

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

We had the third roundtable discussion regarding TDU's Friday, August 19, and despite a few hiccups, we are making some really good progress on the topic. We have had some very passionate discussions, but Dr. Kelly has kept a good reign on everyone. As we said when we began this process, we were looking for it to be about three sessions, then prepare for public hearings, as we are working through the issues and have good dialogue and momentum going, we are going to retain Dr. Kelly for two more discussions, one for further discussion and refinement on a draft document which we were asked to draft by the stakeholders (we did not want to stifle ideas or come in with pre-prepared documents), and finally one last recap session in October. We will then prepare the documents for public hearing to P&Z and BCC.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Stone Crabs were playing at home Aug. 17 through 21 with a total attendance of 3,786 for the 4 games. Saturday night was a doubleheader followed by fireworks.

Harold Avenue Park

Harold Avenue had their opening round of playoffs this past weekend. 30 teams competed in our 10u, 12u, 14u, and 17u divisions for the chance to move onto our Semi-Finals and Championship weekend! We had a few nail-biters and all the kids gave it their all. Medals were handed out to all the teams not advancing. Harold Avenue Youth Basketball League continues to have their registration open for the upcoming Fall/Winter Season. Pickleball has seen a great turnout this week with numbers increasing steadily. Table Tennis is slowly climbing in numbers as the summer begins to come to a close. Harold Avenue also played host to Florida Storm Basketball and the Port Charlotte Little League this past weekend for their upcoming season registrations.

Tringali Park

Greetings from Tringali Park! This week we are proud to report that our Open House on August 20 was a huge success! It was our first event like this in nearly six years. We estimated that about 200 visitors came through our facilities that day. All the events we provided were well received and we even took in some new enrollments in our programs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the entertainment and refreshments that were available. The most valuable part of the day was being able to meet and greet the community and let them know of the wide variety of services we could provide them with. We received a lot of positive feedback from them, as well. Thank you to all that attended and for the hard work of the staff!

In other news, the Super Mini Sports Music and Dance Camp is moving steadily towards our first recital August 31. Today we'll be introducing the kids to the concept of "dress rehearsal." The parents seem grateful that their children are getting to have such a unique experience at such a young age. We hope you can attend the recital at 5:45 p.m. this week!

Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

For the week of 8/17 through 8/23/16, Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool had 217 paid admissions, was visited by 22 pass holders and had 37 water aerobics participants. In addition, staff conducted 1 private swim lesson series.

Extension Services

- Newspaper Article for August 22 – “Mysterious ferns are native”
- Horticulture Department Meeting – August 22
- CED Monthly Meeting – August 22
- Master Gardener Radio Show (WCCF 1580) – August 23
- UF HR Visit – August 25

Natural Resources

This week staff initiated and completed 2 separate exotic treatments utilizing contractors. The properties treated were Oyster Creek Environmental Park and Buck Creek Preserve. The treatment on Buck Creek Preserve will be part of a permit compliance agreement with FDEP. In order to install the kayak/canoe launch Charlotte County staff was required to mitigate impacts to mangroves. The agreed upon mitigation was the treatment of exotic flora along the north property line. A report will be prepared for FDEP and submitted. The rest of the week staff worked to complete the FCT annual reports.

Loggerhead nesting is slowing down and hatchlings are starting to emerge. Green Sea turtles are starting to nest on our beaches with more anticipated very soon.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

- Cedar Point Park Visitors Center carpet installation is in progress. The estimated completion date is August 26, 2016.
- South County Park concession/restroom painting has been completed.
- Cultural Center parking lot seal and stripe pre-bid meeting was held August 22, 2016. We are waiting for bid packages from contractors.

Operations

Semi-Annual Fire Sprinkler Inspections are underway within the county buildings. This inspection thoroughly looks at the fire sprinkler system and makes sure that the system is maintained and is ready in case of a fire emergency to help protect employees, public visiting these buildings and the property itself. Any deficiencies found will be reported and repaired to insure the systems are ready if needed.

Project Management

- The Grace Street Annex will be undergoing a retrofit to add occupancy sensor devices. These devices will replace outdated manual light switches located throughout the entire building. Work is anticipated to begin within 30 days.
- West County Annex Construction Manager at Risk selection was made. Mid-County Library architect negotiations begin this week.
- Port Charlotte Beach seawall work continues.
- Cape Haze Pioneer Park sidewalks and curb work being completed this week.
- Negotiations are underway for South County Annex renovations.
- McGuire Park construction documents under review.
- The contractor cleared the District One site and started excavating the retention pond bringing a site elevation.

Human Services

All Veteran Services staff met with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition for training on how to use the CIS system to track veterans who come to the office. By utilizing CIS, Veteran Services will be better able to track outcomes and refer veterans and their dependents to necessary services. Veteran Services will begin using CIS once the system has been built to accommodate the new users.

