



Monthly Report

April 2021

***Change, Updated
Community Development
Page, (pg. 4), 5/13/21***



Work begins on aircraft firefighting training facility

The Charlotte County Commission commemorated the beginning of construction on the aircraft rescue and fire fighting facility with a groundbreaking ceremony on May 4. The facility will enable our firefighters to conduct their required training here instead of traveling to training programs elsewhere. Charlotte County Fire & EMS is also receiving inquiries from fire departments around the country about bringing their personnel here for training.

The facility was designed by Wilder Architect. Design started in June 2019 and was completed in November of last year. Construction will be performed by Wharton-Smith, Inc. and is scheduled to be completed this fall.

The total project budget was \$7.6



Charlotte County commissioners and representatives from the design and construction firms break ground on the aircraft rescue and fire fighting facility May 4 at the Public Safety Complex.

million. Funding for the facility came from a state grant and the 1% local

option sales tax, which was approved by Charlotte County voters.

County holds its Centennial Gala

Charlotte County celebrated the 100th anniversary of its creation by the state of Florida with a Centennial Gala April 21 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center.

Charlotte County was created on April 23, 1921, when Gov. Cary A. Hardee signed a bill into law that divided DeSoto County into five counties: Charlotte, Hardee, Highlands, Glades and DeSoto.

CC-TV premiered a commemorative video called Charlotte 100. It can be viewed on the Centennial Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/CharlotteCounty100.

The Florida Legislature adopted a resolution stating, "Charlotte County and the residents who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and play are congratulated upon the occasion of the 100th anniversary celebration."

Visit www.CharlotteCounty100.com.

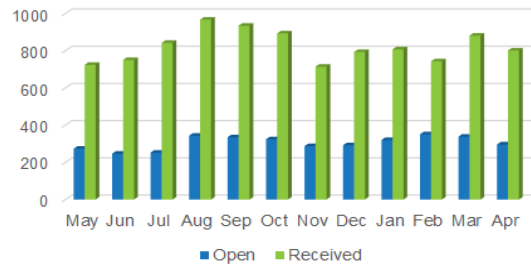
Be Storm Ready

Charlotte County residents are always prepared for hurricane season, but when a storm is bearing down, here's a helpful reminder:

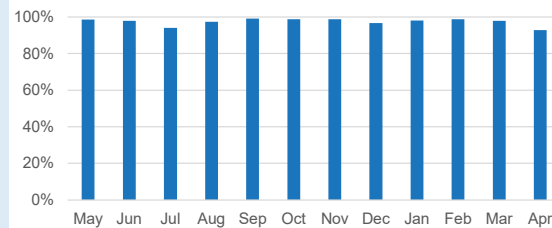
- Board up — windows, glass doors
- Stock up — supplies, water, cash
- Fill up — gas tanks, bathtubs, ice cube trays
- Clean up — potential projectiles in your yard
- Check up — insurance policies, contact lists
- Charge up — phones, rechargeable tools
- Zone up — Visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click Know Your Zone under Popular Links.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

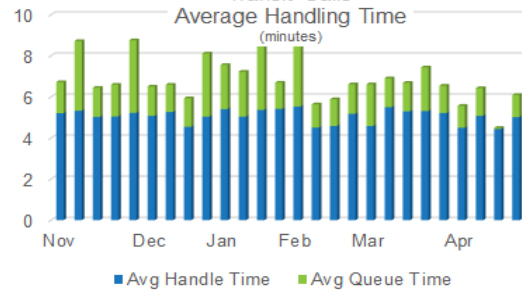


Customer Satisfaction
% Positive

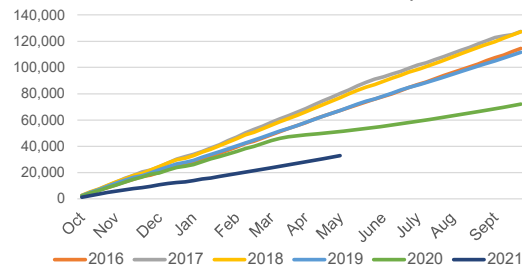


Transit

Transit Calls
Average Handling Time
(minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



