

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda staff participated in a technical update meeting hosted by FEMA regarding the ongoing coastal flood zone remapping study for Southwest Florida. This study began in 2013 and will take approximately four to five years to complete and is utilizing advanced technology, mapping and data modeling data to accurately map the impact of coastal flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane.

This is the first time such a meeting has been held by FEMA during this project and is a direct result of Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda's unique approach to be proactive in advocating for our citizens. The County and the City have jointly hired a team of experts to assist them with the highly technical and specialized data produced by FEMA as part of this project, add to this data where they can and highlight potential issues as they arise rather than waiting for the official release of the maps. More information about this project can be found on the County's website at

<http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/dept/commdev/Documents/CharlotteCoRiskMAP.pdf>

In the past week, Charlotte County Licensing Investigators have worked collaboratively with homeowners to obtain restitution totaling over \$10,000 for two homeowners in Charlotte County. In both cases, the licensed contractors had taken deposits from the homeowners and in the first case, the contractor completed the work without obtaining the permit and then was unable to obtain the permit and in the second case, had failed to commence work within 30 days of receiving a deposit of more than 10% of the value of the work to be done. Although unlicensed contracting continues to be the main challenge faced by Charlotte County, we do have some licensed contractor who fail to follow their obligations. To File a complaint against a contractor or report unlicensed activity, please visit our web site at www.charlottecountyfl.gov or contact 941.743.1201

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park will host three (3) games of the Snowbird Classic. These games will be played on Friday, February 13, at 12:00 PM (Pittsburgh vs St. Louis), 3:00 PM (Kansas State vs. Iowa), and 6:00 PM (George Mason vs. Ohio State).

Harold Avenue

Shoot two, shoot two, come on team let's shoot two. Week 9 of the Winter Youth Basketball League was completed on Sunday. In this league the competition is fierce. As we enter into the final week of the regular season only one team remains undefeated. Playoffs and the Championship games will be held Feb. 14-15 and Feb. 21. The league games are held every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. bringing in over 900 spectators to the building each weekend. Pickleball and Table Tennis participation is strong and the Charlotte County Ichiban Bonsai Kai Club held an open house on Saturday with numerous visits from all ages learning about the art of Bonsai.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This Past weekend at Port Charlotte Beach we had a Charlotte Swim Team meeting for parents and swimmers with attendance of 50 parents.

The Charlotte County Promenades continues to be a success with 75 in attendance this past week.

This coming weekend we will have the Charlotte Harbor Regatta and this will be a park wide event. Inside Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center will be a cocktail and appetizer event on Friday and a Dinner on Saturday.

For the week of 1-28 through 2-3-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 126 paid admissions, was visited 48 pass holders and had 62 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 1-25-15 through 1-31-15 South County Regional Park Pool had 36 paid admissions and was visited by 120 pass holders. There were no water aerobics participants this week due to the cold weather. The Charlotte County Fire Department held training and water tests with approximately 4 in attendance. The blue Fins held nine practices with approximately 450 swimmers.

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 1-25-15 through 1-31-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 78 paid admissions, 76 water aerobics participants and was visited by 101 pass holders. The Bluefin's held 5 practices with approximately 125 swimmers.

Extension Service

Newspaper Article for February 2 – "Please don't worry about Spanish moss, ball moss or lichens"

1st Quarter Business Meeting -Community Services – February 2 – Midtown Library

Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – February 3

Landscape Gardening Series – February 6 – "Butterflies & Hummingbirds" – Roger L. Hammer

County Fair – All Week

2015 LCLM - Weed IPM & ID Training - Collier County Extension – 10 am – February 7

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Various rehabilitation projects at Charlotte County Sports Park are still in progress, including work at Building B in the umpire officials locker room. In this area we are making modifications to the lockers, carpet and a new access door.

Remodeling work at Englewood location for Fire Station 10 is nearing completion.

The crushed shell application to unpaved parking areas at Murdock is complete. Reinstallation of the concrete parking bumpers will begin next week.

