

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects

Bridge Rehabilitation & Maintenance Program – This project represents a comprehensive maintenance program for Charlotte County Bridges. As part of the project, five Bridge slope pavements are scheduled to be replaced in Northwest Port Charlotte: Two slope pavements located on Eisenhower Avenue over the Cheshire Waterway, two slope pavements located on Chamberlain Boulevard over the Markham Waterway, and one slope pavement located on Eleanor Avenue over the Ingersoll Waterway. All five bridge slope pavements will be complete by the end of Oct. 2013.

Harborview Road Bridge Over DeSoto Canal – This project is to design and construct a replacement Bridge over the DeSoto Canal on Harborview Road approximately 0.35 miles east of Rio de Janeiro Avenue. The new Bridge will be constructed with a precast concrete deck and a temporary bridge with related structures. Construction will begin Nov. 18, 2013. The contractor will begin with the construction of a temporary road and a temporary bridge in order to divert traffic for the demolition of the old bridge.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Burnt Store Road Widening Project Phase Three – This Project consists primarily of engineering design and plan preparation services for the widening of Burnt Store Road, between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road, from a two-lane undivided rural typical section to a four-lane divided suburban typical section. The construction contract is currently advertised for bid. The Pre-Bid Meeting took place on Oct. 11, 2013, with Bid Opening scheduled Nov. 6, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Charlotte County Purchasing Department.

GPC Bridge Rehab – Sheehan Blvd Over Yale Waterway – This project will rehabilitate the existing Bridge on Sheehan Boulevard over the Yale Waterway. The existing Bridge was built in 1968 therefore the Bridge deck and rails are substandard. Sales Tax Funds will supplement MSBU Funds allowing for the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge. The rehabilitation will widen the structure to accommodate sidewalks, replace the bridge deck and install a barrier wall. 90% design plans have been received and reviewed. The design team is revising the alignment to allow the bridge to be a segment of the horizontal curve, maximizing the bridge deck area. These corrections/revisions to the plans should be completed by the end of October 2013. Revised 90% design plans are scheduled to be submitted by Oct. 15, 2013 Construction is estimated to begin in early 2014.

Parkside - Elkcam Boulevard Multi Use Path – The Community Development Engineering Division will oversee the Design, Project Management, Inspection Services and Permitting of a 10' multi-use sidewalk with street (shade) trees along the west side of Elkcam Boulevard and decorative trees on the east side. Charlotte County Utilities will construct this project. The construction and landscape plans are 100% complete and have been sent to Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) to be included in their constructions plans. It is anticipated that CCU will have construction ready plans delivered to the Purchasing Department in Nov. 2013.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (US 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – The Road Feasibility and Traffic Study (Phase 1) is complete on Harbor Boulevard from US 41 to Olean Boulevard. Phase 2 design includes roadway improvements consisting of a four lane divided roadway with a 16' – 20' raised median that will provide for safer turning movements, 8' – 10' multi use paths on both sides, landscaping, decorative lighting, wayfinding and a gateway feature. Utility improvements are included in this project. The scope and fee negotiation for Harbor Boulevard Phase 2 is complete and is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval on Nov. 12, 2014.

Tom Adam's Bridge – Phase 2 of the Tom Adams Bridge Rehabilitation will replace the tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The 90% design plans have been received and are under review. Project Specifications and Cost Estimate have been received.

Traffic Signing & Marking accomplishments from September 25 – October 20, 2013

- Herbicide = 676 objects (Truck was at Fleet for repairs for two weeks)
- Legends Installed = 85
- New Signs Installed = 24
- Road Striping = 181,919 Linear Feet (34.45 Miles)
- Roadway Edge Scraping = 98,965 Linear Feet (18.7 Miles)
- Signs Inspected = 9,172
- Signs Manufactured = 238
- Signs Repaired = 1696
- Speed Studies = 11
- Traffic Counts = 34 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 10
- Turn Movement Counts = 4
- County Bike Route Signage is 75% complete.

Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation

Charlotte County Community Services along with Harold Avenue Recreation Center Staff hosted the 5th Annual Healthy Kids Festival on Sunday. The festival was held on the football fields of Franz Ross Park. There were 28 different organizations that gathered together to provide pertinent information on health, wellness, and fun to families with children ages preschool to 8th grade. In addition to learning about how to improve their overall health and wellness, the participants were given the opportunity to participate in a 1 Mile Fun Walk. Under the leadership of Stafford Milligan and Edwidge Cherry, the walk participants were lead through a mile of fitness, laughter and sightseeing as they walked the nature trail and football fields at the park. The festival was held from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm and had over 200 participants in attendance. The Healthy Kids Festival is an annual event that is hosted by Harold Avenue Recreation Center during the month of October.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

An awesome week for the pool! For the week of October 13 – October 19 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 33 attend the water aerobics classes, 155 paid admissions and 36 pass holders visited our pool.

