

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

On August 5, the Community Development Department hosted its second roundtable meeting to solicit comments of the intent of the County's existing TDU programs as well as the TDU related policies and code. Approximately 21 people attended the meeting. Staff and the public worked together on the intent and everyone raised their own comments regarding the policies and code. Staff received a lot of valuable suggestions, comments and concerns. The meeting was very productive. Staff has been working on some proposed suggestions and will be ready for our third roundtable meeting on August 19.

On August 10, 2016, the Community Development Department hosted its second roundtable meeting to solicit comments regarding the existing Sign Code. Approximately 15 people attended the meeting. Staff presented some proposed suggestion such as criteria for temporary signs and other minor changes. Staff received a lot valuable suggestions, comments and concerns. The meeting was very productive. Staff will review all comments and will schedule another roundtable meeting in the near future to finalize some proposed revisions to the existing Sign Code.

There were 107 Single Family Residences that came in for July! And, four Single Family Residences for Babcock are ready for pickup.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Stone Crabs were back at home Wednesday through Sunday for 5 games. They hosted the Palm Beach Cardinals and the Ft. Myers Miracle and won 3 of the 5 games. Total attendance for the 5 game home stance was 3,947 fans despite the clouds and rain.

Harold Avenue Park

Harold Avenue Recreation Center finished up their summer camp this Tuesday. Last week was the last full week and kids were treated to a field trip to the Skatium where, despite a few falls, the kids had a great time ice skating. Last Friday they had a water day complete with hose, water guns, a slip-n-slide and water balloons. Pickleball is still running strong numbers all throughout the summer and we expect the numbers to jump back up now that camp has ended. The Youth Basketball League is going into their last week of the regular season which marks the end of the year for the 6u and 8u divisions. The 10u, 12u, 14u and 17u divisions will hold their playoffs and championships in the coming weeks.

Tringali Park

Hello from Tringali Park! This last Friday, we held our second Tringali Twilight Theater event and it was a rousing success. Attendance was good and the families that came were quite pleased with our movie selection. They were also pleased with the pre-movie entertainment and the refreshments we served. Many of the attendees were also patrons of our Super Mini Sports Music and Dance Camp. Speaking of which, that program is running along smoothly. We are officially at the halfway point of the Camp and we are confident that the kids will be ready to go for the big recital on Wednesday August 31. The students definitely seem to be excited about performing onstage in front of their family and friends.

Well, that's it for this week. Next week, we will be holding our Open House on Saturday August 20 from 11am-3pm. We hope to see you there.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for August 8 – "Is something old new again?"
- Soil and Water Board meeting – August 8
- Master Gardener Association Officer Meeting – August 10

Natural Resources

This week staff completed the limb removal project at Oyster Creek Environmental Park. This work was done to protect private property adjacent to the park.

The rest of the week staff focused on the competition of the pending FCT reports

- All Gopher Tortoise burrows within the construction area on the new Charlotte County Sheriff's Office site in Englewood were excavated by Natural Resources staff.
- Sea turtle nesting is starting to slow down although it has been a record year for nesting. The nest hatchlings are starting to emerge and make their way to the gulf for their long journey ahead!
- 3 abandoned vessels were tagged by Natural Resources staff, one of which was claimed by the owner who promptly removed and disposed of it.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

A new ice machine has been installed for the maintenance yard in Punta Gorda. This will replace the old unit and provide fresh ice for the staff.

Operations

We are in final negotiations for the design and engineering of the back-up generator project for the Event Center. Once we have agreed on the fee and schedule we will begin the analysis of the electrical systems and electrical needs of this facility. The design and engineering team will then work on specifications and construction documents and send out a request for bid on the construction of this new generator back up system.

