

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Maryann Franks and Shaun Cullinan from Community Development gave a presentation to Goodwill on the County procedures for new businesses coming to Charlotte County. They explained what was needed, how to navigate the process, what documentation is needed. They also provided literature on various types of businesses. This is part of the departments outreach program and staff are happy to attend any community meetings to discuss any aspects of the Community Development functions. For more information, contact 941-743-1201 or via email at Claire.Jubb@charlottefl.com to coordinate a presentation.

Community Services

Administration

The Community Services Department completed three public workshops as part of the parks needs assessment. The needs assessment is part of the Charlotte County's development of a Parks and Recreation Countywide Master Plan. The public is invited to complete an online survey by visiting the Charlotte County website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

The Punta Gorda Garden Club planted a Southern Magnolia tree at the South County Regional Park on Earth Day in memory of long time member Doris Bartnik. The Trees for Posterity program is a way to honor people and organizations by planting a tree in Charlotte County Parks. Donors receive a certificate and may have a ceremony to mark the occasion. Information regarding the Trees for Posterity program is available on the Community Services home page at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/communityservices.

Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active! The Spring Activities, Programs, and Facilities Guide is now available at all recreation centers, pools, and libraries. The guide was distributed approximately 7,600 Charlotte County elementary school children to encourage families to explore the many facilities and activities available in Charlotte County. The guide is also available at middle and high school offices, as well as the Chambers of Commerce. You can also view an electronic version of the guide by visiting our website.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs played the last three (3) games of their six (6) game home stand at the Charlotte Sports Park from April 14 -16. Attendance for the three (3) games was as follows: Monday, 4/14 – 746; Tuesday, 4/15 – 1072; Wednesday, 4/16 – 325.

Harold Avenue Recreation

On Saturday, Charlotte County Community Services hosted its 50th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt was held at the North Charlotte Regional Park soccer complex. The event was free to the public and open to children attending preschool to grade 5 and their families. Approximately 1,000 community members came out to enjoy a beautiful morning. In addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, the participants were able to enjoy other activities such as bounce houses, carnival games and meet a wide variety of community service organizations. Charlotte County Community Services would like to thank the community partners that helped to make the event possible and the Recreation Staff for a job well done!

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

This week at Port Charlotte Beach we had one party scheduled for Saturday. It was a going away party for the Copenhavers who had an attendance of about 120 of their closest friends.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 279 paid admissions, was visited by 68 pass holders and had 114 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park

For the week of 4-13-14 through 4-19-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 169 paid admissions, 16 water aerobics participants and was visited by 113 pass holders. The Bluefin's held eight practices with approximately 400 swimmers. Charlotte High School held their Senior Class Splash party at the pool which was attended by 300 students. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Department used the dive well for training of their dive rescue team.

Session 1 of Summer Camp 2014 at South County is almost completely filled with 1-2 spots open in only a few individual weeks for each age group.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 4-16 through 4-23-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 240 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 59 water aerobics participants. Learn to Swim Session 2 continue with one class and three students and the Lifeguarding course continues with nine students. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 80 "splashes."

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for April 21 – "A salty landscape"
- 2014 Master Gardener Training – "Composting"- April 22 – Tom Becker
- 100th Anniversary of Extension Proclamation – BOCC – Murdock – April 22
- Master Gardener Radio Show – 1580 – WCCF – 10 am – Donna Worthley and Walt Parlow – April 22
- Green Industries Best Management Practices Training – April 23
- 2nd Qtr. Business Meeting - Midtown Library Conf. Room – April 23
- 2014 Master Gardener Training – "Soils and Plant Nutrition" – April 24 - Dr. Kelly Morgan, Immokalee REC
- Arbor Day Tree Giveaway and Sale – April 25

Libraries and Historical

The Historical Marker dedication for the Cookie House is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 and everyone is invited. It is at 10am at the Cedar Point Environmental Park located at 2300 Placida Road in Englewood. The Cookie House is an important part of Charlotte County's history and the marker is the final piece of the project. A brief ceremony will be held, come join us!

