

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Services

Administration

Charlotte County Community Services has released "The Guide," your source to Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active in Charlotte County! The Guide is distributed to all Charlotte County elementary school children, as well as the offices of the middle and high schools. A "must read" for everyone in Charlotte County, The Guide's 61 pages are filled with information about parks, libraries, pools, recreation center, programs and activities with maps to help you get there. You can pick up your copy of The Guide at any library, recreation center, pool, Charlotte County Murdock Administration building, or the Chambers of Commerce.

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit will be utilizing the Charlotte Sports Park to conduct K-9 Unit training on 10/28.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Charlotte County Community Services along with Harold Avenue Recreation Center staff hosted the Human Trafficking Awareness Open Forum on Sunday. This free informative session was held to create an awareness of the dangers of modern day slavery. Representatives from four different organizations provided an opportunity to present pertinent information as well as speak to the participants individually. More than 30 participants learned from both professionals and a local victim signifying that this is indeed a concern in our community.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool

For the week of 10-15 through 10-21-14, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 81 paid admissions, was visited by 41 pass holders and had 14 water aerobics participants.

This past weekend we had a large wedding of 125+, here a PCB, utilizing the outside Deck for the wedding and Pictures and both rooms A & B for the reception and dancing.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 10-12-14 through 10-18-14 South County Regional Park Pool had 94 paid admissions, 15 water aerobics participants and was visited by 145 pass holders. The ROTC held a pool party with approximately 30 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 10-12-14 through 10-18-14 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 87 paid admissions, 111 water aerobics participants and was visited by 92 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.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for October 20- "White, green, purple and lavender – heirloom eggplants offer color and food"

Limited Commercial Training – October 21

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The boat ramp at Ainger Creek Park on Placida Road had repairs done recently to correct vandalized parking meter damage.

Approximately 100 feet of bad handrail top board was replaced along east pier at Bayshore Live Oak Park.

Electrical work was done recently at North Charlotte Regional Park on the parking lot lights timer and additional outlets were installed near the back stop.

Operations

The landscape contract is now in full swing. An assigned priority list was given to remedy some overgrown areas. When priority work is complete, work will begin on the remaining regular scheduled areas. This will finish the first round of trimming and weed control of the plant beds throughout the County's identified properties within the contract. Mulching of the properties will begin in January which will bring these properties back up to a well maintained level.

Justice Center's service area project is complete and has been finalized.

Project Management

Franz Ross Park project for sports field, drainage, parking, and lighting has been advertised for construction bids.

Charlotte County received the buoy permit from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Bay Heights Boat Ramp project. Permits are under review by: US Coast Guard for pile permit; FL Department of Transportation for Driveway and Drainage; Army Corps of Engineers is processing their letter of concurrence; and county storm water permit. The preliminary site plans review was completed on Oct 16th with the consultants compiling responses for final review submission. Once the permits are completed the permit plans with all accompanied external permits will be submitted to Building Construction Services department for construction permit.

Human Services

Veteran Services staff worked with the VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Department and the VA Regional Office in Kentucky to reschedule a veteran's C & P exam to Ohio so that he didn't have to wait until January or fly to Florida for his appointment.

The Human Services Department has recently revised it automated phone tree numbers listing. Now when calling the main number, an individual will have the first option of selecting 211 for information on health and human services and speak to a live operator.

Public Works

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

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, Construction Schedule: 03/10/14 – 09/10/2015

- The excavation of 4 ponds and grading and sodding of swales continues. 1 pond has been completed and sod has been installed.
- 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 complete near the Zemel Road/Burnt Store Road intersection; approximately 68% of the utility pipe and 63% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 40% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side and concrete installation of sidewalk is 20% complete.
- The contractor placed and finished 10% of stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and 5% on the southbound travel lanes.
- Crews are installing street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project. FPL is relocating the poles on the east side of the project and has approximately 40% of the poles set and ready to receive the new electrical wire.

