

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

Published 1/28/14

Community Development

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

Dredging - Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system connecting to the Myakka River navigation channel. This is a new channel, over one mile long, that extends and connects three waterways to the Myakka River channel. This project consists of design, engineering, permitting and construction of the new channel.

The contractor is dredging the main access channel as well as the connector channels to the Venus and Cheshire Waterways. Heavy rain conditions over the summer and early winter tides have hampered progress. The contractor is preparing to mobilize additional equipment to the project to accelerate the completion of the project.

Dredging – Suncoast Waterway – This project is designed to facilitate safe navigation within the Suncoast Waterway system by removing 18,000 cubic yards of silted material. Dredging is underway and will continue through February 2014. The contractor has completed most of the upland portion of the dredging and continues with the outside and the northeastern portions however early winter tides have hampered progress. As of Jan. 14, 2014, the contractor only has approximately 2,000 feet of work remaining in the new access channel.

Sidewalks - Rio De Janeiro Avenue – A sidewalk is being installed from an existing sidewalk on Rio De Janeiro Avenue at Rampart Boulevard to a newly constructed sidewalk on Deep Creek Boulevard. Design includes a connection/crossing to a newly constructed sidewalk at Sandhill Boulevard. This is an integral part of a planned sidewalk network in the Deep Creek area.

The contractor poured the final segments of sidewalk on Jan.7. Last week the contractor installed some pipe to eliminate a slope issue. Four driveways were stained and preparations began for final invoicing of the project. Staff is preparing a punch list of minor items that need correction; the contractor will have approx. two weeks for the corrections. We are preparing to turn this project over to our Maintenance and Operations Department for long term maintenance. This is the final update for this project.

Sidewalks - Rotonda Boulevards East & North - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West.

Construction began Jan. 6, 2014 and the contractor has begun preliminary survey and layout work. Erosion control devices are being installed on Rotonda Boulevard North. The inside lane of Rotonda Boulevard North is closed to carry out construction; this lane will eventually become a bike path. Crews have begun forming and preparing base material for sidewalk and curbing. Crews are concentrating on Rotonda Boulevard North at the moment; no work is being done on Rotonda Boulevard East at this time.

PSA issued 01/08/14, expires May 2014: Sidewalk construction along Rotonda Boulevards North and East, from Rotonda Circle to Parade Circle, began on Monday January 6, 2014 and is expected to continue through May 2014. Traffic patterns will shift due to intermittent lane closures throughout the duration of this project. There will be signs, message boards, and flagmen as needed and citizens are urged to use caution when moving through in this area.

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Sidewalks – Burnt Store Lakes - The South Burnt Store MSBU Committee requested sidewalks within the Burnt Store Lakes subdivision. This project will design and construct approx. 1.5 miles of sidewalks on Vincent Avenue from Boca Vista Road to Burnt Store Road and on Saragossa Lane from Cape Horn Boulevard to Burnt Store Road.

A work order has been issued to Banks Engineering to complete the design of approximately 1.5 miles of sidewalks in Burnt Store Lakes. The MSBU will meet with Banks Engineering on February 4, 2014 to kick off the project.

Sidewalks - Sheehan Boulevard – This sidewalk will be installed on Sheehan Boulevard from Noble Terrace to Peachland Boulevard and includes a connection to a recently constructed sidewalk on Alton Road.

The bid package for the construction contract was forwarded to the Purchasing Department on December 16, 2013 in preparation for bid solicitation. This project is expected to be advertised for bid late January or early February 2014. A pre-bid meeting will be scheduled in which there will be an opportunity for contractors to ask questions and clarify the scope of the contract for bidding purposes. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Sidewalks - South Gulf Cove – The South Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested approximately 17 miles of new multi-use pathways within the South Gulf Cove subdivision. Phase One includes the design and construction of approximately 2.7 miles of off-street pathways on Ingraham Boulevard from Gasparilla Road to Calumet Boulevard and on Calumet Boulevard from Ingraham Boulevard to St. Paul Drive.

A work order has been issued to Johnson Engineering to complete the design of approximately 2.7 miles of multi-use pathways in the South Gulf Cove MSBU. MSBU members will meet with Johnson Engineering staff on Jan. 30, 2014 to kick off the project.

Coastal Projects

Dredging - Alligator Creek and Sunrise Waterway – The Alligator Creek Waterway Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to a depth greater than -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. This project also includes maintenance dredging to existing permitted conditions.

