

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Administration/PIO

At a special meeting on July 15, the Board of County Commissioners amended an ordinance set in May from an eight-year local option sales tax extension to a six-year extension and removed the justice center expansion from the list of projects to be funded.

If approved by voters on Nov. 4, the extension will run from Jan. 1, 2015 through Dec. 31, 2020 and is projected to generate \$18 million in annual revenue or approx. \$108 million over the life of the extension period. Information on the board-approved projects, projects funded by past local option sales tax, maps and more is now available on the County's website www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov—click "1% Local Option Sales Tax" in the links on the left.

With voter approval, counties in Florida have the option to add a local tax (in this case one percent, or one cent for every dollar spent) to the statewide six percent sales tax for infrastructure needs. These monies can be used for a wide range of capital infrastructure expenses. Sales tax is paid by residents and visitors alike, and provides an alternative to raising property taxes.

Community Development

Jim Evetts and Claire Jubb gave a presentation to the Charlotte Desoto Building Industry Association on the proposed changes to the county's Flood Plain ordinance. The Ordinance is being re-written to ensure continuing compliance with the FEMA minimum standards and the Florida Building Code. The proposed changes are available on the County web site—visit the Building construction web page at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "2013 Proposed Floodplain Ordinance" in the links on the right. (<http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/buildingconstruction/Pages/2013-Proposed-Floodplain-Ordinance.aspx>) or you can obtain additional information by calling Claire Jubb on 941.743.1241.

Claire Jubb, Charlotte County Community Development Department took part in the National Association of Counties (NACo) Technology Summit – held as part of the NACo Annual Convention in New Orleans. NACo is a national organization that represents elected officials from around the County and it is a great achievement for Charlotte County to be asked to be involved in this event. Claire was invited to be part of a panel on core technologies used by local governments with a specific emphasis on using technology to be more resilient. NACo fully funded Claire's participation in this event which provided a great opportunity to showcase the work Charlotte County is doing in terms of technology at a national event.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted a three (3) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs on the following dates with attendance: Tuesday, 7/8 – 975; Wednesday, 7/9 – 474; Thursday, 7/10 – 604.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted several games of the Perfect Game Tournament on 7/13 and 7/15. Games were played on four (4) practice fields. Estimated attendance was at 1,400.

The Tampa Bay Rays Gulf Coast League hosted three (3) games at the Charlotte Sports Park. The estimated attendance at these games was as follows: 7/08 – 25; 7/11 – 20; 7/14 – 18.

Upcoming Events: The Charlotte Sports Park will host a four (4) game home stand for the Charlotte Stone Crabs from 7/16 – 7/19.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Harold Avenue Recreation Center's Staff has used this week to begin preparation for its upcoming Fall Activities. A new partnership is in the works with local agencies to host a Human Trafficking Awareness seminar. The seminar's goal will be provide families information about modern day slavery and the dangers that may be present in our community. At this time 5 agencies have confirmed their participation in this new event. In addition, renovations are underway to prepare the building for the laying of the new wooden gym floor. In other news, Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, Table Tennis, and Pickleball continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

For the week of 7-9-14 to 7-15-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 286 paid admissions, and was visited by 18 pass holders and had 22 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 7-6-14 through 7-12-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 404 paid admissions, 26 water aerobics participants and was visited by 136 pass holders. The Bluefins held eleven practices with approx. 550 swimmers. 9 outside summer camps brought in approx. 450 swimmers. Also, South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue summer camps had approx. 270 swimmers.

