

Monthly Report

February 2021



Centennial Gala set for April 23

Charlotte County was created on April 23, 1921, when Gov. Cary A. Hardee signed a bill passed two days earlier by the Florida Legislature that divided DeSoto County into five counties: Charlotte, Hardee, Highlands, Glades and DeSoto.

Charlotte County will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the county's creation with a Centennial Gala, 6-11 p.m., April 23 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. This gala will in-

clude a cocktail hour, dinner, cash bar, dancing and live entertainment.



Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased at www.charlottecounty100.com/centennial-gala. The Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center is located at 75 Taylor St. in Punta Gorda.

For information, contact Cindy DiGiacomo at 941-235-5009 or

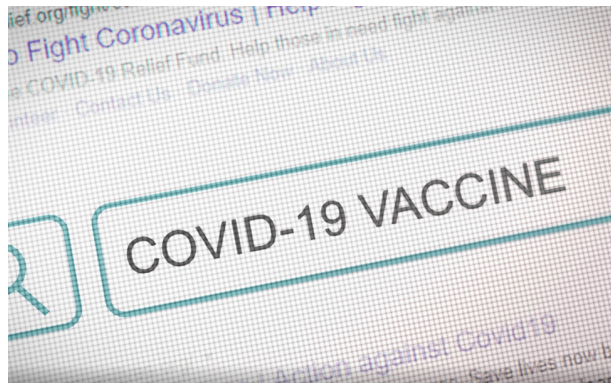
Cynthia.DiGiacomo
@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.



Public Works staff has installed Centennial post-toppers at historical and prominent intersections in the county.

Vaccination update: 46,000 shots administered

The Department of Health vaccination effort in Charlotte County continues with nearly 46,000 vaccinations administered as of March 11, including more than 20,000 who have completed their two-dose series. To view the latest vaccination update, visit tinyurl.com/FLvaccinations. The tally is updated daily.



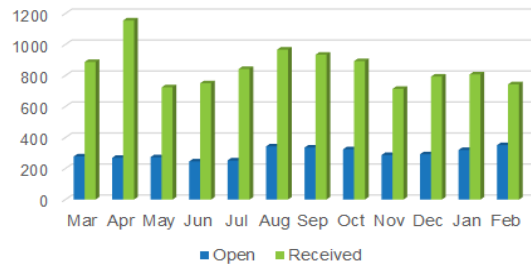
County hires water quality manager

Water quality has long been a strategic focus area for Charlotte County. The county has embarked on a master plan to convert thousands of aging septic tanks to sewer to prevent pollutants from impairing our waterways.

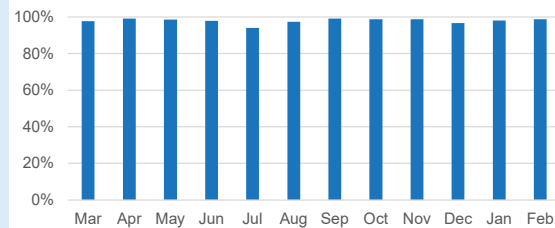
The county took the next step in its continued efforts to improve water quality by welcoming a new water quality manager who will be developing and coordinating programs related to any and all things water.

