

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

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

Buena Vista Waterway Maintenance Dredging – The Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway MSBU committee requested a survey of the access channels. Based on data collected, the committee wishes to seek engineering design and permitting for dredging of access channels. Construction is dependent upon the outcome of the engineering services contract. Due to the fact that Coastal Engineering may not add construction related services to post Tropical Storm Debby restoration, Stantec will assume the role and provide construction services under a separate account.

The Contractor finished dredging the Sunrise Waterway and has placed that sand at the Charlotte County Beach Complex to restore the eroded beach. They have finished dredging and hauling material from the Gardner and Beeney Waterway Access Channels and will be working in the Elkcam Waterway next.

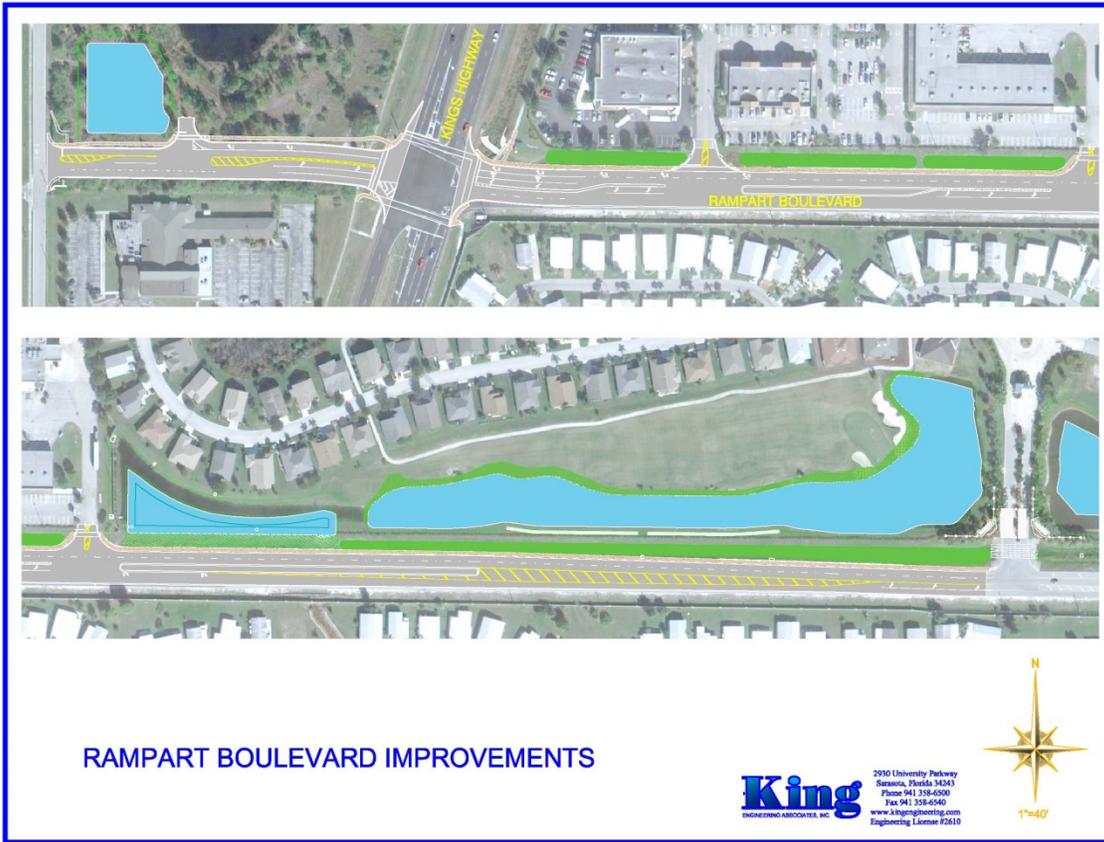
Northwest Port Charlotte Exterior Channel Dredging – This project will facilitate safe navigation by providing new access channels into the waterway system and connecting them to the Myakka River navigation channel. The contractor is currently dredging the main access channel and the Cheshire/Apollo connector channels. Heavy rain conditions over the summer delayed progress; staff is seeking to extend the temporary closure of shellfish harvesting within the construction area to facilitate progress.

