

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Tringali Recreation Center

What a busy, fun filled weekend at the Tringali Recreation Center. The festivities started with our Valentine's Day Elementary Skate Friday, Feb. 14, 2014 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The lobby, gym and snack area were decorated with balloons, hearts and cupids on the walls and office windows with red lights strung throughout the gym and lobby. There were 51 kids that had a blast skating to the top 100 music and playing games. Everyone who attended had a great time. The festivities ended with our Valentine's Day Middle School Dance. The Middle School Dance was from 8:30pm-10:00pm. There was a photo booth set up for the dance. The kids were able to take pictures of their friends to make this an evening they wouldn't forget. It is never too early for making memories!!

There was a birthday party in the gymnasium Saturday, Feb. 15, from 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 16, from 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. We supply the pizzas, drinks, music and 30 minutes of organized games. Parents supply the kids, cake and anything extra they would like to bring.

All programs offered by Tringali are always with the concept of providing a place where kids can socialize and have fun in a safe, supervised environment.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Are you sitting at home on Friday evenings with nothing to do? Stop on by the Vivian Hall Gymnasium located at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center for some Pickleball and pick up a game or two. There is no experience or equipment required to join in on the fun. Paddles, balls and nets will be provided. Stop on by the center between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to meet some new friends and let the fun begin. Harold Avenue Recreation Center's Drop-in Pickleball Program has shown a 33% increase in participation on Friday nights. Pickleball is also played from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. In other news, Participation continues to increase in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 247 paid admissions, was visited by 87 pass holders and had 97 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park

For the week of 2-9-14 through 2-15-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 63 paid admissions, 41 water aerobics participants and was visited by 133 pass holders. The swim team held nine practices, with attendance of approximately 350.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 259 paid admissions, was visited by 121 pass holders and had 152 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approx. 100 "splashes."

Extension Services

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

Newspaper Article for Feb. 17 – "In search of the jujube"

Site Visit – Mulch - Oak Forrest – Forrest Nelson – Feb. 18 – 10:30 am

GI-BMP Training – Feb. 19 – 8 am to 3 pm

Mangrove Symposium – Feb. 20 – Extension Office - 8:00am-3:30pm

Landscape Gardening Series – "Mistaken Identities"- 9:30 to 11:30 am – Feb. 21

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The rebuilding of the Batters Eye at the Charlottes Sports Park has been completed.

Hathaway Park ADA ramp & observation deck renovations have been completed.

The Commission Meeting Minutes remodel in Building A room #416 have been completed.

Project Management

The Sports Park grass parking underdrain system foreseen damages were repaired. The system went operational on 2/12 with lift station replaced and discharge line repaired. Community Services staff leveled and seeded the parking area damaged areas.

Public Works

Public Works Project Highlight: U.S. 41 Microtunnel/Weir Project

This project consists of microtunneling culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways; replacement of existing culverts at the Northbound & Southbound U.S. 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway and at Elmira Boulevard, replacement of stand-alone weirs across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road and across the Fordham Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road and construction of a new weir across the Pompano Waterway north of the U.S. 41 Northbound Access Road. The project includes sidewalks, major drainage improvements, Charlotte County Utility (CCU) relocations and improvements, street lighting, site dewatering, flow diversion, excavation and fill, fabric form, bank & shore rip-rap placement, grading, sodding, and maintenance of traffic.



Construction is underway at the Pompano Waterway. Zep Construction crews are working on the 60 inch storm pipe under the U.S. 41 Northbound and Southbound Access Roads and are building the water control structure. Huxted Tunneling is currently preparing the boring pits; the take-off pit is being prepped to receive the boring head and ram equipment. The receiving pit is being prepared to receive the head and loading area for transportation. This portion of the project is scheduled to be completed the end of May, 2014. The contractors will then move construction equipment to the Elkcam Waterway.



This project is part of the Midway Boulevard Phase II roadway widening project to increase stormwater flow capacity under US 41.

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

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.

Work began on Midway Boulevard Feb. 17, 2014; milling and resurfacing progressed smoothly throughout the day and will continue through Feb. 18, 2014 between Lakeview Boulevard and Edgewater Drive. Restoration will begin when paving is complete. The paving crew will move to Veterans Boulevard Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 to commence the milling and resurfacing process from approximately 900 feet East of Cochran Boulevard to US 41.

