

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Administration/PIO

The Charlotte Assembly 2013 Policy Statement is now posted to the county website. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Charlotte Assembly 2013 in the Hot Topics list on the left.

Community Development

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

Bridge Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program – This project represents a comprehensive maintenance program for Charlotte County Bridges. The two year program will be to perform cyclical maintenance of these Bridges and may be extended if funding allows. It is anticipated that this project will range from minimal Bridge maintenance to complete Bridge replacement (to be budgeted separately). Five Bridge slope pavements are scheduled to be replaced in Northwest Port Charlotte: All five bridge slope pavements are complete, however a change order is in process to add an additional four (4) slope pavements to this contract that need to be replaced. A Change Order is projected to go before the Board for review/approval November 26, 2013.

Harborview Road Bridge Replacement – 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. A new school flasher, silt fencing and turbidity barrier is in place. The contractor is preparing to mobilize equipment and build the footings for the temporary bridge. Once the temporary bridge is in place, demolition of the existing bridge will begin. *PSA issued 11/14/13: Construction of a new Bridge on Harborview/Sunnybrook Road, between DeSoto Drive and Discovery Drive, will begin on November 18, 2013. Variable message boards are in place to notify the public that stop signs will be installed on Sunnybrook Road at the intersection of Highlands Road on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. The contractor will begin with the construction of a temporary road and a temporary Bridge to divert traffic for the demolition of the existing Bridge. The school zone is being extended to the east of Highlands Road and the speed limit is being reduced in the construction area to 15 miles per hour for the safety of the traveling public and school children. Please exercise extreme caution while traveling through this area.*

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Burnt Store Road Phase III Construction – 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 Project will be comprised of determination of alignment, evaluation of typical section alternatives, stormwater management and drainage improvements, application of access management standards, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, a signalized intersection, (may include street lighting) and utility relocations, additions, and adjustments. Charlotte County Real Estate Services is in the process of acquiring property along Burnt Store Road between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road.

On November 20, 2013, Purchasing Department staff members opened the construction bids for this project and are reviewing them for accuracy. Once this is completed, Engineering Division staff will review the bids and forward the selection to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

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. On November 12, 2013 the Board of County Commissioners approved the scope and fees for the design of Harbor Boulevard

Improvements. Staff will meet with the design consultants and conduct a kick off meeting to start the design and permitting process.

Traffic Signing & Marking accomplishments from October 20 – November 19, 2013

- Herbicide = 2,855 objects
- Legends Installed = 499
- New Signs Installed = 66
- Road Striping = 154,849 Linear Feet (29.3 Miles)
- Roadway Edge Scraping = 29,340 Linear Feet (5.5 Miles)
- Signs Inspected = 13,715
- Signs Manufactured = 238
- Signs Repaired = 1,964
- Speed Studies = 12
- Traffic Counts = 43 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 11
- Video Detection Counts = 2

Community Services

Administration

Charlotte County Community Services participated in two community events continuing to show our commitment to quality of life in Charlotte County. On Veteran's Day Community Services and VFW Post 5690 held a memorial service at the Veteran's Memorial Walkway at North Charlotte Regional Park. The event was attended by over 100 people gathered to honor our country's veterans. Command Master Chief Jack R. Sanzalone Jr. USN, Ret.) and Admiral Walter O. Wittholz, (USN, Ret) were the guest speakers. The event featured the Port Charlotte High School NJROTC color guard and Port Charlotte High School buglers who played taps, and this year's winner of the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, Hannah James.

The Community Services Department participated in the 2013 Parkside Fall Festival. The co-sponsored event with Team Parkside drew 600 people. Community Services organized the Kids Zone providing games, face painting, and balloon sculptures, and 4-H booth. The kids also enjoyed the Touch-a-Truck display, made possible in part by the Public Works Department and Waste Management. The Port Charlotte Library provided books to children at no cost. Master Gardeners were also present as were the Friends of the Port Charlotte Library. Despite a wet start, the event was a success and all who attended enjoyed a great community event.

Charlotte Sports Park

*The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Florida Burn Baseball Tryouts & Clinic on 11/16, and 11/17. They utilized a total of four fields each day with estimated attendance at 300.