Information Technology

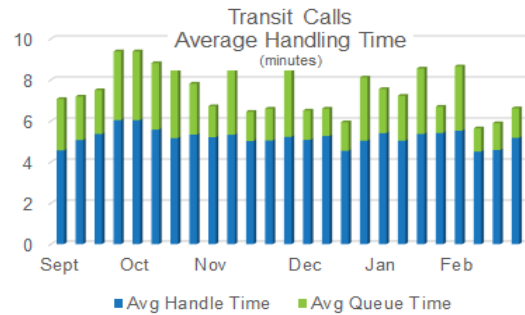
Service Tickets by Month



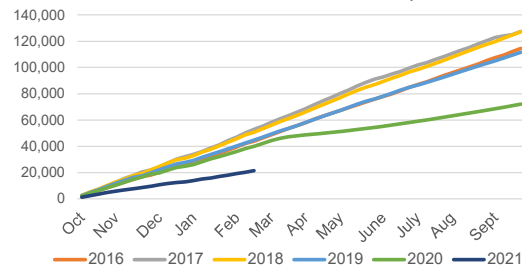
Customer Satisfaction
% Positive



Transit



Annual Cumulative Ridership



Director Highlights

Purchasing - Achievement of Excellence Award

Charlotte County has earned the 2020 Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award is designed to recognize organizational excellence in procurement. The criteria for this award is continuously evolving and is designed to measure state of the art in public procurement best practices.

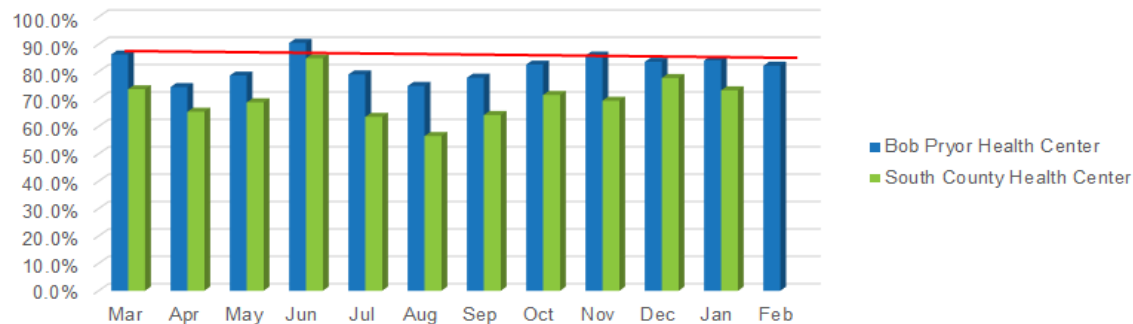
Charlotte County Board of Commissioners is one of only 32 agencies in Florida and one of only 40 Counties in the United States and Canada to receive the award. Charlotte County Board of Commissioners Purchasing Division has received this award sixteen (16) times.

February 2021



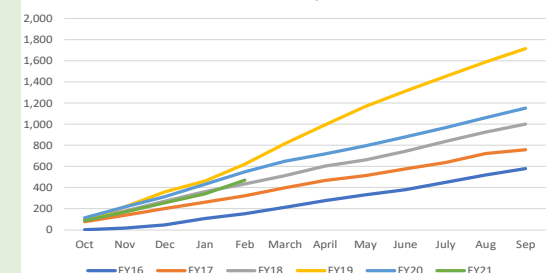
Health Center

Employee Health Center
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests




WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?


IN PLANNING

- **San Casa Mini-Storage Buildings** – Requesting a Final Site Plan approval for 3 mini storage buildings (Placida mini-storage) with an office and associated infrastructure at 3401 Placida Road, Englewood, FL. Building plans under review.
- **Tommy's Car Wash** – Automated car wash facility with associated infrastructure at 19010 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Building plans in review.
- **Starbucks** – Coffeehouse chain at 2931 S. McCall Road, Englewood. Building plans in review.
- **Modwash** – Automated car wash facility at 19740 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte. Final site plan in review.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Gas station** – Gas station and convenience store, with drive thru restaurant, stand-alone automated car wash at 19100 Peachland Blvd., Port Charlotte. 
- **Charlotte Commons Apartments** – Apartment complex with 264 units, and clubhouse at 24150 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte. 
- **Extra Space Storage** – Fully enclosed self-storage facility and 29 covered RV parking spaces at 19750 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte. 
- **P.C. Storage** – Construction of four self-storage buildings, parking and infrastructure at 23950 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte. 

- **Tire Choice** – Tire and automotive service store at 19100 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte. 

- **Sherwin Williams** – Paint and coating manufacturing company at 19150 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte. 

COMPLETED!!

- **Twin Boys Storage** – Storage units at 16442 Burnt Store Road., Punta Gorda. 

PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

- 1,111 Single Family permits submitted since August 2016
- 846 Certificates of Occupancy issued since August 2016

Murdock Village Update

- Rezoning was approved for 400+ acres in the western section of Murdock Village in order to have mixed-use development with a maximum of 2,400 single and multi family units, commercial uses, and a 150-room hotel.
- Two preliminary plats in house for Kolter Development.
- Arredondo Pointe/Lost Lagoon Development which includes a mixture of retail, entertainment, water park, and hotel uses.

Total Single Family Permits Issued: 207
Single Family Permits Issued—Babcock: 37

Total Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 119
Single Family Certificate of Occupancy Issued—Babcock: 32

Total Permits Issued: 2,634

Total Permits Issued FY19-20: 32,037
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2019—Sept. 2020)

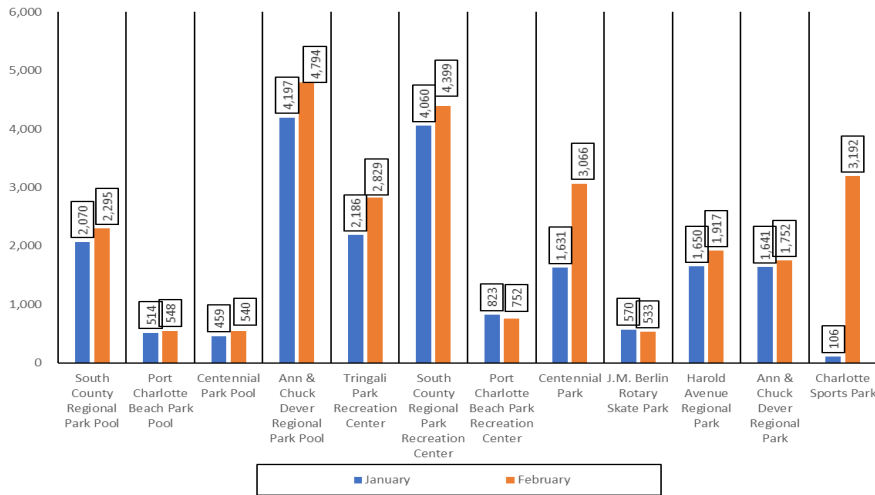
Total Permits Issued FY20-21: 12,833
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2020—Sept. 2021)

PERMITTING SNAPSHOT

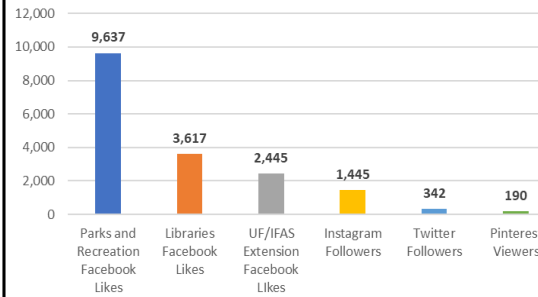


CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Community Development

Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance



Social Media Impact



Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 285 Youth Leagues and Adult Softball practices
- 4 Snowbird Classic Games
- 4,483 Trash bags collected
- 856 Recycling bags collected