Veteran Services employee, Ivey Winkler, assisted a veteran who came to Human Services to ask for food assistance. The veteran had recently moved to Charlotte County and was staying in his Aunt's condo. Ivey brought him into the office and discussed his situation and determined that he had a need for other services so she signed him up for VA Healthcare, referred him to the VA Vet Center Counselor for PTSD counseling, and to CareerSource SWFL for job placement. A few days later Ivey received a message from CareerSource which indicated that the veteran had been enrolled in Employflorida and was hired on his first interview.

Public Works

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

2016 County Paving Program – The purpose of this project is to resurface Charlotte County roadways in the following districts:

- Greater Port Charlotte
- Deep Creek
- North West Port Charlotte
- Punta Gorda Non-Urban
- Peace River Shores
- Rotonda Heights
- Road & Bridge

[Paving Maps](#) depicting the roadways to be paved within each district are available on the Project Status Updates website. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: 05/09/2016 – Fall 2017

The paving in Deep Creek has been completed. The restoration is continuing and should wrap up in a couple weeks. The contractor has completed paving in the Peachland 7 area and is currently paving in the Peachland 5 area. To date there has been approx. 23,811 tons of asphalt placed in this contract. The amount of work completed to date is 11.7% and the amount of contract time that has elapsed is 22.5%.

Stormwater Projects in Design, Negotiation or Procurement

Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Lion Heart Waterway 4.34 (Kenilworth Blvd.) – This project provides for the design, permitting and construction of a stormwater control structure under Kenilworth Blvd. at the Lion Heart Waterway. Construction will consist of replacing (2) 72" corrugated metal pipe culverts with (2) 8'x10' box culverts and a 64' weir. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: Jan – Dec 2016, Procurement Process: Dec 2016 – Feb 2017, Projected Construction Schedule: April – Dec 2017

Johnson Engineering has completed the survey, the existing base plan, and the geotechnical investigation. The engineering firm is coordinating with the utility on the aerial crossing.

The 30% design plans are scheduled to be submitted for review by the end of August.

Landscape Projects in Construction

Burnt Store Village Buffer – This project provides for landscaping and irrigation to create a buffer along the east side of Burnt Store Road between Zemel Road and Dored Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying. Construction contract: Jones Landscape, Construction schedule: 5/23 – 10/20 2016 (150 calendar days).

Cypress, red maple, and sweet bay trees have been planted and utility services have been established. The installation of irrigation is underway and the planting of shrubs and additional trees continues. This project is approximately 70% complete and progressing ahead of schedule.

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)

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

Water points of service are ready at this location however electrical points of service are pending action by Florida Power and Light. Many landscape plants have been planted including Palms, shrubs, Crepe Myrtles, and Japanese blueberry trees. Planting continues and construction is progressing ahead of schedule.

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (August 18, 2016) – *Intermittent inside lane closures may continue on Toledo Blade Boulevard, from US 41 to Hillsborough Boulevard, next week from Monday - Friday, August 22 - 26. Work in this area includes median landscaping and temporary inside lane closures will be necessary for the delivery of landscape materials. 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)

This project is nearing completion. Weather permitting, substantial completion is expected by the end of the week.

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/Permitting 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/Permitting Schedule: June – Dec 2016.

The 30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates were received, reviewed by County staff, and comments returned to the design engineer. 60% design plans are underway and cost estimates have been revised.

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 30% conceptual design plans and preliminary cost estimates were received, reviewed by County staff, and comments returned to the design engineer. 60% design plans are underway and cost estimates have been revised.

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.

90% design plans are in progress and should be received by the County in early September. The landscape consultant has been advised to reduce the overall landscape design to bring the cost of construction in line with the budget which will also reduce the cost of maintaining the landscaped areas after the project is complete.

Maintenance & Operations Weekly Accomplishments (Aug. 17 – Aug. 23, 2016)

A total of 103 new requests were received related to drainage, brush, asphalt repairs, guardrail repairs, and illegal dumping.

Drainage line & grade:	9,150 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 5,800 SF in Englewood East 9,450 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Small pipe install:	64 LF in Deep Creek 32 LF in Englewood East 132 LF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
Culvert cleaning:	Cleaned 39 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 4 culverts in Deep Creek Cleaned 12 culverts in Englewood East Cleaned 13 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
Asphalt repair:	Utilized 6.82 tons of material to repair locations throughout the County

Boom mower: Cut 9,673 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Cut 10,580 CY in Deep Creek
Debris removal: Removed 20,050 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: 64,599
- Landing rate counts taken: 42
- Traps set: 35
- Service requests: 44

Aquatic Weed Control

- Sites treated: 16
- Sites inspected: 15
- Mitigation sites maintained: 0

Tourism

Chip Futch, Marketing Director for the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, has been appointed to serve a one-year term on VISIT FLORIDA's Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature Committee effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The committee composes of representatives from hotels, attractions and destinations and works with the state's tourism bureau to promote nature-based, cultural heritage and rural tourism.