South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping – This project is to provide beautification and enhance entries to Burnt Store Lakes. It includes installation of landscaping and decorative lighting at the request of the property owners within the South Burnt Store MSBU. Funding is provided from assessments in the South Burnt Store Street and Drainage Unit. The trees have been planted and are being maintained. The decorative lighting foundations and bases are currently being installed and the poles are being delivered to the project site the week of November 4, 2013. The projected completion date is December 5, 2013.

Suncoast Waterway Maintenance Dredging – 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 will continue with the outside and the northeast portion. Project is approximately 65% complete.

Rampart Blvd Widening Phase II

The Rampart Boulevard Extension/Widening Project is located west of I-75 reaching from the entrance of Kings Gate Community to Loveland Boulevard. This project is currently being constructed as part of a Developers Agreement between Charlotte County and Benderson Development. The Phase I portion of this project is complete and is being used as a connector, from Loveland Boulevard to Kings Highway, and will become the main connector accessing Kings Highway once Phase II of the Midway Boulevard Widening project is complete. Phase II is currently under construction and is nearing completion. The completed project widens the two lane roadway to four lanes with new sidewalks, extensive stormwater improvements and new street lights. Construction will be complete in November of 2013.



West-bound paved lanes



East-bound paved lanes

Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

Gardens of Gulf Cove Sidewalks – The Gardens of Gulf Cove MSBU Committee requested that sidewalks be installed from the current end of the sidewalk on Coniston Street to Englewood Road and on Coliseum Boulevard from Englewood Road to Drucker Circle. 100% design plans and bid specifications have been reviewed by staff and are currently under review by the design engineer. Specifications are projected to be in the Purchasing Department for final review the week of November 4, 2013.

Coastal Projects

Alligator Creek 6' Dredging Project – 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.

Coastal Engineering is in the process of gathering data for a permit application. A pre-application meeting was conducted with FDEP and the project was reviewed; permitting is anticipated to be completed by January 2014.

Rock was found to be within the dredge path that would require dedicated equipment, however recent changes in FDEP rules allow for an alignment shift to avoid the rock. The Waterway Committee requested that we move forward with a maintenance dredge to the existing permitted depth of -5MLW. The bid package is being assembled.

Harbor Heights Waterway Maintenance Dredging - 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. A request was initiated to retain engineering services to permit, survey and provide construction related services for minor shoaling within the Harbor Heights Waterway System. Submittals from the potential engineering firms are under staff review for final selection of a consultant who will facilitate the permitting and construction management of this project.

Manchester Waterway Maintenance Dredging - 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 due to the recent Federal Government furlough. The consultant and County staff have both been in contact with ACOE to try to resolve the permitting delays. The bid package is in the Purchasing Department undergoing final review in preparation for bid solicitation.

South Gulf Cove Turn Basin – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock, the only existing location for vessels with any substantial size and draft to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Preliminary plans have been reviewed and commented on. Meetings with the Permitting Agencies were productive and the consultant is in the process of compiling the permit application. A meeting was held with CCU to determine if dredged material could be placed at the West Port Treatment Plant. The West Port Treatment Plant refused the material due to timing and activities at the plant. Alternatives are being sought to minimize cost.

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. Easements associated with the project are being re-established. The BCC approved the continuation of the project and a flexible permit application is in process to manage Stump Pass and the neighboring beaches into the future. Coastal Engineering is in the process of concluding the data analysis and compiling the permit application. A pre-application meeting with FDEP will be held October 31, 2013 to streamline the permitting process by narrowing the focus of efforts.

