

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 2/2/16

Community Development

On Tuesday Jan. 26, the Board of County Commissioners approved the adoption of eight ordinances which comprise the first round of Comprehensive Plan updates after the rescission last year. Though there was some disagreement amongst some citizens, these changes will help to clarify and improve the plan, as well as provide for some much needed flexibility.

Three new interactive map applications were added to the Community Development webpage. This includes New Development, Utilities Map Book, and a Parks Finder.

<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/landinformation/Pages/Interactive-Map-Gallery.aspx>

Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Harold Avenue Youth Basketball League will be wrapping up its regular season this weekend. Teams will have this week to fine tune before the playoffs start next week!

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

There was a large wedding this last weekend. The set up was on Friday, Jan. 22, and it was very elaborate and creative. The actual wedding was on Saturday with about 150 guests. On Monday we had our first Tai-Chi class, with about 40 participants. The first hour is for a younger group, and the second hour is a “free” senior hour. Tuesday night was a Neighborhood Watch meeting for Bueno Vista from 5:30-8pm. There were 50 people in attendance. Wednesday we had a second Tai-Chi class with approximately 30 people, many returning from the Monday class. Going into the weekend we are in the final planning stages for KIDS FEST, we are expecting a large crowd for this event.

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool

For the week of 1-17-15 through 1-23-16 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 42 paid admissions, 41 water aerobics participants and was visited by 84 pass holders. The Bluefin’s held 3 practices with approximately 50 swimmers.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for Jan. 25 – “Tapioca in the garden”
- Master Gardener Radio Show – Jan. 26
- Morningstar Neighborhood Watch - St. James Episcopal Church, 1365 Viscaya Drive, Port Charlotte - “Venomous Creatures” presentation – Jan. 26
- CED Meeting – Sarasota County – Jan. 27
- Extension Staff Meeting - Training Room B – Jan. 28
- Landscape Garden Series - Week 2 - “Orchid Diversity and Culture” – Jan. 29
- Charlie Vavrina's Retirement - Pinellas County Extension Office – Jan. 29

Natural Resources

Staff met with Jim Knoy to initiate a group survey effort on county properties. Jim Knoy is very active in Jay Watch, an organization involved in the gathering and reporting of data on the Florida Scrub Jay. With the coordinated efforts of the Jay Watch organization staff will collect more reliable, accurate data for our properties. This data is included each year in our annual reports as part of our grant/permit responsibilities.

Staff is busy formulating and enacting burn preparations. The season is here and before some properties are too wet we will attempt to burn 1000 acres.

Parks

Staff has been prepping for the Hands Across the Harbor event on Jan. 30.

Human Services

Terry Keene, Assistant Veteran Services Officer, had an appointment with a young veteran and his wife and two children who told him a story about a claim he had filed with the VA that was still pending since 2011. At first he was pretty sure that the veteran was confused, but Terry verified he did in fact have one issue on a claim that was deferred since 2011 and the VA had never rendered a decision. Over the years, the veteran tried to get help from other service organizations and had called the VA many times without success. The claim was assigned to the Baltimore Regional Office, because he had lived there at one time. Terry contacted the American Legion National Office and was referred to an American Legion representative in Baltimore. Terry called the representative and after much explanation, he understood what had happened and stated he would work on the issue with the VA Service Center Manager to get the claim resolved. A few days later after checking the VA system Terry discovered that a VA decision granting 100% service connection back to July 2011 had been made. The total retroactive payment once finalized should be around \$170,000 to this veteran and his family.

Lori North, Family Services Manager, conducted a walk through tour of the Family Services Center's Community Garden with the Executive Director from Keep Charlotte Beautiful. The purpose of the walk-through was to assess the current condition of the garden and match identified needs with potential funding opportunities.

Public Works

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

Burnt Store Road (Phase 3) 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 Contract: Gibbs & Register, Construction Schedule: 3/10/2014 – 2/2/2016

- The excavation of all ponds is complete.
- Work is complete on the final box culvert and the installation of drainage pipes is complete.
- Street lighting and IT conduit is complete and operational.
- Grading and sodding of swales continues on the west side.
- Utility work is nearing completion.

- The sidewalk sub grade has been installed on the northbound side. Concrete installation for the sidewalk is complete on the northbound side and is 99% complete on the southbound side.
- Paving of the structural course on the remaining southbound lanes is complete. Paving of the final lift of asphalt will begin Feb.1 with the final roadway stripes being painted on a daily basis.
- Please note that traffic shifted to the east side of the new roadway and the speed limit is 35 miles per hour. The entire project length is a NO PASSING zone; extreme caution should be used when traveling in this area.

