

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Claire Jubb, Business Services Manager, Charlotte County Community Development was appointed as the Associate Director -Legislation of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association. The FFMA is an association of over 600 Florida professionals working in the many different aspects of floodplain management and flood insurance. Charlotte County has over 70% of all structures within a high risk flood zone and having the county represented at the State level will only improve the input Charlotte County has. For more information, contact Claire on 941-743-1241 or at Claire.jubb@charlottecountyfl.gov

Community Services

Administration

Community Services has replaced the playgrounds at Bissett and Englewood East Parks. These are two of four playgrounds being replaced this year as part of Charlotte County's Capital Improvement Program. Bissett Playground features four slides, five climbers, and attached shade sails. Englewood East Park features two rope climbers, two spinners, a slide, and rubber poured-in-place surfacing. A new shade structure with a picnic table was also installed.

Charlotte Sports Park

The home opener for the Charlotte Stone Crabs took place on Thursday, 4/9, at 6:30 pm. Attendance at the first four (4) games of the season was as follows:

Thursday, 4/9 – 2048 Sunday, 4/12 – 294 Monday, 4/13 – 674 Tuesday, 4/14 – 744

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This past weekend was busy as usual. We started with the Charlotte Promenader's, who incidentally, have only one session left on the 16th are still having a great showing. This week they had 75 participants. Sadly, after next week, this will be the last we see of them until January, 2016.

Next, we had a wedding and reception. A beautiful wedding on the deck and a fun filled reception inside. Total attendance was around 95.

For the week of 4-8 through 4-14-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 448 paid admissions, was visited by 69 pass holders and had 64 water aerobics participants.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 4-5-15 through 4-11-15 South County Regional Park Pool had 258 paid admissions and was visited by 185 pass holders. We had 46 water aerobics participants this week. The Blue Fins held seven practices with approximately 420 swimmers. We also held our annual April Pool's Day free event and had approximately 300 participants.

Extension Services

Newspaper Article for April 13 – "Stinging caterpillars in our midst"

Soil and Water Board Meeting – April 13

2015 MG Training – MG Training – "Florida-Friendly Landscaping" – April 14 - Tom Becker

Peace River Engineering Society – "The impact of landscaping in relation to infrastructure and for improving stormwater quality" – April 14

Managers Meeting - Charlotte Sports Park – 1 to 3 pm – April 15

2015 MG Training – MG Training – "Venomous Creatures" – April 16– Ralph Mitchell

Site visit - Ganoderma butt rot – Pirate Harbor – April 17

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Design was initiated for several small projects including space planning for South County Annex, lighting for Port Charlotte Beach fishing pier, and security perimeter improvements for the service area at Murdock Administration Building.

Operations

The playground at the Family Services Center will be receiving a new conical climber this week to replace the belted climber that deteriorated from sun exposure. We also have graded out the area adjacent to the playground and laid new sod to provide a safer, more even playing surface for all children, including those participating in Boy's and Girl's Club's after school program.

Project Management

Construction bids are due April 15 for the Franz Ross Drainage, Parking and Lighting project.

The contractor has poured most of the sidewalks and is continuing to work on the installation of drainage structures at the Harbour Heights Park drainage, parking and sports court improvement project. Also, the buried oil tank has been removed. An old well and an old swimming pool have been uncovered during the excavation work.

The Sports Park Grass Parking under drain maintenance project started with two storm structures installed, 180 feet of solid collector pipe, and 340 feet of multi-flow perforated pipe laid. The team is confirming the usability of the lift station tie-in pipe while installation of remaining underdrain system continues.

The project scope meeting with the design consultant is scheduled identifying the Veterans Memorial Park requirements beginning the negotiation process. The consultant will utilize the scope meeting to compile a cost proposal for the project.

The Fire Training facilities plans were submitted for permit review to the building department. The county storm water and SWFWMD permits were received. The water and wastewater plan are under review by Punta Gorda Utilities department. County Staff is reviewing building options before finalizing the bid documents.

Letters of Interest from consulting firms were received for Phase 2, Step 1 of the Facilities Master Space Plan. The responses were ranked by a selection committee and forwarded to Purchasing for authorization.

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: 03/10/2014 – 09/10/2015

- The excavation of all ponds is complete. 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 late February or early March 2015. Once traffic shifts, the west side of the box culvert will be completed.
- Installation of drainage pipes and utilities continues. Approximately 90% of the utility pipe and 80% of the drainage pipework has been installed.
- Over 75% of the sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is 49% complete on the northbound and southbound sides.

- The contractor completed 41% of the stabilizer/base on the northbound travel lanes and 9% on the southbound travel lanes. The first course of asphalt has been paved (about 2,000 feet) on the northbound lanes - and another 1,500 feet have been paved on the southbound lanes.
- Crews are installing street lighting and IT conduit on the east side of the project. FPL pole relocation and new electrical wire is complete. FPL crews are now removing the old poles.

PSA issued 4/14/2015: – *A portion of Alcazar Drive, between Burnt Store Road and Quesa Drive, will be closed to traffic Mon., April 20, 2015 through Fri., April 24, 2015 as drainage and utility installation work is scheduled at this location 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 reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.*

CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – The purpose of this project is to widen CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from SR 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.

Zep Construction began Bridge construction on the east side of the new Bridge. This work will continue for a few months before traffic is switched to the new lanes.

