

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 9/24/13

Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Harbor Blvd. Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed on Harbor Blvd. from an existing sidewalk close to Midway Blvd. to an existing sidewalk on Veterans Blvd. Design includes crossings at Peachland Blvd. and Quesada Blvd. This will also provide a link to the newly constructed sidewalk along Midway Blvd. as well as a link to future sidewalks in the Parkside area. The contractor has completed most of the work from Veterans Blvd. to Peachland Blvd. They are working on pedestrian signalization and are installing drainage and sidewalks south of Peachland Blvd. County staff is coordinating with School Board transportation staff to ensure that school bus stops and sidewalk construction are not in conflict.

Sunnybrook Boulevard 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. Sidewalk construction began Sept. 4, 2013. Clearing and grubbing is underway at Boundary Boulevard and is moving north. The contractor is preparing for the installation of the sub-base and base material.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

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.

East & North – This project is currently advertised for bid. The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled Sept. 25, 2013 with Bid Opening scheduled Oct. 9, 2013.

West – We are working to finalize a plan that will reduce/eliminate utility conflicts and anticipate this will reduce the cost of the sidewalk construction. We have instructed the design engineer to send the updated plans to the various utility companies for review.

Sales Tax Year Three (CR 74) Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed on County Road 74 from US 17 to Westminster Street in the Charlotte Ranchettes. Design includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk at US 17. We received the SWFWMD permit for this project and anticipate design to be complete in late 2013. Construction is projected to begin in early 2014 contingent upon inspector availability.

Sales Tax Year Three (Rio De Janeiro) Sidewalks – A sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Rio De Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard to a future sidewalk on Deep Creek Blvd. Design includes a connection/crossing to a future sidewalk at Sandhill Blvd. This is an integral part of a planned sidewalk network in the Deep Creek area. The construction contract was awarded on Sept. 10, 2013 and a preconstruction meeting was held Sept. 17, 2013. We have coordinated the construction of the sidewalk to take place after the paving operations are complete in the area. A tentative Notice to Proceed is scheduled for Oct. 7, 2013.

Sales Tax Year Three (Riverside Drive) Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed on Riverside Drive from Marlympia to Cleveland Drive. Design includes a connection to a sidewalk on Florida Street. We anticipate providing 30% design plan comments to Johnson Engineering by the end of September 2013.

Drainage Projects

Little Farm Road Culverts – The scope of this project is to design and permit culverts to replace the concrete swaled portion near the end of Little Farm Road. 60% design plans were submitted to the County for review on Sept. 10, 2013. A pre-application meeting is scheduled with the water district on Sept. 19, 2013. The next step is to submit a permit application to the water management district.

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. A change order is being processed to cover the cost of the additional permitting required for the revised project parameters. A geotechnical firm was hired to conduct the sediment borings and that report should be completed this week.

Miscellaneous Projects

Rotonda West Drainage Study – This drainage study is being conducted at the request of the Rotonda MSBU Advisory Committee. The study includes data gathering, modeling of the existing drainage system, and recommended drainage improvements. Authorization was received from the MSBU committee for the consultants to start on Task 2 of the scope of services which includes developing an improvement plan to existing conditions and a project budget analysis which is underway. Staff met with the consultant to discuss the Task 2 draft report. The report will be presented at the next Rotonda West MSBU meeting in September 2013. The committee is holding a workshop to discuss if they wish to go forward with Task 3 Design Work Phase. This task consists of the following: Survey Data Collection, Project Modeling, Capital Improvement Projects Recommendations, Maintenance & Operations Program Development, Governing Environmental Agency Pre-Application Meeting, and Design Work Phase Report Public Meeting.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park - The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the final playoff game for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following date with the attendance: Monday, 9/09 – 432.

Harold Avenue Recreation - Ladies, down – set – hike! Week 2 of the Women’s Flag Football League was completed on Sunday. There are four 15-woman teams in the league, hosted by the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Games are played on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Franz Ross Park Football Field in Port Charlotte. The league consists of an eight game regular season followed by two weeks of playoffs. In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

The weather finally cooperated with the pool this week! As you can see attendance is up from the previous week! For the week of September 8 – September 14 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 21 attend the water aerobics classes, 187 paid admissions, and 30 pass holders visited our pool.

The Recreation Center was equally busy. We had a Baby Shower on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013 with 50 guests in attendance. During the week we had several rentals and another Baby Shower on Sept. 14, 2013 with 30 guests in attendance. Our park was busy with a pavilion rental and a beach clean-up by a group of volunteers from the Punta Gorda Yacht Club!

We have a busy week ahead with four rentals including, two neighborhood watch meetings and Charlotte County Genealogical Society Meeting and Charlotte County Historical Societies Annual Lobster Bake Fundraiser week!

South County Regional Park and Pool - For the week of 9-11 to 9-17-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 255 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Fall Session 1 continued with 4 classes and 20 students. Charlotte High School Swim & Dive team held 9 swim practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes" and one swim meet with approximately 100 swimmers attending. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes".

