

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 Jan. 7, 2014.

Two slope pavements have been poured: one on Eisenhower and one on the east side of Biscayne. The contractor is in the process of removing the west side slope pavement on Biscayne. This week they plan to start pouring the curbs and should pour the other two slopes by the end of January or the first week of February 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 and traffic has been routed onto the temporary bridge. A test pile has been driven and production piles have been ordered and should arrive the first week of February 2014. Demolition of the existing bridge has begun and should be complete in the next week. A progress meeting was held Jan. 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.

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.

US 41 Microtunnels / Weirs – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcarn, 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 Elkcarn 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.

The US 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway were closed the week of Jan. 6, 2014. For the week ending Jan. 25, 2014: 15,000 square feet of debris was removed during clearing and grubbing, 10 feet of the existing FDOT Endwall was removed, 80 feet of temporary sheet piling was installed, 25 gallons of coal tar

epoxy was applied to the permanent sheet pile and 162 steel studs were welded to these sheets. FPL Fibernet relocated the fiber line to the wrong location and will be out next week to relocate. Zep Construction plans to install the permanent sheet piling, construct the microtunnel boring pit and the receiving pit in the next two weeks. Huxted Tunneling is planning to start the mobilization of the Microtunnel equipment the week of Feb. 6, 2014. Constructions of the new weir, direct bury pipes and microtunnel pipes at this location are scheduled to be complete in May 2014.

PSA issued 1/23/14: The sidewalk along the U.S. 41 Access Road between Gardner Drive and Conway Boulevard (US 41 Southbound side) is closed to pedestrian traffic in conjunction with the U.S. 41 Stormwater Structures - Microtunneling Project. While the US 41 Access Roads are closed only at the Pompano Waterway, the pedestrian sidewalk must be closed from traffic light to traffic light. Pedestrians should seek alternate routes as "No Trespassing" signs are posted at this location; pedestrians are not allowed to travel through this construction zone.

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 was awarded to Gibbs & Register, Inc. at the Jan. 28, 2014 Board of County Commissioners meeting. The Purchasing Department is currently setting up the pre-construction meeting at which time the Notice to Proceed date will be established.

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 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. The Charlotte County Real Estate Services Department is currently working on Right of Way acquisitions which must be acquired prior to construction for utility relocations. 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 and the design team edited the plans. Once the revised plans are reviewed, the plans can be submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. The proposed design includes sidewalks on both sides of the Bridge and allows 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.

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements must be made 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 Boulevard from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway. The first phase of the project was completed under project c419005.

Giffels-Webster Engineering will be submitting 100% design plans by the end of February 2014 for County staff to review. Design and permitting is projected to be complete in early 2014 with construction projected to begin in the fall of 2014.

Parkside - Elkcarn Boulevard Multi Use Path – The Community Development Engineering Division will oversee the Design, Project Management, Inspection Services and Permitting of a 10' multi-use sidewalk with street (shade) trees along the west side of Elkcarn Boulevard and decorative trees on the east side. Charlotte County Utilities will construct this project.

The construction and landscape plans are 100% complete and have been sent to Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) to be included in their construction plans. CCU funds are pending.

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. Review of the 30% plans have been received from County staff and are now being compiled and consolidated by the Project Manager. These will be submitted to the designer for his review and adjustments as necessary.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – 90% plans are currently being developed. Utility coordination is currently underway to determine if any utility conflicts exist. Based on the outcome, it will be determined if any utility relocations or adjustments are necessary.

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 received and reviewed. The design team is developing responses to review comments and is scheduled to submit responses by the end of January and deliver 100% plans in March 2014. Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies. The Project Specifications and the Cost Estimate has been received.

Drainage Projects

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.)

This project was advertised for bid on Dec. 17, 2013 and bid opening was held Jan. 22, 2014; nine bids were received. Open bids are posted on the Purchasing Department's Web site and the lowest responsive bidder

is recommended for award. The construction contract will be presented to the BCC on February 11, 2014 to be voted on for award. Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2014.

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 feet wide section in the center of the waterway approximately 3400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard.

90% design plans have been received and are under review. The engineer identified property sites that will be needed in order to access the project and stage equipment; Real Estate Services' staff members are working to secure the necessary construction easements. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2014.

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 either 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.

