

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). To date, five Bridge slope pavements have been 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.

A change order was presented and approved by the Board of County Commissioners to replace an additional four slope pavements: two on Biscayne over the Apollo Waterway, One on Eisenhower over the Venus Waterway, and one on McPearson over the Hastings Waterway. Construction began on the additional slope pavements January 7, 2014. Demolition is underway on three of the four slope pavements. The contractor is installing fabri-form and anticipates pouring concrete the week of 1/20/2014.

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. The temporary roadway has been paved and the contractor plans to route traffic onto the temporary bridge January 16, 2014. The test pile for the Bridge has been ordered and the plan is to drive it on January 21, 2014. Production piles are being ordered. A progress meeting was held January 15, 2014; a representative of the school board attended and was very pleased with the work and the safety of the children traveling to school through this construction zone.

US 41 Microtunnels / 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 closed the Northbound and Southbound US 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway the week of January 6, 2014. Week ending Jan. 11, 2013: 3500 square feet of debris was removed during clearing and grubbing, 600 feet of safety fence was installed, 118 feet of temporary sheet piling was installed and 175 feet of guard rail was removed.

Week beginning January 13, 2013: The contractor is scheduled to begin the dewatering process, the installation of a concrete barrier wall on US 41 and ditch excavation. Constructions of the new weir, direct bury pipes and microtunnel pipes at this location are scheduled 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.

The construction contract is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners for review/approval on Jan. 28, 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.

Kimley-Horn and Associates are currently working on the 60% plans. A meeting was held with the Florida Department of Transportation on Jan. 10, 2014 to discuss the plans and lease agreement.

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.

Charlotte County Staff reviewed and commented on the 100% design plans and have returned them to Johnson Engineering. Halfacre Construction is scheduled to submit their Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to Charlotte County for review by the end of January 2014. Design is projected to be completed in early 2014 with construction beginning in the summer of 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 were provided to 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.

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.

County staff reviewed and commented on 90% design plans; 100% design plans are underway. Design and permitting is projected to be complete in early 2014 with construction projected to begin in the fall of 2014.

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 Jan. 8, 2014 a progress meeting was held with the design team to discuss the status of the Harbor Boulevard design; the importance of providing as many enhancements as possible was discussed, as this is an enhancement project.

Survey work is almost complete and the SUE (subsurface utility engineering) and borings will be complete within the next three weeks. The team met with CCU to look over utilities to prevent potential conflicts with existing conditions, to see if relocations were necessary or if any upgrades were needed. Stormwater and SWFWMD permitting are pending survey completion.

As planting shade trees is one of the most important goals to the Parkside CRA, research is being conducted to identify potential conflicts with existing FPL overhead lines, which are located on both sides of the road. Decorative lighting is planned as well as wayfinding for the Parkside CRA. The design team expressed creative ideas for the placement and design of the gateway signage. The next meeting with the design team will be scheduled in late February 2014.

Placida Road - The original scope of this project was to widen Placida Road from a two to a four lane divided roadway from Cape Haze Drive to the Boca Grande Causeway with curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike facilities. The BCC decided to postpone road widening to a future date, and redesign the project to incorporate safety improvements. It was also decided to advance the sidewalk/multi-use trail portion of Phase 2 to be worked concurrently with Phase 1.

Phase 1 - Rotonda Blvd. West to Cape Haze Drive – Design plans are in progress to provide for safety improvements including a 2.9 mile bicycle-pedestrian path from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive, intersection improvements at Lemon Bay Golf Course, Bantry Bay, Cape Haze Drive and Panama Drive and resurfacing of Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway. A Change Order was approved by the Board on Oct. 22, 2013 to reduce the contract amount and provide for intersection turn lane/pedestrian safety improvements. 30% plans were received from the designer on Jan. 7, 2014 and are currently under review.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – Comments to the 60% design plans have been made and submitted to Giffels - Webster. They are incorporating the comments and 90% plans are currently being developed.

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. Design consultants are preparing construction plans and permit applications.

The 90% design plans have been reviewed and County staff comments were provided. The design team is scheduled to submit responses back to the County the end of January and provide 100% design plans in March 2014. Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies and the project specifications and cost estimate has been received.

Drainage Projects

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Sunset Waterway at Forrest Nelson Blvd SUN 3.65 – This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Forrest Nelson Boulevard at the Sunset Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be upsized from two smaller CMP pipes to three 8'x10' box culverts.

