

Charlotte County update for 6/15/16

Commission addresses Manasota Key erosion

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

The Charlotte County Commission on Friday declared a local state of emergency retroactive to June 6 in response to coastal erosion on Manasota Key caused by Tropical Storm Colin. The declaration will help expedite permitting for property owners undertaking erosion mitigation projects.

The storm led Community Development Department to declare two single-family homes and two condominium buildings unsafe. All but one condemnation were subsequently lifted after private engineers inspected the properties and assumed liability for their structural integrity. Owners of the condominium units are actively pursuing a permit to construct a seawall, which will be expedited by the declaration of a local state of emergency.

Residents with coastal erosion caused by Tropical Storm Colin may seek an emergency permit for erosion control by contacting the Community Development Department. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Request Coastal Erosion Emergency Information" in the Popular Links on the left. Information packets that include an explanation of the county and state permitting processes for mitigation projects is available at the department office at 18400 Murdock Circle in Port Charlotte.

For more information, call Planning and Zoning Official Shaun Cullinan at 743-1922.

On Tuesday, the commission voted to begin negotiations with an engineering consultant to create a 10-year beach renourishment plan for Manasota Key. In December, the board created a municipal benefit taxing units to pay for the project. Money for the creation of the plan will come from the BP oil spill settlement.

Line pumping

The Utilities Department has been deploying crews to pump out sewer lines over the past week. Heavy rain, both from Colin and subsequent rain events, led to inflow into and infiltration of sewers lines.

The maintenance, some of which will take place overnight, is standard procedure for storm events and episodes of heavy rain to prevent damage to sewer lines and avoid overtaxing the department's wastewater treatment plants with rainwater mixed with sewage.

Sunset Cam

Charlotte County offers some of the most spectacular sunsets in the world. Now, no matter where you are, you can enjoy these views on CC-TV's new Sunset Cam. Perched atop the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, the Sunset Cam captures the spectacle, accompanied by music, most evenings on CC-TV (Comcast channel 20 and 97 and CenturyLink Prism channel 96). If your provider doesn't carry CC-TV, the broadcast is streamed on our website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. Click CC-TV under Popular Links. (The Sunset Cam is

broadcast in the evening unless replays of County Commission meetings, CC-TV's most popular show, are airing.)

The Sunset Cam is a great way to showcase the county's natural beauty around the world. Time-lapse sequences posted to the county's Facebook page have already gone viral, with one sunset post garnering more than 15,000 views. Just as impressive, more than 370 people shared the video with their friends, magnifying the impact of the post.

One user, commenting on the post shared by a county resident, wrote, "We miss these awesome sunsets!! Be back before long." Another commented, "Works just great for us snowbirds; we still see the sunset." Still others wrote, "Love it!", "Awesome" and "Why I love Port Charlotte."

Whether you're a local or a seasonal visitor, I hope you enjoy this nightly celebration of our beautiful county.

Tourism summit

Staff from the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau attended the Florida Association of Destination Marketing Organizations Marketing Summit last month on Saint Petersburg Beach. Destination marketing industry representatives from many Florida counties gathered to attend a wide variety of interactive sessions, network with other industry professionals, meet with advertisers and attend sessions on topics such as resident outreach, which aims to educate residents about tourism's positive impact on communities' quality of life.

Other sessions covered real-time tracking of emotional reactions to destination video productions and a large interactive session called "DestinationNEXT" by Destination Marketing Association International. Staff also received a state legislative session wrap-up of tourism-related issues.

Ray Sandrock is the Charlotte County Administrator. Readers may reach him at Raymond.Sandrock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.