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool - Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 179 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 107 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Fall Session 1 continued with 1 class and 4 students. The Lemon Bay High School Swim & Dive team held 5 swim 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 16th – “Cockroaches’ lookout – the ensign wasps are here!”
- Final Planning Meeting- Northshore – September 16th – 10 am
- Northshore and Harper Ave BMP Workshop – I - 3 to 5 pm – September 17th
- Northshore and Harper Ave BMP Workshop – II - 6 to 8 pm
- Managers Meeting – Mid-County Library – September 18th 1 to 3 pm
- Extension Staff Meeting – September 19th – 3 to 4:30 pm
- All-Staff Meeting – Mid-County Library – September 20th – 8:00 to 9:30 am
- East Port Campus Parking Lot Renovation Meeting – September 20th – 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Libraries and Historical

The Charlotte County Library e-book collection is creating excitement around the County. Using our new 3M Cloud Library system a person can be reading in minutes. The link is on the Library home page or you can visit any library to register for this new service.

October is fast approaching and haunting programs are always very popular. Mid-County Regional Library is offering a fun series, “Ghosts, Spirits, Creatures & Zombies @ your library.” This series runs Oct 21 ,22,24, & 26th and features programs and movies-“The Creature From the Black Lagoon” will be shown Oct 26, at 1:00 p.m. Free to all who dare to come!

The Charlotte County Historical Center is offering “The Chilling Tales of Charlotte County,” featuring stories of strange and unusual happenings in Charlotte County’s past. This program is included with admission to the Historical Center and will be offered Oct. 25, at 1:30pm. This will be held at the Charlotte County Historical Center, 22959 Bayshore Rd.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

One of the Human Services Department buildings that are part of our department is the Family Services Building at 21450 Gibraltar Drive in Port Charlotte. A request came in to our HVAC unit to lower automatic thermostats down to county approved temperatures. Our HVAC technicians reset 7 different units.

Also at the Family Services at Gibraltar Drive came the request to clean up the outside of the building where there was a buildup of cob webs, bugs, and trash around the area. The Facilities Department technician power washed the front entrances, the area near the gardens, and washed the back and side of the two (2) story side of the building. Another work order came in to replace broken floor tiles. Facilities saw to the completion of this request. Continuing with work done at the Gibraltar Drive facility, we called in A1 Superior Pest Control to eliminate a large nest of “hundreds of swarming bees around the area at the back of the facility.”

Lastly at the Family Services Department on Gibraltar, our department was requested to facilitate the repair of a drinking fountain in the lobby at Family Services. A new single cooler was installed and rust stains under the original cooler were cleaned.

The Human Services at 1050 Loveland in Port Charlotte has now been at their new location for approximately two years. Since being in this facility, they expressed a need for additional shade in their patio area. Our technicians evaluated the need, specific safety concerns, and possible solutions and determined that an aluminum frame fabric covered awning would be their best option. With the help of county vendors and our technicians, a permit was acquired and there is now better shading for the employees to enjoy their patio.

The Facilities Construction and Maintenance is proud to help keep Family Services running in good physical condition to best serve the Charlotte County Community.

Operations

We 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 maintained semi-annually.

Project Management

Bids returned for the paving repairs and sealing at multiple locations. The locations are Mid County Library, Harold Avenue Center, West County Annex, and Punta Gorda Library. The contractor selection approval is scheduled for the Oct 8th BCC meeting.

A pre-submittal meeting was held with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on the Bay Heights Boat Ramp. The consultants will submit the formal package for external agency permits within the next two weeks. Upon receipt of permits, the consultants will continue design for county permit submission and approvals.

The Franz Ross Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) has been prepared by purchasing. The purpose of the RLI is to obtain Engineering services to design and permit drainage and parking improvements at Franz Ross Park. Currently the drainage especially on the football field is not adequate resulting in disruptions in use (including when there are scheduled league games) as well as high maintenance costs because the field is repeatedly having to be re-sodded. This project will result in an improved Facility with lower operating costs.

These RLI requests are sent to a library of professionals that have registered with Purchasing. Those expressing an interest in this project will send in letters with reasons why we should select them. NO cost is discussed at this time – it is not legal to hire a professional firm based on fees. The selection is made based on merit. After the initial meeting, then a price is discussed. In part, this is because costs of professional fees are based on state rates and there would be very little difference, if any, between firms. Therefore the selection is made solely on merit.

Human Services

On September 16, 2013 David Donohew, Charlotte County Veteran Services Officer, gave a presentation of VA benefits at the American Legion Post 113 to the Vietnam Veterans of America. In recognition for all his work for veterans in Charlotte County, David was then honored with a plaque that reads "Presented to David Donohew CCVSO "The Best Service Officer" by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1037.

Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) Coordinator, Jack Sanzalone has been invited to conduct a lecture on leadership in and out of the military as well as decision making processes for the Port Charlotte High School JROTC Program. The lecture will include information on how getting arrested or put in a juvenile diversion program could affect future military service. The lecture is scheduled for Sept. 24, 2013. This week the NAB/Civil Citation Program served 26 youths, held 2 board hearings, closed 5 cases and conducted 3 intakes. Additionally, 7.5 volunteer hours were contributed to the program.

Tourism

Staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau attended the 46th Annual Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism in Orlando last week (Sept. 11 - 13) and met with publication representatives regarding advertising opportunities for Charlotte County. Staff also met with VISIT FLORIDA's Insiders, a group of online influencers who generate online content in the form of blog posts, video, and social media posts for the state's official tourism marketing corporation. Educational seminars highlighting current tourism marketing trends and VISIT FLORIDA's marketing initiatives were also attended.

Representing Charlotte County on VISIT FLORIDA's boards and committees are John Perez of the Wyvern Hotel who serves on the Board of Directors and Jennifer Huber of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau who serves on the Culture, Heritage, Rural and Nature marketing committee.