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Jan. 22, 2016) – *Burnt Store Road, from north of Zemel Road to the Lee County line, will be closed to traffic for up to 30 minutes on Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 11-11:30 a.m. Deputies will be onsite to hold traffic back as construction crews re-align maintenance of traffic devices - moving traffic onto the final alignment of this road widening project. Emergency services will be maintained during this closure however all other traffic will be delayed. Motorists are encouraged to avoid driving through this area at this time.*

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (Jan. 22, 2016) – *Three (3) Burnt Store Road access roads will be closed between Zemel Road and the Lee County line on Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. as follows:*

1. *Saragossa Lane at Trading Post Road – detour to Cape Horn Boulevard.*
2. *Rio Togas Road at Burnt Store Road – detour to Cape Horn Boulevard.*
3. *Cabana Road at Burnt Store Road – detour to Peppercorn Road*

These road closures are necessary as equipment, traffic control devices and traffic flow patterns are re-aligned in conjunction with the final stages of road widening activities. Motorists are encouraged to avoid driving through this area during this time. On behalf of road construction crews, please drive safely.

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. The new structure will replace two 48" culverts and a 50' weir with one 8'x10' box culvert with a 5' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 8/3/2015 – 3/11/2016.

- Construction is underway; all box culverts are installed.
- The rock bed for the headwall, wing wall and weir has been installed.
- The footer for the head wall and wing walls on the north side has been formed.
- Construction is approximately 75% complete.

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. The new structure will replace a 48" reinforced concrete pipe and a 22' weir with two 36" reinforced concrete pipes with a 6' weir. Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 8/3/2015 – 3/11/2016.

The head walls and wing walls have been poured on the north side and rough grading of the south part of the site has begun. Construction is approximately 75% complete.

Sunshine Lake Water Level Control Structure – The purpose of this project is to design and construct a water control structure at the downstream end of the Sunrise Waterway to restore and enhance the water quality of Sunshine Lake.

This project is being conducted in response to recommendations received from the Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study; the water level control structure is intended to meet the lake level modification recommendation of the study. The control structure will be constructed at the North Tamiami Trail access road, located at the downstream end of Sunrise Waterway. The structure will raise the water level in the upstream water bodies approximately eighteen inches, lessening algal growth due to seasonal lowering of water levels. The additional water depth and volume provides additional attenuation and dilution of runoff and will increase storage for suspended solids. Design: Public Works Engineering Division, Construction Contract: Quality Enterprises, Construction Schedule: 9/21/2015 – Jan. 2016.

Construction was completed under budget and approximately 10 weeks ahead of schedule. As-built drawings have been received and the project is complete.

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 (Public Works Engineering): 6/27/14 – May 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

Sidewalk plans are complete and now the utility plans are complete; contract documents are complete and have been submitted to the Purchasing Department for review and bid advertisement. Temporary rights of entry are being acquired for 13 driveways that need work done outside of the right-of-way limits.

Drainage Projects

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. The new structure will replace two 60" reinforced concrete pipes and a 50' weir with one 8'x10' box culvert and a 6' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 10/01/2013 – 10/01/2014, Procurement Process: 1/20/2016 – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016.

The complete construction bid package was forwarded for budget review and procurement on Jan. 20.

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Niagara Waterway at Quasar NIA 5.09 – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Quasar Boulevard at the Niagara Waterway. The new structure will replace two 48" metal pipes and a 44' weir with two 48" concrete pipes and a 20' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2013 – 9/1/2014, Procurement Process: Jan. – April 2016, Projected Start of Construction: May 2016

The complete construction bid package has been forwarded for budget review and procurement.

Maintenance & Operations (Jan. 20 – Jan. 26, 2016)

A total of 68 new requests were received related to drainage, asphalt repair, brush, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	24,200 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 20,150 SF in Deep Creek
Small pipe install:	48 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
Menzie ditch cutting:	110,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater 44,700 SF along the East Port Environmental Campus
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 13 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 31 culverts in Deep Creek Cleaned 1 culvert in Rotonda West
Boom mower:	Cut 57,481 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 3,888 CY in South Punta Gorda Heights East Cut 5,716 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 20,800 CY in Englewood East
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 4.43 tons of material to repairs locations throughout the County

Debris removal: Removed 4,240 pounds of debris from locations throughout the County

Landscaping Services

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; Melbourne Street Bridge and all county-owned fenced retention ponds.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control (Jan. 20 – Jan. 26, 2016)

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 0
- Landing rate counts taken: 0
- Traps set: 0
- Service requests: 0

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 6
- Sites inspected: 18
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau staff, along with sales staff from Palm Island Resort, exhibited at the Travel & Adventure Show in Chicago January 23-24, 2016. It's projected that this two-day consumer and travel professional trade show attracted well over 20,000 attendees from all over the greater Chicago area. Approximately 1,100 visitor guides were distributed as well as hundreds of brochures promoting Palm Island Resort, Fishermen's Village and our area's golf course offerings. In addition, approximately 500 names and email addresses were captured from the drawing for our vacation giveaway in which the winner will receive vouchers for two round trip tickets on Allegiant Airlines, a two-night stay at Palm Island Resort and a week stay at Fishermen's Village Resort. These email addresses will be added to our e-marketing database for future direct marketing campaigns.