Design is underway. The SWFWMD pre-application meeting was held January 23, 2014. Johnson Engineering completed the survey collection and is beginning the structure design. Kenilworth Boulevard, between Porter Street and Yorkshire Road, is closed to traffic and will remain closed until the structure has been replaced. Design is projected to be completed in March 2014 with construction anticipated in June 2014.

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 Quasar 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 and Johnson Engineering is working on the 30% plans. Design is projected to be complete in June 2014 with construction projected to begin late 2015.

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, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, 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 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. Forrest Nelson Boulevard, between Quesada Avenue and Corktree Circle, will be closed during construction. Public service announcements will be published and a signed detour route will be in place in advance of the road closure.

Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation

There is a sloooooow floooooow moving through Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Instructor Richard Curtis of Peace River Tai Chi welcomes you come to experience a time of reduced stress, increased mobility, and personal healing. Classes are held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. No experience or uniform is required. Come comfortably dressed in your loose fitting attire and flat shoes. . In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to show an increase in interest.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Recreation we had the Public Works Edgewater Wastewater meeting, 1st Aid/ CPR/AED Training and the Charlotte Promenaders about 70 in attendance. On Saturday we hosted Kids Safety Day, total of around 65 children and another 150 adults. The children that attended really enjoyed themselves taking advantage of the free information from the 15 organizations, with lots of freebies, games, demonstrations and important information. There will even be a follow-up Car Seat Fitting safety inspection here at Port Charlotte Beach on January 30, 2014 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm sponsored by Golisano Children's Hospital.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 75 paid admissions, was visited by 39 pass holders and had 37 water aerobics participants.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of January 22 through January 28, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 77 paid admissions, was visited by 61 pass holders and had 43 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for Jan. 27 – "Get to know low-chill blueberries"

CED PolyCom Meeting – Jan. 27 – 1 to 3 p.m.

1st Qtr. Business Meeting - Community Services – Jan. 27 – 3 to 5 p.m.

MG Radio Show – WCCF – 10 a.m. – Jan. 28

Extension Staff Meeting – Jan. 28 – 3 p.m.

GI-BMP Training – Jan. 29 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oak Forrest on Forest Nelson – HOA Mulch Visit – Jan. 30 – 10:30 a.m.

Annual County Bank Statement Reports - due to Dr. Vavrina – Jan. 31

Landscape Gardening Series – "Under Utilized Landscape Plants" – Tom Becker 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Libraries and Historical

The Mid-County Library presents a program on, "World Slavery: The Haitian Revolution" and the Rise of American Music on Wednesday, Feb, 12 at 6p.m. This free program is a lecture/concert with story and song tracing the development of slavery from ancient Rome to its links with American Society. This program is free and open to the public.

Stop by the Mid-County Library and see the photography contest entries on display. You will be astounded at the beauty of the local area.

All of our Charlotte County Libraries are loaded with programs to entertain you in the next few months. Stop by any library and check out all the wonderful activities!

2013 Federal tax forms have not arrived from the Federal Government. The IRS is now telling us that it will be mid-late February before the instruction booklets arrived. Information may be printed from the IRS website or stop into any Library to be instructed on how to print any needed forms.

Tourism

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination assists the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in stretching its marketing dollars. Guiding members of the media assists them in crafting a story to share with their readers.

During the month of January, the Bureau hosted seven members of the media to showcase the destination. Participants were from Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Toronto. Four participated in a group educational media familiarization trip while the other three were on independent visits. Hosting and coordinating media visits is dependent on support from the local tourism community who provide complimentary and discounted services including complimentary airfare from Allegiant for one of the participants. Since another journalist visited Sarasota County, VISIT FLORIDA paid for her airfare.

The four who participated on the group trip joined a trolley tour of Punta Gorda with several members of Charlotte County's social media influencer community. They shared the experience through text, photos and video on their social media channels. On Twitter, the group reached more than 32,500 individual Twitter accounts making more than 220,700 impressions.

Utilities (CCU)

In conjunction with the Public Works project to microtunnel various waterways within Port Charlotte, CCU installed 2 insert valves on the 8" water main at the Pompano waterway. This allowed the contractor to continue his microtunneling work effort without needing to shut off water service to the 60 customers served by that line.

CCU staff took on the project of upgrading an existing 6" deep injection well and irrigation pump manifold to 16" diameter, rather than outsourcing the work to a contractor. Doing this project in-house saved thousands of dollars for the county and postponed the need to construct a larger wet well, as well as allowed us to better handle effluent flows from our Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility.