

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs hosted games at the Charlotte Sports Park on April 23 & 24. Attendance at these games was as follows: Wednesday, 4/23 – 813; Thursday, 4/24 – 1105.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the 4th Annual Girls on the Run 5K on Saturday, April 27. There were a total of 537 participants and approximately 150 spectators.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Pro Style Baseball Tournament on 4/26 and 4/27. A total of two practice fields were used. Estimated attendance for the tournament was 150.

The Charlotte Sports Park partnered with Clear Channel to allow parking for Countryfest in the main stadium parking lot on Sunday, 4/27. Clear Channel was fully responsible for the cleanup of the location and there were approximately 1000 vehicles that utilized this space.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Run! Jump! Shoot! Swish! Another season of basketball is approaching at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center. Registration for the summer youth basketball league was completed on Saturday with 293 participants registered for the league. The league begins practices on May 6th with volunteer coaches overseeing 30 teams and kids ages 5-17. Games begin with the Jamboree on May 10th at 8:00am. Teams will play a half game to familiarize themselves with the operation of the league before beginning the regular season on May 17th.

Tringali Recreation

The Charlotte County Community Services Beach Clean-Up at Englewood Beach/Chadwick Park was a sunny success this past Saturday, April 26. Staff from Tringali Recreation Center and the Parks crew helped with the clean-up from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., along with 40 volunteers. Keep Charlotte Beautiful provided trash bags, water and t-shirts for our volunteers. Home Depot provided buckets to collect the trash. The Beach Guy gave a coupon for a free chair rental for any participants. Families, girl scouts, employees from Busey Bank, teenagers, senior citizens and couples new to Englewood showed up to participate. Our helpers collected enough trash to fill 3 large trash bags. Many of the volunteers were looking forward to participating in our next beach clean-up. All the volunteers were treated to a cook out which included hotdogs, chips and drinks, donated by the Winn Dixie in Englewood, for a job well done. Thank you to the community and local businesses that helped to make our April Beach Clean-up a great success.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

On Saturday 4.26.14, Norma Olivia held a wedding and reception for 130 guests at Port Charlotte Beach. She said "Everything was perfect!" On Sunday 4.27.14, Yves Prosper also had a Wedding and Reception from 5 to 12 pm with an expected attendance of 40 guests, but ended up with 60 guests. They commented, "Had a wonderful time, and we will book again soon and thank you to Martin for all his help!"

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 369 paid admissions, was visited by 80 pass holders and had 63 water aerobics participants. In addition, 3 private swim lesson series were conducted.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 4-23 through 4-29-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 444 paid admissions, was visited by 112 pass holders and had 186 water aerobics participants. Learn to swim session 3 began with two classes and eight students. The Lifeguard Training course completed 4-24-14, with nine students earning national certification. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 swim practices resulting in approximately 80 "splashes". In addition, installation has begun on the new energy efficient/green technology saline chlorination system.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for April 28 – “Secrets of the sedge”

CED PolyCom – April 28

2014 Master Gardener Training – “Tropical Fruits”- April 29 – Dr. Crane, Homestead REC – PolyCom Class

Extension Staff Meeting – April 29

4-H Appreciation Dinner – April 29

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training– April 30

2014 Master Gardener Training – “Plant Pathology” – May 1 – Dr. Pam Roberts, Immokalee REC

Site Visit – Englewood – May 2

Libraries and Historical

Last week was World Book Night and over 200 books were sent out into the Community with willing volunteers who handed them out to willing readers! We are excited to be part of this world wide program and the members of the American Association of University Women who partnered with us were great to work with. Not everyone makes use of our wonderful Library and we were glad to have books sent out into other areas of the community.

The Historical marker has been placed at the “Cookie House” in Englewood. This is the last remaining structure of the Bass Biological Lab and now it is a Heritage Landmark. The effort to save this structure began 15 years ago and many, many willing volunteers made it happen. This structure is located in Cedar Point Environmental Park and in the future we are hoping to have some open hours for the public to tour the site. Stop by and enjoy the marker and the history that it represents.

