

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Administration/PIO

On Oct. 16 and 17, the fifth Charlotte Assembly was held at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County. Over the two-day process, five groups of residents gathered to discuss topics relating to the county's vision, sales tax extension, and five focus areas of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). These focus areas were economic development, public safety, growth management, quality of life, and quality and quantity of water. At the end of the second day, the groups convened to come to consensus on recommendations for the BCC on all of the topics discussed. Public input was taken, and a final policy statement should be available in about a month's time.

## Community Development

### Active Construction Projects

**Rio De Janeiro Avenue Sidewalks** – A sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Rio De Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard to a newly constructed sidewalk on Deep Creek Boulevard. Design includes a connection/crossing to a newly constructed sidewalk at Sandhill Boulevard. This is an integral part of a planned sidewalk network in the Deep Creek area. Construction began October 7, 2013 with the installation of silt fence and base material. They plan to begin pouring concrete in the next few days.

**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 September 4, 2013. Clearing and grubbing is underway at Boundary Boulevard and is moving north. Sidewalk construction is progressing on schedule; several hundred feet of sidewalk has been poured.

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

**Sales Tax Year Two (Sheehan) Sidewalks** – This sidewalk will be installed from an existing sidewalk on Peachland Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Noble Terrace. This design will include a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk at Alton Road. We are working with Charlotte County Utilities to include water facility improvements in conjunction with this sidewalk project. Pedestrian facilities will be added to the Bridge on Sheehan Boulevard. The construction start date is pending Engineering Inspector availability and will be the next project to enter the bid process as soon as an inspector becomes available.

**Sales Tax Year Three (Oceanspray) Sidewalks** – This sidewalk will be installed on Oceanspray Boulevard from a future sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard. Design includes a crossing at Spinnaker Boulevard. This will be an integral part of a network of sidewalks planned for the Englewood East/Rotonda Area. The construction start date is pending Engineering Inspector availability and is next in line to enter the bid process for West County as soon as an inspector becomes available.

### 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). Four of the structures are in the Little Alligator Basin-- SUN3.65 (Forrest Nelson at the Sunset Waterway), DOR4.75 (Bachmann Blvd at the Dorchester Waterway), MOR5.08 (Bachmann Blvd at the Morningstar Waterway), and HAV4.33 (Quesada Ave at the Haverhill Waterway). The other two structures, FOR5.11 and NIA5.72 (Peachland Blvd at the Fordham Waterway and the

Niagara Waterway) are in the Fordham Basin. These structures were bid in two groups: Group 1: DOR 4.75, MOR 5.08, HAV 4.33, and Group 2: SUN 3.65, NIA 5.72, and FOR 5.11.

Group 1 structures - construction is complete. Group 2 structures - design is complete.

The construction bid package for the SUN 3.65 will be forwarded to the Purchasing Department in early October 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation. Construction of SUN 3.65 is anticipated to begin in early 2014. Construction for FOR 5.11 and NIA 5.72 is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2014 contingent upon on funding.

**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 September 10, 2013. A pre-application meeting was held with the water district on September 19, 2013 and the permit application was submitted on September 30, 2013.

**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 was completed and forwarded to the design engineer. Design is projected to be completed in November 2013 with construction estimated to begin in the spring 2014.

**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 Board of County Commissioners awarded the construction contract to ZEP Construction on September 24, 2013. Notice to Proceed is scheduled for November 18, 2013. Construction will begin on Elmira Boulevard at the Pompano Waterway, replacing the existing drainage pipe, before moving to US 41 at the Pompano Waterway.

### **Miscellaneous Projects**

**Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure** - The purpose of this project is to design and construct a water control structure at the downstream end of the Sunrise Waterway to restore and enhance the water quality of Sunshine Lake. This project is being conducted in response to recommendations received from the Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study.

Responses to the Southwest Florida Water Management District's request for additional information are being submitted this week. The additional pond depth created by the water level control structure will also be credited towards the required treatment of the Midway Blvd. Phase II project, saving approximately \$500,000 by the elimination of special underdrain that would have been required otherwise. Issuance of the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) is expected by the end of October 2013. Construction is projected to begin in the spring of 2014.

### **Community Services**

#### **Charlotte Sports Park**

In partnership with the Lee County Sports Authority, the Charlotte Sports Park hosted several games of the Perfect Game Tournament on October 11th and 12th. All playing fields along with the stadium were utilized and estimated attendance was 1700 for the two-day event.

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

We are playing bas-ket-ball! Registrations are still being accepted for the Winter Youth Basketball League. As of last Friday there were 114 registered participants. The Winter Youth Basketball League is a very popular program that offers children ages 5 to 17 years a ten week season in which to play. The league is scheduled to begin with its' Preseason Jamboree on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. In other news, Tae Kwon Do's participation continues to remain steady.