PSA issued 2/18/14: The milling and repaving process on Veterans Boulevard, from approximately 900 feet East of Cochran Boulevard to US 41, is scheduled to begin Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 and will continue through Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014. During this process, the traveling public may encounter traffic congestion, un-even lanes and dusty conditions. The utilization of Law Enforcement Officers, Signage, Flagging Personal, and Traffic Channeling Devices will be used to aid travelers throughout the construction area. Please exercise extreme caution in this area and, when possible, please consider utilizing an alternate route.

Dredging - Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system connecting to the Myakka River navigation channel. This is a new channel, over one mile long, that extends and connects three waterways to the Myakka River channel. This project consists of design, engineering, permitting and construction of the new channel.

The contractor is dredging the Cheshire/Apollo connector channels. Heavy rain conditions over the summer and early winter tides hampered progress. Due to the recent severe cold fronts the contractor has been limited in the ability to dredge. The contractor is preparing to mobilize additional equipment to the project to accelerate completion. The contractor requested and was granted a time extension; the new contract ending date is March 13, 2014.

Dredging – Suncoast Waterway – This project is designed to facilitate safe navigation within the Suncoast Waterway system by removing 18,000 cubic yards of silted material.

The contractor completed most of the upland portion of the dredging and continues with the outside and the northeastern portions however early winter tides hampered progress. As of January 14, 2014 the contractor had approximately 2,000 feet of work remaining in the new access channel. Due to severe cold fronts the contractor was limited in the ability to dredge and requested additional time added to the contract. After a review process was completed, the request for additional time was granted; the new

contract end date is March 5, 2014.

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.

Work completed on the Rotonda Boulevard North sidewalk includes: over 1,800 linear feet of sidewalk has been poured, 13 driveways (two of which are brick paver driveways) have been replaced, over 3,500 feet of swale has been graded and over 415 linear feet of storm drain has been installed. Sod installation began and thus far they have placed over 5,000 square yards.

PSA issued 01/08/14, expires May 2014: Sidewalk construction along Rotonda Boulevards North and East, from Rotonda Circle to Parade Circle, began on Monday January 6, 2014 and is expected to continue through May 2014. Traffic patterns will shift due to intermittent lane closures throughout the duration of this project. There will be signs, message boards, and flagmen as needed and citizens are urged to use caution when moving through in this area.

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 intersection improvements will be rolled into this project.

Gopher tortoise relocations are complete. Utility relocations are complete on West Drive, Telman Road, and Sesame Road and the installation of temporary erosion control devices (silt fencing) is complete. Clearing and grubbing began and much of the brush and debris is piled up. 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.

PSA issued 01/09/14: Construction is underway on the Winchester Boulevard South roadway extension. This project provides for a new three-mile-long, four-lane divided roadway, from S.R. 776 south to C.R. 775 (Placida Road). Construction includes roadway lighting, sidewalks, drainage improvements and utility work to be completed in conjunction with Charlotte County Utilities and Englewood Water District. Major components of the project include signalization of both the S.R. 776 and Placida Road intersections. When completed, this project will result in a 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. To carry out construction activities, the following roads will be closed on January 10, 2014: Aloha Avenue at Winchester Boulevard, Apple Valley Avenue at Winchester Boulevard, Brookhaven Terrace at Winchester Boulevard, Worth Avenue at Winchester Boulevard, Sunset Road North at Sunset Circle, Rifle Road at Indian Creek Drive, Cougar Way at Indian Creek Drive, Opal Drive at Telman Drive, Sunset Road at Telman Drive, Cypress Road at Short Street, West Drive at Sunset Road, West Drive at Flower Drive and Glades Drive at West Drive.

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 sent to the Purchasing Department on December 16, 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation. This project was expected to be advertised for bid in early February 2014 however outstanding utility issues have delayed advertisement at least 30 days. A pre-bid meeting will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for contractors to ask questions and clarify the scope of the contract for bidding purposes. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek Maintenance Dredging c390502 – The MSBU Committee requested that engineering services be sought to engineer, permit, construct and manage the removal of silt to existing permitted conditions and pursue seeking permits to increase the depth of the access/main channel to -6 feet Mean Low Water (MLW). If maintained to existing conditions (-5 feet MLW), the approximate volume of material to be removed is about 3,000 cubic yards. The Army Corps of Engineer (ACOE) permits expire March 2014; reauthorization of project permits should be complete in February 2014. Plans and specifications are complete pending any revised permit language required by agencies. Coastal Engineering is in the process of completing the engineering and permitting process for this project; permits, plans and specifications are anticipated mid-February 2014. The FDEP (State) permit was received and the permit application is still under review by the ACOE (Federal Gov't). Construction is projected to begin in the summer of 2014.

Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation. A Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) has been submitted to begin the process of obtaining engineering support to accomplish this project. County staff will review and rank the submittals upon receipt. Submittals are due to staff by Feb. 25, 2014.

Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging - 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. The Consultant is in the process of gathering survey and permitting data. This phase should be complete in March with submittal to the permitting agencies in late March 2014. Most field data collection (surveys) is complete; project design will follow.

Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging - Maintenance dredging will be conducted to provide safe navigation for the citizens who utilize the waterways. This project is split between the Ackerman and Manchester Waterways; most of the maintenance dredging will be conducted within the access channel (Ackerman Waterway) with the remainder taking place within the Manchester Waterway. The FDEP permit has been issued. The Consultant and County staff were successful resolving permitting delays with ACOE; the ACOE permit has been issued. The bid package is prepared and is in the Purchasing Department undergoing review/preparation for bid solicitation.

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/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.

A new location was reviewed and accepted as the spoil disposal site. This location will substantially reduce the cost of hauling material. The permit application was submitted to the regulatory agencies and the FDEP permit was issued however the application is still under review by the ACOE. Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts.

After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants completed a project modeling study to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. The results have been provided to the State agencies responsible for review and comment. The result of this modeling showed that reducing the height of the structure by 1.5 feet did not affect the performance and decreased any negative impacts downstream of the structure. However, the State Park Service did not choose this as their desired configuration. They asked for a design that would increase the amount of sand placement upstream of the structure, but the modeling showed that this would be more costly and could have negative impacts on the down drift beaches and the pass itself. The permit plans and the project description have been reviewed by staff; the Consultant is in the process of compiling the initial permit submittal. An additional Stakeholder meeting is scheduled March 5, 2014 to resolve the configuration of the engineered structure. Upon resolution, the permit application will be finalized and submitted.

Maintenance & Operations

1. A drainage crew completed 6,200 square feet of line & grade work - digging swale and adjusting the swale grade - on Copiopo Circle and installed 24 feet of 14"X23" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) on Razorbill Lane replacing failing driveway pipe.
2. An outfall crew completed six swale intersection conversions in Northwest Port Charlotte, where swaled intersections (no pipe) are converted to a piped intersection.
3. An outfall crew started and completed road crossing pipe at Dorchester/Cascade. They are now starting on outfall pipes on two retention ponds with basins off of Paulson Drive.
4. Eight employees attend a Maintenance of Traffic class and, the week prior, 10 people attended OSHA 10 training.

Other Projects

Murdock Village - The Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area is an 879 acre future redevelopment tract located in mid Charlotte County. Murdock Village is to be redeveloped and revitalized as a community focal point through the implementation of the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan and the creation of the resultant mixed-use community and Town Center, through the establishment of one or more public/private partnerships.

The County is seeking concept plan approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Plan as it pertains to stormwater management design and environmental concepts. Under the new Statewide Stormwater Environmental Resource Permit Rule 62-330.055 F.A.C., a redevelopment Concept Approval Permit is available for the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area that will provide Charlotte County with an assurance that during the duration of the permit (20 years), the stormwater management design and environmental concepts, upon which the Conceptual Approval Permit is based, will meet applicable rule criteria for issuance of permits by SWFWMD for subsequent phases of the project.

The Conceptual Approval Permit application was submitted to SWFWMD on Jan. 30, 2014. A "Request for Additional Information" was received Feb. 14, 2014 and is currently being addressed by County Staff and the Environmental Consultant. The additional information will be submitted to SWFWMD in March 2014.

Tourism

The Tampa Bay Rays baseball team held its annual Fan Fest event at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg earlier this month (Feb. 22) and Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended to share information on what there is to do in the area. About 500 visitor guides were handed out during the day-long event as many fans were planning day and overnight trips to Charlotte County for spring training.