PSA issued 10/22/2014 - There will be intermittent lane closures on Burnt Store Road, from Zemel Road south to Vincent Street, in both directions beginning October 24, 2014 through late November 2014. Drainage and utility installation work will be conducted in conjunction with the Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening project. Flaggers and traffic control devices will be in place to direct traffic thru the construction zone. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

PSA issued 10/22/2014 - A portion of Saragossa Lane, between Burnt Store Road and Trading Post Road, will be closed to traffic Tuesday October 28, 2014 through Friday October 31, 2014. Drainage and Utility installation work will be conducted in conjunction with the Burnt Store Road (Phase III) Widening project. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. The Public Works Department would like to remind motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

CR 771 (Gasparilla Rd) Widening Project — Construction is underway on the CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening Project. This project includes widening Gasparilla Road, from SR 776 to just south of Rotonda Boulevard East, to a four-lane divided roadway with intersection improvements at SR 776 and utility improvements between Rotonda Boulevard East and Cattle Dock Point Road at SR 776. Construction began just south of Rotonda Boulevard East and is moving north towards SR 776.

Currently underground utilities, including water, sewer and water reuse lines, are being installed on the south end of the project near South Gulf Cove. Clearing and grubbing is being conducted within the rights-of-ways near the intersection of CR 771 and SR 776. Construction of a new Bridge is scheduled to begin in February 2015 with roadway widening beginning upon Bridge completion. This project is scheduled to be completed by September 2016; the project is on schedule and approximately 10% complete.



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 has finished all maintenance dredging under this contract and is in the process of removing all spoil material from the area. Restoration of the spoil site will be conducted after all the spoil is hauled out.

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 and the single barrel box culverts are both complete.
- Sub grade for sidewalks is being placed between Aloha Avenue and Fruitland Avenue and concrete is expected to be poured by the first week of November 2014.
- 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

Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk, Phase One – 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. Design Contract: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/17/2009 – 03/18/2011, Procurement Process: August 2014, Projected Start of Construction: November 2014.

The County is utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) Funds to construct this project. The FDOT LAP Agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 24, 2014 and returned to FDOT for execution.

Staff submitted the required documents to FDOT to proceed with the construction contract; the County is anticipating comments/approval from FDOT; more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Staff will be utilizing CEI (construction, engineering and inspection) services for this project to ensure compliance with federal rules and requirements. On October 7, 2014 the County tabulated submittals for the CEI contract and CDM Smith was selected to perform CEI. The CEI contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on October 28, 2014. Negotiations for project scope and fees will begin once the contract is awarded.

Edgewater Drive Widening Phase Two – This project will widen Edgewater Drive, between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard, to a four-lane arterial roadway designed to better serve the central portion of the County and accommodate anticipated traffic growth. The project will include replacing three bridges (West Spring Lake Waterway, East Spring Lake Waterway, and Sunrise Waterway) and improve five intersections, four of which will be roundabouts. Improvements include a raised median, curb and gutter, sidewalks/bike lanes, and landscaping. Design Contract: Southwest Engineering and Design, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/14/2009 – 6/3/2014, Procurement Process: June – October 28, 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015.

Bids were received, opened and tallied for the construction contract, with Owen-Ames-Kimball being the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Oct. 28, 2014 for approval. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled on Oct. 29, 2014.

Parkside - Harbor Boulevard Improvements (U.S. 41 to Olean Boulevard) Phase 2 – 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

Research findings regarding the possibility of running FPL power lines underground along Harbor Boulevard as part of the Harbor Boulevard Enhancement project will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on November 12, 2014. Notification was received from Southwest Florida Water Management District on October 7, 2014 that the permit exemption was approved. Charlotte County staff is currently reviewing the 60% design plans and is preparing comments.

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

Charlotte County Utilities will be adding a reclaimed water line to the project. Conducting utility work in conjunction with the construction of the new multi-use path and safety improvements will minimize disruption to residents and businesses within the project limits.

