

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Jim Evetts, Building Official was elected Vice Chairman of the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board. He will serve as Vice Chairman for the upcoming year and transition to Chairman at the end of 2015.

The Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board is a group of representatives from all aspects of the construction industry who have been appointed by the Governor to regulate state certified contractors in Florida. This includes determining the scope of a license, approving new contractors, approving educational classes and hearing disciplinary cases. Jim has served on this board for over 7 years now and is one of only two Building Officials serving on the board.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting in the stadium hospitality suites on Wednesday, December 3, at 1:00 PM.

Harold Avenue

Despite the holiday celebration Pickleball continues to show an increase in participation. Last week there was a 50% increase in participation from twelve participants to twenty-four. Participation in the center's other regularly scheduled programs continue to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool and Recreation

Port Charlotte Beach Pool has been closed since 11-10-14 for necessary renovations and repairs. The work is complete and we are now waiting for inspections to be conducted. The pool is anticipated to be open within two weeks.

Over the Holiday weekend we hosted a wedding for 80 guests. Tis the season coming upon us and our next weekend will be celebrating a baby shower on Saturday for 40 guests and Sunday there will be a Christmas party for about 150 guests. We expect to see Santa coming to Port Charlotte Beach Recreation on Saturday, Dec. 13 to visit out Candy Land during two events.

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool

For the week of 11-23 to 11-29, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 98 paid admissions, 25 water aerobics participants and was visited by 81 pass holders. The Bluefins held 4 practices with approx. 100 swimmers.

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Regional Pool is closed through Jan. 15, 2015. However, we did start opening the Port Charlotte Beach High School pool on the weekend days that the school board has offered us in order to accommodate some of our patrons. From 11-23-14 through 11-29-14 the high school pool was open twice and we had a total of 5 pass holders take advantage so far.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for December 1 - "Grow a beautiful palm and make jelly too!"

Managers Meeting (SWOT) – Charlotte Sports Park – December 1

Charlotte Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting – Extension Office – December 1

MG Christmas Luncheon Program – Beach Complex – December 3

Southwest Florida Research and Education Center Open House – Immokalee – Man a Booth – December 5

Master Gardener Plant Sale – Extension Office.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The additional storage project at fleet warehouse location is nearing completion.

Repairs and renovations at Fire Station #10 are underway now. Completion target is the end of December.

Operations

Facilities representatives met with the C.A.R.E. Inc. center director to review the facility expansion needs. The intent is to better understand operational, storage, and programming factors that play into the final project scope. A thorough examination of the building took place to understand appropriate expansion and remodeling options.

South County Annex parking lot was sealed and striped this past weekend.

Project Management

The bid documents for the Franz Ross parking and drainage are being modified to delete the football field rehabilitation as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.

For the EL Jobean fishing pier project we are preparing the engineer's scope including details from the Request for Letter of Intent. This scope should reduce the design time and design cost.

A response is needed from the National Marine Fisheries Service on impacts to the small tooth sawfish before we can proceed on the Port Charlotte Beach floating dock permit process.

The contractor is applying for the building permit for the Harbour Heights parking, drainage and sports court improvements project.

Human Services

After receiving numerous calls from the community for Thanksgiving turkeys, 211 Charlotte contacted the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition to consider a partnership. 211 then used the county employee message board to see if anyone would like to donate turkeys for Thanksgiving. The Homeless Coalition collected the turkeys from county employees and accepted referrals from 211. 25 turkeys were donated and given to needy families and seniors.

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, Construction Schedule: 02/03/14 – Late 2014

The contractor completed paving operations in the Road and Bridge District; restoration continues in the Greater Port Charlotte and Road and Bridge Districts. The milling operation has concluded in the Gulf Cove District with paving starting this week. A Change Order is being processed to repair the road on Lorenzo Avenue caused by a resident pouring gasoline on the road.

To date, approximately 95,996 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 64.95% and the Contractor has completed approximately 82.72% 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, Construction Schedule: 03/10/14 – 09/10/2015

- The excavation of 2 ponds and grading and sodding of swales continues.
- Work is progressing on the box culverts at the Clark Canal. Work is on hold for the box culvert at the Bear Branch Creek until a traffic change takes place in January 2015. Once traffic shifts, the west side of the box culvert will be completed.
- Installation of four 54" drainage pipes is complete near the Zemel Road/Burnt Store Road intersection; approximately 69% of the utility pipe and 67% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 40% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 20% complete on the northbound and southbound sides.
- The contractor completed 20% of the stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and 7% 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 approx. 65% of the poles set and ready to receive new electrical wire.

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. Construction Contract: Lovin Construction, Construction Schedule: 9/15/2014 – 12/31/2014

Construction is underway; the box culverts are complete and have been backfilled. The fabriform has been installed and now the rip rap is almost complete. The barrier walls will be finished this week. The project remains on schedule with 70% complete.