Miscellaneous Projects

Rotonda West Bridge Lighting – The Rotonda MSBU Committee requested electricity to five Bridges that cross the Rotonda River. Locations are: Boulevard East, Boulevard West, Boulevard North, Cape Haze Drive and Rebel Court. The MSBU Committee met with County staff on September 4, 2013 and approved the plans and specifications as submitted. Bid documents are currently in the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. Bids are due December 11, 2013 with an expected award during the first BCC meeting in January 2014.

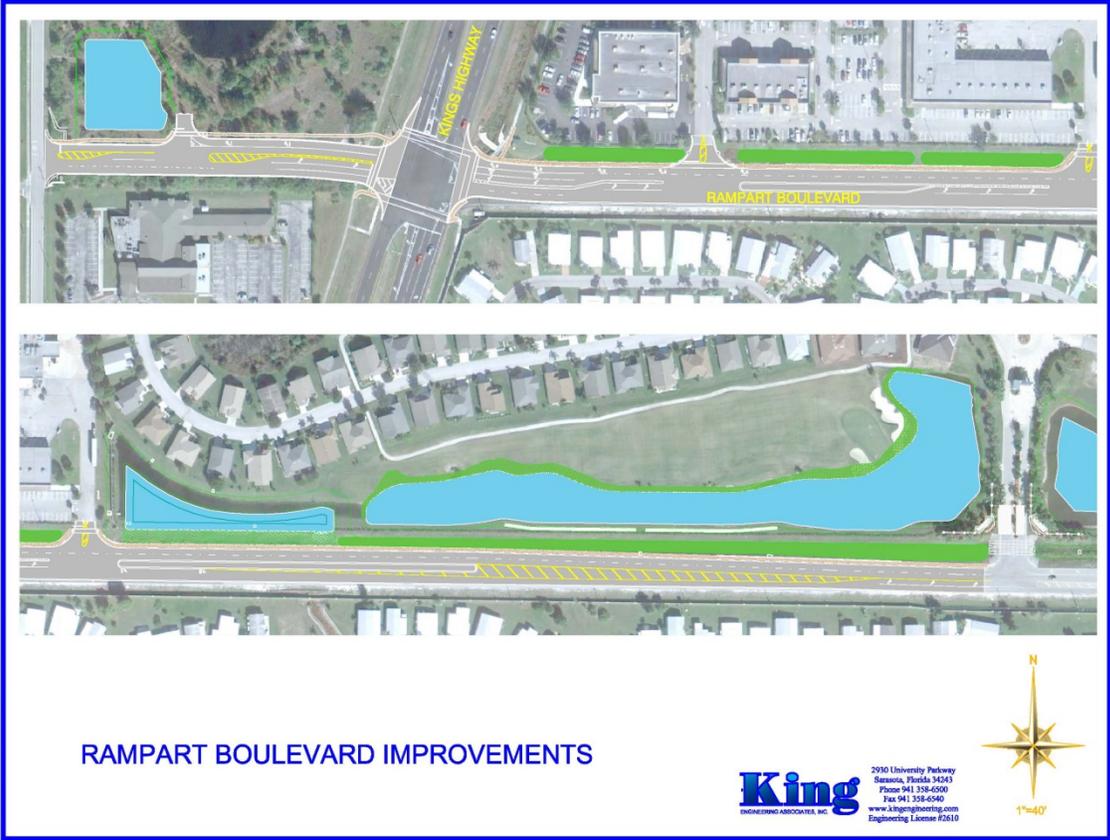
Rotonda West Entrance Way Signs – This project will provide new signs at five (5) locations throughout the community. Signs will include landscaping and lighting. Funding is provided from assessments in the Rotonda West Street and Drainage Unit. The MSBU Committee met with County staff on September 4, 2013 and approved the plans and specifications as submitted. Bid documents are currently in the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation. Bids will be due December 11, 2013, with an expected award during the first BCC meeting in January 2014.