The results of a drainage study determined that the stormwater structure located under 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.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Dorchester Waterway at Kenilworth DOR 4.89 -

This project provides for the design, permitting, and construction of a stormwater control structure under Kenilworth Boulevard at the Dorchester Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960s when they were originally built. This particular structure collapsed in late November 2013. This structure will be upsized from two culverts to two 8'x10' box culverts.

Negotiations have been completed with the top ranked engineering firm. Once the contract is approved by Administration, the engineer can begin his work. Kenilworth Boulevard between Porter and Yorkshire is closed to traffic and will remain so until the structure has been replaced.

PSA issued 12/3/13: Please be advised that Kenilworth Boulevard, between Porter Street and Yorkshire Road, is closed due to a roadway collapse. This section of road will remain closed for approximately 12 months or until repairs can be made. Motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to exercise caution while traveling through this area.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Peachland FOR 5.11 -

This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either inadequate to convey the quantity of water required to maintain level of service objectives or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be upsized from two 48" culverts with a 50' weir to one 8'x10' box culvert with a 5' weir.

The design is complete and permits have been obtained. Based on current funding, this structure is scheduled to be constructed in the Spring of 2015. Keep in mind that project schedules are subject to change.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Quasar Blvd FOR 4.60 -

This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be properly sized from two 60" RCP with a 50' weir to one 8'x10' box culvert with a 6' weir.

The survey is complete. Design is projected to be complete in June 2014 with construction projected to begin late 2015.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Quasar Blvd NIA 5.09 -

This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be properly sized and upgraded from two 48" metal pipes with a 44' weir to two 48" concrete pipes with a 20' weir.

The plans and permit application were submitted on January 15, 2014 for approval from SWFWMD. Construction is scheduled for FY 2015.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Peachland Blvd NIA 5.72 -

This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either undersized or had

deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be upsized from one 48" RCP and 22' weir to two 36" RCP's with a 6' weir.

The design is complete and permits have been obtained. Based on current funding, this structure is scheduled to be constructed in the spring of 2015. Keep in mind that project schedules are subject to change.

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. The construction plans call for sixteen 6'x3' box culverts to be installed at the slough so traffic can cross without going through the water. This project includes the box culverts, headwalls, approach slabs and guardrail for this portion of the road. It is anticipated that construction will begin in March 2014 (150 day contract.)

SFWMMD permits, final plans and bid specifications have been received. This project was advertised for bid on Dec. 17, 2013. The pre-bid meeting was held Jan. 7, 2014 and bid opening is scheduled Jan. 22, 2014. Once bids are opened, they are posted on the Purchasing Department's Web site and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners to award the construction contract.

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. The plans call for approximately 8000 cubic yards of material to be removed from the waterway. Material will be removed from a 50 foot wide section in the center of the waterway approximately 3400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard.

90% plans have been submitted and are currently being reviewed. The engineer has identified sites that will be needed to access the project and stage equipment; the Real Property Division is working to secure the necessary construction easements. The permit package is currently being prepared and will be submitted by January 24, 2014. Design is projected to be completed in February 2014 with construction estimated to begin in May 2014.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted "Conversations with Ray" on Friday, 1/10, in the hospitality suites, at 2:30 PM.

As part of the transition to in-house security, the Charlotte Sports Park staff conducted forty (40) Event Specialist interviews from 1/8/14 – 1/10/14, for the upcoming 2014 Spring Training Season.

The Charlotte Sports Park staff will be conducting thirty (30) Event Specialist interviews between 1/15/14 and 1/18/14, for the upcoming 2014 Spring Training Season.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Let's go team, let's go! Week 6 of the Winter Youth Basketball League was completed on Saturday. In this highly competitive league there are only 3 undefeated teams. There is one undefeated team in the 9-10, 13-14, and 15-17 age brackets. With four weeks remaining in this season it is still anybody's game. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league consists of 10 regular season games and a post season tournament. League practice hours are held inside of the Harold Avenue Recreation Center Gymnasium from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Games are held on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In other news, Participation continues to increase in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center we had the Charlotte Promenaders Square Dance Club's Square Dance, that is held every Thursday night from 6 to 9:30 pm and this week we saw another 45 participants and some new faces. We had the Buckeye, Horseshoe Neighborhood Watch from 6-7pm on Wednesday (25). We also had A wonderful Wedding and Reception with approximately 75 in attendance.

