

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

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

DeSoto Canal Bank Restoration and Stabilization – Funding for this project is from the Mid Charlotte Stormwater MSBU. Phase 1 of the Desoto Canal Ditch Stabilization project has been completed. Phase 2 of the project will continue south along the western bank to Harborview Blvd. Phase 2 is currently being reviewed by the Army Corp and NFWS for permitting and permits should be obtained by fall of 2014. This project consists of clearing and grubbing all vegetation from the western bank of the canal and establishing a consistent slope along the canal. Once the slope is established an Anchor Reinforced Vegetation System is installed and sodded to ensure the stabilization of the bank.

This area of the County is environmentally sensitive and includes challenges of endangered species including the Florida Scrub Jay, Gopher Tortoise, and Eastern Indigo Snake. Work cannot be done in the area during Scrub-Jay nesting season which is March 1 through June 30.

The Desoto Canal Ditch Stabilization phase 1 project was awarded to ZEP Construction on Jan. 22, 2013. A pre-construction meeting was held the next day in order to facilitate a quick start so that the northernmost properties could be stabilized prior to Scrub Jay nesting season. The contractor quickly got to work and stabilized the northernmost 300'. After obtaining the necessary permits, staff relocated a total of 19 tortoises. After the normal rains subsided, the contractor returned to the site and worked continuously to complete the project earlier than expected.



Dredging - Buena Vista Grassy Point and Sunrise Waterway – The Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway MSBU committee requested a survey of the access channels. Based on data collected, the committee wishes to seek engineering design and permitting for dredging of access channels. Construction is dependent upon the outcome of the engineering services contract. Due to the fact that Coastal Engineering may not add construction related services to post Tropical Storm Debby restoration, Stantec will assume the role and provide construction services under a separate account. The Contractor finished dredging the Sunrise Waterway and has placed the sand at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex for beach restoration. They finished dredging and hauling material from the Sunrise, Beeney, and Elkcam Waterway Access Channels. They are working in the Gardner Waterway to remove the remaining material to reach substantial completion.

Dredging - Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system and connecting them to the Myakka River navigation

channel. The contractor is currently dredging the main access channel as well as the Venus and Cheshire Waterways. Heavy rain conditions over the summer delayed progress; staff is seeking to extend the temporary closure of shellfish harvesting within the construction area to facilitate progress. Dredging is projected to be complete in early 2014.

Rampart Boulevard Improvement Project – This project provides for the design and expansion of Rampart Boulevard from a two-lane to a four-lane roadway, from .5 miles west of the I-75 Corridor to Loveland Boulevard. This project includes intersection modifications at Kings Highway, sidewalks, and street lights. Construction is complete at the intersection of Kings Highway; the new lanes are open to traffic. Phase 2: (Kings Hwy to Kings Gate Entrance) Construction is complete. All new lanes are open to traffic; the Contractor is working on punch list items and should be finished by the end of November 2013.

South Burnt Store Entryway Lighting & Landscaping – This project is to provide beautification and enhance entries to Burnt Store Lakes. It includes installation of landscaping and decorative lighting at the request of the property owners within the South Burnt Store MSBU. Funding is provided from assessments in the South Burnt Store Street and Drainage Unit. The trees have been planted and are being maintained. The decorative lighting foundations, poles and bases have been installed; the contractor is assembling service points. Substantial completion is expected Dec. 5, 2013 with a two week burn-in period for the lights.

US 41 Micro Tunnels / Weirs – 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. Construction is underway on Elmira Boulevard at the Pompano Waterway. The contractor is surveying the project site and installing erosion control devices. Replacement of the deteriorating drainage pipe under Elmira Boulevard will begin in early December 2013. Elmira Boulevard, between Depew Avenue and Brooklyn Avenue, will remain closed through March 2014; detours are in place.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements are required before widening this section of the corridor. This project includes increasing the drainage capacity under US 41 at three locations in addition to the widening of Midway from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway. The design engineer submitted the 90% plans for County staff to review. Design and permitting is projected to be complete in early 2014 with construction projected to begin in the summer of 2014.

Sidewalks - Gardens of Gulf Cove – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle. 100% design plans and bid specifications are in the Purchasing Department undergoing final review in preparation for bid solicitation. This project should be advertised for bid in mid-December 2013.

Coastal Projects

Dredging - Alligator Creek and Sunrise Waterway – The Alligator Creek Waterway Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to a depth greater than -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. This project also includes maintenance dredging to existing permitted conditions.

Rock was found within the dredge path that would require dedicated equipment, however recent changes in FDEP rules allow for an alignment shift to avoid the rock. The Waterway Committee requested that we move forward with a maintenance dredge to the existing permitted depth of -5MLW. The bid package is being assembled and will be reviewed at the beginning of December 2013. The permits necessary for this project are being updated as part of the bid process; permitting is anticipated to be completed by January 2014.

Dredging - Harbor Heights Waterway - This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system. A request was initiated to retain engineering services to permit, survey and provide construction related services for minor shoaling within the Harbor Heights Waterway System. Submittals from the potential engineering firms are under staff review for final selection of a consultant who will facilitate the permitting and construction management of this project. County staff members are currently in negotiations with an engineering firm to facilitate all phases of this project.

South Gulf Cove Turn Basin – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock, the only existing location for vessels with any substantial size and draft to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Preliminary plans have been reviewed and commented on. Meetings with the permitting agencies were productive and the permit application is nearing completion. A new location has been reviewed and accepted as the spoil disposal site. This location will substantially reduce the cost of hauling material.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction or installation of additional structures in the future in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts. After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants will conduct modeling to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. Permit plans and the project description have been reviewed. The Consultant is in the process of compiling the initial permit submittal.

