

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 10/7/14

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Bocca Lupo Howl at the Moon 5K on Friday 9/26. Attendance for the event was at 350.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted two (2) games for the Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League this week. Estimated attendance was as follows: 9/23 – 15 and 9/27 – 40.

Upcoming Events: The Charlotte Sports Park will host the final two (2) games for the Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League on 9/29 and 10/3.

Harold Avenue Recreation

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

Port Charlotte Beach Pool

For the week of September 24 through September 30, 2014 Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 84 paid admissions, was visited by 22 pass holders and had 35 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 9-21-14 through 9-27-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 110 paid admissions, 30 water aerobics participants and was visited by 134 pass holders. We had a high school swim meet with approximately 80 in attendance. The blue Fins held five practices with approximately 350 swimmers. High School swim team and dive team held seven practices with approximately 280 participants.

Oyster Creek Pool

For the week of 9-21-14 through 9-27-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 78 paid admissions, 33 water aerobics participants and was visited by 76 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 4 practices with approximately 100 swimmers. The Lemon Bay High School Swim Team held 4 practices with 40 swimmers at each practice. They had one swim meet with attendance of 100.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for September 29 - "The colorful blanket flower – a cover of color"

Managers Meeting – September 29 - Charlotte Sports Park

District IV All-Faculty Meeting – October 2 – Charlotte County is hosting around 50 Agents

Libraries

The library system did the Sunset Cruise tickets for all new library cards (month of September). Have you heard of this? We have been doing this the past few years. However, here are the numbers...

Branch	Sept 2013 Total	Sept 2014 Total	% of change
Englewood – Charlotte	164	195	19%
Mid-County Regional	335	400	19%
Port Charlotte	86	146	70%
Punta Gorda	146	307	110%
Totals	731	1048	43%

So we gave out 43% more coupons for the cruise over last year! That's huge!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Installation of impact resistant windows is 100% complete at county building located at 512 Grace Street, Punta Gorda.

New LED lighting has been ordered to replace the broken exterior light fixtures at the Englewood Beach restroom building. In addition, new lighting will be added to the steps leading up to the restrooms to improve safety.

Repairs to two sections of left dock at Harbour Heights Park on Voyager Drive are now completed.

Water saving repairs completed at Ann Dever/Oyster Creek Pool to locate a leak under concrete deck by dive well.

Operations

Cement work is finished at the Rebecca Neal Owens Harbour Heights Meal Site which consists of new ramp, sidewalks, and ADA parking spaces. Railings and finish work are still needed to complete this job

Harold Avenue Park baseball parking lot ADA Improvements will get asphalt by end of week then landscape and finish work will be done to complete this project.

Chadwick Park accessibility renovations will start this week at the main entrance when we install ADA compliant curb ramps in the sidewalk. In a later phase, work to be done on the windward side includes new ADA parking spaces and sidewalks.

Justice Center's service area renovations should be complete by end of next week. Cement work, installation of bollards, and cement curbs are finished which leaves the asphalt work to be done along with the landscaping and irrigation.

Project Management

The new Musco sports lighting has been delivered to Carmalita Park. The retrofit of two softball fields and one football field will begin this week. As part of this energy efficiency project, the lighting controls will be upgraded as well.

The Facilities director participated on the first re-organizational meeting of the County's inter-departmental ADA review committee led by Risk Management. The primary purpose of this committee is to review Charlotte County's internal practices regarding ADA compliance.

A design charrette was held with the consultants and county staff on the Fire Training Building Project. The consultants collected program information regarding the county needs and programs for the facility. The consultant will compile basic site plans and provide the county optional program area layouts.

The lift station start-up was performed for the Carmalita Park concession stand. The softball fields restroom walls are restored and awaiting painting. All above ceiling inspections are complete with drywall installation scheduled. The parking lot improvements are near completion with asphalt, striping, curbing and parking blocks installed

The pre bid meeting for the Franz Ross Park parking lot, drainage, and sports fields improvements will be held this Friday.

Bay Heights Park boat ramp plans were submitted to the county for site plans review. The review is underway and a meeting with the panel for final approval is set for 10/16. The consultant replied to the National Fish and Wildlife Service request for additional information. FDOT and Coast Guard are reviewing their respective permits with questions received and answered for FDOT.

Human Services

Congratulations to Human Services employees Althea Connor, Program Specialist III and Jessica Ralston, Family Self-Sufficiency Case Manager who have earned their certifications in financial social work through The Center for Financial Social Work. This certification program equipped Althea and Jessica with the skills to not only help others improve their present financial circumstances, but also help them avoid the cycle of financial despair by changing destructive behaviors as it pertains to spending and saving. Financial literacy is a key component of the Human Services' Family Self-Sufficiency program. For more information on Human Services programs visit the website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/HumanServices.