Maintenance Dredging to -5 feet MLW: ACOE permits expire March 2014; reauthorization of project permits should be complete in February 2014. Plans and specifications are complete pending any revised permit language required by agencies. Permits, plans and specifications are anticipated mid-February 2014; contractor should begin work in mid-spring 2014.

New Dredging to -6 feet MLW: Natural resource investigations are complete - no impacts to sea grasses, hard bottom or oysters discovered. The geotechnical study is complete. Rock was located however no continuous rock is exposed at the surface. No rock shelf exists containing soft corals or other hard bottom habitats. The permit application is being finalized however the permit plans and exhibits are complete pending professional engineer signature and seal. The permit application is expected to be submitted in January 2014. Continued contact with permitting agencies is positive.

Dredging - Harbor Heights Waterway - This project consists of maintenance dredging existing man-made canals and access channels to their permitted conditions to restore safe navigation within the waterway system.

The Consultant is in the process of gathering survey and permitting data. This phase should be complete by the beginning of February with submittal to the permitting agencies in March 2014.

Dredging - Manchester Waterway - Maintenance dredging will be conducted within the Manchester Waterway to provide safe navigation to the citizens who utilize the waterways. Johnson Engineering is gathering survey and historical data to prepare the permit application for maintenance dredging of the area. An FDEP permit has been issued, however the ACOE permit is still pending. The consultant and County staff have both been in contact with ACOE to try to resolve the permitting delays. The National Marine Fisheries Service reviewed the project and it is pending signature; upon receipt of signature, the ACOE will be free to issue their permit. The bid package is prepared to go to the Purchasing Department for review in preparation for bid solicitation.

Stump Pass Monitoring & Maintenance Dredging – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction or installation of additional structures in the future in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts.

After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants will conduct modeling to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. Project modeling is complete and the results have been provided to the State agencies responsible to review and comment. Upon receipt of their approval or recommendation, the final permitting plans and the project description will be completed. This process will minimize any requests for additional information from the permitting agencies

Other Projects

Electric Runs to Rotonda West Bridges – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested the installation of an electric power system for five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard West, Rotonda Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court.

Bids have been received and a recommendation to award the construction contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 28, 2014.

Manasota Key Community Plan Design – The Manasota Key MSBU Committee requested the development of a Community Plan including, but not limited to, sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks and lighting.

The Manasota Key Community Plan was presented to the MSBU Committee on Dec. 11, 2014. The MSBU Committee requested that staff move forward with designing sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping as well as street light replacement on Gulf Boulevard and the redesign of the commercial area to allow for additional parking and stormwater redesign. In addition, the committee requested that some mid-block crossings be installed and that all crosswalks be stamped asphalt.

Rotonda West Entry Features – This project will provide new signs at five (5) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit.

Construction bids were opened on Dec. 11, 2013. A recommendation to award this contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 28, 2014 with construction commencing soon thereafter. Construction is projected to be complete 120 calendar days after commencement.

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 2012 Sunshine Lake Water Quality Study, conducted by Atkins, focused on the potential causes of the existing and persistent algal blooms occurring in the Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway, and recommended solutions toward restoring and enhancing the water quality of these water bodies. The study recommendations include the following actions: removal of the algal biomass, enhancing circulation by aeration, providing additional water input by well augmentation, and modification of lake levels by the addition of a water control structure.

The Sunshine Lake/Sunrise Waterway Water Level Control Structure Project is intended to meet the lake level modification recommendation of the study. The control structure will be constructed at the large culvert at the Tamiami Trail frontage road, located at the downstream end of Sunrise Waterway. The structure will raise the water level in the water bodies 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.

Additional proposed improvements include upsizing the pipe crossing at Gertrude from the existing 36" diameter to a 48" diameter storm drain, and increasing the number of pipe crossings at N. Tamiami Trail frontage road from one 72" to two 72" pipes.

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) was issued Nov. 4, 2013. Bid documents for construction are underway, and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department in the spring of 2014. Construction is projected to begin in the summer of 2014 depending on funding.

Paving Projects

2014 County Paving Program - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. 2014 paving maps area available on the public Web site.

The contract was awarded to Ajax Paving Inc. at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday Jan. 14, 2014. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014 in the Purchasing Department conference room and work is scheduled to commence the week of Feb. 8, 2014.

