

Administrator's Update for 4/8/15

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The 2015 county paving program provides for the resurfacing of roads in greater Port Charlotte, Parkside, Deep Creek, and the road and bridge districts. The 2015 paving program contract was awarded on March 10, 2015 and paving has begun in the "Peachland 4" area, from Loveland boulevard west, just north of Peachland boulevard. Paving maps and updates are available online. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Project Status Updates" in the Popular Links on the left.

Update on microtunnels & weirs

The U.S. 41 Microtunnels/Weirs project is designed to increase stormwater flow under U.S. 41 in conjunction with the Midway Boulevard Phase II road widening project. This project is the first microtunnel project in Charlotte County history and involves microtunneling culverts under U.S. 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, as well as replacing existing culverts at the U.S. 41 access roads at the Pompano Waterway and Elmira Boulevard. The project also includes many details such as sidewalks, major drainage improvements, Charlotte County Utility (CCU) relocations and improvements, street lighting, site dewatering, flow diversion, excavation and fill, grading, sodding, and maintenance of traffic.

Construction is approximately 89 percent complete. Currently, at the Elkcam Waterway the concrete sheet installation and concrete cap are completed on the new weir upstream of U.S. 41. The contractor began the final restoration in this area to complete this phase of construction. Sodding, sidewalks and guardrails are currently being installed. At the Fordham Waterway, the contractor is currently installing new riprap in this area. Restoration on the north side is complete and restoration on the south side will begin soon to complete this phase of construction. At Elmira Boulevard, the south headwall is under construction and work will begin on the north headwall this week.

Claim approved

Charlotte County veteran services staff recently completed a final claim for a widow that started as a service connected death and burial claim. After receiving a denial notification from the VA from the claim she had submitted herself, staff helped with understanding all the details of the requirements. The death certificate was submitted for correction and the VA claim resubmitted. Not only was the claim approved, the VA also awarded benefits back to the original claim date.

Senior Games

On March 29 the community services department wrapped up this year's fifteenth annual Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games. The Charlotte County "Fit for Life" Senior Games provides a fulfilling and rewarding experience with Olympic-style events that focus on athletic competition, camaraderie and recreational opportunities. "Senior" is defined as amateur athletes 50 years of age and over. These games are sanctioned by the Florida Sports Foundation and serve as a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championships. The 12 different sport events ranged from track and field to pickleball, shuffleboard to basketball, and even bowling, bocce and golf. This year there were over 336 athletes altogether, with a few participating in multiple events. The games were held throughout the month of March at 6 different Charlotte County recreation facilities and parks. Thank you to all the volunteers, staff and athletes for a great Senior Games.