Do you need help with your device that you use to download books and movies? Do you have a new device that was a gift and it is still in the box? Come to one of our, “Advice for the Device” sessions at any library and we will help you get all set with your device. Call 941-613-3166 to find out the session that is near you!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

After the supply duct leakage testing was completed last week a plan was made for repairs at Harold Avenue Park Concession Buildings. It was agreed our HVAC maintenance department will have the opportunity to inspect the final repair work.

Another move to consolidate employees in one location is in progress this week. The excavation inspectors are moving from Murdock Administration to Punta Gorda where they can work more closely with other Engineering staff. Other office and staff moves to promote our goal of better communications within a department and more efficient government overall are in planning stage.

Last week preparations at the Historical Marker/Plaque and final cleaning were completed for the official opening and dedication service at the Historic Cookie House on Saturday, April 28. A special binder featuring before and after color photos was presented to Anne Shepherd, Division Manager of Libraries and History documenting the fine carpentry, masonry, electrical, and roofing work details of the project from start to finish. Many Facilities staffers worked on this project, however special recognition belongs to Rich Bokoski, Dennis Meadows, Ed Leonard (retired) and Chris Orsini, Project Coordinator for their efforts in making the Cookie House as good, if not better than new.

Operations

Facilities Department will be starting the bid quote process for upgrades to our security access control systems. On Friday May 1st the initial pre-bid meeting will take place. Our plan is to have these upgrades installed before the end of fiscal year.

Project Management

The Gun Range mitigation of additional berm soil was completed last week. Facilities staff is installing a new target holding system. The target system protection berm will be backfilled Wednesday. Final preparation of the berms will be completed on Thursday followed by sod and hydro seeding with an estimated completion of Monday.

The final Strategic Space Plan report for the Justice Center has been received from Wiley & Associates and is under review by staff. A follow up meeting with the Judicial Space Planning Committee is scheduled for June 16.

Public Works

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 are available on the public Web site. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Projected Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

Paving is complete on Rio De Janeiro Avenue and on Midway, Veterans, Toledo Blade and Sandhill Boulevards. Shoulder restoration is complete on all roadways; the placement of sod is forthcoming. The Contractor replaced the original sod Contractor with another Contractor who started placing sod on Sandhill Boulevard and then moved on to Rio De Janeiro Avenue. Permanent road striping and the placement of reflective pavement markers has been completed.

The Contractor moved into the Greater Port Charlotte Olean 1 Area and performed all required base repairs. Asphalt was removed from the streets requiring complete asphalt removal; these streets have been leveled with 75 pounds per square yard of asphalt leveling to protect the base until it has the final lift of asphalt placed. The Contractor is moving around in this area so as not to interfere with ongoing pipe installations.

To date, the Contractor has placed approx. 27,316 tons of asphalt and completed approximately 650 square yards of 10" base repairs and 8,739 square yards of 6" base repairs in the Road and Bridge and Greater Port Charlotte areas. The total asphalt removal to date is 12,471 square yards. They have milled approx. 123,352 square yards of asphalt.

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. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group Projected Schedule: 7/7/2013–Late Spring 2014

The contractor is dredging the mouths of the Venus and Cheshire waterways. Heavy rain conditions over the summer, early winter tides and cold fronts hampered progress. The contractor requested and was granted a time extension; the revised contract end date was March 31, 2014. The Contractor is in liquidated damages as of April 1, and is doing everything they can to complete the project as quickly as possible. An additional barge is on site to expedite the completion of the project. They are completing the dredging of Venus and Cheshire Waterways at this time.

Sidewalks - Gardens of Gulf Cove – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle. Construction Contract: Bonness, Projected Schedule: 4/24/2014–June 2014

This contract allows 75 days for construction. The Contractor has installed new sidewalks along Drucker Circle and Coniston Street. A new fire hydrant has been installed and the old one removed. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of May 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. Construction Contract: Owen Ames Kimball, Projected Schedule: 1/6/2014–May 30, 2014.

The contractor completed all concrete work, ditch regrading, and sodding on Rotonda Boulevard North; only minor punch list items remain. Construction continues on Rotonda Boulevard East; all concrete work should be complete by the end of this week (weather permitting). Swale grading, sodding and road striping should be finished in the next few weeks.

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 the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Projected Schedule: 11/25/2013 – Summer 2015.