Woodruff and Sons continues with utility installations along the east side of the project north of the Butterford Waterway towards SR 776.

Additional crews are on-site completing storm drain structures, stormwater retention ponds and sidewalks. Construction is approximately 33% complete

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 complete. The contractor is now working to haul off the dredged material and restore the lots. The contractor is also conducting the as-built survey, to be reviewed by the Engineer of Record, to determine the actual amount of material that was removed from the waterway.

U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South US 41 Access Roads within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – 5/12/2015

Elkcam Waterway: The contractor began the final restoration in this area to complete this phase of construction; sod, riprap, sidewalk and guardrails are currently being installed.

Fordham Waterway: Zep Construction completed the west side headwall and is currently installing new riprap in this area. Final restoration on the north side is complete and restoration on the south side will begin shortly to complete this phase of construction.

Elmira Blvd: Zep Construction is currently constructing the south headwall and will start the north headwall the week of April 6, 2015.

Construction is approximately 90% complete.

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: Jan - May 2015, Projected Start of Construction: June 2015

This construction project is currently advertised for competitive bid. The Pre-bid Conference was held March 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106B, Building B - Administration Center. Bid Opening is scheduled for April 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Purchasing Division Conference room.

Landscaping Projects

April 8-14, 2015

- Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: Manasota Key; South Gulf Cove; Grove City Park; US 17 medians in Cleveland; US 41 Revitalization phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway and Melbourne Street Bridge.
- Flowering trees were planted and mulch was applied at Charlotte Harbor Gateway Phase I.
- Vegetation, which was blocking the view of the Charlotte Harbor Gateway, was removed from around the base of the Gilchrist Bridge.

Maintenance & Operations

April 8-14, 2015

A total of 35 new requests were received related to asphalt repair, drainage, brush, and debris.

- Drainage line & grade: 14,975 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
2,690 SF in Rotonda West
10,300 SF in Road & Bridge South
- Small pipe install: 280 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
- Menzie ditch cutting: 29,000 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater
150,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
- Menzie ditch digging: 9,500 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater
- Boom Mower: Cut 22,800 CY in Rotonda Heights
Cut 16,000 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Cut 44,477 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Cut 3,200 CY in Englewood East
- Shoulder repair: Maintained 1.5 miles on Florida Street in Road & Bridge South
- Culvert cleaning: Cleaned 17 culverts in Englewood East
Cleaned 9 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
- Outfall: 625 SF in Englewood East
- Major outfall: 2,000 SF in Englewood East
- Asphalt repair: 6 tons of material used to repair locations in Punta Gorda Non-Urban

Tourism

In order to boost its presence in overseas markets, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau partnered with Brand USA to film five videos throughout Charlotte County last week (April 14 – 17). Hosts of the videos are native-language speakers in Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese and German and the videos showcase the destination's ecotourism amenities, dining and attractions. Many international visitors tend to spend their holidays in Florida during the summer and fall. The videos will be distributed on the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau website (www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com), through its various social media channels and through Brand USA's websites, www.DiscoverAmerica.com and www.GoUSA.cn. The videos are part of the Charlotte Harbor VCB's international marketing efforts which also includes hosting members of the international media, producing the annual visitor guide in German and distribute in Germany, and representation in Brazil.

Charlotte County levies a 5 percent Tourist Development Tax (TDT, aka: bed tax) on accommodation stays 6 months or less in addition to the 7 percent sales tax. The first 3 percent is spent for tourism promotion and marketing support and the fourth and fifth percent are used to fund the debt for the bond for the recent renovations at the Charlotte Sports Park.

Brand USA was established by the Travel Promotion Act to spearhead the nation's first international marketing effort to promote the United States as a travel destination. No U.S. tax dollars are used to fund Brand USA. Operational dollars are calculated through matching one dollar of cash or in-kind contributions from industry and media partners to "unlock" one dollar from the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), which collects fees from international inbound travelers arriving from visa-waiver markets. Brand USA has generated nearly \$1 billion in federal, state and local taxes. And for every 33 overseas travelers who visit the U.S., one new job is created.

Utilities (CCU)

Charlotte County Utilities is an award winning drinking water provider having been recognized by the American Water Works Association Florida Section Region X for being tied for first place and is honored to have come in second place out of fourteen water service providers from our Region.

Charlotte County Utilities has also finished their Spring Tours at their Rotonda and West Port Wastewater Treatment Facilities. From October-April, the Utility offers public education tours to help share how the facilities protect and preserve the environment while taking care of our community's needs.

John McGinnis Jr. Chief Plant Operator at the Rotonda Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) has won the 2014 Earle B. Phelps Award for 2014 for the Rotonda WRF. This award is given to recognize wastewater treatment facilities that have maintained the highest removal of major pollution-causing constituents prior to discharge. He additionally was recently selected by a team of esteemed professionals from across the state of Florida as the recipient of the 2015 Public Education Award, "Thomas T. Jones Award" by the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA). The Public Education Awards recognize individuals, organizations or events/campaigns for significant accomplishments that foster and support the development of public outreach programs and integrating public education as a core element of wastewater and water utility planning and management.

Additionally, Mr. Gary Hubbard has been named Interim Utility Director. Mr. Hubbard is leading the team of 203 dedicated employees and we look forward to continued success as CCU strives to provide award winning drinking water, business services, engineering and operations.