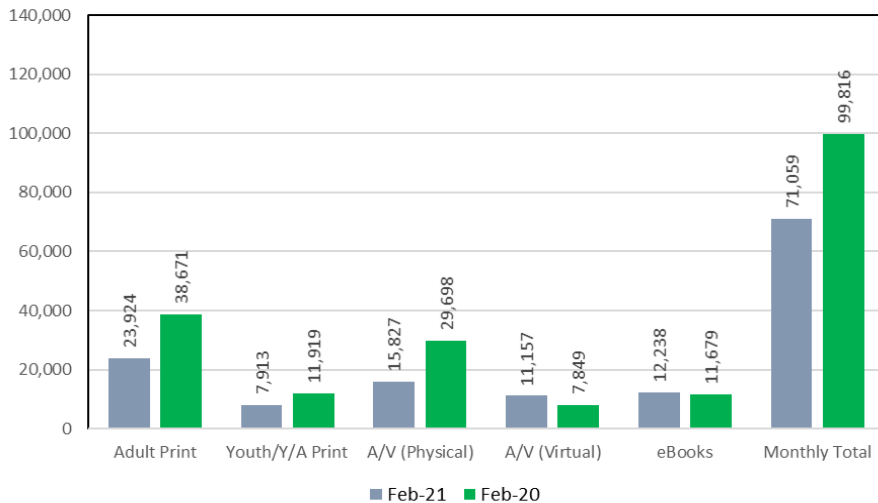
Land Management

- 43.8 Miles trails maintained
- 19.5 acres exotic treatment

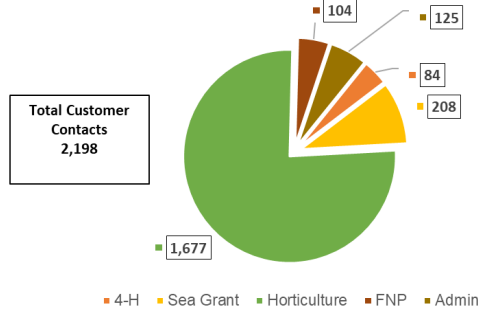
Project Management

- 44 Projects
- \$ 3,199,088

2020 - 2021 Circulation Comparison



UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts



Coastal Management

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels Program

- 5 removed
- 7 ready for removal
- 3 open case
- 1 cited by law enforcement

5 Coastal lighting Reviews
6 Coastal lighting Inspections
2,000 Postcards
36 Education bags delivered

Winter Shorebird Survey (species per island)

Location	Total species count	Focal species* count
Don Pedro	2	0
Knight Island	3	0
Palm Island	14	2
Boca Grande	13	3
Little Gasparilla Island	10	1
Manasota Key	11	0
Stump Pass State Park	20	3
Bird Island	14	0

*Focal species: American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, Red Knot, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, and Black Skimmer

WELCOME TO BUSINESS IN PARADISE. WELCOME TO CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

The Economic Development Office launched our latest marketing campaign in February with: “Thrive in Paradise”. This campaign targets entrepreneurs and small businesses in states with less friendly business climates. Using social media and Google ads the campaign highlights the benefits of doing business in Charlotte County. This campaign has been in the works since the Punta Gorda MSA was ranked as a top metropolitan entrepreneurial ecosystem in America by an analysis from thinktank, Heartland Forward last year. See for yourself by following the Economic Development Office on social media or go to our website: www.Cleared4Takeoff.com.

 **Charlotte County, FL EDO**
Published by Hootsuite • February 16 at 10:10 AM • ✨

Charlotte County, Florida, has become a haven for businesses escaping challenges. Lower costs, lower taxes and pro-business regulations make it the logical choice for entrepreneurs and innovators, where work and play go hand-in-hand. Businesses benefit from financial strategies through our network of partners, including access to capital through loan programs, lines of credit and introductions to the region's angel investing market.

Additionally, local innovators and professionals from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) and the Small Business Development Center share their knowledge and connections to help you succeed. Find refuge from regulations and experience a life like no other! Visit www.locatetoparadise.com and contact us today.
#ComeSeeForYourself



"Charlotte County is a welcoming community growing with new opportunities and so much to offer business owners looking to bring their operations here. A one-of-a-kind place to start a business!"

- Chase Russell
Owner and CEO
Russell Aviation

 **Charlotte County, FL EDO**
Published by Hootsuite • March 2 at 10:30 AM • ✨

"We love the area and the people. The local chambers and business community is strong with a passion around promoting local business."
- Christian Mortimore, owner, [Los Dos Cristianos Coffee](#).

We're here to assist you in your decision to relocate to our county, and through your transition to opening up operations. Consider us your business development concierge, ready to serve. Visit www.locatetoparadise.com and contact us today.
#ComeSeeForYourself #CharlotteCountyFL



Follow us on social media for information and the latest economic development news.