Director Highlights

IT Dashboard

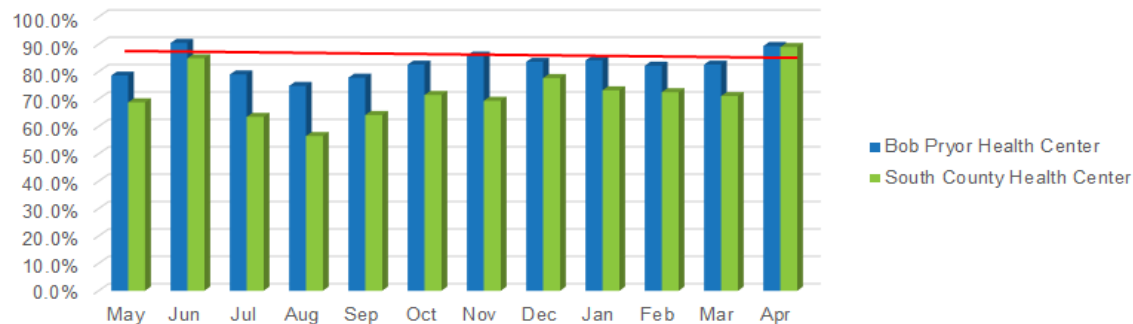
As part of our ongoing efforts to provide situational awareness of IT operations across the supported Charlotte County Constitutional Offices, the Network Services team developed an integrated, real-time, Systems monitoring dashboard under the technical guidance of our Senior Systems Analyst, Brian English. This is done using a product from SquaredUp. His ability to produce a visual landscape capable of providing multiple operational IT systems and cyber security elements in an easily digestible, and readily actionable way served Charlotte County well during hurricane IRMA, in numerous incident response activities, and throughout normal daily operations. These efforts were recognized with the Award for Outstanding Dashboard during the SquaredUp Live conference on 4/27/2021. The host spoke very highly of the dashboard created by Brian and others in IT.

April 2021



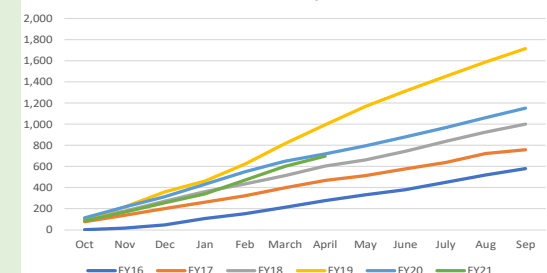
Health Center

Employee Health Center
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

IN PLANNING

- **Cochran Corners Subdivision Parcel C**— (Preliminary Site Plan) The project consists of 8,618 ± sq. ft. retail (salon) building and is located at 19669 Cochran Boulevard, Port Charlotte.
- Final Site Plan approval for 2,050 sq. ft. Dunkin Donuts, 4,085 sq. ft. Heartland Dental and an additional 2,600 sq. ft. retail and is located at 5605 S. McCall Rd., Englewood.
- **Jacaranda Place**— Final Detail Site Plan approved for an 88 unit multi-family apartment complex located at 1200 Loveland Boulevard, Port Charlotte.
- **Village Marketplace** — 2,495 sq. ft. restaurant with a drive thru and three 1,286 sq. ft. units of retail space. 1799 Tamiami Trail.
- **Simple Life** - 230 single-family residential units with amenities. 12150 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Gas station** — Gas station and convenience store, with drive thru restaurant, stand-alone automated car wash at 19100 Peachland Blvd., Port Charlotte.



- **BJ's Wholesale** — 103,120 sq. ft. retail building with associated infrastructure. 19150 Quesada Ave

- **Charlotte Commons Apartments** — Apartment complex with 264 units, and clubhouse at 24150 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte.



- **West Port** — 1,400 unit residential development formerly known as Murdock Village.



- **Firefighter training facility** — Firefighter training facility with a simulator, equipment shed, propane tank, water storage tank, one building and a proposed future building, located at 26597 Airport Road, Punta Gorda.

COMPLETED!!

- **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.

PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

- 1,290 Single Family permits submitted since August 2016
- 917 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: 229
Single Family Permits Issued—Babcock: 56

Total Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 161
Single Family Certificate of Occupancy Issued—Babcock: 32

Total Permits Issued: 3,406

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

Total Permits Issued FY20-21: 19,714
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2020—Sept. 2021)

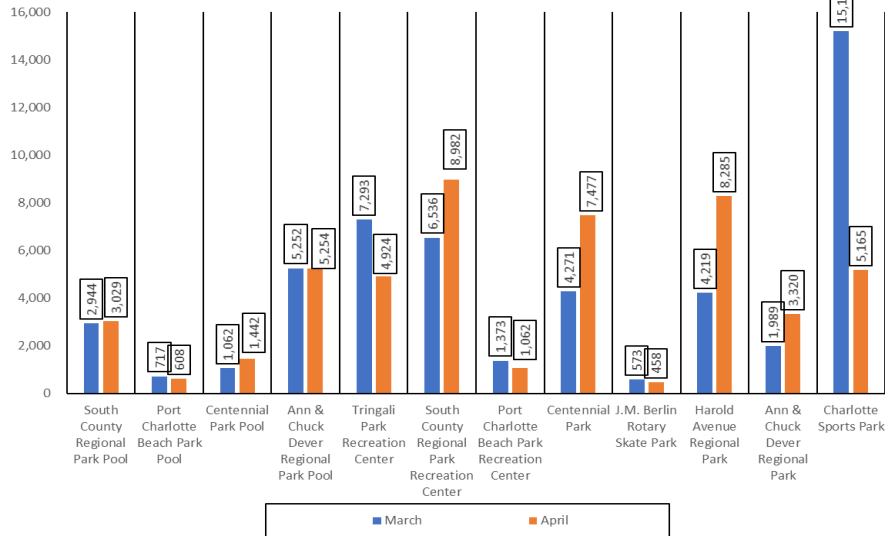
PERMITTING SNAPSHOT



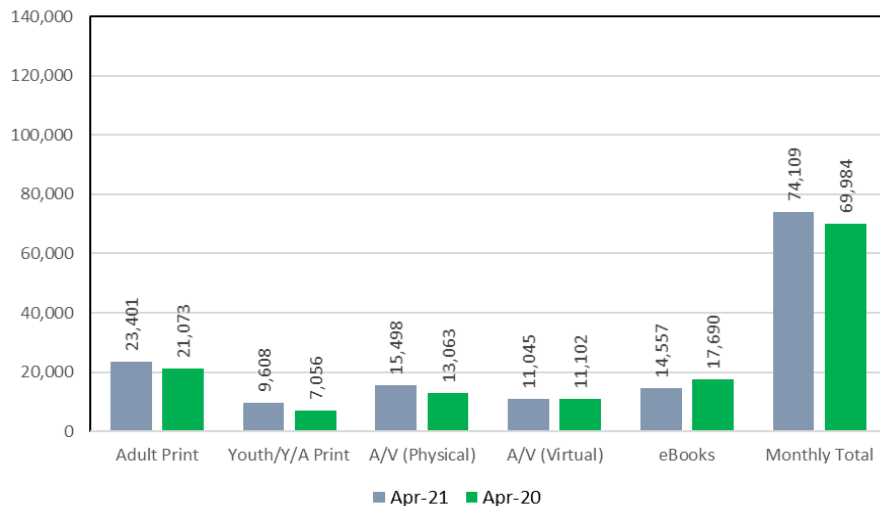
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Community Development

Community Services

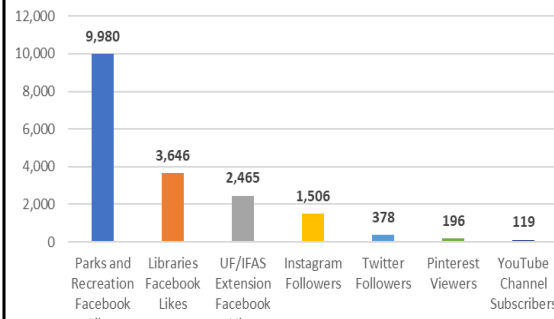
Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance



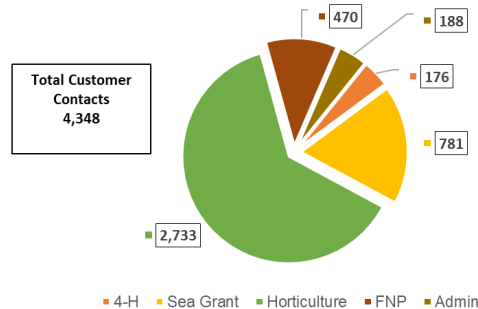
2020 - 2021 Circulation Comparison



Social Media Impact



UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts



Coastal Management

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels Program

- 2 ready for removal
- 2 open case
- 2 cited by law enforcement
- 1 relocated
- 2 closed cases

Coastal Lighting

- 13 Permit Reviews, 1 inspection

Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 475 Youth Leagues and Adult Softball practices
- 2 Tournaments/8 fields
- 5,345 Trash bags collected
- 885 Recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 43.8 Miles trails maintained
- 12.3 acres exotic treatment

Project Management

- 50 Projects
- \$ 3,484,375

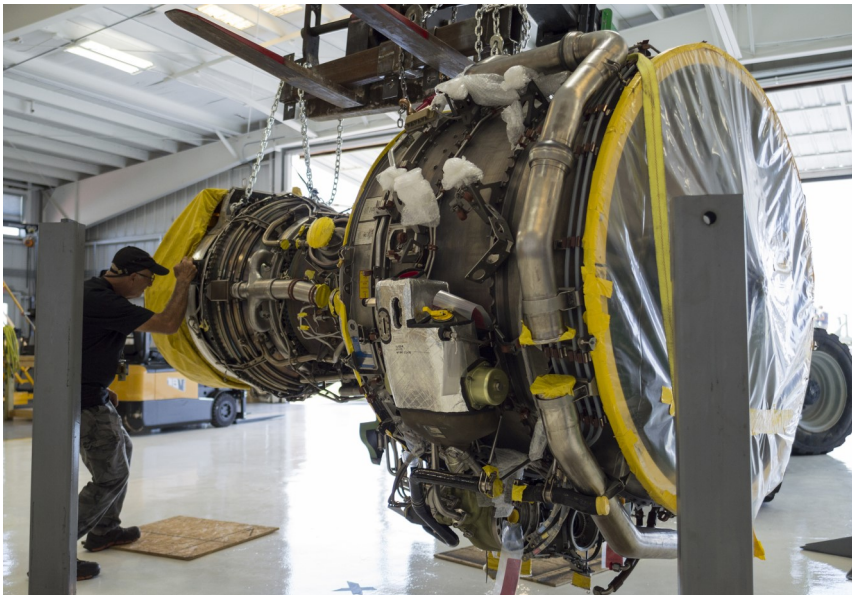
Shorebird Monitoring

Stump Pass State Park

Wilson Plovers	1
Least Tern Colonies	
Boca Grande	
- Adult high count	268
- Nesting high count	58
Stump Pass State Park	
- Adult high count	148
- Nesting high count	58

Student Learning at CTC Takes off

At Charlotte Technical College's aviation extension campus, the hands-on learning experience for aviation airframe and powerplant mechanic students now soars head and shoulders above training at other aviation schools, thanks to the addition of a Pratt & Whitney PW6000 turbofan engine given to the program by Patrice Robinet, Managing Director of Halcyon Aviation Capital on April 22nd. Worth well over \$2 million and weighing in at 5,000 pounds, the engine will allow for a training experience that puts CTC students in "an elite category," according to Stephen Nowell, founding manager of the CTC Aviation and Powerplant (A&P) program and 40-year veteran of the aviation maintenance industry. "While knowledge of turbine engines is required for the FAA's A&P certification exam, mechanic training rarely involves experience with a new turbine of this caliber," he notes. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime training opportunity." The first class of mechanics will start at CTC this fall.



Aviation Shows

Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy and Business Retention & Expansion Manager Amanda Benton were busy this month attending the SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo in Lakeland and Aviation Week's MRO Americas in Orlando. They spent their time meeting with aviation and aerospace industry businesses who may be interested in relocating or expanding to Charlotte County and the Punta Gorda Airport. With the AviEx expansion at Punta Gorda Airport, and the Aviation & Powerplant Mechanics training program at Charlotte Technical College there is a lot to share about our community.



Cleared4Takeoff.com



Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Fire Stations 2 & 5 - New Construction

April 2021



Wharton-Smith Inc. began ground-breaking and construction of two new Charlotte County Fire Stations. These sales tax-funded projects will provide centrally located Fire Stations at 15200 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda and 17517 Seymour Avenue, Port Charlotte to enhance emergency response time to Charlotte County residents.