Operations

Ramps at Punta Gorda Library and South County Annex received their final inspections and are back open to the public.

Continued ramp work is being done at the Historical Courthouse with form inspections to be completed this week. The next phase of this project will be pouring of the sidewalk cement.

A change order to revise and reconstruct the parking space at El Jobean Park has been submitted and will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration this month.

Project Management

The consultant negotiations for the Airport Road Annex master plan are complete with Purchasing processing the design contract. A program meeting with the consultants will be scheduled to collect basic site requirements in preparation for a design charrette.

The Spring Lake Parking and Storm Water design proposals were reviewed and ranked with recommended firm submitted to Purchasing Department. Once the firm is notified, a scope meeting will be held starting the negotiation phase.

Parking lot construction at Anger Park is continuing.

The survey and layout work for the Harbor Heights Drainage, Parking and Sports Courts Improvement project has been completed

Most of the submittals for the Port Charlotte Beach pier and boardwalk rehabilitation project have been approved .

The Harbour Heights Boat Ramp design scope of work has been sent to the consultant.

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: 02/03/2014 – Early 2015

The FY14 Paving Program is complete. The Contractor is still working to finish the punchlist items in each District. To date, approximately 96,552 tons of asphalt has been placed in the Road and Bridge, Greater Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda Non-Urban, and Gulf Cove MSBU Districts. The amount of contract time that elapsed is approximately 72.47% and the Contractor has completed 100% of the work.

CR 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: 07/07/2014 – 09/04/2016.

Woodruff and Sons continues with utility installations along the east side of the project north and south of the Butterford Waterway. Additional crews are on-site completing utility tie-ins crossing Gasparilla Rd. There will be traffic diversions, temporary lane closures and possible detours. This work should be complete by mid-February 2015.

Crews are paving the temporary roadway along the west side of the project from the Butterford Waterway to Rotonda Blvd. East. Zep Construction will mobilize equipment the week of Feb. 9, 2015 to start construction of the new bridge at the Butterford Waterway. Bridge construction will begin the week of Feb. 16, 2015.

PSA issued 1/12/2015: The Gasparilla Road (CR 771) Widening Project is underway, from McCall Road (SR 776) to just south of Rotonda Boulevard East, to construct a four-lane divided roadway with intersection improvements at SR 776 and utility improvements between Rotonda Boulevard East and Cattle Dock Point Road. Travelers should allow extra time to move through this area as periodic lane closures, lane shifts and traffic diversions are expected to increase as the project progresses over the next few months. The Public Works Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling through construction zones.

Newgate Waterway Spoil Removal - The Newgate Waterway has several large silt deposits and overgrown vegetation within the limits of the water line. This accumulated material is causing an adverse impact on the stormwater conveyance system and needs to be removed. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the waterway approximately 3,400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard. Construction Contract: Gator Dredging, Construction Schedule: 12/22/2014 – 04/21/2015.

Dredging is underway and about 30% complete.

Oyster Creek Flow Enhancement - This project provides for the removal of exotic vegetation including, but not limited to, Brazilian Pepper, Primrose Willow, Cattails, dead vegetation and trash from approximately 19 acres of land within the flow ways of Oyster Creek, Gondolier Waterway and Early Waterway. This project is funded by the West Charlotte Stormwater District. Construction Contract: EarthBalance Corporation of North

Port, FL, Construction Schedule: Early 2015 – Summer 2015.

Work began Jan. 15, 2015 and the project is complete. The final walk through will be held the week of Feb. 8, 2015.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevard West - The Rotonda West MSBU Committee requested a sidewalk and bike path along the Boulevards. This project will design and construct approximately 1.4 miles of sidewalk and bike path along Rotonda Boulevard West from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle. Construction Contract: General Contracting Services, Construction Schedule: 01/05/2015 – 07/31/2015.

