

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Active Construction Projects (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalks – This sidewalk will be installed on Harbor Boulevard from an existing sidewalk close to Midway Boulevard to an existing sidewalk on Veterans Boulevard. Design includes crossings at Peachland Boulevard and Quesada Boulevard. This will also provide a link to the newly constructed sidewalk along Midway Boulevard as well as a link to future sidewalks in the Parkside area. This will be an integral part of a network of sidewalks planned for the Port Charlotte Area.

The contractor has completed most of the work from Veterans Boulevard to Peachland Boulevard. They are working on pedestrian signalization, installing drainage and sidewalks south of Peachland Boulevard and have poured most of the sidewalk between Peachland Boulevard and Quesada Boulevard. County staff is coordinating with School Board transportation staff to ensure that school bus stops and sidewalk construction are not in conflict.

PSA issued 6/10/13 – expires 12/09/2013: Construction of the Harbor Boulevard Sidewalk, from Veteran's Boulevard to Midway Boulevard, will begin on Monday June 10, 2013. To carry out this work, the contractor may need to shift traffic patterns. There will be traffic signs and flagmen present when needed and citizens are urged to use caution when traveling in this area. Sidewalk construction will continue through December 2013.

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. The contractor began pouring sidewalk at the intersection of Rio De Janeiro Avenue and Rampart Boulevard moving towards Sandhill Boulevard. The contractor has poured several hundred feet of sidewalks and several driveways.

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 and is progressing ahead schedule. The contractor has poured several driveways, replaced several drainage pipes and approximately 2,000 linear feet of sidewalk has been poured. Fiber optic conduit is being installed for the County's IT department in conjunction with this project.

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. 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 – The construction contract was awarded November 12, 2013 to Owen-Ames Kimball Company. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled and Notice to Proceed will be established.

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 recently constructed sidewalk on Florida Street. This project has unique design challenges that are being worked through by the design team and County staff. This project will not be constructed until an Engineering 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 was forwarded to the Purchasing Department on October 23, 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation. Construction of SUN 3.65 is anticipated to begin in early 2014. Construction of 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.

SFWMDC permits have been obtained and final plans and bid specs are expected to be submitted to the County by November 15, 2013. After staff reviews the package, it will be sent to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation by the end of November 2013. Construction is estimated to begin in the spring of 2014.

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. The engineer is now determining what sites will be needed for access to the project and what sites will be needed for staging equipment. Once the site determination is made, temporary construction easements will be obtained in order to use those sites for construction. Design is projected to be completed in November 2013 with construction estimated to begin in the spring 2014.

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.

The MSBU committee held a workshop to discuss if they wish to go forward with Task 3 - a design work phase. This task consists of the following: Survey Data Collection, Project Modeling, Capital Improvement Project Recommendations, Maintenance & Operations Program Development, Governing Environmental Agency Pre-Application Meeting, and a Design Work Phase Report Public Meeting. On October 31, 2013 the MSBU committee voted to NOT go forward with Task 3 and to cancel the rest of the study project.

Sunshine Lake Recharge Wells – Upon completion of the Sunshine Lake Algae Removal project, the County shall initiate installation of two recharge wells to maintain active water flow through the lake. A recharge well will be located at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second adjacent to McGuire Park. The contract documents have been prepared to submit to the Purchasing Department, however this project is on hold until the algae removal project is complete.

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.

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) was issued November 4, 2013. Bid documents for construction are being prepared and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in December 2013. Construction is projected to begin in the spring of 2014.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the SW Florida Lung Cancer 5K and Memorial Walk, on Saturday, 11/9. Estimated attendance for this event was at 600.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the IBC Nations Tournament on 11/09, and 11/10. They utilized a total of four fields each day with estimated attendance at 450.

Harold Avenue Recreation

We're playing basketball, we're playing basketball! The Winter Youth Basketball League has officially begun at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. The Preseason Jamboree was held on Saturday. During the course of the day, the center played host to 300 players and 600 spectators. Tip off took place at 8:00 am. The participants played in 20 minute scrimmages allowing them the opportunity to become familiar with the rules and regulations of the league. The league will continue with 10 regular season games and a post season tournament. Games for all participants 14 years of age and younger are to be played on Saturday's beginning at 8 am. Games for all 15 years of age and older are to held on Sunday's beginning at 2:00 pm. In other news, participation in Tae Kwon Do, Table Tennis, Pickleball and Dog Obedience continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center our rentals included, CC Tax Collector's In-Service Meeting (62), Irish American Meeting (60), and Neighborhood Watch Meeting (75).

Looking ahead we have we will be hosting Movie at the Beach on Friday, November 15, 2013, followed by the Parkside Festival on Saturday, November 16, 2013. Upcoming rentals include Neighborhood Watch Meeting (80), CERT Training (30), CC Genealogical Society Mtg. (90), CCSO Celebrity Cook-Off Fundraiser and concluding with a Celebration of Life (110)

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 50 paid admissions, was visited by 28 pass holders and had 135 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Fall Intersession camp is close to being full with only 7 spots available. Staff is ready to run their part in the Parkside Festival this upcoming Saturday. SC staff will be running the kids games and the Touch a Truck event with over 12 Big Trucks coming for the kids to climb around in.

For the week of 11-3-13 through 11-9-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 49 paid admissions, was visited by 90 pass holders and had 69 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held

9 practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes". The dive well was used by the Punta Gorda Fire Department Dive Team for 2 hours of training.

