

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Placida Road - The original scope of this project was to widen Placida Road from a two to a four lane divided roadway from Cape Haze Drive to the Boca Grande Causeway with curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike facilities. The BCC decided to postpone road widening to a future date, and redesign the project to incorporate safety improvements. It was also decided to advance the sidewalk/multi-use trail portion of Phase 2 to be worked concurrently with Phase 1.

Phase 1 - Rotonda Blvd. West to Cape Haze Drive – Design plans are in progress to provide for safety improvements including a 2.9 mile bicycle-pedestrian path from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive, intersection improvements at Lemon Bay Golf Course, Bantry Bay, Cape Haze Drive and Panama Drive and resurfacing of Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway. A Change Order is scheduled to go before the Board on October 22, 2013 that will reduce the contract amount and provide for intersection turn lane/pedestrian safety improvements.

Phase 2 - Cape Haze Dr. to Boca Grande Causeway – The 60% design plans are in progress and are expected to be available for review by the end of October, 2013. Design will continue through January 2014 with construction projected to begin in June 2014.

Rotonda Boulevard Sidewalks - 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. These three sidewalk projects were going to be grouped together as one project however this plan has been modified; Rotonda Boulevards East and North will be advertised as a single project and Rotonda Boulevard West will be advertised separately.

East & North – Bids were opened October 9, 2013. Community Development staff reviewed the bids and the apparent lowest responsive bidder was Owen-Ames-Kimball Company. We have recommended that the Purchasing Department move forward with seeking Board approval to award this contract.

West – We are working to finalize a plan that will reduce/eliminate utility conflicts and anticipate this will reduce the cost of the sidewalk construction. We have instructed the design engineer to send the updated plans to the various utility companies for review.

Winchester Corridor Phase Three – This project includes the construction of a new 4 lane divided roadway from SR 776 to Placida Road (CR 775). Construction of the Winchester Roadway project should begin in late 2013. While construction is ongoing, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur. Towards the end of construction of the roadway, the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project and constructed.

A preconstruction meeting was held October 9, 2013. During this meeting a Notice to Proceed was established for January 6, 2014. We continue negotiating a scope and fee with a design consultant to modify the plans at the Winchester Boulevard/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North.

Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (Sept 9 – October 6, 2013)

Burnt Store Road Project – (Pedestrian Features /preemption conflict with Seminole Gulf Railroad) Final timings have been received, reviewed, and submitted to FDOT for approval before submitting to Seminole Gulf Railroad.

Edgewater Phase Two – Awaiting FPL review for utility relocation, installation of lift stations, and final plans.

Rampart and Kings Highway – FPL has energized the load center for the roadway lighting and we are monitoring progress as completion nears.

Sunnybrook Boulevard Sidewalk Project – lighting inspection began and is underway.

Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (Sept 9 – October 6, 2013)

- Fiber optic maintenance conducted in all traffic signal cabinets; jumpers have been replaced, fiber cleaned and wicks checked for optimum operation.
- Repaired 53 non functional roadway lights at various locations throughout the County.
- Two staff members were trained and certified in FDOT Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic operations.
- Improvements inspected for Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store). Final punch list issued.
- Installed temporary radar detection to replace a bad loop detector at US41/Hancock Avenue.
- Traffic signal preventative maintenance was performed at the following locations:
 - SR 776/Spinnaker Boulevard
 - US 41 NB/Tuckers Grade
- Replaced two defective/damaged Coho incident management cameras with two Bosch incident management cameras at Jones Loop / I-75 NB ramp and US17 / I-75 SB ramp.
- Replaced damaged illuminated street name signs at US17/Bermont Road.
- Replaced video detection camera at US 41/Murdock Circle.
- Repaired IT conduit on Cattedock Road hit by contractor who was installing sewer main.
- Installed and energized a load center on SR 776 for the *Center for Site* project.
- Reinstalled a street light pole damaged in a motor vehicle accident on Edgewater Drive just west of the Cousley Drive Bridge.
- Prepped area adjacent to Lighting District Admin building for installation of truck port.

