

Administrator's Update for 7/6/11
By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has voted to temporarily stop charging certain impact fees for one year beginning July 1. Impact fees that are collected for road projects will continue. The intent is to alleviate some of the economic obstacles for the building industry so that more construction projects can come to fruition.

Bridge replacement

The BCC has approved the design build contract with Wright Construction to replace the Melbourne Street Bridge in Charlotte Harbor CRA. This new bridge will include pedestrian facilities and lighting. The project will also include the installation of sidewalks from the bridge to Chester Roberts Park. These portions of the project support the goals of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Plan aimed at improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within the area and connecting a regional trails system.

Park and preserve upkeep

Our parks and natural resources division has been busy with upkeep at the parks and preserves. Work was done at Tippecanoe II for a butterfly garden and mowed areas in four environmental parks: Tippecanoe, Amberjack, Oyster Creek and Charlotte Flatwoods. The volleyball court at Harbour Heights Park is now refurbished, and improvements to the retention area in that park should help the parking lot drainage. Thirty-one recycle containers were installed in our west county parks and new row-letter parking signs have been installed in the sports park parking area.

Construction around the county

The BCC has awarded the North Charlotte Regional Park baseball project to Bonness, Inc. of Port Charlotte. This contractor will supply all materials, labor, equipment and incidentals required to successfully complete construction. The BCC has also awarded the Oyster Creek boardwalk project to Marine Contracting Group, Inc. of Punta Gorda. This is for the construction of a boardwalk and trail connecting Oyster Creek Regional Park with Cedar Point Environment Park in Englewood.

At the new human services building project on Loveland Boulevard, the contractor is in the process of raising the site to the proper elevations. The contractors and design team have performed a ready-check to resolve conflicts on the constructability of the plans. Footers and foundation excavation will start this week.

The Ainger Creek boat ramp parking expansion project is approaching completion. The contractor is paving drives and pouring the boat ramp sidewalk, with project completion expected by July 8.

Traffic has been transitioned to the new Piper Road alignment as part of the Piper Road widening project. More than 50 regulatory traffic signs have been installed, as well as over 21,000 linear feet of roadway striping. This project widens Piper Road to four lanes from Henry Street to US17.

Call for artists and sponsors

In an effort to bring artists and the community together, Charlotte County community services and the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Advisory Committee has announced a call for artists and sponsors. Ten local artists will be selected to decorate a bench to be placed within Bayshore Live Oak Park. The ten benches will be judged; one winner will be selected by the jury and a "People's Choice" winner will be selected by popular vote. To support this project, ten bench sponsorships are available for \$250 each. A plaque will be attached to each bench with the artist's and sponsor's names. For details visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com and select "Charlotte Harbor CRA" from the Government section. You may also call 941-627-1628, ext.101.