Construction is expected for completion by the end of April 2022.

Forward Progress

- ◆ The second level of Fire Station 10 is beginning to take shape; block walls will soon be done and trusses installed. The station is located on Don Pedro Island.
- ◆ CCSO Administrative Support Building – The RFP for design purchase request was submitted to Purchasing.
- ◆ Ninety percent drawings were reviewed for the emergency generator at Kingsway Elementary. This mobile generator is to provide additional power during a disaster.
- ◆ Public Works Yard – Permit documents are under review. The CM at Risk is developing a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP).



Fire Station 10

Notable Happenings

- ◆ In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, installation of the new uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system in the Public Safety Building was completed.
- ◆ Public Works Lighting Tech Building remodel – Employee work stations were upgraded and relocated, carpeting replaced, walls repaired and painted, and ceiling lights replaced with LED. The workshop floor was refinished with an epoxy coating for durability and ease of maintenance.
- ◆ Port Charlotte Beach – Repairs to the 50+ year-old sanitary sewer lines at the Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center are underway. Existing cast iron piping was old, cracked, and did not have enough slope to drain properly, causing many line clogs over the years. This project replaces the lines from the restrooms to the sewer manhole.



Port Charlotte Beach
Sanitary Sewer Repairs

Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ Keeping employees and the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the County's focus since the beginning. Facilities and the Solid Waste Division met with a manufacturer to fabricate large "sneeze guards" that provide a safety barrier for the public and employees conducting business at the Mid and West County Recycling Centers.
- ◆ Franz Ross Park – Construction is complete for the new LED sports lighting at all three football fields and the two tennis courts.

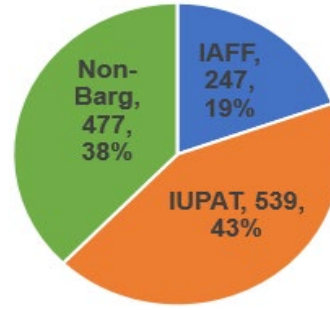


Recycling Center
Sneeze Guards

Human Resources

Workforce

Employee Count 1,263
Avg Age 46
Avg Hourly Rate \$23.83
Avg Years of Service 8.45



Retention of New Hires

	March	YTD
% completing probation	80%	88.6%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years 3.0%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 1.3%

Separations

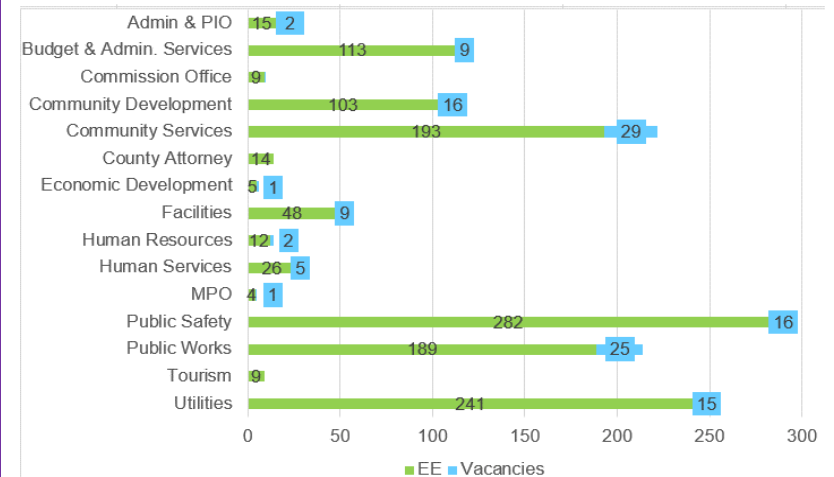
	March	YTD
Turnover	1.3%	7.2%
Separations	17	91



Training & Development

Training 23 Ee's 16 hrs 368 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