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: September 2014, Projected Start of Construction: December 2014.

Staff submitted the required documents to FDOT to proceed with the construction contract; notice was received from FDOT that all documents have been submitted and we anticipate Notice to Proceed from FDOT.

Staff will be utilizing Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services for this project to ensure compliance with federal rules and requirements. The Board of County Commissioners approved the CEI contract with CDM Smith on Nov. 12, 2014. The Purchasing Department scheduled the first negotiation meeting for Dec. 9, 2014 to discuss the scope and fees for the project.

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

County staff reviewed the 60% design plans and anticipate the receipt of 90% plans in late December 2014.

Landscaping Projects (Month of November 2014)

- Landscape plant replacements were installed at the Manasota Key streetscape project.

- Flower/color bed rotation (replacement) was performed at the Manasota Key traffic circle.
- Routine landscape maintenance was performed throughout South Gulf Cove: at Manasota Key, Grove City Park, US 17 medians in Cleveland, Charlotte Harbor Gateway and Melbourne Street Bridge approaches, and US 41 Revitalization Phase I.
- Annual mulch top dressing began in South Gulf Cove and at Manasota Key.

Mosquito & Aquatic Vegetation Control (November 2014 totals)

Mosquito Control

Number of acres treated:	Adulticide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), 5,218 (Ground) Larvicide Treatment/ 960 (Aerial), 16 (Ground)
Landing rate counts:	89
Trap counts:	174
Citizen requests:	9
Tire collection/source reduction:	4.38 tons of tires collected

Aquatic Vegetation Control

Number of sites treated:	46
Wetland mitigation sites maintained:	6 sites treated
Number of sites inspected:	62

Traffic Signing & Marking (November 2014 totals)

Herbicide:	1,213 objects
Marine Signs Replaced:	0
New Signs Installed:	5
Road Legends Installed:	183
Road Scraping:	12,112 feet (2.29 miles)
Signs Inspected:	4,792
Signs Manufactured:	232
Sign Maintenance:	894
Speed Studies:	2
Striping:	68,891 feet (13 miles)
Traffic Counts:	50 stations
Trouble Calls (after hours)	4
Raised Pavement Markers Installed:	1,061
Video Turn Movement Counts:	1

Tourism

Social media is an essential part of tourism marketing. Last month (Nov. 19 – 21) Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff attended the Social Media Tourism Symposium in Nashville, Tenn., to learn how to leverage social media within the tourism industry. The event was attended by other social media and marketing professionals primarily from North America and some from Europe. The conference explored how technology affects consumers through lectures on best practices, case studies, and tools available for tourism destinations to successfully leverage social media.

The VISIT FLORIDA Annual Marketing Retreat was held in Broward County last week (Dec. 1 – 3) where representatives from various destinations, attractions, hotels and restaurants, including staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, gathered with VISIT FLORIDA staff to learn about the state of the tourism industry as well as brainstorm and provide feedback for the upcoming year’s marketing strategy. Sessions and working groups focused on reaching the State’s goal and forecast of welcoming 127 million visitors by 2020 and the importance of the Travel Effect, the U.S. Travel Association’s research-driven initiative

to prove the personal, business, social and economic benefits that taking earned time off can deliver. In 2013, Americans failed to use an average of 3.2 days of earned time off per worker. Additional information including research on the impact of not taking vacation time and why workers don't use their vacation time can be found at <http://traveleffect.com/>

Utilities (CCU)

Operations staff within Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) continues to be conscious of saving money and ensuring quality. Recently staff within the West Port Reclamation Facility (WRF) needed a new auger for the influent rotary drum screen. Staff priced a direct replacement from the manufacturer for the unit, then contracted a local fabrication shop to install a stainless steel replacement. The installed unit will produce a cost savings of approximately \$9,000 in comparison to the manufacturer's replacement price. Not only did staff save money, they found a superior product and used a local business, too.

CCU operations employees are not only cost saving, quality seekers, but they are award winning, too. At the American Water Works Association Convention held in Orlando this week, two of our CCU stars earned recognition by competing in the "Back Hoe Rodeo." The Rodeo is designed to test agility, speed and accuracy of maneuvering such heavy equipment. There were three events.

- 1) A bottle of water was taped to the bucket and they had to pour the water into a flower vase.
- 2) Six cones were set up. Three cones had a tennis ball on top and the other three cones had a probing rod in them. The task was to pick up each probing rod and knock off the tennis ball on the other cone with the rod, then place the probing rod back into the original cone.
- 3) A spoon was taped to a bucket and this task involved picking up a golf ball with the spoon, then with the spoon drop the golf ball in a cup.

Josh Rizzuto finished in 2nd place, and Bo Reynoso finished in 3rd place. Congratulations!