South County summer camps are in full swing of Session 2. They enjoyed field trips to locations such as Sunsplash, Laishley Park and Bowland. There are approx. 75 campers for the second session and the program runs through Aug. 15.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 7-6-14 through 7-12-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 488 paid admissions, 40 water aerobics participants and was visited by 92 pass holders. The Bluefin's held four practices with approx. 110 swimmers. Five local summer camps visited OCRP with a total of 125 campers. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office held their Jr. Law Academy at the pool with 35 participants.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for July 14 – "Variegated flax lily – a hardy, versatile groundcover"

Overall Advisory Committee – July 16

Discrimination, Harassment, and Offensive Behavior Prohibited Workshop – Room 119 – Murdock - July 17

Libraries and Historical

There is still time to join in our Summer Reading Clubs for all ages through Adult. "Fizz, Boom, Read" is the theme this year and we are all having a lot of fun. For children there is a magic program at the Mid-County Regional Library on July 29th and everyone is invited. Registration is required due to space issues so call today to 941-613-3170. All programs are free and from 3-4p.m.

We have so much to offer at our Libraries! Did you know that you can bring your lap top and use our internet and if you need a computer class, we offer them? You can find your Ancestors in our Genealogy section and you can read the latest magazines in our reading area. You can find the latest music on CD or online and you can sit and read in a comfy chair. You can meet a Friend in one of our study rooms and you can attend a program in a meeting room. You can check out the latest DVDs or put them on reserve for you when they are returned. We can help you with your on-line needs and we can direct you to research sites you may need. Come to a local library today and see what it is all about and be sure to get a free Library Card!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The access bollards installation project at Murdock Building B has started. Installation of the remaining bollards will continue this or next, weather permitting.

Operations

Justice Center had two restrooms deep cleaned and had the floor tiles Saniglazed, which seals the floors and

does not allow bacteria to grow or dirt and scuffs to remain on floors. This process and product guarantees this for two years. Maintenance of these floors is only to mop with a neutral PH balanced cleaner to keep surface free of dirt.

ADA improvements for Oyster Creek are back on schedule since the plans had to be revised and should be completed by early next week. The concession area cement will hopefully be poured this Friday, weather permitting.

Project Management

The Cultural Center lighting retrofit project will begin next week. The exterior security lighting and parking lot lighting will be retrofitted with new LED fixtures which will increase energy savings and improve the overall appearance of the Cultural Center complex.

The pre bid meeting for the Anger Fishing Pier and Parking rehabilitation has been scheduled for Wednesday. The Development Review Committee for the Harbor Heights Park drainage and parking rehabilitation project has been started. The fence rehabilitation for the Port Charlotte Beach pool has begun.

Facilities Department facilitated a presentation to the BCC on Tuesday, July 15, by the consultant that prepared the Justice Center Strategic Space Management Plan. The Board is considering the timing and funding options for the recommended expansion in light of the sales tax referendum proposal.

The Carmalita Park and South County Regional Park Concession Stand building walls are completed with required cells filled with grout. The grease traps are being installed at both locations with the lift station complete at the Carmalita site. The secondary electrical service conduits are installed to the transformers.

Human Services

Charlotte County Human Services Director, 211 Supervisor, and the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies' (CARE) Executive Director visited the 211 Tampa Bay Cares in Clearwater for an overview of their use of the HMIS system. 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc. provides the free, confidential, multi-lingual, 24-hour 2-1-1 for access to community information for Pinellas and Hernando counties and uses the HMIS as a centralized intake and a one stop service that follows up with case management, financial assistance depending on the callers' need and willingness to participate in the individualized program. The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition at its April 22, 2014 meeting to migrate the County's 211 client tracking system and resource data base to the Community Information System (HMIS based) beginning in July. This is a community initiative that is an integral part of several organizational strategic plans that will enhance client information and referrals, minimize agency and service delivery duplication, and assist in providing coordinated community support services.

Public Works

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

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. This 790 calendar day project is funded by the 2009 Sales Tax, Road Impact Fees, Gasoline Tax and a State Grant. Construction Contract: Construction Manager at Risk, Halfacre Construction, Woodruff and Sons, Inc. will be performing on-site construction, Projected Schedule: 07/07/14 – 09/04/16.