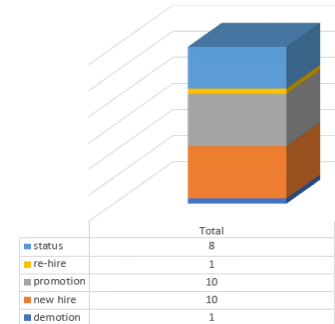
Employees vs Vacancies



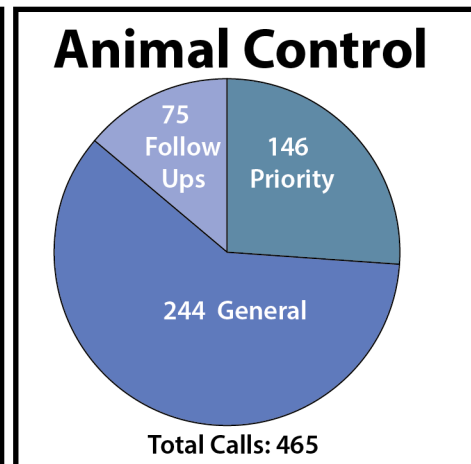
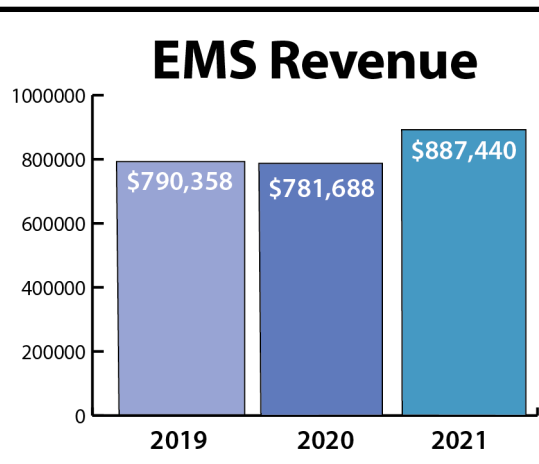
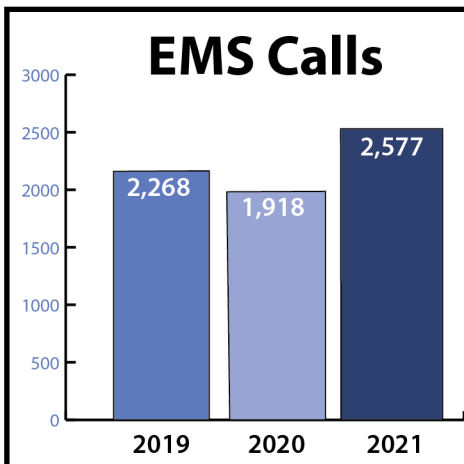
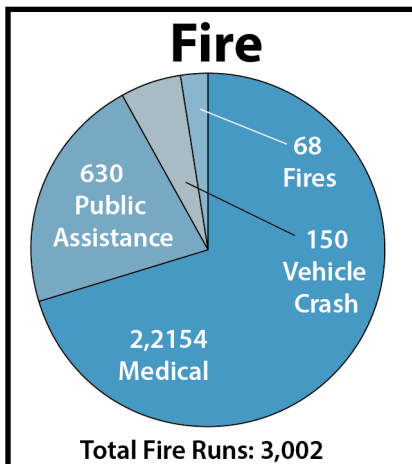
Total Vacancies: 131

Recruitment

Applications Taken 524
Job Posting Hits 18,359
New Hires 10
Recruited Pos FT 23
Posted PT/Sea 3



Public Safety



Determine Your Risk and Prepare

Written by Patrick Fuller, Director of Emergency Management

Fostering a culture of preparedness is more a necessity here in Charlotte County than a goal and begins with the individual resident. The tradeoff we all make by living in paradise is the possibility of being impacted by tropical storms or hurricanes. We are all vulnerable to the effects brought on by the wind and water of tropical weather. To ready yourself for the upcoming season, determine your risk, have a plan, prepare, and stay informed.

Determine Your Risk: What storm surge evacuation zone do you live in? If you are near the water in a red zone you are more likely to need to evacuate than if you live in a green zone. You can find your evacuation zone online: www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/KnowYourZone. Do you live in a site-built home or a manufactured home? Manufactured homes and some older site-built homes are less able to handle the strong winds associated with hurricanes. Are you or a loved one dependent on electricity for medical needs? Loss of power commonly occurs from storms of any size and can persist for days or even weeks, depending on the extent of damage. Is your homeowners or renters insurance enough? Annual

insurance checkups with your agent are critical to protect what you own.