### **Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation**

For the week of October 6 – October 12 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 14 attend the water aerobics classes, 107 paid admissions and 13 pass holders visited our pool. Sunday we reached pool capacity!

It was a busy week at the Recreation Center. Within five days we had a Sweet Sixteen Birthday Party with 52 in attendance, CERT training with 30 in attendance, Irish American Meeting with 54 in attendance, Neighborhood Watch with 70 in attendance and the IPSSA Trade Show with over 350 in attendance!

Looking at the week ahead, we are busy with 3 rentals, C.E.R.T. (30), Public Works Meeting (100), and Charlotte County Genealogical Society Meeting (90).

### **South County Regional Park and Pool**

SCRPG Good News: South County held 2 days of camp for those schools that had off. Both days serviced 42 campers between K-5 grades. Master Gardener Mike Stevens held a gardening class for beginners to veteran gardeners. The class was 1 ½ hours and he went over soil ph, gardening in SW Florida and what is best to plant, nematodes, funguses, plant diseases and other bugs and insects that are harmful. 40 people attended this class. Some were plot owners from our community garden and others from the general public that were interested in learning more about gardening in this climate.

For the week of 10-6-13 through 10-12-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 141 paid admissions, was visited by 133 pass holders and had 75 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held 8 practices resulting in approximately 400 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes".

### **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool**

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 191 paid admissions, was visited by 98 pass holders and had 97 water aerobics participants. The 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**

- \*Home and Garden Show – Event Center – October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – Growing Vegetables in Florida Booth – Master Gardeners
- \*Newspaper Article for October 14<sup>th</sup> – "Date with a canary"
- \*Managers Meeting – October 14<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – Mid-County Library
- \*Plant Purchasing for Projects – Parking Lot and Container Projects – 1:30 pm – October 14<sup>th</sup>
- \*PG Garden Club Talk – "Winter Gardening in SWFL" - United Methodist Church, 507 West Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33955 - October 16<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm for 50 people
- \*Library day - bed bugs, book lice etc. - Educational Program In-service - 9:15 & at 10:00 am – October 18<sup>th</sup> – 40 people total

### **Libraries and Historical**

Libraries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Charlotte County Library System from 1963 to 2013 on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 50 people attended the program which staff presented the decades from the 60s

to 2013. A 50 year display board can be seen at the Mid County Regional Library until the end of November when it will circulate among the other 3 libraries.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

A new artist's bench was installed at Bayshore Live Oak Park.

At Oyster Creek Park, leaking windows were repaired and repairs to areas of degrading cement within the skate park were made; and at the pool some concrete repairs were made to the skimmer overflow grate.

Concrete repairs were also made to the pool deck at South County Regional Park and the leaking spout under the diving well was replaced with new fittings.

HVAC duct work replacement at the Family Services Building was completed.

To provide ADA compliant bathrooms for our handicapped patrons at Family Services, additional work is in progress and nearing completion.

Stabilization of the Bunk House at Cape Haze Pioneer Trail is 75% completed.

Roof replacement work at Murdock Administration "B" Building is continuing and is nearly complete.

### **Operations**

At the Sheriff's Administration Building in Punta Gorda, the fire suppression project is in progress.

### **Project Management**

The HVAC control system is being installed at the Harold Ave concession buildings. This system was necessary to help achieve the "Green" certification that was required by the BOCC for this project.

## **Human Services**

Twice a year at the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs Semiannual Conference, the FDVA chooses a service officer that goes above and beyond for its counties veterans. On October 9th, 2013, that award was given to David Donohew, Charlotte County, for initiating the placement of the 40 combat wounded signs in Charlotte County. Alene Tarter Director of benefits read the Certificate of appreciation stating "your direct intervention to help Charlotte County Veterans reflects highly on your dedication to improve the quality of life for our Florida Veterans and their families".

At the October 7, 2013 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board meeting, MPO Board Chair Christopher G. Constance presented the MPO's 2013 "Peggy Walters" Citizen Mobility Award to Ms. Esther "Tess" Canja. Ms. Canja is a past National President of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and currently continues to serve the community as a founding member of Team Port Charlotte, and advocate for improved transit options for the County.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte County continues to be a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts and to keep the destination top of mind with outdoor writers, photographers and broadcast journalists, Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Annual Southeastern Outdoor Press Association Conference in Lake Charles, La. Earlier in the month (Oct. 9 – 13). Bureau staff participated in the tourism showcase as well as educational and networking opportunities. Charlotte County hosted the group in 2009 and many members still say that was their favorite conference and look forward to visiting the area again to write about the destination.