Halfacre Construction is submitting the Maintenance of Traffic plan for review and approval. Woodruff and Sons will start work as soon as all the required documents are approved. Work will begin on the south side of the project, near Rotonda Boulevard East, where the roadway will be widened to four lanes up to the Bridge at the Butterford Waterway.

Harborview Road Bridge Replacement – This project is to design and construct a replacement Bridge over the DeSoto Canal on Harborview Road 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 Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – Fall 2014

June 30: Traffic was shifted onto the new permanent Bridge and the temporary bridge was removed. Sidewalks are being installed and restoration has begun. Once all the heavy machinery work has been completed the final lift of asphalt will be installed.

July 14: Restoration of the project site continues and the remaining drainage structures are being installed.

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. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Projected Construction Schedule: 05/19/2014 – 9/26/ 2014

Construction is underway; 34 of the 54 box culvert sections have been installed. The headwalls and wingwalls should be installed within the next 3 weeks.

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

Pompano Waterway: Roadway restoration has begun and should be complete by the middle of July 2014. The Pompano Waterway construction is 88% complete and is on schedule.

Elkcam Waterway: The third and final 84" microtunnel is scheduled to start July 15, 2014. The project at the Elkcam Waterway is currently 30% complete.

The contractor plans to start work at the Fordham Waterway mid-July 2014.

PSA issued 7/15/14, expires Feb 2015 - The US 41 Northbound Access Road will be closed to traffic, between Conway Boulevard and Easy Street, beginning Monday, July 28, 2014 and will remain closed through February 2015. Zep Construction will be installing the final two 84" microtunnels under US 41 and constructing a new water control structure. This project is being conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Storm Structures - Microtunneling Project that will increase stormwater flow capacities. Motorists will follow detour signs that will be in place and pedestrians will use the signalized crosswalks to navigate around the project site. The traveling public is encouraged to exercise extreme caution while traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Placida Road Safety Improvements 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 September 30, 2014, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2014.

60% plans have been received and are currently under review by county staff. A pre-application meeting with SWFWMD is scheduled July 17, 2014 to receive direction on obtaining a permit exemption for this phase of the project, as was recently received for Phase 2. The 90% plans are scheduled for completion mid to late August, 2014. Utility notification/coordination activities are on-going:

1. Plans were received from CenturyLink for relocation work within the corridor. These plans are currently being reviewed by the consultant to verify that all conflicts with the proposed sidewalk have been addressed.
2. 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.

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 – 07/22/2014, Projected Start of Construction: August 2014.

Bid opening was held June 18, 2014 and a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the BCC on July 22. Construction will take approx. 105 days to complete upon notice to proceed.

Maintenance & Operations

There were 41 new work requests for service during this time period. Most of the calls were for drainage, some for brush removal, and debris removal from the rights of ways.

A drainage crew completed 4,200 square feet of line and grade, and one driveway was replaced on Liberty St. between June Ave. and Edgewater Dr. in the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU.

A drainage crew completed 7,800 square feet of line and grade on Bacchus Rd. in the Gulf Cove MSBU.

A Drainage crew completed 6,500 square feet of line and grade and 4,000 square feet of sod removal on Washington Loop Rd. at Walnut Dr. They also removed failing road base, and compacted and rolled 28.2 tons of asphalt on Taylor Rd. near Acline Rd for the paving program.

An Outfall crew performed standard cuts on Atlas, Astoria, and Fletcher for a total of 1,800 square feet.

An Outfall crew replaced two failing driveway pipes on Jackson St. at Gulf Coast, installed 48' of 12"x18" reinforced concrete pipe, and completed 800 square feet of line and grade.

Tourism

As part of its continuing marketing outreach effort for the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Palm Island Resort and other area meeting facilities and hotels, Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Society of Association Executives (FSAE) Annual Conference, July 9-11 in Orlando. The conference, attended by over 400 association executives and destination representatives, provided multiple educational and networking opportunities to create and expand relationships necessary to implement tourism sales strategy for the association meetings market.