Have a Plan: Where will you go if asked to evacuate? Shelters should never be your first option, especially during a pandemic. Friends or family members' homes outside the evacuated area are good options. How will you communicate with loved ones? Ask someone out of the area to be a contact if you are separated in a disaster. How will you prepare your home? Know what needs to be cleared from your yard before a storm and how long it takes to install shutters and secure boats. Write your plan down and make sure everyone knows the plan.

Prepare: Do you have all the supplies you will need if you are on your own for seven days? This should include non-perishable food, water (1 gallon per person per day), medications, first aid kits, flashlights and batteries, toiletries, clothes, cash, fuel, pet supplies and items specific to pandemics (face coverings, disinfectant and hand sanitizer).

Stay Informed: Monitor weather conditions on a regular basis. Local media is a great source of weather information specific to our area. Subscribe to Alert Charlotte at AlertCharlotte.com; where you can choose what emergency notifications you want to receive from the Charlotte County Office of Emergency Management.

As we collectively hope that this year is not our turn to confront a landfalling storm, it is important that each of us do our part to prepare as if it is. For more information and resources please visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/EM.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Public Works

In the Works

Project Highlights from the Engineering Division where a right turn lane at Murdock Circle and US 41 was increased in storage length. This allows more turning movements and less traffic congestion. This project was completed ahead of schedule and looks fantastic! Beautiful work!



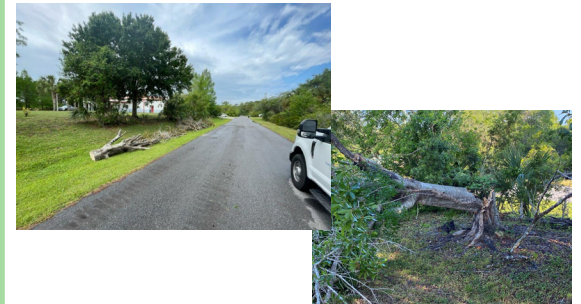
Did You Know

Charlotte County has operated the Landfill since July 1975. The landfill consists of 640 acres of which 110 acres are currently being used for disposal. This disposal area is encircled with a bentonite slurry wall. This wall is below ground and serves as a liner, providing enhanced groundwater protection. The area of the landfill is projected to be in use until the year 2039. In addition to the current disposal area there are another 190 acres for future expansion.



Working Together

A few weekends ago, a large oak tree had fallen during a storm outside of Fire Station 15 in Port Charlotte. Our Maintenance and Operations crews went out, cut the tree up and placed it along the roadway to be picked up by our M&O grapple truck. This time of year the weather can be unpredictable, but luckily we can all work together to assess any obstacles, trees included.



Larvicide: **53.5 acres or 0.08 sq. miles - 8 treatments**
Adulticide: **32,064 acres or 23 sq. miles - 23 treatments**

Aquatics invoiced **\$45,436.38** to MSBUs, Mitigation Sites, CCU, and Right of Way

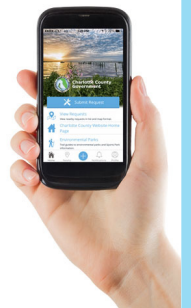
Charlotte County Application Requests April 2021

Requests Received

159

Requests Completed

126



Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections		
TDT (Current Month)		
Mar-20	\$701,101	↑ 36.2%
Mar-21	\$954,893	

Tourist Development Tax Collections		
TDT (Prev Month)		
Feb-20	\$731,180	↓ -13.5%
Feb-21	\$632,650	

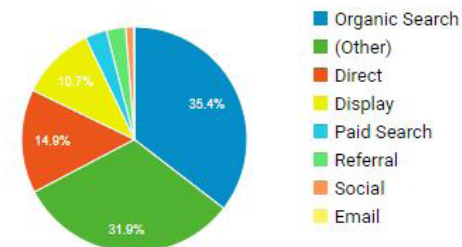
PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Users: 43,895
Pageviews: 93,796
Top Origin Markets:
FL, OH, IL, PA, MA, IN, NY, MI, WI, TX
New vs. Returning Visitors: 86.3% vs. 13.7%

Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: April 1 – 30, 2021



Sports April 2021

Recent Events

Amateur Athletic Union Gymnastics State Qualifier

Horizon Gymnastics // April 9-11, 2021

Horizon Gymnastics Club hosted the AAU Gymnastics State Qualifier with over 400 participants from throughout the State of Florida. We are currently in discussions to host the Regional Championship that attracts over 600 participants.