Clearing and grubbing is complete and there will be no more vegetative debris burning. Storm drain installation is underway on the southern end of the project and is moving northward. Excavation of a stormwater pond is underway at Sunset Road. The material excavated from this pond is being utilized as embankment to cross an existing pond further south in the project.

The design of the plans at the Winchester Boulevard North/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North is well underway. This design will include a new traffic light at the intersection of SR 776 and Winchester Blvd. The actual construction within this intersection is part of the current construction contract and will begin in the summer of 2014.

We have received many inquiries about work taking place north of SR776; the contractor is in the area clearing and grubbing. This area will be utilized as a flood plain compensation site similar to the site adjacent to Winchester Boulevard North. This flood plain compensation site is required to balance the fill that was placed within the Oyster Creek/Gondolier Waterway flood plain to build Winchester Boulevard.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks on Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road and on Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road. Design Contract: Banks Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 1/6/2014 – Sept. 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015.

30% design plans have been received and are being reviewed by staff.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard West - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, North and West. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 8/18/2011 – 6/11/2013, Procurement Process: June 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014.

We are working to finalize a plan that will reduce/eliminate utility conflicts to reduce the cost of construction. We have instructed the design engineer to send the updated plans to the various utilities for review. This project is expected to be submitted to the Purchasing Department to start the procurement process by May 30, 2014.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2014 – 10/01/2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015.

30% design plans are expected to be delivered by the end of May 2014. The Beautification Committee requested that benches and minimal landscaping be included in the design. Staff requested a scope and fee from Johnson Engineering to include the request for benches and landscaping.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek -6 Feet Dredging c391302 – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2013 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

Natural resource investigations are complete - no impact to sea grasses, hard bottom or oysters exists. The geotechnical study is complete. Rock was located however no continuous rock is exposed at the surface. No rock shelf exists containing soft corals or other hard bottom habitats. The permit plans and exhibits were submitted to the permitting agencies in February 2014 and are under review. FDEP sent a Request for Additional Information to the Consultant; response was provided. The Mitigation/Public Interest plan has been formulated and submitted to the permitting agencies for review.

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. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 1/6/2014 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

The Army Corps of Engineer (ACOE) permits expire March 2014; re-authorization of project permits is underway. Plans and specifications are complete pending any revised permit language required by agencies. The FDEP permit was received and the permit application is still under review by the ACOE. The bid specifications are under review by staff.

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. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2014 – Fall 2014. Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014

Johnson Engineering is currently reviewing the pre-existing permits and documents. They will begin surveying the area the week of April 28, 2014 to obtain information on existing conditions that will facilitate the permitting and engineering of the project..

Gulf Cove 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/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: May – Sept. 2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015. A Request for Letters of Interest was submitted to the Purchasing Department to begin the process of obtaining a qualified engineering firm. Staff reviewed the submittals and is in the process of negotiating with the selected firm. The scope of services is being finalized at this time.

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. Design Contract: Stantec, Design/Permitting Schedule: 12/17/2013 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

Staff reviewed the 80% design plans with the consultant; permitting strategies were discussed which should lead to a streamlined permitting process. The permit application was reviewed by staff the week of April 14, 2014. After review and staff approval, the permit application was submitted the week of April 21, 2014.

Pirate Harbor Access Channel – Dredging provides safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways.

This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge 2,300 feet of access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. This project was originally presented to FDEP in 2003/04 however, at that time, FDEP did not view this project as favorable and it was removed from the original contract. Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel has been added to the previous contract and will require a standard general permit. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. This project was recommended and approved by the Pirate Harbor Waterway Advisory Committee. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: May 2014 – Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

A change order was presented to and approved by the Board of County Commissioners on April 22, 2014 allowing Coastal Engineering Consultants to continue their work on this project with a new permit application; this task has been placed back on their contract. The consultant will begin survey, design, and project management to maintenance dredge portions of the main access channel.

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 and 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. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/01/2013 – Spring 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

A location was accepted as the spoil disposal site that 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 (NMF.) The Consultants are making every attempt to work with ACOE and NMF to expedite the process. The ACOE indicated that this process should end soon and the ACOE permit will be drafted shortly.

Johnson Engineering completed construction plans and bid specifications; staff reviewed bid documents the week of April 14, 2014. Johnson Engineering is in the process of revising bid specifications to include modifications recommended by staff; revision is expected to be complete this week.