Construction began at Rotonda Circle and is moving east. Approximately 750 linear feet of sidewalk has been poured. Construction will continue east to Parade Circle before the contractor moves back to complete the bridge between Rotonda Circle and Boundary Blvd.

U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcarn, 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 Elkcarn 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, Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – 5/12/2015

- Elkcarn Waterway: Zep Construction is placing riprap on the downstream side and preparing to place fabric form along the banks. Zep completed the concrete sheet installation on the new weir upstream of US 41 and will start the riprap in this location.
- Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction completed the east side headwall and is excavating the upstream side in preparation for the new riprap. Work has begun on the west side headwall excavation.

PSA issued Jan. 28, 2015: *The US 41 Northbound Access Road that was closed at the Fordham Waterway (between Conway Boulevard and Easy Street) will open to traffic on Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Zep Construction completed the installation of a new water control structure and the final two 84" microtunnels under US 41. This project was conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Stormwater Structures - Microtunneling Project to increase stormwater flow capacities at several locations in Port Charlotte, FL; drainage improvements will follow at the Pompano Waterway - under Elmira Boulevard - between Brooklyn Avenue and Depew Avenue.*

PSA issued Jan. 28, 2015: *Elmira Boulevard will close to traffic at the Pompano Waterway, between Brooklyn Avenue and Depew Avenue, on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 and will remain closed through May 22, 2015. Detour signs will be in place to direct traffic around the construction site. This project is being conducted in conjunction with the US 41 Microtunnels / Weirs Project designed to increase stormwater flow capacities in Port Charlotte.*

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, Construction Schedule: 11/25/2013 – Summer 2015

- Florida Department of Transportation approved the final plans for the SR 776 intersection, right turn lane and signalization improvements.
- The Contractor is in the process of placing base material for the new northbound and southbound roadway lanes from CR 775 north to Fruitland Blvd.
- All of the fill dirt has been completed from CR 775 to SR 776.
- Sidewalk subgrade is being placed and concrete is being poured; 65% of the sidewalk is complete.
- Median curb has been poured and is 75% complete. They are preparing the median separators for pouring of concrete.
- Storm drainage and utility installations are 99% complete.
- 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.

PSA released 2/3/2015 - The eastbound outside lane of SR 776 (South McCall Road,) from Oriole Boulevard to Wilmington Boulevard, will be closed during business hours from Monday, Feb. 9 through Friday, Feb. 13, 2015. This lane closure is necessary due to construction activities in conjunction with the Winchester Boulevard South extension project. Upon completion, Winchester Boulevard will be a direct four lane connector from Placida Road to I-75 via River Road in Sarasota County. Construction is projected to be complete in late summer of 2015.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements must be made before widening this section of the corridor. This project includes increasing the drainage capacity under US 41 at three locations in addition to the widening of Midway Boulevard from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway. This project was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Sales Tax Referendum. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/08/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

All contract documents are complete and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department the week of Feb. 9, 2015. Once all bid documents have been reviewed, this project will be advertised for bid.

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 Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015

Charlotte County Utilities will be adding a reclaimed water line to this project, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 23, 2014. Conducting utility work in conjunction with construction of the multi-use path and safety improvements will minimize disruption to residents and businesses within the project limits.

Utility design should be complete in late spring of 2015. Construction plans are on hold at 80% pending receipt of utility plans. Survey for utility work is currently underway and about 30% complete.

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 Summer 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2015.

Charlotte County Utilities will be adding a reclaimed water line to this project, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 23, 2014. Conducting utility work in conjunction with construction of the multi-use path and safety improvements will minimize disruption to residents and businesses within the project limits.

Utility design should be complete in late spring of 2015. Construction plans are on hold at 80% pending receipt of utility plans. Survey for utility work is currently underway and about 50% complete.

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

Johnson Engineering submitted the 60% design plans which are being reviewed by staff.