Locates Performed

218 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 85 tickets for locates.

Trouble Calls

10 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (Sept 9 – October 6, 2013)

- Charlotte County's fiber optic cable has been relocated as part of the project.

Paving Projects

2012 North/South Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, the Road & Bridge District, Burnt Store Village, and Tropical Gulf Acres.

All paving for this contract is complete. The Restoration process is continuing slowly due to the extremely wet conditions but should be completed by the end of November. Approximately 159,547 tons of asphalt was placed in Greater Port Charlotte, Burnt Store Village, Tropical Gulf Acres, Deep Creek, Murdock Village, Punta Gorda Non-Urban, and Road and Bridge MSBU Districts.

2012 West County Paving Program – This program provides for the resurfacing of roadways in Gulf Cove, Rotonda Lakes and Rotonda Sands.

The paving operation is complete in Rotonda Sands and Rotonda Lakes. Paving and restoration has resumed in Gulf Cove; extremely wet conditions from the recent rains delayed progress. All work should be completed by late December 2013.

Placida Road Corridor

The Placida Road Corridor is currently in the design phase and provides for a 10' wide multi-use trail from Rotonda Boulevard West to the Boca Grande Causeway. This project is divided into 2 phases: Phase 1 project limits run from Rotonda Boulevard West to Cape Haze Drive and Phase 2 runs from Cape Haze Drive and continues to the Boca Grande Causeway. Phase 1 is the location of the original road widening project, and the Phase 2 section was added when the decision was made to postpone the roadway widening project and proceed with the reduced scope including the addition of a multi-use path and safety improvements.

Giffels – Webster Engineers, the consultant selected for the original project, was selected to design the Phase 2 segment. A contract was executed with Giffels-Webster Engineers on June 17, 2013 and at that time, negotiations to encompass the new segment were underway. The negotiations to redesign Phase 1 are complete and will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their review and approval at the October 22, 2013 board meeting.

The status of Charlotte County's Projects is communicated to the public on our website:
<http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityDevelopment/Engineering/Projects/>

If you have any questions regarding the Placida Road Multi-use Trail project, Phases 1 & 2, please contact Gary Grossman, Project Manager, at Gary.Grossman@charlottefl.com.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Tampa Bay Rays Instructional League (IL) hosted their last games of the season at the Charlotte Sports Park on the stadium field. Attendance was as follows: 9/30 – 35; 10/04 – 30.

The Charlotte Sports Park hosted the IBC Nations Tournament on 10/05 and 10/06. They utilized a total of four fields each day with estimated attendance at 600.

Harold Avenue Recreation

Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to show an increase in building rentals. Last week the Center played host to several athletic functions for Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic School and a private rental for a cheerleading squad. As a result Harold Avenue Recreation Center was exposed to over 175 participants and their supporters. In other news, participation in the programs offered at Harold Avenue Recreation Center continues to remain steady.

Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

Another wet week! For the week of September 29 – October 5 the Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 22 attend the water aerobics classes, 69 paid admissions, and 18 pass holders visited our pool.

The Recreation Center had CERT training with 30 in attendance, and a wedding & reception with 130 guests in attendance and a Sweet Sixteen Birthday Party with 50 in attendance.

Looking at the week ahead, we are busy with 4 rentals, C.E.R.T. (30), Irish American Mtg. (50), Neighborhood Watch Mtg. (60) and the IPSSA Table Top Trade Show with an expected attendance of 200. Not to mention the upcoming Bayshore Wine & Beer Fest held at Bayshore Live Oak Park!!

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of October 1-October 8, at South County Regional Park, the gardeners have started planting vegetables in their plots at the Community Garden. The garden has been re-mulched with two truckloads of free mulch from Asplundh. The garden is full with a waiting list of approximately 15 people. Gardening season at SCRP is here!