It was a busy week at the Recreation Center. Within in five days we had CERT training (30), Public Works Meeting (100) and Charlotte County Genealogical Society Meeting with (90) in attendance!

Looking at the week ahead, we are busy with 5 rentals, C.E.R.T. (30), Charlotte County Human Services NAB Civil Citation Volunteer Training (50), The Bluefin's Swim Banquet (100), and CCU Business Service Appreciation (50) and a wedding reception (150).

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County hosted day camp for the two Punta Gorda elementary schools that are year round. 30 kids are enrolled for camp the last 2 weeks of October.

For the week of 10-13 through 10-19, South County Regional Park Pool had 103 paid admissions, was visited by 1118 pass holders and had 39 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." The Charlotte County High School Swim Team Championships with

an was held at South County on Wednesday October 16th with an estimated attendance of 200.

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

For the week of 10-16 through 10-22, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 168 paid admissions, was visited by 110 pass holders and had 77 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". In addition, the meeting room was rented for a birthday party and accommodated approximately 30 guests.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for October 21st – "Broccoli in the Landscape"
- State Master Gardener Conference – October 21st – 23th – Kissimmee - about 5 volunteers going from Charlotte County.
- MG Radio Show – October 22nd – 10 to 11 am – WCCF – 1580
- Florida Limited Commercial Maintenance License Training – October 23rd – 9 am to 4 pm
- Campus Partner Meeting – 8:30 am – October 24th
- Extension Staff Meeting – October 24th – 3:00 pm
- GI-BMP Training – October 25th – 8 am to 3 pm
- Gardening Symposium – October 26th – 9 am to 2:30 pm

Libraries and Historical

We are hosting a Pumpkin Walk here at Mid-County from 3-4:30 on Wednesday, October 30th. It is a safe trick or treat event for children. Our Port Charlotte Library also has a Harvest Festival happening on Thursday October 31st from 3:30-5:30. There will be games, prizes, stories, and a cupcake walk.

The Mid-County Regional Library presented *Secrets of the Supernatural* on Monday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. Author and psychic medium Lorenzo Marion conducted the program, which covered the true nature of ghosts, angels and the spirit world. The event was incredibly popular—more than 130 people attended. On Tuesday, October 22, Mid-County Library presented the Peace River Ghost Tracker who played audio samples of their strange and interesting findings. 66 individuals came out to see the paranormal investigation group.

Natural Resources

On October 14, 2013, Roger DeBruler gave a talk to the Charlotte County Marine 4H Club. Thirteen children and four adults were present to hear about designing an artificial reef on the type of fish that we would want to inhabit the reef. We talked about fish types, the needs of each species, and how an artificial reef could provide these resources. Pictures of different fish species were shown, along with an underwater video of an artificial reef.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The large jail generator enclosure was recently replaced. It was over 13 years old and had rusted so badly that it was no longer structurally sound. The enclosure was removed, the generator cleaned and painted, and the new cover was installed. The new cover is aluminum; wind rated to 150 miles per hour, and will never rust. It is also insulated so the noise from the running motor is no longer a problem.

The motion sensors for lights at Franz Ross Park and security lights at Oyster Creek Park have been repaired.

Lighting upgrades were made in the Clerk of the Court's office.

Operations

The Event Center received 2 newly planted palm trees to replace the ones that were dying. These were

approximately 25 feet high or better along the river's walking path.

Project Management

The Energy Performance Contract between Charlotte County and Siemens Industry, Inc. was approved by the Board on Tuesday October 22nd.

The conduit and 3 phase power line for the baseball field have been installed. This will enable the startup of the electrical and HVAC systems to be initiated.

Fire Station 6 renovation is progressing. The floor tile, ceiling grid, and primer coat on the walls are complete. The asphalt has been installed around the parking apron and drive entry.

Human Services

The Human Services Transit Division attended a Board of County Commissioner's workshop. Among the topics presented were the Transportation Development Plan kickoff presented by Tindale Oliver and Associates, and the Transit Latent Demand Study presented by the Renaissance Group. The TDP is an overview for the scope of services provided by Charlotte County Transit. The 10 year plan will be completed in August 2014. The Transit Development Plan is a required 10 year strategic plan that will ensure compliance with the current TDP rule which was enacted by the FDOT in 2007. The 10 year TDP is updated every 5 years. The latent demand study provided by the Renaissance planning group was a study conducted for a possible pilot fixed route service connecting Charlotte and Sarasota County's bus systems.

