

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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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: Two located on Eisenhower Avenue over the Cheshire Waterway, two on Chamberlain Boulevard over the Markham Waterway, and one on Eleanor Avenue over the Ingersoll Waterway.

All five bridge slope pavements are complete, however a change order is in process to add an additional four (4) deteriorating slope pavements to this contract. A change order was presented to the Board for review/approval Nov. 26, 2013. The change order was approved and the additional four slope pavements will begin in early 2014.

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 that sand at the Charlotte County Beach Complex to restore the eroded beach. They have finished dredging and hauling material from the Sunrise, Beeney, Gardner, and Elkcam Waterway Access Channels. Certificate of Substantial Completion was provided to the Contractor as well as the punch-list items. Punch list will be complete within 30 days.

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 dredging the main access channel as well as the Venus and Cheshire Waterways. Heavy rain conditions over the summer and early winter tides have hampered progress. The contractor is preparing to mobilize additional equipment to the project to speed things up.

Dredging - Suncoast Waterway – This project is designed to facilitate safe navigation in the Suncoast Waterway system by removing 18,000 cubic yards of silted material. Dredging is underway and will continue through February 2014. The contractor has completed most of the upland portion of the dredging and continues with the outside and northeastern portions, however early winter tides have hampered progress.

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.

The temporary bridge is in place across the DeSoto Canal. Temporary drainage and roadway are being installed. Head walls for the temporary bridge have been poured and a portion of the temporary sidewalk on the west side has been poured.

Sunshine Lake Algae Removal – Sunshine Lake has had a habitual issue with an algae problem. Based on the water quality study that was completed, it was determined that the next course of action to help correct the problem would be to dredge the algae from the lake. After the lake is dredged, re-charge wells will be installed (via a separate contract) in order to maintain active water flow through the lake.

Algae removal is underway; the process is going smoothly however algae removal is taking the contractor longer than had originally anticipated. The contractor submitted a new schedule indicating the work will be

complete by June 1, 2014. Once the algae are removed, the County shall initiate installation of a recharge well at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second recharge well adjacent to McGuire Park. Engineering staff received a SWFWMD permit for the installation of a weir structure located at the downstream end of the lake/canal system and is developing a scope of services and construction costs to seek both funds and authorization to proceed from County Administration and the BCC. Charlotte County Engineering is negotiating a scope and fee with Atkins Engineering to prepare a management plan that includes, but is not limited to, reviewing work completed and planned, conducting a nutrient analysis to determine the source of the nutrients and creating a plan that will keep the algae from returning to the system.

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.

Zep Construction is scheduled to start the 60" micro tunnels under US 41 at the Pompano Waterway in early January 2014. This portion of the project will require closure of the north and southbound US 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway during construction. Construction of the new weir, direct bury pipes and the micro tunnel pipes at this location are projected to be complete in May 2014.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Burnt Store Road Phase III Construction – Construction consists of widening 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 including stormwater management, drainage improvements, street lighting, 6' sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, utility relocations and additions.

Construction bids were opened on Nov. 20, 2013 and are under review. Once the review is complete, Engineering Division staff will submit a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to award the construction contract.

Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase One – This project is to design and construct pedestrian and boater access to Charlotte Harbor. The Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CHCRA) is interested in providing continuous pedestrian access from Bayshore Live Oak Park to Chester Roberts Park and to improve boater access to the harbor.

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation LAP Funds to construct this project which will be available July 2014. Construction plans are prepared and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department to be advertised for bid in July 2014.

Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase Two – This project is to design and construct pedestrian and boater access to Charlotte Harbor. The Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CHCRA) is interested in providing continuous pedestrian access from Bayshore Live Oak Park to Chester Roberts Park and to improve boater access to the harbor. Phase 2 includes the design of pedestrian connections from the promenade (located along the east side of US 41 northbound travel lanes), including a boardwalk crossing underneath the US 41 Bridge, a stairway connecting the promenade to the US 41 Bridge sidewalk, a fishing pier, and a water taxi dock facility.

The design firm is currently working on 60% plans. We are meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation in January 2014 to discuss the plans and work through any permitting issues.

CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – The purpose of this project is to widen CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from SR 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

Johnson Engineering is currently working on 100% design plans, permitting and final alignments. Design is projected to be completed in early 2014 with construction beginning in the spring of 2014.

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase Two – This project will widen Edgewater Drive, between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard, to a four-lane arterial roadway, designed to better serve the central

portion of the County and accommodate anticipated traffic growth in the corridor. The project will include replacing three bridges (West Spring Lake Waterway, East Spring Lake Waterway, and Sunrise Waterway) and improving five intersections, four of which will be roundabouts. Improvements include a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks/bike lanes, and landscaping.

The design team has resolved conflicts with FPL facilities. With all known conflicts resolved, design is in final review so it can be submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. Charlotte County Utilities' staff submitted permit applications for the construction of the proposed water distribution and wastewater collection systems.

The BCC approved a change order to include a round-about in the design of the West Tarpon Intersection; the revised design requires a permit modification. Construction is estimated to begin in late March 2014.

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. Comments are being prepared for the design team so they can make final edits to the plans. The proposed design includes sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge and allows for the bridge to be a segment of the horizontal curve, maximizing the bridge deck area. Construction is estimated to begin in the spring of 2014.

Tom Adam's Bridge – Phase 2 of the Tom Adams Bridge Rehabilitation will replace the tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The proposed tender house will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the bridge tender's view is obstructed. The 90% design plans have been received and reviewed. The design team is developing responses to County's review comments. Permit applications have been submitted to permitting agencies. The project specifications and cost estimate have been received.

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.

A pre-application meeting was conducted with FDEP; permitting is anticipated to be complete in January 2014. Rock was found to be 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 has been assembled and is under review. The permits necessary for this project are being updated as part of the bid process.

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. Stantec, Inc. was selected to facilitate permitting and construction management for this project. Design and permitting is underway.

Dredging - Manchester Waterway - Maintenance dredging will be conducted within the Manchester Waterway to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. Johnson Engineering is gathering survey and historical data to prepare the permit application for maintenance dredging of the area. An FDEP permit has been issued, however the ACOE permit is still pending due to the recent Federal Government furlough. The consultant and County staff have both been in contact with ACOE to try to resolve the permitting delays. The bid package is prepared to go to the Purchasing Department.

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. The permit application has been sent to the regulatory agencies.

Drainage Projects

GPC Drainage Control Structure Replacement – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of six water control structures in Greater Port Charlotte (GPC), three of which have been completed. The three remaining structures to be replaced are SUN3.65 (on Forrest Nelson Blvd), FOR5.11 and NIA5.72 (both on Peachland Blvd).

The results of a drainage study determined that the stormwater structure located on Forrest Nelson Boulevard (SUN3.65) at the Sunset Waterway crossing - between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle - is undersized and should be replaced with three 8'x10' box culverts to increase flow capacity. The construction contract will be advertised for bid in December 2013 with construction projected to begin in April 2014 and will take approximately 115 days to complete.

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. SFWMD permits, final plans and bid specifications have been received. This project was advertised for bid on December 17, 2013. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled January 7, 2014 and bid opening is scheduled January 22, 2014.

Traffic Signing & Marking accomplishments from November 16 – December 16, 2013

- Herbicide = 3,013 objects
- Legends Installed = 662
- New Signs Installed = 56
- Signs Inspected = 6,094
- Signs Manufactured = 238
- Signs Repaired = 1,964
- Speed Studies = 15
- Traffic Counts = 32 stations
- Trouble Calls (after hours) = 7
- Video Detection Counts = 0
- Kenilworth Boulevard – Road Closed and Detour signs placed.

Community Services

Tringali Recreation

Saturday, 12-14-2013, was the first Decorate a Cookie with Santa. The event was held at the Tringali Recreation Center in Englewood. Kids were able to decorate a cookie, make a craft and of course tell Santa all their wishes for Christmas. The feedback was POSTIVE, POSTIVE, and POSITIVE! One mother said "a big thank you to Tringali for the Decorating Cookies with Santa. My kids had a ball. Love having fun and affordable things for our kids in the Community to do!" We had the best Santa. I think he was THE SANTA. The Englewood Winn Dixie donated the cookies to decorate, icing, sprinkles, milk, bottled water and orange juice. Home Depot donated the craft for the kids to build. A good time was had by all who attended along with all of us at Tringali. Staff can't wait to make next year bigger and better.

Harold Avenue Recreation

There is a whole lot of partying going on at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center! Grab your dancing shoes and get ready to groove. Let's do some Zumba to the latest Latin songs! Join Zumba instructor Celina Rodriguez for an energetic, easy to follow, calorie burning, and fitness party held on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm. Celina invites all that have a desire to become physically fit while having fun to come join us. In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

Bayshore Live Oak Park hosted "Holiday on the Harbor" on Dec. 13 with Charlotte High School Jazz Band and Punta Gorda Middle School Jazz Band welcoming Santa Claus to visit with children, almost 200+ strong, and a movie "Elf" was shown at 6:30 p.m. Vendors were on hand for hot dogs and ice cream.

On Dec. 14, Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center hosted a very successful "Annual Santa's Candyland". The first party at 1pm was held with adaptive activities such as coloring in Ronald Mac Donald books, playing a snowman game, making ornaments and decorating their own cookie and of course the families were invited to take pictures with Santa Claus! The second Candyland party took place at 5:30pm with additional games and activities including volunteers from the Libraries and a table set up for "Bisque It" representative to make an ornament. In combination with both parties approximate participation of 670 children and parents enjoyed a Holiday Themed party and met Santa Claus. Other parties this week included the Aquatic Staff party (30) and Buckeye/Horseshoe (90).