For the week of 9-29 through 10-5-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 124 paid admissions, was visited by 96 pass holders and had 62 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held 9 practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes". CHS also hosted a swim meet 10-1-13, with approximately 150 swimmers and their families attending. The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes".

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 130 paid admissions, was visited by 103 pass holders and had 69 water aerobics participants. The Lemon Bay High School swim & dive team held 5 practices resulting in approximately 200 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes".

Extension Services

- *Newspaper Article for September 7th – "Yellow times two"
- *Horticulture Program Assistant Interviews – October 7th and 8th – 9:00 to 11:45 am
- *All-Faculty Meeting – Manatee County – October 10th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- *All-Staff Meeting - Meeting Room C – Mid-County Regional Library – 8 am – October 11th.

Libraries and Historical

The Friend's Bookstores are located in each library and they are filled with all sorts of great bargains! The stores are open when the libraries are open and they are manned by volunteers with our Friends of the libraries. Materials include discards from our library shelves, VHS tapes, DVD's, and other materials that have been donated by our great supporters. If you have materials to donate, bring them on in to any of the library bookstores, they go to a great cause. Monies earned in the bookstores go directly to support the many programs that the libraries offer, programs for all ages. A big thank you to the Friends of the Libraries for managing these bookstores!

November 22, 1963 was the assignation of President Kennedy-50 years ago this year. The Charlotte County Historical Center and the County Libraries are planning programs to discuss and remember the event. Nov. 22 at 1:30 the Historical Center will host, "The Lost JFK Tapes: The Assassination". This program will be at the Center at 22959 Bayshore Rd. Please join us!

November 7 at 5:30 pm the Mid-County Library will present a multimedia show on the book "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith. This program will be presented by the author's son, Rick Smith. Call 941.613.3166 for reservations for this one of a kind program.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

Parking lot lights at the Public Safety Complex and Charlotte Sports Park have been repaired.

The glass door at the Charlotte Sports Park Clubhouse has been repaired.

A pin hole water leak caused water to come up through the floor in the Family Services Building. Facilities performed emergency repairs to fix the leak.

Operations

A 12'x20' aluminum patio cover was installed at the South County Regional Park Recreation Center.

Project Management

Cannon Design and their team are performing inspections of several county buildings for the purpose of gathering information for the asset management project. They will be onsite performing inspections through October 10th.

The responses to the Franz Ross RLI have been received. The purpose of the RLI is to obtain engineering services to design and permit drainage and parking improvements at Franz Ross Park. Currently the drainage especially on the football field is not adequate resulting in disruptions in use (including when there are scheduled league games) as well as high maintenance costs because the field is repeatedly having to be re-sodded. This project will result in an improved facility with lower operating costs.

Human Services

The Human Services Department & Transit Division staff participated with the Charlotte County/Punta Gorda MPO and Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc. in two of three public workshops held on October 3rd and October 9th to gather input on transportation issues and needs in Charlotte County. The third workshop will be held on October 29th from 4-6 pm at the Cultural Center. The workshops are part of the preparation of the County's 10 year strategic plan for transit which will provide guidance and direction for future transit planning including para-transit and fixed route bus service. The Transit Development Plan known as Charlotte Rides is required by the Florida Department of Transportation. This major update to the Plan will be completed by September 2014. An overview of the Plan process will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a workshop on October 15, 2013. The public is encouraged to attend the public workshop on October 29th to provide input or to provide input online at CharlotteRides@tindaleoliver.com.

The Human Services Department in collaboration with the United Way of Charlotte County and the Charlotte Community Foundation presented the Board of County Commissioners with a summary of findings from the recently completed 2013 Community Needs Assessment. Whereas some of the data was sobering, there are numerous opportunities for the community to partner and assist in improving the quality of life for all its residents. The community will be invited to future visioning and strategic planning meetings to identify and implement strategies which will produce positive outcomes.