

**Administration column for 11/7/12**  
**Parkside Milestones**  
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Charlotte County Government staff continues to work on a number of projects in the Parkside area in Port Charlotte. As the end of our calendar years approaches, I would like to provide an update on some of the recent and upcoming milestones in a few of the projects.

First, the Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway algae removal project is out for bid. The bids for this project are due to our Purchasing department by 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 28. The work to be performed under the contract includes furnishing all labor, equipment, supplies, materials, transportation, fuel, power, water, providing environmental protection, and performing all operations in connection with the removal of algae from Sunshine Lake and Sunrise Waterway.

Second, under the topic of the recharge well design, we should expect 100 percent plans and bid specs by the end of December. The recharge well project will consist of two wells, one at the end of Sunshine Lake and one at McGuire Park. These wells will pump water into the waterway to keep a flow through the system, helping with circulation and with the flushing of the waterway. The schedule is for that project to immediately follow the algae removal.

On Sept. 5 the mid-county stormwater MSBU approved for staff to ask SWFWMD for a grant to do a nutrient source study. The funding request was submitted last month and if approved by SWFWMD would be available Oct. 2013. The project would be a detailed study to try and determine the nutrient sources contributing to the system and come up with ways to reduce or eliminate those sources. By doing this study SWFWMD would be willing to share in costs of any of the improvements that come from the study.

FDEP conducted a follow-up sampling event in Sunshine Lake on Oct. 16 to determine if the species composition of the bloom had changed since the last sampling event in June. The results show that the species composition of the bloom remains almost exactly the same as it was during the previous sampling event. FDEP does not believe the bloom is producing any toxins. The dominant species is still the non-toxin producer *Aphanothece conglomerata*, and several species of native fish were observed during the sampling event.

Current road projects in the Parkside area include Harbor Boulevard and Aaron Street. Harbor Blvd. from US 41 to Olean Blvd. will receive a total reconstruction of the roadway, and trees and landscaping will be added. Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) will be involved to ensure the utilities are designed appropriately. Most of the existing CCU utilities are expected to be replaced as part of this project due to age and condition. Reclaimed water mains will be included in the project as well as potable water and sanitary sewer replacements. The consulting contract is now being finalized.

Aaron Street from Harbor Blvd. to Gertrude Ave. will get a new sidewalk. CCU and community development staffs are considering the installation of reclaimed water from the Gertrude Booster Station to Harbor Blvd. for irrigation of the new landscaping planned for the Harbor project.

Comprehensive planning staff has started to work on the draft Parkside Revitalization Plan (PReP) in order to create a set of specific Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOPs) for development and redevelopment guidelines within Parkside. These guidelines will be based on the vision adopted in the Citizens' Master Plan. The proposed GOPs will be adopted in the Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan should the Board of County Commissioners approve

it. In a meeting on Oct. 3 with the President of TEAM Port Charlotte, the timeline for the PReP was outlined to include three specific events: staff will present the draft PReP at the Team Port Charlotte monthly meeting on Nov. 15 to solicit comments; staff will host a meeting in the first week of December for public comments; and staff will finalize the PReP based on the citizen input and will present the final draft version on Jan. 31 at the TEAM Port Charlotte annual meeting.

To round out the projects in the area there have been a number of activities involving the staff of veteran services and senior services divisions. Veteran services conducts a monthly outreach presentation open to the public at the Royal Palm Assisted Living Facility (in Parkside) on a war time pension with aid and attendance and a surviving spouses war time pension with aid and attendance. Veteran services also conducts visits to other assisted living facilities and senior facilities in Parkside area as needed. Senior services attends and participates in the "Our Community for a Lifetime" committee meetings at Fawcett Memorial Hospital.

These are just a few of the ongoing projects in the Parkside community redevelopment area. Not only do these projects benefit those who live and work within Parkside, but the entire Charlotte County community benefits from revitalizing areas.