Other Projects

Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested electricity to five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Boulevard East, Boulevard West, Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. The MSBU Committee met with County staff on Sept. 4, 2013 and approved the plans and specifications as submitted. Bid documents are currently in the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. Bids are due Dec. 11, 2013 and a contract is expected to be awarded in January 2014.

Manasota Key Community Plan Design – The Manasota Key MSBU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. The Community Plan will be presented to the MSBU at their meeting scheduled Dec. 6, 2013.

Community Services

Tippecanoe Trail and Mud Run 2013

Who would have thought that the idea of running through mud and tackling a 10 foot wall would attract over 250 people of all ages to the Tippecanoe Environmental Park? On Saturday November 23, 2013 Charlotte

County Community Services held the second annual Tippecanoe Trail and Mud Race. The 5K and 10K slippery obstacle course was constructed within the environmental park with no permanent affects to the natural habitats. The participants had to climb through the weaving Spider Webs, scale the Vertical Wall, jump or crawl under the Hurdles, scramble up the Cargo Climb, slip down the waters Slide and crawl through the Mud Pit. Awards for participants in their age groups were customized race dog tags instead of traditional finisher medals and overall winners received slate plaques and cash awards. At the conclusion of the race the participants were treated to complementary New Belgium Beer, freshly cooked pulled pork, Caesar salad with grated cheese, and coffee and water provided by 7-11. Join the fun next year Saturday November 22, 2014.

Charlotte Sports Park

- The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Cole Bros. Circus on 11/20, and 11/21. They utilized the parking lot each day with estimated attendance at 2000.
- On Saturday, 11/23, the Charlotte Sports Park hosted the 2nd Annual Tippecanoe Trail Run (5K and 10K), along with the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival. Estimated Attendance for both events was at 3750.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Spish splash take a mud bath - what a week for Harold staff! From the Tippecanoe Trail and Mud Run to Youth Basketball, Harold staff members were very busy this week. The mud run had 250 participants, strong cooperation between several divisions of Community Services and a great response from all involved. The Youth Basketball League is in full swing with 300 participants ages 5-17 practicing weeknights and playing games on Saturdays and Sundays at the recreation center.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center our rentals included, CERT Training (30), CC Genealogical Society Meeting (100), Evergreen Solutions Job Analysis Meeting (25) and a Celebration of Life (100).

Looking ahead we will be hosting CERT Training (30), and have an upcoming wedding reception (120) and Christmas Party (50).

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 11-17-13 through 11-23-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 50 paid admissions, was visited by 134 pass holders and had 81 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".

Extension Services

*Newspaper Article for November 18th – "Heads-up – Laurel Wilt is in Charlotte County"

*County Extension Director Meeting – Manatee County – 1 to 4 pm

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!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The staff at the jail have been using inmates to remove lighting at several of the jail buildings. These light fixtures were outdoors and subject to the rough Florida weather conditions and had started rusting badly. The lights were removed and sent to a local powder coating company for refinishing. When the fixtures were returned, they were reinstalled and re-lamped. This powder coating finish should last well into the future and

may never again have to be recoated. Using inmates to assist with easy tasks has saved the county many hours of labor on this project.

Operations

Various ADA Accessibility Improvements – Charlotte County takes seriously its obligation to provide universal accessibility to its facilities and programs for all citizens. We are constantly striving to identify conditions at our facilities that hinder universal accessibility and make necessary adjustments to meet ADA standards. In this light, a pre-bid conference was held on November 20 to invite contractors to bid on a package of over 20 planned outdoor improvements at 18 public facilities all across Charlotte County. This project with various small to large projects at each location will improve, comply or exceed accessibility standards of the 2012 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction.

The Administration Complex's oak trees were trimmed this past weekend. This raised and thinned the canopies to discourage nesting of predatory birds and prevent damage to the trees from larger vehicles hitting the lower limbs. We discourage predatory birds from nesting because these birds like to protect their nests. In doing so, they become territorial and aggressive to visitors and employees using the sidewalks around this property.

Project Management

The multi-site paving project will start at the Mid-County Library. The contractor marked the effected locations for repairs to the asphalt. The parking will be repaired in three phases.

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Travel, Events, and Management in Sports Conference & Expo, November 5-7, 2013 in Salt Lake City, UT, which provided educational sessions and best practices on relevant topics as well as various networking opportunities. As part of the program, the Bureau met one on one with over two dozen event organizers to discuss the potential of Charlotte County hosting one or more of their events. Several strong leads were generated and/or relationships created with a variety of organizations including the AGA Nation, Savage Race, Pro Hydro-X Tour, CollClub Sports, National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Youth Amateur Travel Sports Association, International Senior Softball Association, USA Rugby, and NDP Lacrosse. The VCB is actively reviewing 4 RFP's from this group of organizers and is in the process of making arrangements for 2 site visits.

Utilities (CCU)

In 2009, the Federal Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau sought to eliminate all public safety and business industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio band to cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology. A mandate was subsequently released ordering accomplishment of this change. CCU began the changeover with our telemetry radios in October 2011 and completed the work of upgrading 144 Data Flow radio cards this week. This narrowbanding transition will ensure a more efficient use of the radio spectrum, as well as greater spectrum access through the creation of additional channel capacity for public safety and non-public safety users.

A force main upgrade and meter replacement at West Port Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) is substantially complete, allowing the plant to operate and serve our customers more efficiently. FDEP approval to place the line into operation is expected soon.

The Treatment Facilities Superintendent, Steve Bozman, was recently recognized by the Florida Blood Center for being a 10 gallon blood donor.