Project Highlight from the Engineering Division October 31, 2013

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Community Services

Harold Avenue Recreation

It's that time again at Harold Avenue Recreation Center. This week the Harold Avenue Recreation Center Staff were busy preparing for the Basketball Skills Evaluations that were held on Thursday and Saturday. Under the leadership of Stafford Milligan and Edwidge Cherry, many of this year's participants were led through 45 minutes of basketball drills. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league consists of 10 regular season games followed by a postseason playoff for youth ages 9 and older. The Jamboree to start the fall season is scheduled for Saturday, November 9th at 8:00 a.m.

Tringali Recreation

What a great weekend at the Tringali Recreation Center. The weekend activities provided a safe place for Elementary and Middle School aged kids to skate, socialize and have fun in a safe, supervised environment.

Friday, October 25, 2013 was the happening place to be. Spooky Skate started off the evening with our Friday Night Elementary Skate from 6pm-8pm. The lobby, gym, and snack area were decorated with Halloween decorations on the walls, hanging from the ceiling and in the middle of the gym. Blow up decorations were borrowed from the Englewood Winn Dixie to help set the Halloween ambiance. Not only the kids but the parents were totally impressed and excited with the decorations. Halloween and top-100 music were played for the Spooky Skate and for the Middle School Halloween Dance for their listening pleasure. Games for skating such as freeze skate, stop on a dot skate, and YMCA were also an entertaining feature of the evening. There was an area set up for kids to stick their hands into some buckets and guess what they felt. The buckets had fake eyeballs, spiders and other Halloween related items in them.



Prizes were handed out for the scariest costume, most original costume, and most unique costume. There was a skeleton man with a mask that pumped blood through it that won the scariest and nerd with a funny hat, a mustache and glasses that won the most original. There were 65 kids that attended the skate and 35 attended the Middle School Halloween Dance.

2nd Annual Trick-or-Treat Down Spooky Street - The idea behind Trick or Treat Down Spooky Street was a way for the Tringali Recreation Center to bring local business together and facilitate a safe trick or treat walk for the kids in the community. There was a pathway created for the kids to walk down to collect candy and meet the

vendors. We had over 1100 kids and adults come through the event. Over 30 local vendors/business set up tables to hand out candy, offered demonstrations and information with regards to their business. Parents expressed their appreciation for Community Services hosting an event that offered a safe environment to take your kids Trick-or-Treating.



Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation

It was a busy week at the Recreation Center we had with 5 rentals, C.E.R.T. (30), Charlotte County Human Services NAB Civil Citation Volunteer Training (50), The Bluefin's Swim Banquet (100), CCU Business Service Appreciation (50) and a wedding reception (150).

Looking ahead we have several rentals including a wedding and reception (150), birthday party (100), Neighborhood Watch Mtg. and Potluck Dinner (60) and C.E.R.T. Training (30).

South County Regional Park and Pool

South County had its first week of Fall Intersession Camp. 30 kids were registered for both weeks. All of the Garden beds have been planted and we are back to 15 people on the waitlist.

For the week of 10-20-13 through 10-26-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 101 paid admissions, was visited by 93 pass holders and had 35 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held 9 practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes". The Intersession campers enjoyed the pool twice for a total of 60 campers.

Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool

For the week of 10-23 through 10-29-13, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 155 paid admissions, was visited by 117 pass holders and had 78 water aerobics participants. The Lemon Bay High School swim & dive team held 5 practices resulting in approximately 150 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 110 "splashes".

For the same week, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 53 paid admissions, was visited by 67 pass holders and had 31 water aerobics participants.

Extension Services

*Newspaper Article for October 28th – “Greased lightning”

*South Central Monthly CED Polycom Meeting – October 28th – 1 to 3 pm

*Snakes, spiders, bugs, OH MY!” – Assistance with 4-H Day Camp - October 29th

*Annual Gateway Meeting – Weedon Island – Pinellas County – October 31st - 10:00 am to 2 pm

Libraries and Historical

As of the end of FY 2012-2013, CCHC has delivered 59 *Viva Florida* 500 programs (exhibits, programs, tours, outreach & Living History) to over 8000 adults and 3500 children in the county. This doesn't include the remaining programs coming up: *Skirmish on the Myakka* set for Wednesday October 30 at ECL, the Skirmish program for Englewood Community League on November 9 & the marker dedication on December 14. Way to go, CCHC!