Cleared4Takeoff.com

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Justice Center Substantial Completion

February 2021



A substantial completion walk-through was conducted for the final phase of the Justice Center Renovation project. This project included nine tasks with fourteen phases of construction, starting in August 2018. The objectives for this project were to relocate the Clerk of Court records storage off-site, provide enhanced security improvements, both interior and exterior, expand the secured entry pavilion, enclose the exterior colonnade, provide two new courtrooms with support spaces, and remodel the interior for program targeted growth of all existing stakeholders within the footprint of the existing Justice Center building. A sales tax funded supplemental new backup generator was added to the project midway through, and was completed in concert with the building renovations.

Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ Charlotte County was established 100 years ago on April 23, 1921. To commemorate this milestone anniversary, a sign was placed at Centennial Park.



- ◆ The Board approved the GMP for Fire Stations 2 and 5. Construction will commence in March.
- ◆ GMP for the transit facility was approved by the Board. A pre-construction meeting was held, and demo began on the JB Yard.

Forward Progress

- ◆ Columns, shear walls, and foundation are completed at Fire Station 10. Slab on grade work will begin in the next few weeks, along with plumbing and electrical conduits at ground level.
- ◆ Sailing Center at Port Charlotte Beach is ahead of schedule. Sod will be installed within the next few days followed by the security fence installation. Metal roofing will be installed on the three structures to complete the pavilion and boat storage buildings. Once the windows are installed in the workshop, stucco and paint will complete the boat storage building.



Notable Happenings

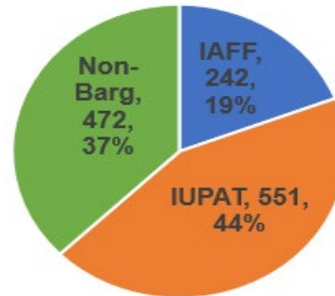
- ◆ A purchase order was received for the retrofit of sports lighting to LED at the pool at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park. Construction is anticipated for late April/early May.
- ◆ Charlotte Sports Park temporary water filtration system was installed and all work is complete.
- ◆ Partnership agreements with various departments are being signed defining each department's responsibilities and accountabilities.



Human Resources

Workforce

Employee Count 1,265
Avg Age 46
Avg Hourly Rate \$23.79
Avg Years of Service 9



Retention of New Hires
% completing probation

February	YTD
90%	90.0%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years 2.9%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 1.3%

Separations

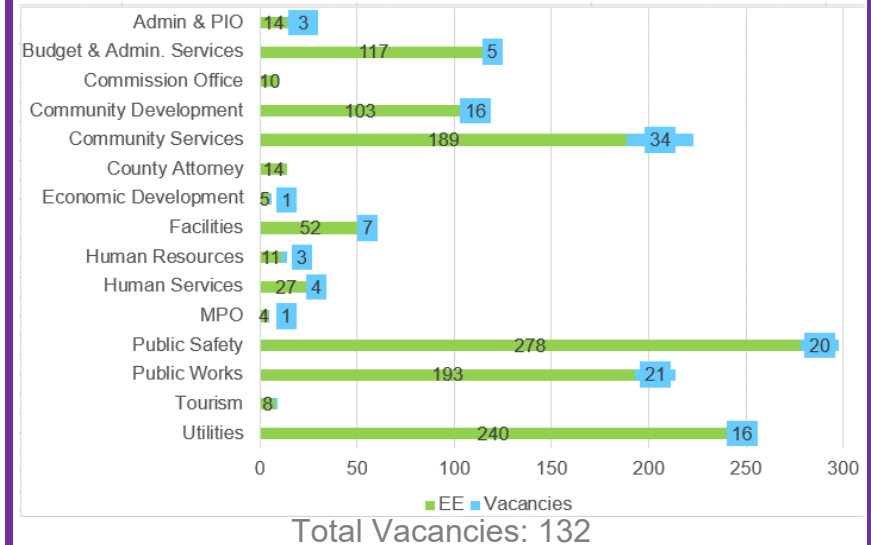
February **YTD**
Turnover 1.1% 4.9%
Separations 14 62



