

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Administration/PIO

The Charlotte County Government Academy is a free program offered once a year. This year the academy will be held on two consecutive Wednesdays, March 26 and April 2, From 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day. Applications are available in the county libraries and in the lobbies of most county buildings, as well as on the website—visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the Academy banner. The deadline to apply is March 7.

A survey is available online for public input on the 1% local option sales tax topic. The survey is accessible through the county website and will be available until Feb. 28. Click the banner for the survey. More information can be found on the one percent local option sales tax by clicking the "1% Local Option Sales Tax" link in the Hot Topics list on the left. This survey will be available until Feb. 28.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

Ripken Baseball hosted open National Anthem auditions for the 2014 Rays Spring Training and Stone Crabs season on Friday, February 7, and again on Saturday, February 8.

The report dates for the 2014 Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training Season are as follows: February 14th - pitchers and catchers and February 20th - full squad.

The Charlotte Sports Park will host two (2) games of the Snowbird Classic. These games will be played on Friday, February 14, at 1:00 PM (Auburn vs. Indiana State) and 5:00 PM (UConn vs. Ohio State).

Harold Avenue Recreation

It is hot! It is hot in here. Someone must be dribbling in the atmosphere. This weekend the participants of the Youth Basketball Winter League dribbled their way into week 10 ending the regular games of the current season. Over the course of the weekend words of encouragement filled the air as coaches, players and spectators cheered their teams on in hopes of a victory. Congratulations go out to the participants of the Winter Youth Basketball League for completing a wonderful regular season!

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At PCB we have the Charlotte Promenaders, just about 70 strong in numbers, every Thursday night. The Charlotte Harbor Regatta held on February 6, 7, 8, and 9 had expected attendance in the 100's. Friday night the much anticipated Regatta Dinner was from 6-10:30pm with 225 guests. The Regatta was a great success. Saturday we had a Wedding and Reception with approximately 150 guests.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 217 paid admissions, was visited by 64 pass holders and had 134 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park

For the week of 2-2-14 through 2-8-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 91 paid admissions, 57 water aerobics participants and was visited by 176 pass holders. The swim team held nine practices, with attendance of approx. 300.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 2-5 through 2-11-14, Oyster Creek Regional Pool had 164 paid admissions, was visited by 86 pass holders and had 178 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

Extension Services

Charlotte County Fair continues to Feb. 9 – 4-H Activities

Newspaper Article for Feb. 10 – “The golden dewdrop – splendor in the garden”

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Pesticide License Training – Feb. 13 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2014 Master Gardener Training Interviews – Feb. 10, 11 and 12

Landscape Gardening Series “Easy Care Roses,” Dolly Tomalinas, Master Gardener - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14

State Fair – Feb. 15 – Man Extension booth at State Fair and assist with Youth Poultry Skilathon

Natural Resources

On Feb. 12 2014 staff gave two talks to SunCoast Christian Academy on Charlotte County artificial reefs and diving opportunities in Charlotte County. There were two presentations, the first with children 4 to 6 years of age totaling 19 kids with two adults present at the talk. The second talk was to 29 children ages 7 to 14 years of age with 5 adults present. Lots of questions were asked and everybody enjoyed the presentations.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

We have been busy performing last minute maintenance, repairs, and upgrades preparing for opening day at Charlotte Sports Park for Tampa Rays Baseball Spring Training Season. We have addressed various electrical, lighting and sound system needs, along with plumbing, pool and spa maintenance, and various building grounds equipment repairs.

The HVAC division of Facilities is working at the Charlotte County Jail with an engineering firm to identify the many fire-smoke dampers located throughout the complex. All the dampers will be tested via the fire alarm to verify all dampers are in compliance.

Operations

Operations is working with the janitorial contractor to clean the VCT (vinyl composition tile) and tile floors throughout County facilities. Some recent cleanings include Charlotte County Utilities, Murdock Administration, Justice Center, Public Safety, Sheriff Administration building, and Public Works Maintenance & Operations at West County San Casa location. This is a bi-annual contract requirement; when all of the contracted buildings have gone through the first of the two cleanings it will be time to schedule and start the second round. This standard will maintain our floors properly with desired results.

Project Management

The building envelope improvements under Siemens’ energy performance contract will begin on Feb. 17.

On Tuesday the Board directed staff to proceed with creating terms of a proposed lease of the former Human Services building at the Grace Street Annex in Punta Gorda to the non-profit agency, Punta Gorda History Center. This would serve as a south county location for historical research, archives, and public knowledge. Both parties will work out terms of a long-term lease which will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

The County Fleet Maintenance parking and interior upgrades started Monday. The contractor will work on the parking and interior simultaneously. The contractor installed the protection barrier around the two preserved trees. The under growth is being removed before the larger trees are removed.