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

For the week of 11-6 through 11-12-13, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 89 paid admissions, was visited by 82 pass holders and had 98 water aerobics participants. The Lemon Bay High School swim & dive team held 3 practices resulting in approximately 75 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

Extension Services

- *Newspaper Article for November 11th – "Muscadines in the backyard"
- *Master Gardener Association Officer Meeting – 8:30 to 9:30 am – November 12th
- *Green Industries – Best Management Practices Training – November 13th – 8 am to 3 pm
- *Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting – Murdock – 9 am – Nov. 14th
- *Parkside Festival – November 16th

Libraries and Historical

The 23rd annual Symphony of Trees will be held November 16-December 7, at the Cultural Center. This is a holiday display and auction benefitting the Charlotte County Historical Center Society and area non-profit groups. Open daily 10 am – 4 pm, on Thanksgiving Day Noon-3pm.

The 2nd Tuesday Film Series continues at the Mid-County Regional Library on December 10 at 6p.m. The film for this date is "Ushpizin", winner of 3 Ophir Awards this film depicts how an Orthodox Jewish couple's faith it tested when they pray for a child during the Sukkot holiday. This film is in Hebrew with English subtitles. This is a free event, come join us.

The area libraries feature multiple materials to add to your Holiday enjoyment. We offer all of the Christmas classic movies from "Frosty the Snowman" to "It's a Wonderful Life" and many others. We have books on every subject from decorating your home, creating homemade gifts to every possible type of bakery item. We offer music on CD to set your holiday mood. Come on by your local library and check out some holiday cheer!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The installation of a 35' x 40' Galvanized Steel Frame Truck-Port is nearing completion for the Lighting Dept.

This is an engineered structure, with reinforced concrete foundation, with approximately 16' eave height; which is considered an open structure on steel columns.

This low cost project was implemented to save Public Works Lighting Department's new boom trucks from UV light damage and exposure to the elements; which when left to the elements in Florida has an extreme detrimental effect to hydraulic system, high pressure rubber hoses, plastics, and other parts/paint etc.

Public works requested this based on their experience with older equipment and the soon needed maintenance which results when equipment is left exposed to the elements.

Facilities is currently looking into the installation of automation controls for the Englewood Annex. This will allow us to see how the building HVAC and internal conditions are maintaining, to include remote temperature schedule changes and alarm dial out if HVAC problems occur.

The HVAC staff met with Gates Belt rep's to resolve an on-going problem with the blower belt-pulley replacements which was supposed to save on maintenance costs. The belts continue to deteriorate with the new pulleys. Gates agreed to rectify the problem and replace the blower belts at no cost.

Operations

Invasive Pepper Trees have been removed from the West County Annex. These Pepper Trees were growing into the parking spaces along the east side of the parking lot impeding the ability to park along that whole east half of the front parking lot. All cut branches and stumps were treated with Garlon to prevent these from growing up again.

Project Management

The HVAC and control system has been started at the Harold Ave Concession buildings allowing the system to be checked before accepting it as substantially complete.

The county fleet maintenance building design and permitting was completed. The bid documents were compiled and currently awaiting bids which are due on December 4th. The Board of County Commissioners approval is projected for the first meeting in January 2014.

Human Services

Our Human Services Department and Veteran Services staffs participated in numerous events and activities supporting our County Veterans during this month. Events included:

- The Veterans Awareness and Remembrance Service at the Randy Spence Park in El Jobean. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.
- Staff with the US Paratroopers led the Punta Gorda Veterans Day Parade starting at 1000 hrs. Attended by many residence/ supporters of Punta Gorda along the parade route.
- Re-dedication of the Purple Heart bricks in Laishley Park, Punta Gorda. There were approximately 25 people in attendance.
- Staff was the guest speaker for Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Sterling House of Port Charlotte Assisted Living Facility. There were approximately 40 people in attendance.
- Staff was the guest speaker for Veterans Day Ceremonies (A Salute to Veterans) at the Douglas T. Jacobson VA Nursing Home. A free barbeque followed. There were approximately 160 people in attendance.
- Staff attended the Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Charlotte County North Regional Park (sponsored by the VFW Post 5690). There were approximately 60 people in attendance.
- Staff with the US Paratroopers Honor Guard Posted Colors at Laishley Park and attended the Veteran Day Ceremony in Punta Gorda. There were approximately 80 to 90 people in attendance to honor Veterans and learn of the nurses who served in the Armed Forces.
- Staff and other members of the US Paratroopers Assisted Tidewell Hospice by Posting Colors at South Port Square for Veterans pinning Ceremony. There were 60 in attendance.
- Staff attended the 9th Annual Stand-Down at the American Legion Post 113. There were 28 veterans in attendance. There were approximately 50 volunteers that passed out items, escorted the veterans to each station and worked the food truck serving hot meals.

Tourism

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a vacation destination provides a trusted third-party endorsement for potential visitors. Staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau attended the Travel Media Meetup in Jacksonville last week (Nov. 6) to meet with and pitch Charlotte County story ideas to 20 members of the travel media from Orlando, Jacksonville and the Southeastern U.S. media. Attending media represented a variety of local, regional and national print and electronic media. Staff returned with solid leads for potential story placement. Even better was meeting with travel journalists who have visited the area and have them tell other members of the media how terrific the destination is. The event was offered through the Southeast Tourism Society.