Training & Development

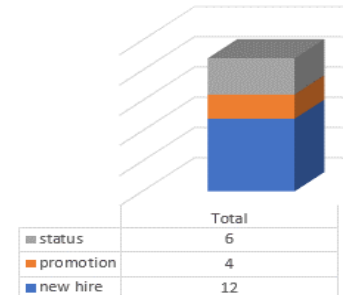
Training 18 Ee's 10 hrs 180 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

Employees vs Vacancies

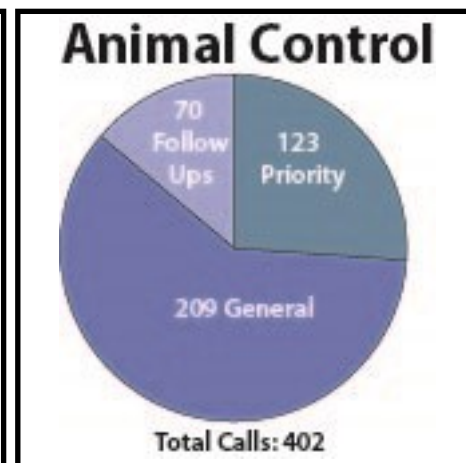
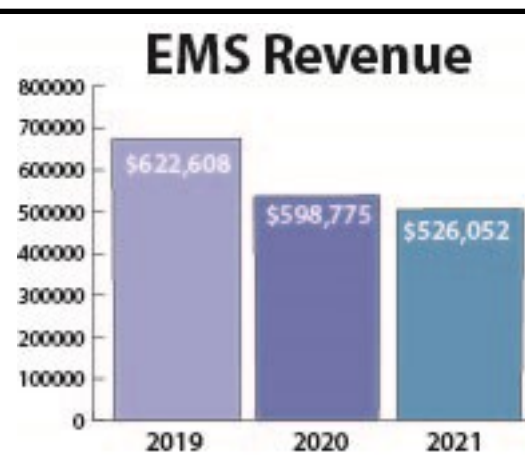
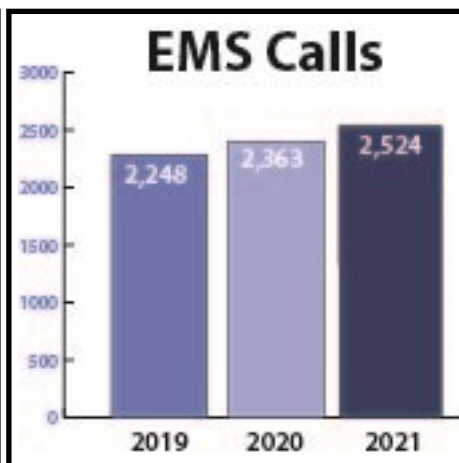
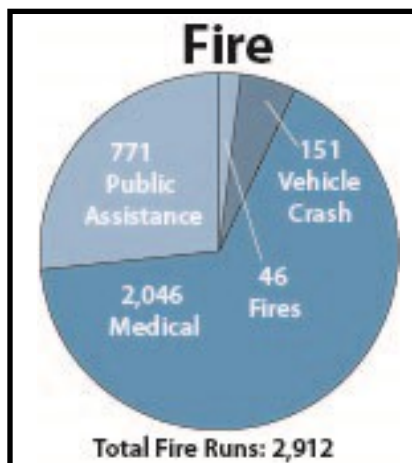


Recruitment

Applications Taken 492
Job Posting Hits 20,505
New Hires 12
Recruited Pos FT 35
Posted PT/Sea 10



Public Safety



Training

One of the things we do a lot of at Public Safety is training. Training allows us to put our knowledge into action. When we are not in a year-long COVID-19 activation, Emergency Management holds regular training events in the emergency operation center to ensure different county departments, other agencies, and public partners will be able to work together smoothly during an actual emergency like a natural disaster or large storm.