The Harold Ave Park concession buildings are now open to the public.

Human Services

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity conducted its bi-annual audit of the Human Services Department and the County Fiscal Division’s administration of the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy

Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community Services Block Grant programs. During this four day audit, client files, administrative practices and fiscal reporting were reviewed. There were no substantial findings and the Department was recognized for three exemplary practices. DEO provided special praise of the recently completed 2013 Community Needs Assessment. Staff has been asked to present the needs assessment process at the next Florida Community Action Agency conference.

Public Works

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.

Feb 10, 2014: All fabric form has been poured. Curbs need to be poured on McPherson and the west side of Biscayne which should be done this week. Then the sod will be installed and punch list items done. Project should be complete by the end of Feb 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. Demolition of the existing bridge is complete. 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.

Feb 10, 2014: Production piles are being delivered. Piles on the West side have been driven and the crane moved to the East side of the bridge. The piles on the East side should be completed this week and then the sheet piles can be started to be installed.

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, 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.

The US 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway were closed the week of Jan. 6, 2014. Week ending Feb.

8, 2014: Zep brought in a second crew who is working on the southbound side of US 41. Crews excavated 120' of 8" ductile iron (DI) water main, 201' of curb and gutter, 110" of 8' wide sidewalk, 98' of 4" gas main lines, 32' of 54" reinforced concrete pipe, 540 cubic yards of unsuitable material and crews installed 117' of sheet piling. Huxted Tunneling is planning to begin mobilization of the Microtunnel equipment the week of Feb. 17, 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. Construction will begin on March 10, 2014.

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.

Halfacre Construction is scheduled to submit their Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to Charlotte County for review this week. The Charlotte County Real Estate Services Division is currently working on Right of Way acquisitions which must be acquired prior to construction for utility relocations. This project is on schedule. Design is projected to be completed in early 2014 with construction beginning in the summer 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 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. With all known utility conflicts resolved, the Design Team made final edits to the plans and will be submitting them to the County for review. Once the final review is complete the Bid Package will 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. Construction is estimated to begin in late March 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% roadway design plans by the end of Feb. 2014 for County staff to review. 90% Utility plans have been submitted to CCU for review. Design and permitting is

projected to be complete in early 2014 with construction projected to begin in the fall of 2014. The Final Resolution for Temporary Construction Easements is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners on Feb. 11, 2014 for review/approval.

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 – Safety improvements include: 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 BCC on Oct. 22, 2013 that reduces the contract amount and provides for intersection turn lane/pedestrian safety improvements. Comments to the 30% plans have been forwarded to Giffels-Webster; they are now working on 60% design plans.

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; 100% plans are projected to be complete in March 2014. Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies and project Specifications and the Cost Estimate has been received. The County is reviewing whether to replace or repair the approach slabs at the ends of the Bridge; the existing slabs have settled.

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 was scheduled to be presented to the BCC on Feb. 11, 2014 but has been rescheduled to Feb. 25, 2014. The construction contract will be discussed at the Board workshop on Feb. 18, 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 1960's 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. The 30% plans have been provided

to the utility companies for their review. 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 - 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.

Bid opening was held on Jan. 29, 2014 and a construction contract will be presented to the BCC for review/approval on Feb. 25, 2014. Construction is projected to begin in April 2014 and 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 will be in place in advance of the road closure.

Tourism

Charlotte County hosted two events earlier this month resulting in estimated direct expenditures of approximately \$350,000. Sails were up Feb. 6 – 9 during the Charlotte Harbor Regatta with 100 sailors from 13 states, Canada and the Cayman Islands competing with 69 boats in 11 classes. This year began the tradition of the Will White Cup which will be awarded annually to the winner of the Sunfish class. Will White is a local resident and former CHR board member who is the author of "The Sunfish Book" and producer of "The Sunfish Bible", a collection of books containing just about everything written about Sunfish sailing.

The Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center welcomed 600 athletes during the Princess Classic Gymnastics Meet Feb. 8 – 9 in which they competed in gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling. More than 1,500 family members attended and approximately 350 – 400 of the competitors stayed in local hotels. The event is beginning to plan for next year and may expand the meet with an additional day of competition.

Utilities (CCU)

The East Port Water Reclamation Facility hosted a tour of operations and management staff from Lee County Utilities on 2/14/14. The purpose of their visit was to view our mixing/aeration process in the oxidation ditches. They have a similar process but currently utilize brush aeration. They are considering adapting equipment similar to ours instead. It is a cleaner alternative and provides the same or better results. They also toured our operations center and laboratory facilities and were impressed with our facilities and personnel.

Our rapport with this group is very good and it was mutually beneficial to share experiences with varying technologies. In all it was a great experience.