Community Services

Charlotte County Community Services conducted a program to celebrate completion of the last segment of the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail in Placida. The program acknowledged fifteen years of work spearheaded by Ann Mercer to convert the former Charlotte Harbor & Northern Railroad easement into a trail through the federal transportation enhancement program funds. The eight and one half mile multipurpose trail allows users to travel from its trailhead located near the corner of County Road 776 and Gasparilla Road to Placida. There are two additional trailheads along the way and a final trailhead with restrooms is planned for the end of the trail.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Dr-ib-ble, shoot, shoot, take that ball to the hoop, hoop! Week 7 of the Adult Men's Basketball League was completed on Sunday. There is currently one undefeated team in this highly competitive league. The league consists of 7 teams composed of 10 man rosters. Games for the Adult Men's Basketball League are held on Sundays from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The players will participate in an 8 week regular season followed by a single elimination playoff series. In other news, participation continues to increase in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center.

Tringali

Community Services had the privilege to participate in the Senior Expo, Jan. 21 & 22, 2014, at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Seniors were able to sign up for the senior games on the spot. Questions regarding the many games offered and registration were answered. On display were senior game medals and a senior game t-shirt. Also available to hand out were the schedules for the Rays 2014 Spring Training Schedule and the Charlotte Stone Crabs. A popular question asked was how much are tickets! A very popular hand out was the Activities, Programs & Facility Guide. The Program Guide is such a wealth of information the public was thrilled to receive. There was a slide show presentation for anyone who wanted to see an overview of all of our Recreation Centers and some of the activities offered at each location. What a great time interacting with the many seniors living in Charlotte County!

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

At Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center here on Monday Jan. 13 we had the CC Human Services meeting, from 8am-2pm and 6pm-8pm total around 50. On Tuesday the Irish American Club met with approximately 55 attendees. Wednesday we had CC Genealogical Society with 90 in attendance. Thursday the Charlotte Promenaders Square Dance Club's Square Dance was here with an attendance of 80 participants and more new faces. This club meets every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 9:30pm. Friday we had a surprise 25th wedding

anniversary and Vow Renewal for 40 and on Saturday we had a Sweet sixteen Party for 100.

Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 52 attend the water aerobics classes and 51 paid admissions.

South County Regional Park and Pool

The Special Olympics vs Punta Gorda Police Department Basketball Game brought in 80 people on Sunday between players and spectators. Pickleball brought in 150 people last week with the majority of them being players. Pickleball is offered 5 times a week. South County will not be running regular programs this Saturday and Sunday due to a private rental by Lee County Dog Obedience. The Dog Show will bring in approximately 300 people (and Dogs) both days.

For the week of 1-12-14 through 1-18-14, South County Regional Park Pool had 10 paid admissions, was visited by 65 pass holders and had 38 water aerobics participants." The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 13 swim practices resulting in approximately 600 "splashes".

Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 1-12-14 thru 1-18-14, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 41 paid admissions, was visited by 34 pass holders and had 35 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 3 practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes".

Extension Services

- Agent Evaluations are due to Dr. Vavrina – January 17
- Home and Garden Show Display – Event Center – January 18 and 19
- Newspaper Article for January 20 – "Light up the landscape with firebush"
- Sun Reporter - January 21 – 2:30 pm – 100th Anniversary of Extension Article Interview
- Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition – January 22 – Group of about 10 Master Gardeners attending this annual event in Ft. Lauderdale – Professional Development
- King's Highway/I-75 gateway design progress review/other roadway landscape related topics – 2 pm – January 23 – Public Works
- Landscape Gardening Series – January 24 – 9:30 to 11:30 am "Backyard Citrus Problems and Cures - Learn about common citrus pests" – Dr. Mongi Zekri, Multi-County Citrus Agent

Libraries and Historical

The very popular Flamenco Dance Troupe will be returning for a free show at the Mid-County Regional Library on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6p.m. Flamenco guitarist Eddy Lugo & Somos present an authentic show of Flamenco dance and song. This show is completely filled each year so stop by to get free tickets that will be available starting Monday, January 27. Limit 4 tickets per person and no reservations.

The Mid-County Library is offering a Florida Literature series as a result of a grant from the Florida Humanities Council and the first free program is Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. titled "Florida Literature, a natural paradox". This program will be presented by Laura Runge. This lecture provides an overview of literary history in Florida. Come and enjoy the discussion.

