

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

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

Sidewalks - Rio De Janeiro Avenue – A sidewalk is being 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. The contractor poured the final segments of sidewalk on Jan. 7, 2014. There is still some grading and sodding to be completed and then punch list items will be identified and corrected.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevards East & North - 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. Construction began Jan. 6, 2014 and the contractor has begun preliminary survey and layout work. Erosion control devices will be installed and lane closures will begin in the next couple of weeks.

Winchester Boulevard South Extension – This project includes the construction of a new four-lane connector from Placida Road to the Charlotte/Sarasota County line, with a direct connection to I-75 via River Road within Sarasota County. As construction progresses, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur and the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project.

Gopher tortoise relocations are nearing completion. The Contractor is working on utility relocations and temporary erosion control. Negotiations continue with the design consultant for a scope and fee modifying the plans at the Winchester Boulevard North/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks - Sheehan Boulevard – This sidewalk will be installed on Sheehan Boulevard from Noble Terrace to Peachland Boulevard and includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Alton Road. The bid package for the construction contract was forwarded to the Purchasing Department on Dec. 16, 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation.

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 is advertised for bid. Bid Opening is scheduled Jan. 29, 2014 with construction projected to begin in April 2014. This project 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 Dec. 17, 2013. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled Jan. 7, 2014 and bid opening is scheduled Jan. 22, 2014.

Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (Dec 2, 2013 – Jan 2, 2014)

Burnt Store Lakes (MSBU-South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping) – This project is underway; all poles and pull boxes have been installed and new load center has been constructed. Three of the five poles have

been energized and are operational. Remaining poles are awaiting power from FPL.

Burnt Store Road Project – (Pedestrian Features /preemption conflict with Seminole Gulf Railroad) Final timings have been received, reviewed, and submitted to FDOT for approval before submitting to Seminole Gulf Railroad. Response was received from FDOT and meeting was held with FDOT, County Consultant, and County Staff to review comments and work towards finalization of timing issues.

Gasparilla Road Widening – Reviewed 100% traffic signal and lighting plans and provided comments to the Project Manager.

Harbor Boulevard Sidewalk Project – Lighting inspection is ongoing for ITS conduits for fiber optic cable and pedestrian enhancements to the traffic signal at Peachland. Pedestrian features have been activated; four (4) items need to be corrected on the punch list.

Midway Boulevard Widening Project – Reviewed 90% signal and lighting plans, comments provided to Project Manager.

Sunnybrook Boulevard Sidewalk Project – Final inspection is complete and all punch list items have been addressed.

Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (Dec. 2, 2013 – Jan. 2, 2014)

- Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store) - All work has been completed, awaiting removal of construction signs to close out project.
- Replaced one pull box destroyed in motor vehicle accident at Pine Street/SR 776.
- Traffic Signal Preventative Maintenance was performed at the following locations: SR 776/ Pine Street and SR 776/ Coliseum Boulevard.
- Christmas tree decorated at request of facilities at Murdock Administration Complex.
- Worked on fiber optic pull box and maintenance in mid and south County areas.
- Installed a replacement battery back-up unit at Kings Highway/I-75 NB ramp destroyed in a motor vehicle accident.
- Reinstalled/repared inverter at US 41/Kings Highway because of constant cycling.
- Replaced two (2) inoperable Coho cameras at SR 776/Beach Road and SR 776/Gulfstream Boulevard.
- Reinstalled/repared inverters at SR 776/North Access to Merchants Crossing, SR 776/Oriole Boulevard and US 41/Enterprise Paulson.
- Replaced roadway lighting pole that was knocked down as a result of being struck by mowers on US 17 by Riverside Drive.
- Repaired eight (8) decorative street lights: Burnt Store Road and Cape Horn Boulevard.
- Relocated roadway lighting load center in conflict with a new business driveway at SR 776/Pine Street.
- Began countywide street light maintenance concentrating initial start-up efforts in Englewood. 53 roadway lights repaired or replaced to date.

Locates Performed

205 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 87 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls

11 trouble calls received, and resolved.

Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (Dec 2, 2013 – Jan 2, 2014)

SR 776/Gulfstream Boulevard - Final inspection has taken place and all punch list items resolved. Awaiting close-out letter from FDOT.

Paving Projects

2014 County Paving Program - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. 2014 paving maps area available on the public Web site.

Bids for this construction contract were received and opened December 4, 2013. A recommendation to award this contract will be presented to the Board on January 14, 2014; construction will commence soon thereafter. This is a 300 calendar day contract.

Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation

Warning – "Adults at Play." While some programs have ceased due to the holidays the Drop-In Pickleball Program at Harold Avenue Recreation Center is in full swing. On this past week, Pickleball experienced over a 75% increase due to players coming and taking advantage of the gym's availability. Drop-In Pickleball was held on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. within the Center's Gymnasium. The cost to participate in this wonderful program is \$3 per person per session. Punch Cards are also available for purchase at a reduced rate. Paddles, balls and nets are provided for all.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center brought in the New Year with an increase in participation. Last week, Table Tennis experienced an 80% increase in participation. Tae Kwon Do experienced a 25% increase in participation and Pickleball experienced a 13% increase. In addition, Building Rentals were on the rise in the new year. On Saturday, the Port Charlotte National Little League held their Spring Registration causing an increase in traffic to the Center.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center we had the start of The Charlotte Promenaders Square Dance Club's Square Dance. This event takes place every Thursday night 6:00pm to 9:30pm. We expected 40 participants and ended up with 75! We hope this is a growing trend.

Looking ahead we will have the Buckeye, Horseshoe Neighborhood Watch from 6-7pm on Wednesday, the Promenaders will be here on Thursday from 6:30 to 10pm and we will have a wedding and reception on Saturday in rooms A & B for 75. We will have the Human Resources meeting here on Monday the 13th, from 8am-2pm and 6pm-8pm total expected 50. On Tuesday the 14th we will have the Irish American Club, 5-7pm expected attendance 50

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 132 paid admissions, was visited by 62 pass holders and had 58 water aerobics participants.

Unfortunately the extreme cold weather had had a negative impact on pool attendance this week.

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County wrapped up its last week of Winter Break Camp, 40 kids total were registered for the two weeks of camp during Christmas Vacation. Pickleball attendance continues to rise as more and more long-term and short-term vacationers are arriving to the area. Round dancing continues to have 6-8 couples per class. Classes are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

For the week of 12-15-13 through 12-21-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 62 paid admissions, was visited by 94 pass holders and had 15 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 GeoThermal installation for the pools and should be finish by the end of the year.

For the week of 12-29-13 through 1-4-14, South County Regional Park Pool had 39 paid admissions, was visited by 93 pass holders and had 22 water aerobics participants." The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 15 swim practices resulting in approximately 750 "splashes". On Saturday January 4, 2014 the Bluefins held its first swim meet of the year and despite the cold, the attendance was approximately 500 swimmers, coaches and spectators.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 75 paid admissions, was visited by 66 pass holders and had 35 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 3 practices resulting in approximately 75 "splashes".

Extension Services

*4-H and Master Gardener Rummage and Plant Sale – January 4th – 8 am to 1 pm - <http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/events/2014%20Plant%20Sale.pdf>

*Newspaper Article for January 6th - "Florida-friendly landscaping™ is for everyone"

*Budget Training – January 6th – 9 to 10 am - Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room

*Managers Meeting – January 6th – 1 pm - Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room

*Parkside Tree Canopy Restoration Committee – January 7th – 8:30 am - Cultural Center President's Room

*Master Gardener Association – January 8th – 10 am

*ANRAC – 9 am – Murdock – January 9th

*Port Charlotte Garden Club – Weed Talk – January 9th – 11:00 am - Holy Trinity Church

*Inventory Equipment with Dennis Moore – January 10th – 10:30 am

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Permit for replacement of Septic System at Fire Station #5 on Notre Dame Blvd., is expected to be issued this week upon which commencement of work can then be scheduled . The bunkhouse stabilization is nearing completion and should be finalized by 01/17/2014. Hathaway Park decking renovation project is in schedule for final inspections to bring to completion.

Operations

Charlotte County Facilities Turf Contract Bid went out on street today. We are looking to secure the services of a professional, licensed, and qualified contractor to care for and maintain the turf of multiple County public facility locations providing a manicured level of service acceptable to the County through the contract period stated therein.

Project Management

The 90% bid documents for the Franz Ross football field improvements project have been received, reviewed, and the final documents are being prepared.

A new light pole with LED fixture was installed to improve security at the entrance drive of Franz Ross park.

The Mid-County Library parking lot repairs are completed. The contractor patched deteriorating areas, overlaid main driveway at front door entrance, repaired curbing, and sealed/striped the area. The landscape project is continuing over the next few weeks improving the Florida Friendly landscaping.

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau has announced Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected for the month of November 2013 totaled \$122,521 which is up 19.5 percent over November 2012 (\$102,528). Charlotte County levies a 5 percent tourist development tax (TDT) on accommodation stays 6 months or less in addition to the 7 percent sales tax. The first 3 percent is spent for tourism promotion and marketing support and the fourth and fifth percent are used to fund the debt for the bond for the recent renovations at the Charlotte Sports Park.

The Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) has awarded Charlotte County two youth soccer tournaments that will take place Feb. 8-9 and Feb. 22-23, 2014 at North Charlotte Regional Park in Port Charlotte. FYSA will work in conjunction with the Charlotte County Soccer Federation to conduct all logistics relating to the tournaments which are projected to attract nearly 40 teams to the area. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is assisting with lodging aspects of the event and will track the room nights and economic impact generated from the tournaments.