftheroad hashtag in their Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Facebook and other social media channel posts when posting about Punta Gorda. If Punta Gorda wins the competition, in addition to title of Best Small Town in America, the City will receive a feature in the 2015 Rand McNally Road Atlas and a free iPhone app and

online travel guide promoting the city. This will help promote Punta Gorda as a tourist destination which in turn should help build a stronger economic. The winning towns (there are six categories) will be announced Oct. 7.

Utilities (CCU)

CCU is in the process of identifying several grant opportunities for funding various CIP projects and will be bringing a matrix of those grants to the BCC in October for direction.