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

Scheduled paving operations in the Greater Port Charlotte Midway 8 area should be finished this week, weather permitting. Shoulder restoration and sodding operations are ongoing, following the paving program, within a few days of paving completion.

Paving of the Bost Ramp, at the Boca Grande Causeway, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday and Thursday, October 1 and 2, 2014.

To date, approximately 70,927 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge, Greater Port Charlotte, and Punta Gorda Non-Urban MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that has elapsed is approximately 51.18% and the Contractor has completed approximately 62.25% of the work.

Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening – Construction consists of widening Burnt Store Road, between the Lee County Line and a point north of Zemel Road, to a four-lane divided suburban typical section including stormwater management, drainage improvements, street lighting, 6' sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, utility relocations and additions. Construction is projected to be complete in September 2015. Construction Contract: Gibbs & Register, Projected Schedule: 03/10/14 – 09/10/2015

The excavation of all 5 ponds and grading of swales continues.

Work is progressing on the box culverts at the Clark Canal. The box culvert at the Bear Branch Creek is almost complete and backfilling continues on the east side.

Installation of four 54" drainage pipes is underway near the Zemel Road/Burnt Store Road intersection; approximately 52% of the utility pipe and 48% of the drainage pipework has been installed.

Over 30% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side and concrete installation is anticipated to start in October 2014.

The contractor placed second lifts of stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes.

Crews are installing street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project. FPL will be relocating their poles the week of Sept. 15, 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 in the Manchester Waterway. A bathymetric survey will be conducted in the Ackerman Waterway and Hyattsville Canal the week of Oct 7, 2014.

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

The contractor completed the Fruitland / Avenue of the Americas intersection as scheduled; the intersection was opened to traffic for the first day of school. Stop signs are in place for both Fruitland Avenue and Avenue of the Americas approaches to the intersection. Construction equipment is moving north and south on the Winchester Alignment so the crossing traffic must use caution within this intersection. Temporary stop signs have been placed on the north and southbound approaches on Winchester Boulevard to improve the safety for both the motoring public and the construction personnel.

Excavation of the Flood Plain Compensation Ponds north of SR 776 and west of Wilmington Boulevard is complete and sod has been placed.

The contractor is in the process of placing the base material for the new northbound and southbound roadway lanes, from Rifle Road north to Aloha Avenue. The Contractor continues to place fill dirt in the southbound lanes from Rifle Road to CR 775.

The triple barrel box culvert is complete and the single barrel box culvert is approximately 60% complete.

Sub grade for sidewalks is being placed between Aloha Avenue and Fruitland Avenue and concrete is expected to be poured in the next 2 weeks.

Trucks hauling imported material are using SR 776 to San Casa Drive, then to CR 775 (Placida Road) as the haul route to transport the material into the Winchester Boulevard South construction site. As the trucks enter and leave, the CR 775 right-hand northbound lane will be closed from north of the Buck Creek Bridge to the Winchester Boulevard intersection. This allows trucks to exit the project onto CR 775 and accelerate to the posted speed limit while not impacting northbound traffic on CR 775.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks – Harbour Heights - This project consists of constructing approximately 2.75 miles of 5' wide sidewalks within the Harbour Heights MSBU District. Sidewalks are proposed along the following six (6) roadways: Sunnybrook Road (from triangle at Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Peace River Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. to San Marino Dr.), San Marino Drive (from Broadpoint Dr. to Peace River Dr.), Broadpoint Drive (from Voyageur Dr. to Washington St.), Sulstone Drive (from Sunnybrook Rd. south to end), Voyageur Drive (from Broadpoint Dr. to end). Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting: 6/27/14 – Late 2014, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

The survey work for the project area is complete. County staff met with Charlotte Engineering & Surveying to discuss design options. 30% design plans have been received and are being reviewed by staff.

Sidewalks - Parade Circle Sidewalk Connections - The Rotonda West MSBU requested that sidewalks be installed along the feeder roads leading to Parade Circle. This design will be for approximately 950 feet of 6' sidewalk along Oakland Hills Road, Pebble Beach Road, Pinehurst Road, Broadmoor Road, Long Meadow Road and White Marsh Road. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting: through Spring 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

The survey of the project area is complete. 30% plans are expected in early October 2014.