*The Charlotte Sports Park will be hosting the Cole Bros. Circus on 11/20, and 11/21. They will be utilizing the parking lot each day with estimated attendance at 5000.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Pick, Pick, Pickleball Rocks! The new Pickleball Drop-In Program is in full swing at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Drop-In Pickleball is held Monday through Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. within the Center's Gymnasium. The cost to participate in this wonderful program is \$3 per person per session. Paddles, balls and nets are available at no charge. If you have never played pickleball, that is ok. Pickleball enthusiasts of all skill

sets are welcome to stop by. In other news, Week one of the Winter Youth Basketball League was completed on this weekend. Over the course of the weekend the center played host to 308 players and 600 spectators. The participants of the Winter Youth Basketball League play games consisting of two 20 minute halves allowing them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have acquired. The Winter Youth Basketball League will continue with nine more weeks of regular season games followed by a post season tournament.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center our rentals included, CERT Training (30), Neighborhood Watch (80), Irish American Meeting (60), Movie at the Beach (35) and Parkside Festival (250)!

Looking ahead we will be hosting our last CERT Training for the year (30); CC Genealogical Society Meeting (100); CCSO Celebrity Cook off Fundraiser (100); Evergreen Solutions (25) and a Celebration of Life (100).

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 50 paid admissions, was visited by 66 pass holders and had 135 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

Thanksgiving Camp begins Monday 11/25 and we are full with 30 kids. Staff will be helping out with the Tippy Canoe race on Saturday, November 23 with an expected attendance of 200. Programs have seen an increase in attendance now that "busy season" is here.

For the week of 11-10-13 through 11-16-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 30 paid admissions, was visited by 105 pass holders and had 14 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".

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

For the week of 11-13 through 11-19, 2013, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 94 paid admissions, was visited by 114 pass holders and had 103 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes". In addition, staff conducted the first of seven First Aid/CPR/AED classes for Community Services Department staff.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for November 18th – "Snapdragons are the answer!"
- Extension Staff Meeting – November 19th – 3 pm
- King's Highway/I-75 gateway design – Public Works Office – November 20th – 2 pm
- Overall Advisory Committee – November 21st – 11:30 am
- Evergreen Solutions – 3 pm – November 21st
- Dr. Vavrina Visit – November 22nd – 9 am to 2 pm
- Tropical Palms Mobile Home Park of Punta Gorda – Talk on the Master Gardener Program – 10:30 am – 50 people – November 23rd

Libraries and Historical

Libraries will be closed November 28 & 29 and open on Saturday November 30 as usual. Please remember that we are loaded with materials to help celebrate the season-from recipes for the special meal, to decorating tips, music and all your favorite holiday movies!

The 23rd annual Symphony of Trees is now going on at the Cultural Center until December 7th. There are trees, wreaths and center pieces for bidding on for charity. They make a great gift if you are a lucky winner! Proceeds benefit the Charlotte County Historical Center Society.

The Blanchard House Museum in conjunction with the Punta Gorda Library will present a program "African

American Espionage During the Civil War” on December 10th at 10:30am and admission is free. The program will be at the Punta Gorda Library at 424 West Henry St. in Punta Gorda. Please join us!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The replacement of the “B” Building lower roofs at Murdock has just been completed by Facilities. The project scope included the complete tear off of the existing roofing which included membrane, insulation, roof drains, and wall caps. The new roofing applied is up to date on all codes and consists of new insulation, FiberTite membrane, roof drains, and wall caps. The installer guarantees a 2 year workmanship warranty and the FiberTite itself has a 20 year warranty.

Facilities has just completed a bathroom remodel at the Family Services Building on Gibraltar. The scope included the renovation of two back to back non ADA bathrooms into one ADA bathroom on the North side second level.

Project Management

Fire Station 6 is nearing completion with only a couple of final inspections remaining. The substantial completion inspection by the consultants is scheduled for Friday morning. Once the contractor is completed, the county will move building furniture, connect telephone & computers, and reinstall radio equipment. The station is projected to reopen by mid-December.

Human Services

Staff members from Charlotte County Human Services, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Fiscal Services division met with representatives from the Sarasota County Area Transit and the City of North Port for a quarterly meeting to discuss coordination efforts and open communication on transit service. The meeting’s discussion also included the outcome of presentations to County Boards for the final latent demand study prepared for Charlotte County- Punta Gorda & Sarasota-Manatee MPOs. Both County Boards accepted the latent demand study and the study will be part of both Counties 10 Year Transit Development Plans.

The Human Services Department held its first quarterly employee meeting to engage staff in team building, communication, and customer service. Topics also included developing a vision for human services in Charlotte County which focuses on “Real People, Real Stories and Real Investment.”

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is pleased to announce Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected during Fiscal Year 2012-2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2013) totaled \$2,533,627 which is up 6 percent over Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (\$2,460,928). Since the Bureau’s inception in 1997, this is the most TDT Revenues Charlotte County has collected in one Fiscal Year.