Port Charlotte Beach pool had 118 paid admissions, was visited by 67 pass holders and had 122 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

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.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 1-8 through 1-14-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 56 paid admissions, was visited by 82 pass holders and had 131 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 125 "splashes".

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for Jan. 13 - "Pansies perfect for frigid weather"

Libraries and Historical

The Libraries are bustling this time of year. Tax information is just arriving at each library and forms are also available on line for printing. Staff is available to help with this. Multiple programs are being offered at each library so be sure and check the web site or visit your local library. If you are a visitor we would like to welcome you and also invite you to think about volunteering to work in any of our libraries, our bookstores and also at our Historical Center. We love to have you!

The Libraries have been featuring a survey for several months and it will be closing out on Jan.31st. Please help us by filling out a survey either by picking up one in any library or filling it out online at our website. We will be publishing all of the results soon.

If you have not visited the Mid-County Library recently please stop by and enjoy our new furniture added this summer. Our Youth area has been renovated with wonderful new furniture, a specific play area for tots and a quiet reading area for all youth. It is a fun area that encourages literacy! Come see us soon!!

January 6, the Amber Waves Bluegrass Band performed at the Mid-County Regional Library to a packed house. They performed original tunes and bluegrass and folk favorites.

January 8, the Mid-County Library featured the Emily Ann Thompson Band who performed traditional Irish, Scottish, and Canadian fiddle tunes in a fresh and tuneful style. A full capacity crowd enjoyed the Celtic sound experience.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The Department of Health permit has been issued for replacement of septic system at Fire Station #5 in Punta Gorda scheduled for commencement on 01/16/2014. In addition we will be installing storm water conveyance means to divert water from draining directly on the new septic tank/drain field; and new sod will be placed upon completion of project.

Site drainage and erosion remediation at Medical Examiners facility on Paulson Drive has commenced; roof

downspouts will be connected to a new drainage system which will discharge into the existing storm water drainage basin without causing erosion to the shoulder of the drain-bank.

Maintenance and repairs to both booster pumping systems at Charlotte Sports Park in clubhouse and stadium have been completed. These pumps are necessary during season to maintain pressures under peak usage events.

Operations

Two palm trees that were diseased were removed from the Charlotte County Murdock Administration Center.

Project Management

Siemens is installing lighting retrofits in several county facilities over the next two weeks as part of the Energy Performance Contract scope of work.

Human Services

- Deedra Dowling, Case Management Supervisor made a presentation to members of the British-American Club in Punta Gorda. Outreach and information was provided to approx. 30 people in attendance. In addition to handout materials from each service division within the Human Services Department, attendees were given information on identity fraud, neighborhood watch, elder abuse, 211, and the Elder Helpline.
- Terry Keene, Assistant Veteran Services Officer, was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation by the State Office of the American Legion, Florida for assisting a widow of a deceased veteran obtain all her benefits. The veteran was in the American Legion at the state level for many years and was well respected in Florida. As stated in the Certificate, "Terry, your generous efforts do not go unnoticed and serves as a genuine example to all Patriotic Americans".
- Emily Lewis, Family Services Manager, coordinated and assisted in hosting two community conversations to release the data and findings of the Developmental Assets Survey on Charlotte County's youth. The study was commissioned by the Children's Services Council through a grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice. These community conversations, held on Jan. 13, featured Jim Conway, a consultant from the Search Institute, who shared the findings and facilitated a community feedback session with the 62 people in attendance. The Children Service's Council will be using the feedback and the findings of the study to develop a Community Action Plan.
- Transit Supervisor, Fred McKenna and Director, Vikki Carpenter along with other Charlotte County Fiscal and MPO staff met with representatives from Sarasota's Transit's system (SCAT), Sarasota/North Port planners and FDOT to discuss transit topics and upcoming joint county meetings and projects.

Tourism

Charlotte County was the featured location of a nationally-televised program Sunday evening (1-12-14) on HGTV. The show, "Beachfront Bargain Hunt," featured local Realtor Sue Paskert showing buyers three different properties on Little Gasparilla Island. The production was shot in the county in November. Another episode set entirely in the county is tentatively scheduled to air in early February.