Drainage Projects

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Peachland FOR 5.11 - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either inadequate to convey the quantity of water required to maintain level of service objectives or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be upsized from two 48" culverts with a 50' weir to one 8'x10' box culvert with a 5' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 03/01/2011 – 04/01/2013, Procurement Process: Fall 2014, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The bid documents have been sent to the Purchasing Department for procurement.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Fordham Waterway at Quasar FOR 4.60 - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Fordham Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be properly sized from two 60" RCP with a 50' weir to one 8'x10' box culvert with a 6' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/01/2013 – August 2014, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

100% design plans have been received. This structure is not scheduled for construction until late 2015.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Peachland NIA 5.72 - This project provides for the construction of a stormwater control structure under Peachland Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing stormwater control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure will be upsized from one 48" RCP and 22' weir to two 36" RCP's with a 6' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 03/01/2011 – 04/01/2013, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The bid documents have been sent to the Purchasing Department for procurement.

Landscaping Projects

- Removal of feral vegetation along US 41 through Port Charlotte and Charlotte Harbor is complete.
- A demonstration (supplied at no cost by the irrigation services contractor) Weather-Matic brand irrigation system controller with air card was installed at the Charlotte Harbor Gateway phase I project.
- Irrigation system troubleshooting; repairs and renovation were completed at US 17 medians in Cleveland; US 41 Revitalization phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway phase I and Melbourne Street Bridge, via the County's first annual contract for irrigation services as necessary.
- Basic landscape maintenance was performed at US 41 Revitalization phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway phase I; Grove City Park; Manasota Key; US 17 medians in Cleveland and South Gulf Cove.

Maintenance & Operations

Jan. 28 – Feb. 3, 2015

A total of 45 new requests were received related to brush, drainage, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	2,000 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 8,100 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 850 SF in Gulf Cove 11,400 SF in Burnt Store Village
Large pipe install:	64 LF in Englewood East
Small pipe install:	168 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	60,000 SF in West County Stormwater (Gulf Cove Area)

120,260 SF in South County Stormwater
 Boom Mower: Cut 64,922 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
 Cut 23,300 CY in Rotonda Heights
 Cut 20,000 CY in Road & Bridge South
 Shoulder Repair: 1.5 miles Washington Loop Road in R&B South
 Culvert Cleaning: Cleaned 59 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
 Trash / Debris Removal: Removed 2,000 lbs. from Greater Port Charlotte

Mosquito & Aquatic Vegetation Control (totals for month of January 2015)

Mosquito Control

Number of acres treated: Adulicide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), 4,400 (Ground)
 Larvicide Treatment/ 0 (Aerial), .7 (Ground)
 Landing rate counts: 38
 Trap counts: 0
 Citizen requests: 15
 Tire collection/source reduction: 9.35 tons

Aquatic Vegetation Control

Number of sites treated: 50
 Wetland mitigation sites maintained: 0 sites treated
 Number of sites inspected: 45

Traffic Signing & Marking (totals for month of January 2015)

Herbicide: 2,286 items
 Marine Signs Replaced: 18
 New Signs Installed: 33
 Raised Pavement Markers Installed: 3,502
 Road Legends Installed: 393
 Road Scraping: 0 feet
 Signs Inspected: 4,757
 Signs Manufactured: 132
 Sign Maintenance: 875
 Speed Studies: 2
 Striping: 11,780 feet (2.25 miles)
 Traffic Counts: 48 stations
 Trouble Calls (after hours) 9
 Video Turn Movement Counts: 3

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau partnered with Visit Sarasota County to produce a free, hand-held guide highlighting fishing in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties. In Charlotte County, pick up a guide at the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau office located at 18500 Murdock Circle, Suite B104, Port Charlotte, FL 33948 or download a copy from www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com/fishing. The guide provides information on salt and fresh water fishing, the types of fish that can be caught both inshore and offshore, popular tackle and bait for this region and information on booking a charter and fishing rules and regulations. In addition to colorful images, a map and detailed chart on boat and kayak launches, the top spots to fish in both areas are also included.