Drainage Projects

Charlotte Harbor Watershed Management - Stormwater Structures Phase 2 - This project shall follow Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) guidelines consistent with the District's Watershed Management Program. Three components are proposed: Topographic Information, Watershed Evaluation and a Watershed Management Plan. The Watershed Management Plan includes the installation of stormwater structures on Church Street and Bayshore Road (BMP 6) and on Harper Avenue (BMP 29) as Phase 1 of this project which is complete. Phase 2 includes the installation of stormwater structures on Central Avenue near Oakley Street (BMP 25), near Church Street (BMP 26) and near Main Street (BMP 42). Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/06/2014 – June 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014.

A work order was issued to Giffels-Webster to begin design on February 6, 2014. 30% plans have been received and are being reviewed by staff.

Maintenance & Operations

Week Ending April 30, 2014:

- Pest Management: A software vendor approached us about testing an Android App for our Geopro Mosquito Control Software. Beth, our biologist, agreed to be a volunteer to test the application.
- Aquatic Weed Control crews conducted eight inspections and 25 treatments.
- Mosquito Control crews performed ground applications for adult mosquitoes to 5,135 acres.
- Complaint Investigators: This week we received over 50 calls generating 35 work orders. The majority of these were drainage related but a few work orders were for brush trimming as well as some pothole

maintenance and debris in the rights-of-ways.

- Maintenance and Operations: A drainage crew installed 48 linear feet of 14"x 23" reinforced concrete pipe (2 driveways) and 600 square feet of line & grade on Amanda St.
- The Shoulder repair crew completed 2.1 miles on Alton Rd. between Peachland and Midway Boulevards, .2 miles at Cochran Blvd. and Education Way, and .2 at Chancellor Blvd. and Arden Terr.
- The Olean 1 Area Pipe Replacement Project is being conducted ahead of the 2014 Paving Program and is on schedule. We have completed: 178 linear feet of 12" x 18" (5 road crossings), 80 linear feet of 14" x 23" (2 road crossings), 112 linear feet of 19" x30" (3 road crossings), and 6 road crossing pipes were dug up & armored.
- The Major Outfall crew completed 17,000 square feet of line and grade on Long Meadow Rd. in Rotonda, and the Outfall crew installed and poured four road crossing pipes ahead of the 2014 Paving Program in the Elmira Area 2.
- The Grapple Truck Crew collected 6,200 pounds of trash from rights-of-ways.
- A drainage crew stabilized the bank in Lakeview with 3 loads of rip rap, and will begin repair work on the sinkholes in a retention area.
- A drainage crew finished up 9,000 square feet of line and grade on Falcon St. in Lemon Bay Isles and the outfall crew installed two road crossings on Po St. and one on Villa St.

Other Projects

Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested the installation of an electric power system for five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. Design Contract: Florida Transportation Engineering, Design/Permitting: 12/14/2012 – 08/09/2013, Procurement: 10/21/2013 – 01/28/2014, Construction: 04/14/2014 – July 2014. Directional boring is underway at all locations. Construction on Cape Haze Drive is expected to begin May 1, 2014.

Manasota Key Community Plan Design – The Manasota Key MSTU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting. The first phase of this project consisted of a conceptual master plan completed by Weiler Engineering in December 2013. Phase 2 is the design of construction ready plans consisting of the top priorities as identified by the MSTU Committee. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: TBD, Construction: N/A (Design Only).

The Manasota Key Community Plan was presented to the MSTU Committee on Dec. 11, 2013. The MSTU Committee requested that staff move forward with designing sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping as well as street light replacements on Gulf Boulevard and the redesign of the commercial area to allow for additional parking and stormwater redesign. Staff is in negotiations with Weiler Engineering for the design.

Rotonda West Entry Features – This project will provide new signs at five (5) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: 06/01/2012 – 08/05/2013, Procurement: 10/21/2013 – 01/28/2014, Construction Contract: Construction Schedule: 04/14/2014 – July 2014.

Utility locates are being completed this week and the contractor should be on site immediately thereafter. This is a 120 day construction contract.

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau is pleased to announce Tourist Development Tax Revenues collected for February 2014 were up 19.7 percent compared to the same time last year. Year to date, TDT Revenues are up 16 percent.