

Charlotte



Shines

January 2009

An Update on the Charlotte County Capital Improvement Projects

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMPLETED PROJECTS



Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

The Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, the community's newest venue, is open for business! Located at 75 Taylor Street in downtown Punta Gorda, the 43,500 sq. ft. building offers state-of-the-art facilities consisting of flexible multi-purpose spaces, top food service, waterfront vistas and warm hospitality. The Great Lawn also offers 18,000 sq. ft. along the waterfront for outdoor events. The building was funded through sales tax, ad valorem tax, and a \$1.95 million contribution from the City of Punta Gorda. Total cost for facility and furnishings - \$19,650,000.

Additional Completed Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Projects

- Bayshore Live Oak Park \$14,536,000
- Sunrise Park \$2,432,944
- Chester Roberts Park \$30,608
- North Charlotte Regional Park - Phase II \$2,324,000
- St. Paul Linear Park \$97,169



Chester Roberts Park, 5084 Melbourne St., Charlotte Harbor



Bayshore Live Oak Park, 23157 Bayshore Rd., Charlotte Harbor



Sunrise Park, 20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte

Charlotte Sports Park

PLAY BALL! The Tampa Bay Rays are settling in at the newly renovated Charlotte Sports Park. As part of the \$27 million dollar renovation, the stadium has been completely refurbished. The existing seating bowl showcases a 360 degree fan-friendly pedestrian concourse, a new luxury suite level, two outfield berms, a tiki bar, a children's play area, and new group areas. The new stadium contains approximately 6,000 fixed seats plus another 1,500 seats in the general admission areas. In addition, a new 40,000 square foot building houses administrative offices and brand new major and minor league clubhouses. Funding for the renovations came from a State of Florida grant, tourist tax and the Tampa Bay Rays. Total cost for the renovations - \$27,300,000. For more information about the Charlotte County Sports Park please call 941.743.2425.



Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte



The beautiful Charlotte Sports Park will be the spring training home for the Tampa Bay Rays, 2008 American League Champions, and the home of the new Charlotte Stone Crabs team, a member of the Florida State League and Ripken Baseball. Visit the team websites raysbaseball.com or stonecrabsbaseball.com.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM • YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

~ Welcome ~

Welcome to the Charlotte Shines, our status report on County capital projects. In the last year we have completed a number of large, complex projects. The projects were funded from a variety of sources such as gas tax, sales tax, property tax, Department of Transportation and grants.

Many of the projects we have undertaken in the last four years are the result of Hurricane Charley. Since 2004 we were faced with the repair, renovation or reconstruction of a variety of County buildings, eventually totaling 146 projects. In 2008 we completed hurricane recovery with the opening of the new Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center.

There are a variety of projects detailed in this report. A few of the facilities, such as the Sports Park and Event Center, will be revenue generators. Other construction confirms our promise to complete the 2002 sales tax project list. The remaining projects are much anticipated infrastructure improvements.

Our 2009 capital projects list is considerably shorter, due to the completion of our hurricane projects, and the economic downturn. However, we are moving forward with the current list of sales tax projects approved by the voters in November 2008. In this issue of *Charlotte Shines* we have provided timelines for each of the roads selected for funding under this program.

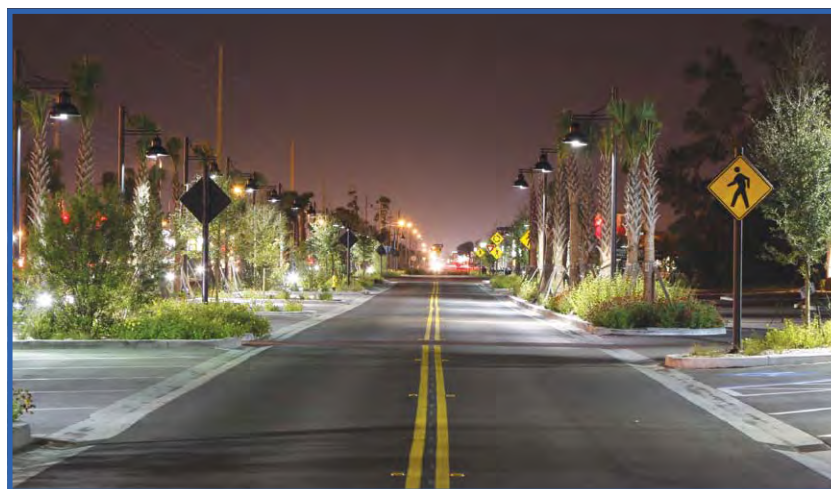
Public Works

U.S. 41 Revitalization

Public comments and community surveys resulted in the County taking action to improve the visual attractiveness of the U.S. 41 corridor. The revitalization project began along the U.S. 41 access road, between Port Charlotte Blvd. and West Tarpon Blvd. Businesses provided considerable input as designs were developed. The work included installation of storm drains and retention ponds, wastewater gravity main, reclaimed water line, irrigation systems, paving, landscaping, street lighting, signing & marking, potable water transmission line and various associated utility work. Funded by sales tax, gas tax, and the native tree fund, the total cost was \$3,909,711.