The Mid-County Regional Library has a wonderful display of hundreds of cut-outs of children's hands. These were decorated and displayed as part of at State wide celebration of, "Children's Art Week". The colorful display is a great reminder of how much children love art.

On April 23rd the Charlotte County Libraries are taking part in a worldwide program called, "World Book Night". On this night books are given out to volunteers who have agreed to go out into their communities and give books to people on the streets. This is a way to get books into everyone's hands. It is exciting to know that around the world books are passing hand to hand and that we are all joined in the love of reading.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Charlotte County's 211 operators offer free information to callers about many vital services including housing, food pantries, youth, veteran, and senior services. They were managed as part of Public Safety but are now part of Human Services Department. To provide for more efficient service, we are moving staff from Public Safety building on Airport Road in Punta Gorda to Human Services current location at 1050 Loveland Blvd, Port Charlotte. This move will begin May 7 and will consolidate the 211 staffers with the rest of the department in one location, maximizing communications within department.

Operations

Tourism Department requested a new sign be placed in front of Building "B" to allow for the community and those who visit from other areas outside the County to easily find their way to their office. Often patrons do not know exactly where Tourism is located once they have come into the campus; by placing a sign clearly identifying Tourism's location we hope to help our visitors. Facilities Department worked with Tourism staff providing for the purchase and installation of the sign in a highly visible location near the driveway and sidewalk to "B" building.

Project Management

As part of the Energy Performance Contract with Siemens, a new salt chlorination system will be installed at the South County Regional pool, Punta Gorda and the Ann Dever Park pool on San Casa Drive, Englewood. This system will reduce the pool operating costs by eliminating the typical chemicals used to treat the water.

Facilities staff continues to work with Community Services Department and the County Attorney's office to prepare draft lease, use and renovation agreements with the Punta Gorda History Center for eventual use and remodeling of the old Human Services wing of the Grace Street Annex building in Punta Gorda. When ready, the agreements will be brought to a Board of County Commissioner's agenda for consideration.

The supply duct leakage test was performed at the Harold Ave Concession Buildings project.

The concrete parking apron is 50% poured today at the fleet facility with the remainder completing tomorrow. The interior walls are painted and wall tile installed. The fire wall doors are hung enclosing the office area and new restrooms.

Facilities staff and several other departments have been working diligently this past week to compile future capital improvement and maintenance projects that would be faced at the Charlotte Sports Park over the next five years. A funding strategy will be developed for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Public Works

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

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. Construction is projected to be complete in the fall of 2014.

Construction Contract: Owen Ames Kimball, Projected Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Fall 2014

The temporary bridge is in place across the DeSoto Canal and traffic has been routed onto the temporary bridge. A progress meeting was held January 15, 2014; a representative of the school board attended and was very pleased with the safety of the children traveling to school through this construction zone.

April 7, 2014: Pile caps on the east and west sides were poured and the contractor is in the process of back filling both areas. The rip-rap to prevent scour will begin this week.

April 21, 2014: Rip-rap is close to complete and the pre cast deck slabs are installed. The key ways of the deck slabs have been grouted and the contractor is now working on the forms to pour the top deck.

U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South U.S. 41 Access Roads, within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the U.S. 41 Access Road. The U.S. 41 Access Roads at the Pompano Waterway were closed to traffic the week of January 6, 2014.

Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Projected Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Summer 2015

Week ending April 20, 2014: 540 linear feet of precast concrete sheet piling and 168' of 60" microtunneling was completed under US 41 at the Pompano Waterway. All lighting and fiber optic cable has been relocated and the boring pit for the 84" microtunnel sheet piling is being installed at the Elkcam Waterway.