Thursday, October 24, the Mid-County Regional Library screened the zombie flick that started all the zombie flicks—*the Night of the Living Dead*. This 1968 black and white classic piece of celluloid delivered the Halloween thrills and chills. 53 individuals attended, including about 20 teens—many who were dressed and made up like zombie ghouls. It was a great Halloween treat for all ages and all metabolic states.

There are some wonderful events coming up at our Libraries and the Historical Center. As we go into the busiest time of the year our programs that we offer increase and are very well attended. Some of the programs that everyone is welcome to in the next few months include: Nov. 22 at 1:30 pm. “The Lost JFK Tapes: The Assassination”. This program will be presented at the Charlotte County Historical Center on Bayshore Rd and at several of the Libraries. Call or check the website to confirm.

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The lower roof repairs at Murdock Administration Building B is now complete.

Remodeling work at Building Construction Services Code Compliance is 95 percent completed.

Stabilization of the Bunk House building is still in progress and is 75 percent completed.

Work is 95 percent complete and continuing on the ADA bathroom at Family Services Center.

The Public Works operations building on San Casa Drive needed to have a 10 X 10 cubicle built. We used materials from Public Works in Punta Gorda.

Operations

Repairs identified during August and September's generator inspections were wrapped up by Facilities Operations division. There were a few minor repairs made, such as replacing batteries and battery chargers. Our generators are maintained throughout the year and we receive two thorough inspections annually too.

The Administration Building's planters outside the front entrance have been taken over by the Master Gardeners. The first planting is complete. They will be returning with plant labels to identify each plant.

The planting theme is “Herb Pizza Garden”. Oregano, Parsley, Basil, Ornamental Pepper and Rosemary are planted to look like pizza “slices”. Stop by and take a look at this creative idea.

Project Management

New LED lighting has been installed at the Port Charlotte Beach Bocce courts and pool. The new lighting technology provides better quality lighting at the Bocce courts and meets IES lighting standards for the pool.

The Cape Haze Pioneer Trail connection trail phase was marked and trees removed in preparation for the trail installation. The trail will have the first layer of asphalt connection completing the final section. This section completes the entire trail for citizen use on the asphalt trail.

Human Services

On October 29, 2013, the Charlotte County Human Services Department and the County Fiscal Division held their joint annual In-Home Elder Care vendor meeting. Vendors under contract with the County were provided with information on: Client Incident reporting; Adult Protective Services requirements; Programmatic issues; Service Invoicing; and Monitoring reviews. Technical assistance was provided at the meeting and vendors were encouraged to contact County staff whenever necessary with additional questions or need for assistance.

Tourism

In an effort to raise awareness about Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands as a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau has converted its vehicle into a mobile billboard promoting Charlotte County as a tourism destination. Bureau staff often travel to other cities in Florida to attend trade shows and meetings. Many of Charlotte County's visitors, particularly during low and shoulder seasons, come from within the state. Over the course of the next few years the vehicle wrap will be viewed by thousands of potential visitors. The wrap also helps to reinforce Charlotte County's brand by depicting our beaches, kayaking, birding and fishing.

Utilities (CCU)

Staff participated in the third annual business summit with Mueller Company in Atlanta, the manufacturer of our water meters, discussing industry needs and wants, brainstorming new ideas for product and discussing issues we have with existing products. As a result, 86 conceptual ideas were produced that could potentially be refined down to a few products that will make it to market. In attendance were the decision makers for Mueller including their CEO, Chief Patent Atty, Chief Design Engineer, several VPs and marketing people, as well as representatives from 5 municipal utilities across the nation, representing Texas, Arizona, New York and Florida. Mueller stated that we could potentially see new products/features on the market within 3-4 years from ideas generated at this event.