Project Management

- A third and final public information meeting for the South County Library and Archive project was held on August 2, 2016, depicting four options to select from for exterior enhancements outside of the budget. Voting occurred online through August 9, 2016 at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. Results will be gathered and recommendations on the unbudgeted enhancements will go before the County Commissioners.
- Construction continues at Port Charlotte Beach for the floating dock and seawall installation.
- Request for bid has been submitted for the Spring Lake Park boardwalk and drainage renovations.
- Veteran's Park guaranteed maximum price will be submitted for the Board of County Commissioners approval on September 13, 2016.
- The Construction Manager at Risk proposals for West County Annex are due to purchasing this week.
- El Jobean Fishing Pier Rehabilitation Construction documents have been sent to purchasing to obtain construction bids.
- The contractor installed the site silt fence allowing for the excavation of the gopher tortoise burrows at the District One Sherriff's Office. The burrows were excavated with no tortoise found needing to be relocated. The contractor will start clearing and grubbing the project site on approximately August 10, 2016.

Human Services

Reviewers from the National Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) performed a site visit of the County's 211 Call Center. The site review is the final step in the multi-year re-accreditation process which is required every 5 years. This is Charlotte 211's second re-accreditation since its inception in July 2005. The site review also included meeting community leaders at a luncheon event. At the summation of the reviewers visit, they indicated they were most impressed with the community coordination of partners and support for 211 services. The final report is expected in September.

Real People; Real Story; Real Investment: A senior, and father of three, came in to the Human Services Department seeking a little assistance with his electric bill. He had been a chef his whole life making a good living until he became disabled. Now he struggles a bit on his reduced income. He was stressed about the high cost of his medications and tuition for a special school for his adopted blind daughter. Grant funds from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program assisted his family with their electric bill and Family Services staff were also able to assist him with information on Medicare and senior programs through the Area Agency on Aging, discounts on Comcast services for school children, and an application for Food Stamps. This disabled senior was able to leave the Human Services Department with renewed hope and independence.

Public Works

Bridge Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Rotonda Circle Bridge Repair over Pinehurst Creek – The Rotonda Circle Bridge over Pinehurst suffered damage from an automobile accident. After inspection of the bridge we determined this would require a design engineer to review and design the appropriate repair action.

Landscape Projects in Construction

Gateway Landscaping: Toledo Blade Blvd. (US 41 to Hillsborough Blvd.) – This project provides for median landscaping with irrigation along Toledo Blade Boulevard between US 41 and Hillsborough Boulevard. Landscape materials may include trees (Palm, Japanese Blueberry, Crepe Myrtle), shrubs (Saw Palmetto, Ixora, Fountain Grass), and groundcover (Coontie, Purple Lantana, Asian Jasmine, Starburst Pentas). The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the county's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates, Construction Contract: MRT Lawn and Garden Center, Construction Schedule: 7/7 – 9/5/2016 (60 calendar days)

Water points of service are ready at this location however electrical points of service are pending action by Florida Power and Light.

Directional bore drilling is complete and trenching for irrigation is underway.

Intermittent, temporary lane closures are expected for the delivery and installation of landscape materials, including trees, to the medians.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Aug. 4, 2016) – *Intermittent inside lane closures are anticipated to continue on Toledo Blade Boulevard, from US 41 to Hillsborough Boulevard, next week through Friday, August 12. Work in this area includes median landscaping; temporary inside lane closures will be necessary for the delivery of landscape materials to the medians. Advance warning signs and flaggers will be onsite as necessary. Travelers may experience intermittent, slow moving traffic and/or temporary delays within the project limits and should allow extra time when planning to travel through this area.*

Midway Boulevard Median Landscaping – This project provides for median landscaping with irrigation along Midway Boulevard between Yancey Street and Harbor Boulevard. Landscape materials may include

trees (Palm, Weeping Yaupon, Crepe Myrtle), shrubs (Silver Palmetto, Bluestem Palmetto, Fountain Grass), and groundcover (Purple Lantana). Design Contract: David M. Jones, Jr. & Associates, Construction Contract: Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service, Construction Schedule: 6/27 – 8/26/16 (60 calendar days)