Additional Public Works Projects Completed

- Dorchester Water Control Structure
- Manchester Waterway Lock Removal
- Fordham Waterway Bridges at U.S. 41 Service Road
- Peachland Blvd. Sidewalks





West Charlotte Mini-Transfer Station

The newly renovated Mini-Transfer Station, located at 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood, provides improved services and greater efficiencies for our West County residents. The improvements allow the County to increase their bulk transport abilities thus reduces operating costs. Other improvements include larger disposal bays resulting in less delay for residents and increased recycling capabilities. Renovation cost was \$1.8 million, funded by the solid waste enterprise fund.

Utilities

The Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority is expanding the capacity of its water treatment facility to meet the region's future water supply needs and building a new, six billion gallon reservoir to provide much-needed drinking water storage. Approximately 95% of the drinking water Charlotte County Utilities provides to its customers comes from the Authority's treatment facility, located along the Peace River in DeSoto County.

Currently, Authority customers use an average of 17 million gallons of water per day (MGD). When the expansion is complete, the facility will be able to deliver up to 32.7 MGD. Excess treated water will be stored in the new reservoir for use in the dry season.

Construction on the facility expansion and new reservoir began in 2007. The facility is nearing completion and the new reservoir will be completed by July 2009. The expansion program is being cooperatively funded by the Authority members, including Charlotte County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state funding. Total project cost is \$167.19 million. Charlotte County Utilities portion is \$25,675,900.



Reservoir photo courtesy of Aerial Innovation Inc. of Tampa

U.S. 41 Revitalization - Reclaimed Water

A component of the U.S. 41 revitalization, as well as a commitment to water conservation, the installation of reclaimed water and wastewater collection infrastructure has been completed from West Tarpon to Orange Drive. Sales tax funded the reclaimed water portion of the project. The wastewater collection system was funded by Charlotte County Utilities as an FDEP in-kind project at no cost to property owners. \$710,000

Additional Utilities Projects Completed

- Collection System Pipe Relining (System Enhancement). \$1,400,000
- Seyburn Terrace Water Main (System Enhancement). \$960,000
- Pirate Harbor Wastewater Expansion (MSBU). \$2,300,000



Seyburn Terrace Water Main

Affordable Housing

\$19 Million

Hurricane Housing Recovery Grant

Charlotte County Commissioners took an innovative approach to create affordable housing options by using a \$19 million Hurricane Housing Recovery Grant received to aid in rebuilding after Hurricane Charley. The County funded projects provide almost 500 housing units. In addition, the County made available funding for down payment assistance, housing rehabilitation, foreclosure prevention, mobile home replacement and a Community Land Trust. This Trust creates a 99 year ground lease which provides homestead rights to the home buyer.

Completed projects include special facilities and three homeless shelters:

- Charleston Cay Apartments is a 128-unit complex for low to moderate income individuals and families
- Williams Street Place Apartments has 12-units for physically disabled persons
- Genesis Bishop House is a 16-unit shelter for single, pregnant women
- Genesis Chara House is a 42-unit shelter for homeless women and their children
- Genesis Safe House has 52-units as temporary homeless shelters for families and individuals
- Coastal Safe Haven is a 52-unit juvenile shelter with a drug recovery housing program



Genesis Safe House

Projects currently underway are:

- Habitat for Humanity—approx. 25 single family homes
- Housing Corporation—home rehabilitation program
- Restoration Roads—home for unaccompanied minors

Two projects are scheduled for completion in 2010, which will add 155 more units available for low to moderate income residents. Charlotte Crossing will be a 124-unit apartment complex for elderly residents, and Marion Manor will be a 31-unit complex with no age restrictions.

Residents who need assistance in buying or renting a home or in rehabilitating their current residence should contact Charlotte County Human Services, Housing Division, at 941.833.6500.

Sales Tax Project Timelines

In August, Charlotte County residents voted to extend the One Cent Sales Tax for an additional six years, beginning January 2009, through December 2014. Charlotte County Public Works Department is moving forward with the approved projects:



Edgewater Drive - Widen existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided roadway between Harbor Boulevard and Midway Boulevard.

- Start engineering design and permitting in FY 2009
- Initiate right-of-way acquisition in FY 2010
- Begin construction in FY 2012
- Scheduled completion in FY 2014

Midway Boulevard - Widen existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided roadway between Elkcam Boulevard and Kings Highway.

- Phase I construction starts in FY 2009.
- Phase I construction is estimated to be completed in 18 months.
- Phase II design and permitting efforts for all components are underway.
- Phase III construction will start mid 2010 or later.
- Scheduled completion in FY 2014

Placida Road (775) - Widen existing two-lane road to four-lane divided roadway between West Rotonda Boulevard and Cape Haze Drive.

- Start engineering design and permitting in FY 2009
- Initiate right-of-way acquisition in FY 2010
- Begin construction in FY 2012
- Scheduled completion in FY 2014

Burnt Store Road - Widen existing two lane road to a four-lane divided roadway between Zemel Road and the Lee County line.

- Start engineering design and permitting in FY 2010
- Initiate right-of-way acquisition in FY 2011
- Begin construction in FY 2013
- Scheduled completion in FY 2014

Sidewalks - Construction distributed among west county, mid-county and south county.

- Design and construction start in FY 2009
- Scheduled completion in FY 2014

Charlotte Shines

is distributed by Charlotte County Government.

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If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you. Contact the Communications & Marketing Department at communications@CharlotteCountyFL.com or call 941.743.1316.