Every Fire & EMS employee is required to have 228 training hours annually. First responders must be able to respond to an emergency scene and focus on saving lives and mitigating hazards all while keeping themselves and their partners safe. One way this is done is by constantly preparing for any scenario they may face.

Our training captains have set up block training which means, every station and crew has an opportunity to come to the training tower and go through the same training. A few of the recent topics include forcible door entry, search and rescue, and most recently RIC or

rapid intervention crew training. These are all skills that a firefighter should be proficient in but they may not have the opportunity to practice for real.

Each station and shift also spend time training together. Station 12B, our special ops station, held confined space training by utilizing a culvert. They had to make entry into a culvert pipe and find a "patient" who was unable to get out of the confined space on his own due to injuries. The crew found and then removed him from the space so he could be treated.

This month some of our staff helped to make repairs to our five-story training tower located at headquarters. Staff spent a few days tearing out and replacing rotten flooring, creating additional training props, and making general repairs.

Utility construction began on our new ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting) prop. When completed, Charlotte County Fire & EMS will have a state-of-the-art ARFF training facility. The FAA requires all airport firefighters to have this training every three years. Currently, we drive to Jacksonville to receive the training. When completed, not only will it save us travel time, but we will be able to recover some cost by hosting other agencies and helping them put their knowledge into action.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Public Works

In the Works

The contractor has been out on Don Pedro Knight Island this week removing invasive Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine Trees. These invasive trees produce a dense canopy that shades out all other plants, including native species. This cuts off the plants' access to nutrients they need. These dense canopies also block rain and sunlight, causing changes in the surrounding environment's light level, soil chemistry, temperature, and available water.



Did You Know

Pictured here are a few before and after photos of marine signage that has been replaced by our Traffic Signs and Marking Crew! Florida's weather can greatly reduce our signage's lifespan, but our crews are always out and about identifying and replacing them as needed.



Working Together

The Charlotte County Lighting District has been working with the Facilities Department on Coral Creek Bridge repairing decorative street lights. We were able to use the Facilities Department's scissor lift and eliminate the need to close travel lanes down. The Lighting personnel were able to repair all the lights without lane closures and minimal impact to the motoring public.



Larvicide: **0.85 acres or 0.01 sq. miles - 2 treatments**
Adulticide: **7,661.64 acres or 12 sq. miles - 3 treatments**

Aquatics invoiced **\$44,192.58** to MSBUs, Mitigation Sites, CCU and Right of Way

Charlotte County Application Requests February 2021

Requests Received

274

Requests Completed

239



Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)		
Jan-20	\$642,905	↓ -0.9%
Jan-21	\$636,834	

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Prev Month)		
Dec-19	\$400,368	↑ 0.1%
Dec-20	\$400,833	

PureFlorida.com

Traffic

Website Users: 41,381

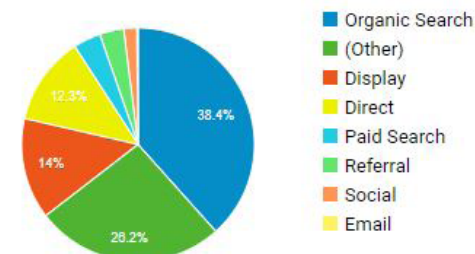
Pageviews: 90,582

Top Origin Markets:
FL, IL, OH, MA, NY, MI, IN, PA, WI,
WA

New vs. Returning Visitors
85.2% vs. 14.8%

Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: February 1 – 31, 2021



Sports February 2021

Recent Events

Global World Pickleball Championship

PicklePlex of Punta Gorda

Feb. 3-7, 2021

This second-year event hosted over 500 athletes competing for a total of \$100,000 in prizes. They had over one-thousand spectators throughout the five-day event with an estimated economic impact of just under \$1million generating 1400 room nights.