The reclaimed water facility connection is in place. Planting and irrigation installation are underway.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (Aug. 4, 2016) – *Intermittent inside lane closures are anticipated on Midway Boulevard, between Yancey Street and Harbor Boulevard, next week from Monday, Aug. 8 – Saturday, Aug. 13. Work in this area includes median landscaping; temporary inside lane closures will be necessary for the delivery of landscape materials to the medians. Advance warning signs and flaggers will be onsite as necessary. Travelers may experience intermittent, slow moving traffic and/or temporary delays within the project limits and should allow extra time when planning to travel through this area.*

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

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase 2 – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard from Sharpe Street to the intersection of Kings Highway (about 2.25 miles). Design includes four lanes of traffic with center turn lanes, new sidewalks on both sides, a closed drainage system, new traffic signals at Beacon Drive, new pedestrian crossings at the schools, new lighting, and a new water and sewer system along the corridor. Temporary sidewalks, meeting ADA requirements, will be installed during construction to maintain all pedestrian access points. Midway Boulevard may be closed to through traffic at times however mail delivery, emergency services and access to local residences will be maintained during construction. Construction Contract: Forsberg Construction, Construction Schedule: 6/30/2015 – Summer 2018

Construction crews are currently installing the new 16" water main from Sharpe St to Scotten St. Crews continue to maintain miscellaneous safety items throughout the project. The new Parent Pick up drive at Port Charlotte Middle School has been completed. The new fence and signs will be installed this week. Crews are working on excavating material from Pond C-2 off Page St. and site work preparation for new road grading between Achilles and Kings Hwy. Crews should complete the last section of the new 48" gravity sewer from Midway south on Loveland Blvd.

Excerpts from www.midwayupdate.com

- Sharp Street to Birchcrest Boulevard: The contractor has been installing a new water main in this area.
- Harriet Street to Neil Armstrong Elementary: he contractor has been installing a new water main in this area.
- Noble Terrace to Broom Court: The contractor has been installing a new water main in this area.
- Conway Blvd. to Page St.: The contractor has been installing a new water main in this area.
- Hayworth Rd. to Alton Rd.: The contractor has been installing a new water main in this area.
- Morley St. to Orlando Blvd. (PCMS): A new parent pick-up has been installed in this area.
- Alton Rd. to Beacon Dr.: The construction crews have cleared Retention Area 'E' of large vegetation. There is no other significant work in this area.
- Abscott Street to Bermuda Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.
- Hardey Street to Amstead Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.
- Willoughby Street to Maracaibo Street: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.
- Shilo Street to Loveland Boulevard: The contractor continues to install new utilities and the drainage system in this area.
- Kings Highway: Road is closed at Midway and Kings Highway as contractor installs 16" water main line. Please see current detour map.

Midway Boulevard remains closed to through traffic from Achilles Street to Kings Highway.

Roadway Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Burnt Store Road Phase 2 Widening – This project includes design, permitting, utility coordination and construction to widen the remaining portion of Burnt Store Road to a four lane roadway from a point near Notre Dame Boulevard to a point north of Zemel Road. Design includes utility improvements, sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Design/Permitting schedule: through 3/3/2017, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected start of Construction: TBD (Funding for construction has not been allocated.)

Johnson Engineering is continuing the design process as recommended and is on schedule.

The 60% design plans are due next week for review and are on schedule.

A meeting with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) was held to present the county's plan for handling stormwater retention and run-off. The stormwater drainage plans are progressing on schedule.

Design schedule:

- 30% plans due March 11, 2016
- 60% plans due Aug. 12, 2016
- 90% plans due Dec. 2, 2016
- 100% plans due Feb. 3, 2017

Final bid contract documents are due March 3, 2017

Piper Road North Extension – Piper Road will be extended north from Henry Street to US 17 at the existing Regents Road intersection. The Airport Commerce Park has been identified as a priority for business development. At the present time, there is a limited roadway network in place serving the airport therefore additional roadway and utility improvements will be required to support new or expanded businesses within the corridor. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 2010-2011, Procurement Process: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Fall 2016

All project documents, including bid specifications and design plans, are reviewed and ready.

Engineering staff expect to have the project package ready to send to the Purchasing Department by August.