Transit attended a meeting for the Charlotte County 10 year plan to prevent and end homelessness in our communities. The meeting was to evaluate options to increase countywide public transportation.

Division Administration completed a Letter of Intent to apply for the 2013 Emergency Solutions Grant program. This grant would provide \$76,598 in funding from the Department of Children and Families to provide Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing services to families identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness by the school district. Working with the Homeless Education Liaison at CCPS, the Family Services Division would assist families in stabilizing their housing situation and then move towards economic self-sufficiency. The letter of intent received administrative approval to proceed and was delivered to the Gulf Coast Partnership on Monday, October 14th.

Division Administration attended the Children's Services Council meeting and provided the Council with an update on the Developmental Assets project, Council vacancies and appointments process and also made a brief presentation about the Community Needs Assessment.

Division Administration attended the United Charlotte meeting to brainstorm and develop a plan for the project, establish timelines and objectives. The group will continue to work on development of the goals and action plans for carrying out the shared vision.

Senior Division Given the number of apparent changes at Senior Choices recently, Technical Assistance has been requested for the following:

- Clarification of eliminating 'in-common' status for clients dually enrolled in multiple programs funded under DoEA.
- Clarification or Notice of Instruction for Senior Choices interpretation of DoEA's direction of HCE Basic & Supplies or choose another program if services are needed.
- Clarification of LTC/Medicaid Managed Care in-common with Federally funded programs; specifically C1 Congregate Meals and OAA Transportation. Medicaid has never funded these services; rule imposed denying access to this program is contrary to federal guidelines of eligibility.
- Clarification of ADI clients being managed under CCE. According to Senior Choices, ADI was never supposed to be limited to 'just' those under 60 Years of age.
- Requested a copy of the grievance procedures for a LTC/Medicaid client regarding denial of participation in the C1 Congregate Meals Program at client request.
- Clarification of changes to 'Joint Meeting' and who should attend.

- Requested an organizational chart or staff listing/contact sheet that identifies the Senior Choices' day-to-day operations or specific staff covering what issues/programs.

A Case Management Supervisor attended and participated in the Communities for a Lifetime Committee Meeting. Agenda included; Parkside Festival Progress, funding update for reading program; Good Friends, Update on fixed route, OCEAN Resource Guide, UW Needs Study

Family-Self Sufficiency

Services were provided to 57 clients in the main office this week. Five clients were served through our LIHEAP outreach program this week (4 in Englewood and 1 in Port Charlotte) and 46 applications were approved for LIHEAP home energy assistance totaling \$14,100.00 in benefits. Fifteen crisis applications were approved for assistance totaling \$4,625.46 in benefits.

Youth Services

This week the NAB/Civil Citation program served 26 youth, held 2 board hearings, closed 3 cases and conducted 6 intakes. Additionally, 15 volunteer hours were contributed to the program.

NAB Coordinator Jack Sanzalone gave a presentation about the program to the Charlotte County Young Professionals on October 10th. Approximately 40 individuals were in attendance and as a result, recruited two new volunteers for the NAB board. Additionally, several members have committed to attending the volunteer recruitment seminar on October 23rd.

Youth Services Completed the Children's Services Council monthly report and invoice and submitted to DJJ.

Confirmed the date for the Children's Services Council presentation of the Developmental Assets Community Conversations. These will be held on January 13, 2014 at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex and will be facilitated by the Search Institute.

Veteran Services

David Donohew attended the Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida meeting. It was decided to go ahead with planning. A vote was taken on the location and Laishley Park in Punta Gorda was chosen. The Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida Committee will erect a replica of the National Vietnam Memorial Wall in Charlotte County. Purpose: The Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida will provide a permanent Memorial tribute so current and future generations will know the sacrifices made by all who served in Vietnam and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice and whose names will never be forgotten.

David Donohew attended the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners meeting and accepted the Veterans Appreciation Proclamation naming the Month of November as Veterans Appreciation month.

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Punta Gorda CRA, and Charlotte Harbor CRA, will host the International Distance Skateboard Association 8K in conjunction with the annual Hands Across the Harbor Event on January 25, 2014. The longboard race, which is projected by IDSA to attract 100-150 participants, is a new addition to the event which includes a 5K fun walk, an 8K competitive run, and a 10/20-mile bike ride. The longboard race will be timed with awards going to the top finishers in each category. The event will be staged from Bayshore Live Oak Park and anyone interested in participating can get more information at www.handsacrosstheharbor.com or www.active.com.