

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 9/23/14

## Community Development

On Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014 the Building Construction Services division offered the workshop "Residential Roof Permitting 101", as a free refresher for contractors and all interested persons submitting roof permit applications. Attendees learned how to submit a successful roof permit application, how to avoid the most common application and inspection mistakes, how to navigate the Charlotte County GIS site and find product approvals and NOAs online.

The workshop was well attended, with about 50 participants, who were able to have their questions answered by a team of County experts.

The slides of the workshop can be found at

<http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/dept/commdev/Pages/default.aspx> and the recording of the presentation will be available online soon at the Building Construction Services website.

Another free workshop is scheduled for Nov. 13, 2014. The subject of that workshop is windows, doors and shutters permitting.

## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League (IL) team workouts were held on the Charlotte Sports Park practice fields from Tuesday, 9/9 to Sunday 9/14.

Upcoming Events: The Charlotte Sports Park will host two (2) games for the Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League on 9/16, and 9/19. Games are free to the public and will begin at 1:00 pm.

### Harold Avenue Recreation

Renovations to the Gym floor are on schedule and an announcement will go out for the opening of the Gym.

### Port Charlotte Beach Pool and Recreation

This last week we had a small wedding for 40 scheduled for the Deck. As luck would have it they had an unwelcome storm show up at the same time. Everything was moved inside and the event was saved.

We also had the Buckeye Horseshoe neighborhood watch meeting, with 25 in attendance.

We did have a special event on Monday put on by our own fellow co-workers and management. This was the inaugural "Team building event" with more to come in the future. My favorite event, as I'm sure was the favorite of most, was the cardboard boat building challenge. We needed to work as a team to achieve a common goal, build a two person boat using only the supplies provided and then paddle out and around a buoy. Lots of cheering, laughter and sweating! Hopefully this is something that can be done yearly or better yet, twice a year! Total participants – 36

Looking ahead we will Sun Coast Cathedral with 100 people celebrating an anniversary.

On Saturday we will have the Historical Society hosting the annual Lobster Bake Fundraiser

### South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 9-7-14 through 9-13-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 170 paid admissions, 31 water aerobics participants and was visited by 130 pass holders. The blue fins held a swim meet with approximately 300 in attendance. We also held a high school swim meet with approximately 150 in attendance. The blue Fins held five practices with approximately 350 swimmers. High School swim team and dive team held eight practices with approximately 320 participants.

## **Oyster Creek Region Pool**

For the week of September 10 through September 16, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 144 paid admissions, was visited by 22 pass holders and had 36 water aerobics participants. South County Pool had 189 paid admissions, was visited by 101 pass holders and had 44 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim and Dive team held 7 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes" and the Charlotte County Blue Fins Swim team held 7 practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes". Oyster Creek Regional Pool had 184 paid admissions, was visited by 64 pass holders and had 100 water aerobics participants. The Lemon Bay High School Swim & Dive Team held 3 swim practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 4 swim practices resulting in approximately 120 "splashes". The pool was closed Tuesday 9–16 for repairs.

### **Extension Services**

Newspaper Article for September 15 – "Lightening and trees/palms – a bad combination"

GI-BMP Training – September 16.

Managers Meeting – Charlotte Sports Park – September 17

Community roadway (gateways & thoroughfares) landscape beautification – Public Works Administration conference room, 7000 Florida Street Punta Gorda – September 17

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Semiannual Fire Sprinkler inspections were performed at Murdock campus on Friday, September 12.

A cooperative effort with the City of Punta Gorda for a proposed public garden at the Grace Street Annex location is in progress.

### **Operations**

Research is in progress for a memorandum of understanding agreement for the Charlotte County Arts Council for Art in Public places program.

Semiannual Fire Sprinkler inspections were performed at Murdock campus on Friday, September 12.

The Justice Center's service entrance renovation project started last week to provide better aesthetics, security, and defined space for on-site waste dumpsters. This project is scheduled for completion within 45 days.

### **Project Management**

The Carmalita Park parking lot repair and replacement started at the softball fields. The asphalt was removed and recycled. The base material was re-graded and compacted in preparation of replacement asphalt layer

The exterior LED lighting retrofit project is underway at the Sheriff's Administration complex. The scope of work includes exterior security lighting, parking lot fixtures, and walkway bollards. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of the month.

## **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 Website. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Projected Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

The paving operations are ongoing in the Greater Port Charlotte, Midway 8, area. Shoulder restoration and sodding operations are following the paving program within a few days of paving being completed.

To date, approximately 64,565 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge and the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 48.39% and the Contractor has completed approximately 63.21% of the work.

**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, Construction Schedule: 07/07/14 – 09/04/16.

Woodruff and Sons is currently installing underground utilities on CR 771. Work being performed is located on the east side of the roadway, south of the Butterford Waterway. Crews are also clearing vegetation on the east side of the roadway, north of the Butterford Waterway, up to SR 776.

Atlantic Directional Drilling is on site boring utility lines under the Butterford Waterway; this utility work is projected to be finished by Oct. 1, 2014.

**Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging** – Maintenance dredging will be conducted in the Manchester, Ackerman and Hyattsville Waterways to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. This project is located within Gasparilla Sound – Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Construction schedule: 06/26/2014 – October 2014

The contractor is on-site and maintenance dredging is underway. The barge is currently dredging near the S-curve in the Ackerman/Lewis Creek Waterway. A bathymetric survey will be conducted in the Ackerman Waterway by the end of September 2014.

**Sunshine Lake / Sunrise Waterway 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, recharge wells and a downstream weir will be installed (via separate contracts) in order to maintain active water flow and water levels through the lake. Construction Contract: Prolime Services, Projected Schedule: 01/14/2013 – 01/01/2015

Algae removal is going smoothly however it is taking longer than had originally anticipated. 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 from County Administration and the BCC to proceed.

Charlotte County Engineering is working with Atkins Engineering on a management plan that includes, but is not limited to, reviewing all 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. An interim report of the water quality data collected to date has been completed and is on the website under "hot topics" for review. Based on the information found, additional work has been proposed by Atkins which is also included in the report.

Little Blue Heron nests were found along the project site. These birds are protected under the migratory bird treaty act, therefore 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 nests could be removed.

The Little Blue Herons have left the area; algae removal is underway. The contractor is working diligently to

finish the project.

**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 – 5/12/2015

Pompano Waterway: Roads are open to all traffic. Zep Construction completed all punch list items.

Elkcam Waterway: Zep Construction is preparing the waterway for rip rap foundations and construction of the concrete headwalls.

Fordham Waterway: Huxted Tunneling completed the fourth 84" tunnel and is setting up equipment to bore the last microtunnel beginning Sept. 17, 2014 through Sept. 24, 2014. Zep Construction is also installing the new concrete weir upstream of the northbound Access Road.

## **Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation**

### **Coastal Projects**

**Stump Pass 10 Year Beach and Inlet Management Plan** – 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. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/16/2012 – July 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: November 2015

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 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 application was submitted May 13, 2014 to the permitting agencies. A Request for Additional Information (RAI) was received. County staff, the Consultant and permitting agencies held a teleconference to discuss the RAI. The Consultant submitted draft t-groin plans to DEP in response to the RAI and anticipates resubmitting by the end of September 2014.

### **Projected Permitting Schedule:**

May 2014 through April 2015 – Permit processing with FDEP & USACE

June 2015 – Permit processing with FDEP

July 2015 – Permit Processing with USACE

### **Drainage Projects**

**DeSoto Canal Bank Restoration and Stabilization Phase 2** – Subsequent to clearing the canal banks it was discovered that the slopes had degraded resulting in erosion. Design and reconstruction of the slopes is

necessary to prevent future degradation. Phase 2 includes the continuation of bank restoration to Harbor View Road. Design Contract: Tetra Tech, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/08/2012 – 04/01/2014, Procurement Process: July 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2014

The Construction Contract is advertised for bid. The pre-bid conference is scheduled September 8, 2014 with bid opening scheduled Oct. 1, 2014.

**Little Farm Road Culverts** – The scope of this project is to design, permit and construct culverts to replace the concrete swaled portion near the end of Little Farm Road. The construction plans call for sixteen (16) 6'x3' box culverts to be installed at the slough so traffic can cross without going through the water. This project includes the box culverts, headwalls, approach slabs and guardrail for this portion of the road. Design Contract: Weiler Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 11/09/2012 – 12/01/2013, Procurement Process: 12/10/2013 – 9/9/2014, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

A construction contract was presented to the BCC for award on February 11, 2014, however the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) requested more information before voting on the contract. Discussions were held at the Board Workshop on February 18, 2014; the Board asked staff to investigate alternative solutions.

Little Farm Road was discussed further at a BCC Workshop on May 20, 2014; as a result of the discussions, additional funding resources were explored and identified.

The construction contract was presented to the BCC on July 22, 2014 and Sept. 9, 2014 however the motion did not pass and the contract has not been awarded. More information will be provided as direction is received from the Board of County Commissioners.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Florida Outdoor Writers Association Annual Conference in Crystal River earlier this month (Sept. 10 – 13) to reinforce relationships with outdoor communicators and remind them about the Charlotte County's recreation and tourism offerings. Of particular interest was the upcoming opening of Florida Tracks & Trails and the 2016 opening of the Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens. The conference included an exhibitor showcase, craft improvement and story maker sessions and an awards banquet.

## **Utilities (CCU)**

As a courtesy, should you see a Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) employee flush a fire hydrant, don't be alarmed by what you may see. It is perfectly normal for several moments after the hydrant valve is opened for the water to be dark colored. Why does this happen? It happens because the water picks up bits of pieces of sedimentation from the pipes, or has sat stagnant in the pipes from non-use. Charlotte County is not the only community with a marine estuary who does this type of flushing. Communities in the Hudson Bay, Chesapeake and near Hilton Head, South Carolina also have very active and routine hydrant flushing programs. There is no need to be concerned that water is being wasted. This water is either absorbed back into the land and/or becomes part of the water cycle again. The hydrant flushing is important because we all can agree firefighters must have a highly pressurized flow of water when they need it. Flushing helps rid the pipes of buildup and sedimentation that can inhibit this need. Hydrant flushing helps ensure water is ready and available when needed for everyone.