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, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 08/18/2011 – 06/11/2013, Procurement Process: through 10/14/2014, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2014

This project is advertised for bid. A pre-bid conference will be held on Oct. 13, 2014 and bids are due by 2:00

p.m. on Nov. 5, 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

The MSBU Committee met on Sept. 11, 2014, and requested that the sidewalks be designed at a width of 10 feet. Johnson Engineering has been advised and will revise the plans accordingly. 90% plans are expected in November 2014.

Coastal Projects

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: 4/22/2014 – Early 2016, Procurement: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

The consultant completed the bathymetry and sea grass survey. The preliminary drawings were provided the week of July 14, 2014.

A pre-application meeting was held Tuesday, Aug 12, 2014 to expedite the permit review process. The consultant met with the Pirate Harbor Waterway Committee on Sept. 25, 2014 and discussed possible mitigation and public interest strategies. The committee agreed on the direction the Coastal Engineering Consultants should pursue. Additional field work is being scheduled and, when complete, the committee will approve final cost estimates and public interest strategies for the permit application.

Maintenance & Operations

There were 70 new work requests for service during this time period. Most of the calls were for drainage work. 152' of small concrete pipe (under 30") was installed to replace metal rod crossing pipes within Midway area 9 in Greater Port Charlotte ahead of the 2015 paving program.

88' of small concrete pipe (under 30") & 2 catch basin bottoms were installed to replace metal road crossing pipes within Midway area 7 in Greater Port Charlotte ahead of 2015 paving.

24' of small concrete pipe (under 30") was replaced in a side lot outfall in South Gulf Cove.

72' of 24"x38" concrete pipe was installed to replace a road crossing pipe under Elkcam Blvd between US 41 & the North Access Road.

2,000 SF of line & grade was corrected in South Gulf Cove.

7,100 SF of line & grade was corrected in Greater Port Charlotte.

13,800 SF of swale was re-graded for sod due to heavy rain fall in Greater Port Charlotte.

5,060 lbs of debris was removed from road right-of-ways in Greater Port Charlotte.

53,500 SF of primary ditch swale was maintained in the South County Stormwater unit.

6,400 CY of brush was cut back in the right-of-way in Gulf Cove.

8,980 CY of brush was cut back in the right-of-way in Peace River Shores.

Other Projects

Harbour Heights Median Improvements - This project consists of installing curbing, irrigation and landscaping within the existing medians on Sunnybrook Road and Broadpoint Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting: 6/27/14 – Late 2014, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD. The design team is surveying the area. 30% design plans have been received and are being reviewed by staff.

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: Weiler Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: July 2014 – Early 2015, Construction: N/A (Design Only).

Weiler Engineering met with the MSBU Committee on Sept. 10, 2014 and reviewed the preliminary 30% design plans. The MSBU Committee agreed that 5 feet wide sidewalks were a better option with the limited right of way. 30% design plans are expected by mid-October 2014.

Traffic Signing & Marking

Herbicide = 5,403 objects

Marine Signs Replaced = 78

Raised Pavement Markers Installed = 518

Signs Inspected = 10,440

Signs Manufactured = 140

Sign Maintenance = 1,322

Speed Studies = 11

Traffic Counts = 43 stations

Trouble Calls (after hours) = 6

Installed 39 pilings for the Myakka Channel from North West Port Charlotte waterways

Recovered 2 buoys from Stump Pass that washed ashore on Palm Island

Recovered 2 docks that were pushed away from someone's property; towed and delivered them to the landfill.

Removed graffiti from a Rotonda West decorative monument as well as covered and removed graffiti from 26 other locations in Rotonda West.

Tourism

The 2014 Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism was held in Boca Raton last month (Sept. 22 – 24). Great news just keeps pouring in on Florida tourism numbers in that the goal of 100 million visitors to Florida, set by Gov. Scott, is very close to reality. That goal, coupled with incredible growth, has the state government estimating there will be over 120 million visitors to the state by 2020. That growth will require over 300,000+ new employees in the hospitality and tourism sector.

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff, in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, attended the Hospitality Innovations Trade Show in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. last month (September 19). In attendance were 19 Helms Briscoe meeting planner associates along with over 45 of their client organizations. Our Charlotte County representatives interacted one-on-one with more than two dozen of these planners and discussed what our destination has to offer the meetings market as well as upcoming meetings that may be a good fit for Southwest Florida.

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau partnered with Charlotte BMX to submit a bid to host a USA BMX National event in 2015. The Bureau was recently informed they were awarded the event which is scheduled for February 13-15, 2015, and is projected to bring in excess of 800 riders along with over 2,500 family members to our destination. The VCB will continue to work with Charlotte BMX through the event to ensure that all of the host city responsibilities including logistics, financial guarantees, accommodations, volunteers, etc. are fulfilled.