Multiple programs are being offered all over the County at each of our 4 libraries and for every age and interest. Check out our website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov or stop in at any library. Check out a good book today!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

We have many A/C ductless systems installed throughout Charlotte County facilities, which are necessary to enhance the cooling needs in some critical areas. However, we have found this type of system does need additional maintenance due to the design. One system located at the Punta Gorda Justice Center is designated as our test model for the addition of a Ultra Violet light designed for this application. Our goal is a cleaner,

more energy efficient system and to reduce bacteria growth. The light has been operational for approximately six weeks and appears to be functioning as intended. We will continue to monitor this system for a few more weeks before making the decision to incorporate U.V. lights in other locations.

Operations

The Charlotte County Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department contracted with the S2 Institute for tailored security training. This training was developed specifically for our security staff, their supervisors and managers, those who regularly deal with "security issues," and others with an interest in security at their respective government facilities. This first of its kind training was completed on Friday, Jan. 17 and over a dozen employees attended from Facilities Construction and Maintenance, Community Services, Risk Management, CCU, and the Health Department. This training refreshed our security staff's knowledge of Florida State law, described new and evolving threats, and re-emphasized the need to employ safe ways to deescalate potentially violent situations. It also provided our managers and supervisors with a greater awareness of what our security staff can and cannot do relative to the law(s). Finally, this training was a valuable opportunity to come together and talk about our unique security issues and concerns with others who face similar issues.

Project Management

The Harold Avenue parking lot repairs are completed. Both the main parking area and smaller site near the tennis courts were included under this repair contract. The contractor patched deteriorating areas, overlaid the three rows closest the center, installed curbing, and sealed/striped the area.

The geothermal pool heating system at South County Regional Park is complete and fully functional. This system will heat and cool the competition pool and dive well. The county will realize significant energy savings from this upgrade.

The construction documents for the Franz Ross project are being prepared with the parking and drainage improvements.

Tourism

On Friday January 17 County Tourism Staff attended the first of two annual Travel Expos at The Villages, a community of over 100,000 which is located 2 ½ hours north just off I-75. Preliminary estimates indicate that approximately 3,000 residents attended this consumer show hunting for ideas and information relating to vacation travel within the state. Research conducted by show organizers revealed that the majority of this affluent market takes at least two in-state vacations each year, prefers to travel mid-week, and is interested in visiting natural attractions and the beaches. Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands was well represented at the show as representatives from area attractions and accommodations (Fishermen's Village and Palm Island Resort) participated with the tourism office. More than 400 of our Visitor Guides were distributed and staff fielded a variety of detailed questions about our destination including inquiries relating to our beaches, golf, accommodations, fishing, kayaking, events, nature tours, etc.

County Tourism Staff attended Florida Huddle, the state's foremost travel trade event attended by domestic and international tour operators and journalists interested in doing business in Florida. The show took place in Palm Beach County last week (Jan. 14 – 16) and although it celebrated its 38th annual event, it's the first year VISIT FLORIDA managed the show. During the appointment trade show staff met with 20 tour operators and journalists and returned with several leads for potential business for Charlotte County accommodation and attraction businesses. Many journalists, from Florida, Canada and Brazil, are interested in learning more about the destination in order to write about the area for their respective publications.

Utilities (CCU)

As part of our ongoing preventive maintenance (PM) program for our water and wastewater facilities, staff has been implementing numerous upgrades to improve performance and increase the efficiency of our wastewater collection, treatment and processing equipment. For example, our technicians have now replaced old parts with new electric control panels and pumps at 2 master lift stations, located in Greater Port Charlotte. This

work effort saves the county thousands of dollars in costly repairs, as well as avoiding emergency breakdowns later. A second example of our successful PM program is the improvements made to our master control cabinet (MCC) and belt press at one of our wastewater facilities, whereby staff undertook a multi-prong effort to eliminate trip hazards, improve ergonomics and allow for easier staff access to the equipment and improve work efficiencies, saving the county \$45,000 from outside contractor costs. Lastly, our staff has successfully extended the serviceable life of treatment components at one of our wastewater facilities far beyond that of the original equipment by allowing less wear and tear and providing a more efficient head works unit. Simply by reinforcing mounting hardware on various drives and motors, applying corrosion-resistant coatings and lubricants to various components and adding tensioners to prevent wearing of chains and sprockets, staff has prolonged the lifespan of the plant's head works at a nominal cost.

CCU's water treatment facility in Burnt Store was recently selected by FDEP as the host facility for 20 new inspectors hired by the regulatory agency, to receive training and education on the proper operation and maintenance of a plant. The new inspectors were all impressed by the facility and staff's presentation. A Q&A time followed with many questions for our staff. This provided an opportunity for FDEP staff to accomplish their educational goals and allowed us to perpetuate a good rapport with State regulators.