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

Gulfstream Boulevard Sidewalks – This project will consist of an 8' sidewalk installed from an existing sidewalk on Gulfstream Boulevard at Snow Drive continuing to Rosemont Drive. Design includes a connection to an existing sidewalk on Sunnybrook Boulevard. Construction of the Gulfstream Boulevard Sidewalk is part of a larger contract and will begin upon completion of the South Gulf Cove Sidewalk Project. Construction Contract: Bonness, Inc. Construction schedule: 4/25/2016 – July 2016.

Construction is near completion and the Contractor has given a punch list to complete by mid-August.

Construction is 99% Complete.

Landscaping Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Gateway Landscaping: I-75 at King's Highway – This project provides for roadside landscaping along I-75 at the Kings Highway interchange, as programmed by FDOT's Bold Landscape initiative. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the County's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. Design Contract: David M. Jones & Associates, Design Schedule: through Fall 2016

Design is nearing completion. Construction plans have been submitted to FDOT to request permitting of the Community Aesthetic Feature. The county's request to extend the FDOT irrigation and landscape permit was

granted through July 10, 2017. Construction is pending completion of the FDOT I-75 road widening project in the vicinity of Kings Highway.

Gateway Landscaping: Jones Loop at I-75 – This project provides for roadside and median landscaping along Jones Loop, from Mac Drive to Piper Road, at the I-75 interchange. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the county's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design Schedule: June – Dec 2016.

The initial survey and environmental site visit is complete. Design is in progress; base plans and sightline analysis is underway to identify potential planting areas and sign locations.

30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates have been received and are under review by County staff.

Gateway Landscaping: US 17 at I-75 – This project provides for roadside landscaping along US 17 at the I-75 interchange. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their approval to proceed with planning, design and construction of landscaped community entrance features that will improve the appearance of certain gateways to Charlotte County and enhance the county's overall desirability as a place to visit, work and live. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting schedule: June – Dec 2016.

The initial survey and environmental site visit is complete. Design is in progress; base plans and sightline analysis is underway to identify potential planting areas and sign locations.

30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates have been received and are under review by County staff.

Winchester Boulevard Median Landscaping and Buffer – This project provides for landscaping with drip irrigation along Winchester Boulevard South, from SR 776 to CR 775 (Placida Road). Design services will include preparation of construction drawings, bidding and inspection services for the installation of landscaping, irrigation and a proposed buffer. Landscape plants include canopy and ornamental trees, palms, shrubs and ground cover. Design Contract: CES/American, Design/Permitting Schedule: Early 2016 – 8/22/2016.

A second public input opportunity was held at the Tringali Community Center on August 3 to present the 60% design plans and record public input (approximately 15 area residents were in attendance).

The presentation by CES/American was very informative followed by a short question and answer session. It was noted that funding has not been allocated to construct the buffer portion of the project at this time.

Maintenance & Operations Weekly Accomplishments (August 3 – August 9, 2016)

A total of 113 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, asphalt repairs, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	12,650 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 1,200 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 9,000 SF in Grove City 30,038 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Small pipe install:	48 LF in Grove City 48 LF in Englewood East 40 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 178 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Large pipe install:	128 LF in Englewood East
Menzie ditch cutting:	110,000 SF in Englewood East
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 40 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte

	Cleaned 23 culverts in Deep Creek
	Cleaned 2 culverts in Grove City
	Cleaned 2 culverts in Englewood East
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 7.34 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County
Boom mower:	Cut 128,673 CY in Englewood East
	Cut 15,783 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Debris removal:	Removed 18,520 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

Mosquito Control

- Acres treated: 36,722
- Landing rate counts taken: 42
- Traps set: 30
- Service requests: 76

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 26
- Sites inspected: 7
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau recently published the Charlotte Harbor Cycling Guide featuring the destination’s bicycling routes as well as annual rides, local cycling clubs, bicycle shops, and information about TEAM Punta Gorda’s free bicycle loaner program. The guide was developed with input and assistance from members of the bicycling community and funded in part by VISIT FLORIDA, the state’s official tourism marketing agency, through a grants program. Visitors can obtain a guide by visiting the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau office at 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-104, Port Charlotte. The office is open Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