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 38 paid admissions, was visited by 48 pass holders and had 60 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

Winter Break Camp begins Monday, December 23 and runs through Monday, Jan 6. Registration is still available. South County Drop In programs are increasing in participation daily with the increase in vacationers and snowbirds, particularly the Pickleball program which is increasing in popularity.

For the week of 12-8-13 through 12-14-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 36 paid admissions, was visited by 106 pass holders and had 52 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".

Work continues on the Geo Thermal installation for the pools and should be finish by the end of the year.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Pool had 73 paid admissions, was visited by 67 pass holders and had 53 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 125 "splashes".

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Dec. 16: "Recruiting volunteers for the 2014 master gardener training class – act now!"
- Extension Office Christmas Staff Appreciation Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – off-site Dec. 17
- Sustainability Team Meeting – Dec. 18 – Murdock – 1 pm
- UF/IFAS Agent Self-Evaluation due Dec. 21

Libraries and Historical

The Charlotte County Library & Historical Division would like to thank everyone for all of their support in 2013. People came to so many events and checked out so many items and supported us in so many ways and we are very appreciative. We look forward to a wonderful new year in 2014 with new services and lots of great materials, something for everyone!

Have a Happy New Year with Hoopla!! Hoopla is a new service that we are providing that provides instant access to music, video and audiobook that can be streamed or downloaded to any device. This service is for home use through your Charlotte County Library Card. There are no fees for the public and a person may have

8 checkouts a month. Come to any Library to check this great new service out!!

"Astronomy for Everyone" is a program that will be presented at the Mid-County Regional Library on Jan.9, 2014. It will be at 6:30 pm with a lecture and then a telescope will be used to view the wonders of the Universe. This program is free and open to the public!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Water, we cannot survive without it; and wherever there is water, inevitably a plumber is needed. How often do you turn on a faucet or flush a toilet ? Now multiply that number by dozens of locations and thousands of feet of pipe; in walls, under floors, in attics, and other tight creepy spaces. In Charlotte County those places include parks, fire stations, Stadium with concession stands, libraries, recycle centers, office buildings, health clinic, coroner's office, jail, and other government locations. Charlotte County relies on the expertise of one full time plumber named Mike Vaughn, with assistance (as needed) from other techs and trades helpers. Every week (about 25 Work orders the first week in December), there are fixtures needing repair or replacement, and sewer lines needing attention. So we would like to recognize his efforts today, thank you Mike Vaughn for keeping things flowing in the right direction!

Operations

Inspecting and testing of our FM 200 Type suppression systems at several Murdock Administration building locations is in progress by Flagship Fire, the new vendor. FM 200 type systems are gaseous suppression systems when activated usually by heat and or smoke will expel a gaseous suppression agent in to the IT Server Rooms that starves a fire of oxygen. This gas extinguishes the fire and prevents total damage to these systems. The agent does not damage any components that were not directly involved with the fire itself and protects further damage caused by such a fire. These systems are scheduled for inspection and service bi-annually.

Project Management

The playing field repair option has been selected for Franz Ross Park and the engineering design has begun.

New energy efficient lighting is being installed in the tennis/basketball court parking lot and playground area of Harold Ave Park.

Human Services

Department Director attended the Mental Aid First Aid USA certification training conducted by trained professionals through Charlotte Behavior Health Care. This course is endorsed by the Charlotte Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) community initiative. The purpose of this training is to teach members of the public how to respond in a mental health emergency and offer support to someone who appears to be in emotional distress. This course does not train individuals to provide medical assistance but to provide information and appropriate support to individuals needing further mental health assistance. More training opportunities are planned in 2014.

Tourism

Where to Retire magazine has selected Punta Gorda as a top retirement destination for the January/February 2014 issue, available nationwide on newsstands. The publication has a national circulation of 200,000 and the advertising equivalent of the article is estimated to be more than \$70,000. The article was written by a Fort Myers-based freelance writer who was introduced to the area during a group media trip, called a familiarization

trip, hosted by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in October 2011. The trip, in which the Bureau received a grant from VISIT FLORIDA, led journalists on a four-day tour through Charlotte County. The tourism office coordinated the writer's return in August 2012 to conduct additional research for an article in *Where to Retire* that included Englewood.

For the January/February 2014 Punta Gorda article, the Bureau again coordinated her visit in August 2013. The tourism office reached out to the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce to locate retirees interested in speaking with the writer and due to the enthusiastic response, she was not able to interview everyone. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau provided most photography used in the article and worked with the editorial assistant to fact-check many of the statistics mentioned.

The article reinforces what we know about the value in conducting media familiarization trips and the long lead time it may take before an article is published. We will continue to work with members of the tourism industry to host journalists on individual and group media trips in an effort to gain earned editorial coverage in print, broadcast and electronic formats with the goal of increasing visitors into Charlotte County. Through hosting familiarization trips journalists are acquainted with the area's tourism amenities and often result in thousands of dollars in editorial coverage. These trips provide journalists with an opportunity to share stories about the destination with their readers.