The Board of County Commissioners approved a change order to incorporate the addition of the reclaimed water line on September 23, 2014. The timeline for this project was extended by 9 months to accommodate these changes. The 90% design plans are in production now and are due to the County for review pending completion of the newly authorized utility plans.

Placida Road Safety Improvements Phase 2 (Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway) – This project provides for a continuous walkway along Placida Road from SR 776 to the Boca Grande Causeway. This multi-use path will run along the northwest side of Placida Road and will be 10' wide to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: through February 2015, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015.

Charlotte County Utilities will be adding a reclaimed water line to the project. Conducting utility work in conjunction with the construction of the new multi-use path and safety improvements will minimize disruption to residents and businesses within the project limits.

The Board of County Commissioners approved a change order to incorporate the addition of the reclaimed water line on September 23, 2014. The timeline for this project was extended by 9 months to accommodate these changes. The 90% design plans are in production now and are due to the County for review pending completion of the newly authorized utility plans.

Sidewalks - Sheehan Boulevard – This sidewalk will be installed on Sheehan Boulevard from Noble Terrace to Peachland Boulevard and includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Alton Road. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 03/02/2011 – 05/10/2013, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

This project was expected to be advertised for bid in early February 2014 however outstanding utility issues have delayed advertisement. CCU is waiting for an FDEP permit for their portion of the project and they are working on technical specifications and bid items. More information will be provided upon receipt of additional information from CCU.

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 September 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.

South Gulf Cove Bridge Repairs – This project consists of Bridge repairs needed in South Gulf Cove based on the 2013 Florida Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Report. The St. Paul Drive Bridge over the Zephyr Waterway has one (1) pile with delamination at each of the four corners with evidence of corrosion bleed-out on the northwest corner that needs to be repaired. The Ingraham Boulevard Bridge over the President's Waterway has two (2) piles that have experienced section loss within the wet/dry zone due to the corrosivity of the blackish water and are in need of repair. Design Contract: American Consulting Professionals, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2014 – 12/31/2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: May 2015. The 90% design plans are expected in late October 2014. **Coastal Projects**

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 2014 – Fall 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

The Consultant completed the bathymetric survey. Data reduction and design plans were received by County staff in late September 2014.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: August 2014 - Data Reduction and Design Plans
September 2014 - Permit Application Preparation and Submittal
October 2014 through Summer 2015 - Permit Processing

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 October 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

Maintenance & Operations

October 8-14, 2014

There were 51 new work requests for service during this time period. The calls were for drainage work, brush trimming, edge of pavement repair, and potholes.

- Drainage line & grade: 11,425 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
2,350 SF in Deep Creek, and 15,030 SF re-graded in Deep Creek
6,586 SF in Rotonda Lakes
- Small pipe install: 464 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
43 LF in Burnt Store Lakes
- Menzi ditch cleaning: 7,000 SF in South County stormwater ditches on Taylor Rd.
- Menzi ditch cutting: 60,000 SF in Mid County stormwater ditches.
- Side lot outfalls: Cleanout 521 SY in Greater Port Charlotte on Torrington St.
- Grapple Truck: Removed 6,040 lbs. of debris in Greater Port Charlotte
- Boom Mower: Cut 27,127 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Cut 11,200 CY in South Punta Gorda Heights
Cut 7,040 CY in the Punta Gorda Non-Urban District
- Asphalt Crew: Installed 4 tons of asphalt in Greater Port Charlotte repairing pot holes.

Tourism

In preparation for the upcoming visitor season, Fishermen's Village, the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau sponsored a guest services training seminar in partnership with the monthly Charlotte County Hospitality Association meeting last week (Oct. 22). More than 60 members of Charlotte County's tourism industry attended the event led by customer service expert Anne Schroeder. The program discussed how attendees can discover their host and hostess skills and learn secrets of body language.