Sunshine Lake Algae Removal – Sunshine Lake has had a habitual issue with an algae problem. Based on the water quality study that was completed, it was determined that the next course of action to help correct the problem would be to dredge the algae from the lake. After the lake is dredged, re-charge wells will be installed (via a separate contract) in order to maintain active water flow through the lake.
Construction Contract: Prolime Services, Projected Schedule: 01/14/2013 – 01/01/2015

Algae removal is underway; the process is going smoothly however algae removal is taking the contractor longer than was originally anticipated. The Board of County Commissioners approved a change order for additional money and time for the contractor to finish the contract. Little Blue Heron nests were found along the project. These birds are protected under the migratory bird treaty act. All dredging has been postponed until the birds have hatched, left the nests, and the nests have been removed. A change order to Prolime's contract was approved on April 22, 2014 to ensure that the equipment would remain on site and that they would finish the job as soon as the nest could be removed. County staff is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to obtain the nest removal permit now so that the nests can be removed as soon as the birds leave the nest. The timeframe for the end of the project may be adjusted depending on how long the process takes.

Once the algae are removed, the County shall initiate installation of a recharge well at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second recharge well adjacent to McGuire Park. Engineering staff received a SWFWMD permit for the installation of a weir structure located at the downstream end of the lake/canal system and is developing a scope of services and construction costs to seek both funds and authorization to proceed from County Administration and the BCC. Charlotte County Engineering is negotiating a scope and fee with Atkins Engineering to prepare a management plan that includes, but is not limited to, reviewing work completed and planned, conducting a nutrient analysis to determine the source of the nutrients and creating a plan that will keep the algae from returning to the system.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

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.
Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates
Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/15/2013 – 11/17/2014
Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

The design firm is currently working on the 60% plans. We are working with the Florida Department of Transportation to discuss the plans and secure the land lease agreement.

C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – The purpose of this project is to widen C.R. 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from S.R. 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.
Design Contract: Johnson Engineering
Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2012 – 04/01/2014
Procurement Process: 04/10/2014, Projected Start of Construction: June 2014

A Funding Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and Charlotte County is scheduled to be presented to the BCC for review/approval on May 13, 2014. The CM at Risk Firm, Halfacre Construction, submitted a Guaranteed Maximum Price that is scheduled to be presented to the BCC for approval on May 27, 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; court schedules are set for June 25, 2014.

Parkside - Elkcarn Boulevard Multi Use Path – The Public Works 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.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 07/01/2012 – 08/16/2013

Procurement Process: November 2013 – May 2014

Projected Start of Construction: June 2014

The construction pre-bid meeting is scheduled April 24, 2014 at 11:00 am in Building B, Room 106-B; perspective bidders are encouraged to attend. The bid opening date is May 14, 2014 in Murdock Administration Building, Purchasing Department Suite 344 at 2:00 pm.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – The Road Feasibility and Traffic Study (Phase 1) is complete on Harbor Boulevard from U.S. 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.

Design Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/12/2013 – Late 2014

Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The design team presented preferred design options to the Board of County Commissioners at their Workshop on April 15, 2014. The Board agreed with the design team preferred options for the gateway feature, decorative lighting, landscape/amenities and access management.

We have done some preliminary research concerning the possibility of running FPL power lines underground along Harbor Boulevard. Depending on the outcome of the research, this option may be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a future meeting to seek direction.

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 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.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers

Design/Permitting Schedule: Through Summer 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Working toward completing 60% plans, anticipated completion date: May 30, 2014. Focus has been on setting proposed sidewalk profile grade (10 sheets). Utility notification/coordination activities are on-going:

- CenturyLink has identified specific locations of "minor" conflict issues with existing pedestals and splice cabinets. They will adjust for any issues which cannot be resolved by "weaving around" with the sidewalk.
- Utilities Inc. (Sandalhaven) owns active sewer forcemain line buried with 3ft +/- cover along northbound shoulder from Sta 181 to Sta 266. Sidewalk grading will move roadside ditch/swale closer to the road and will reduce existing cover for forcemain. They are considering adjustment and/or re-construction.
- FPL power pole relocation and hardening underway through sidewalk project area. Two poles with guy wires pulling westward across proposed sidewalk path will be adjusted by FPL.
- Comcast has mostly aerial facilities on FPL poles. They have reported a segment of CATV fiber buried 3ft +/- cover from Sta 181 to Sta 197.
- CCU has no major issues with their existing facilities. Possible new reclaimed water main.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – The continuation of the Phase 1 bicycle-pedestrian path from Cape Haze Drive to Boca Grande Causeway.

Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers

Design/Permitting Schedule: Through Summer 2014

Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Project is behind original schedule due to complications arising from identifying wetlands and issues arising on sidewalk sitting within this vicinity. Project schedule has been revised to match the schedule for Phase 1, with completion of both anticipated for the end of July, 2014. Design and drafting focus is on proposed sidewalk sections. Utility notification/coordination is on-going.

- CenturyLink has identified specific locations of "minor" conflict issues with existing pedestals and will make necessary adjustments.
- FPL power pole relocation and hardening underway throughout sidewalk project area. Three FPL poles with guy wires pulling westward across the proposed sidewalk area to be adjusted by FPL.
- Comcast facilities all aerial on FPL poles.
- CCU has no major issues with existing facilities. Possible new CCU reclaimed water main.

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.

Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying

Design/Permitting Schedule: 07/02/2012 – Spring 2014

Procurement Process: Late Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

All Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies and the Project Specifications and Cost Estimates have been received. The 100% design plans have been received and were reviewed on Tuesday, April 14, 2014. The design team is developing responses to the review comments which will be provided by the end of April 2014. The project documents will be submitted to the Purchasing Department this summer so the construction contract can be advertised for bids.

Drainage Projects

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 Contract: Johnson Engineering

Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/23/2014 – 03/20/2014

Procurement Process: 04/04/2014 - July 2014, Projected Start of Construction: August 2014

The SWFWMD pre-application meeting was held January 23, 2014. Johnson Engineering completed the survey collection and the structure design. All permits have been obtained. The bid documents were sent to the Purchasing Department to begin the procurement process on Friday April 4, 2014. Construction will take approximately 105 days to complete upon notice to proceed.

Maintenance & Operations

Week Ending April 22, 2014:

- Pest Management: The Department received tentative approval during a phone conversation with the State to build a launch site along the Rotonda River. This water body is being incorporated into the County's Aquatic Weed program. An official, written letter to proceed should be received within 1-2 weeks according to State officials. Aquatic Weed crews made 20 inspections and 20 treatments for a total of 14.45 acres treated. Mosquito crews made ground applications for adult mosquitoes to 2,526 acres.
- Complaint Investigators: This week we received over 80 calls and wrote over 40 new work orders. The majority of these calls were drainage related due to recent rains. We did have a few brush trimming work orders as well as some pothole maintenance work orders.
- Maintenance and Operations drainage crews completed 9,500 square feet of line and grade on Waco Ave., 2,300 square feet on Shirley Ave., and 1,500 square feet on Wilkie Ave, 11,000 square feet on Swiss Blvd. between Bermont Rd. and Poplar St. and 850 square feet of line and grade on Amanda St. between Aqui Esta Dr. and Leach Dr. Crews also delivered 112 linear feet of 14"X23" reinforced concrete pipe for pipe replacements.
- 2.5 miles of shoulder repairs were completed on Midway Blvd. from Edgewater Dr. to Higgs Dr. A request was received to repair pot holes in the driveway at Dotzler Park on Bayshore Dr. After inspection, we decided to overlay the entire driveway. This would be better due to the steep drop off from Bayshore. With the timeline for work to be completed by the end of week for a special event, we mobilized quickly and completed the task. After the asphalt was installed we cut down a low area and replaced it with asphalt millings in the entrance area that was susceptible to washouts.
- A drainage crew completed 5,825 square feet of swale on Harold Ave & 5,500 square feet on Allworthy & Hammond in Greater Port Charlotte and installed 390 linear feet of 14x23 reinforced concrete pipe and installed two catch basins on Long Meadow Rd in Rotonda West.
- 5,460 pounds of debris was removed from county rights-of-ways using the grapple truck.