Snowbird Baseball Classic

Centennial Park

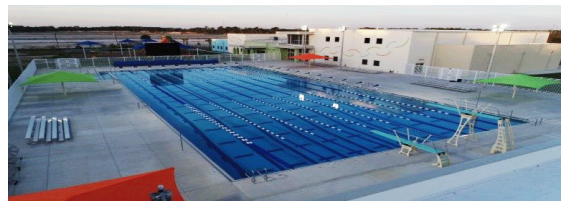
Feb. 19 – 23, 2021

The University of Pittsburgh and Indiana State University battled it out at Centennial Park during the five-day tournament. Since most college teams are not traveling due to COVID, Charlotte County was fortunate to continue to host this event and watch these teams participate and represent their respective schools.



Sports Corner

Centennial Park Pool hosted a USA Swimming test meet on Saturday, February 20th with over 90 athletes from the region. The Visitors Bureau partnered up by offering the coaches and USA Swimming official with branded sports promotional items in a drawstring cooler bag. Planning is in the works for another event the first week of May and conversations continue with top college coaches about hosting their winter training camps at Centennial Park Pool.



Fun Fact: The average high school swimmer performs one million strokes per season, uses nearly every muscle in their body, and sweats while doing it. The world's youngest competitive swimmer is 10-year-old, Alzain Tareq, from Bahrain in the Middle East.

Public Relations/Media February 2021

A total of 47 media placements were secured. These placements had a total reach of approximately 1.1 million and a media ad value of about \$43,000.



Fun themed posts with #MuralMonday and #TravelTuesday generated over 250 engagements showcasing our great destination.



On February 3rd, we celebrated the 35th Annual National Girls & Women in Sports Day by recognizing our own Amanda Carr, an Olympian, BMX racer and Punta Gorda native.



2020 Water Quality Reports:

<https://tinyurl.com/2020-CCR-PeaceRiver>
<https://tinyurl.com/2020-CCR-BurntStore>



2020 WATER QUALITY REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection requires water utilities to provide their customers a yearly Consumer Confidence Report. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please visit the links above to view these reports online.

To speak with someone about the report, please call **941.764.4300**.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2020 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the above number or check the box on the front portion of your stub and return it to our office.



IMPACTS



- **Loveland Grand Master Lift Station:** Loveland Boulevard. from Midas Court to Wickens Avenue will be closed until April 30.

The Utilities Department reminds motorists to remain alert at all times and to exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of construction zones.

Additional Impacts:
[Emergency Utility Notices](#)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:** Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 2,135 properties with sewer service. Zones 1, 2 and the vacuum station estimated construction start is spring this year. For project information: AckermanProject.com
- **Lift Station #2 Replacement:** Construction of the replacement of Lift Station #2. Work also includes replacements of the 6" sewer force main and the 8" water main along Conway Blvd.
- **Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Replacement:** Construction of a larger sewer force main to improve transmission capacity for the Deep Creek neighborhood. This project also includes pumping improvements at several lift stations along the project route. Crews will be working in the utility easement on the south side of Rampart Blvd. from Nuremberg Blvd. to Rio De Janeiro Ave. within the next few weeks. [Project Map](#)
- **El Jobean Septic to Sewer Project:** Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 300 properties with sewer service. On-site sewer connections to the vacuum sewer system is on schedule for Spring 2021 for Zones 1 & 2. For project information: ElJobeanProject.com

OPERATIONS

- **Calls:** 6,476
- **Call Wait Time:** 7 minutes 25 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 63,938
- **Sewer Connections:** 41,417
- **Water Connections:** 63,287

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- **3 Misc.—Utilities Department**
- **8 Utilities Billing**
- **2 Utilities Department Service**
- 13 Total**

1,061 Facebook Page Likes

Important Information:

Water shutoffs and late fees have been suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Customer Support Center is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 941-764-4300. Walk-in services other than the payment drop box will not be available.

Customers can still drop-off their payments in the various payment boxes, pay their utility bill using the convenient electronic bill or by phone at 941.764.4300.

[Payment Options](#)



To provide, safe, reliable drinking water, reclaimed water and wastewater service for the enrichment of the community.