US Amateur Basketball – Charlotte Shootout

Various County Gymnasiums // April 9-11, 2021

In collaboration with US Amateur Basketball, Southwest Florida Hoops hosted 137 teams that participated in a weekend tournament. Boys and girls from 3rd grade through 11th grade had the opportunity to showcase their skills and agility. These teams and their families traveled from the east coast and south Florida to participate.

Florida Half Century Softball 60's Tournament

Carmalita Park // April 10-11, 2021

We hosted Florida Half Century's over 60's District tournament. Over 450 athletes and their families descended on Port Charlotte during the weekend.

USSSA Prostyle Baseball - 7th Annual Battle for the Glove

Centennial Park & South County Regional Park // April 24-25, 2021

Our well-groomed baseball fields were home to Prostyle's 7th annual event that hosted 6 age groups ranging from 9 and under through 14 and under. A total of 60 teams and families participated in the tournament.

US Amateur Basketball- SWFL Showcase II

Various County Gymnasiums // April 24-25, 2021

Southwest Florida Hoops hosted a sanctioned US Amateur Basketball Tournament utilizing gymnasiums at Centennial Park, South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue Park. 44 Teams of 5th through 12th grade students had the opportunity to represent their hometown club.

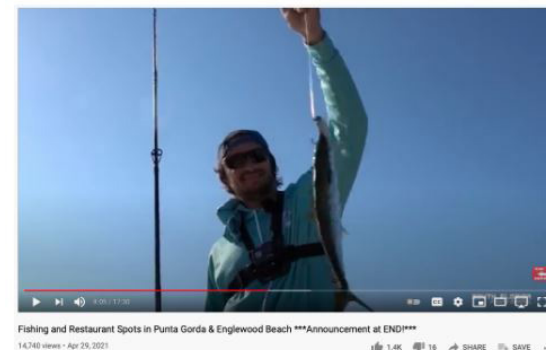
Sports Corner

Amateur Sports has played a huge role in driving the economy of Florida. Amateur athletics provides an opportunity for families to bond over celebrating their son or daughter's accomplishment. This includes taking extended family vacations that center around their young athlete's schedule. As of 2017, amateur sports, along with collegiate athletics, bring more than 7 million visitors to Florida annually with an economic impact of \$43.5 billion creating 443,000 jobs.

Fun Fact: In 1891 James Naismith was asked to invent an indoor sport that his boss could host at the Springfield YMCA, which became known as basketball. Naismith wrote the original rule book and founded the University of Kansas Basketball program. Basketball started by using a soccer ball and you couldn't dribble down the courts. You had to stop in your tracks when you caught the ball and pass it along to another teammate to try to score.

Public Relations/Media April 2021

A total of 72 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of over 112 million and a media ad value of over \$1.3 million.



The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted Fishing Channel Influencer Heiko Winkler. Heiko, who boasts over 100K followers, posted a YouTube video, shared live Instagram stories and Instagram posts throughout his visit and credited several businesses.





Drinking Water Week May 2 - 8, 2021



There when you need it!
Thank you to our Water Distribution Staff!



For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated **Drinking Water Week** – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.



IMPACTS

- **Loveland Grand Master Lift Station:** Loveland Boulevard, from Midas Court to Wickens Avenue will be closed until June 18.

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. Crews have started on the water main replacement along Ackerman Avenue.
For project information:
AckermanProject.com
- **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 are working in the utility easement on the south side of Rampart Boulevard from Nuremberg Boulevard to Rio De Janeiro Avenue.
[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 to start within the upcoming months for Zones 1 & 2.
For project information:
ElJobeanProject.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.

OPERATIONS

- **Calls:** 7,086
- **Call Wait Time:** 37 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 64,279
- **Sewer Connections:** 41,642
- **Water Connections:** 63,633

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- **5 Misc.—Utilities Department**
- **2 Utilities Billing**
- **3 Utilities Department Service**
- 10 Total**

1,086 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.