



# Monthly Report

## May 2021

## Public Works attains APWA accreditation

The Charlotte County Public Works Department received notification last week it had earned accreditation by the American Public Works Association.

In a letter announcing the designation, the APWA stated, "Congratulations to you and each member of your agency for the excellent work in completing the self-assessment process. We trust that each member of your department will continue to feel a sense of pride at having achieved this distinction."

Public Works Director John Elias said, "This news comes after many years of hard work by the Public Works team. This accreditation affirms that Charlotte County operates at the highest level and benchmarks our practices against organizations throughout the coun-



try. I could not be more proud of our Public Works team and the way we deliver exceptional services."

The accreditation process is a rigorous review of an agency's policies and practices with the goal of formalizing and documenting them. As part of the assessment, policies or practices not seen as meeting industry best practices are revised

and implemented.

Accreditation is a team-building and staff development process that must carry forward to retain accreditation, which requires renewal every four years. It improves internal communication and documentation of duties and responsibilities. It delivers improved operational performance when workflows or processes are brought up to industry standards. It demonstrates that the countywide organization is committed to a culture of continuous improvement.

Charlotte County pursues departmental and individual certifications and accreditations to ensure we are delivering service at the highest level using the most accepted methods and procedures in the relevant fields.

## County earns 13 Achievement Awards from NACo

The National Association of Counties announced Charlotte County has earned 13 Achievement Awards. The awards honor innovative and effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.



In his announcement, NACo President Gary Moore said, "Over the past year, county officials and frontline employees have demonstrated bold, inspirational leadership. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs illustrate the innovative ways counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America."

The programs earning Achievement Awards cover nine departments or divisions. Many of the awards involved interdepartmental coordination in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as county staff worked to continue delivering exceptional service to the public.

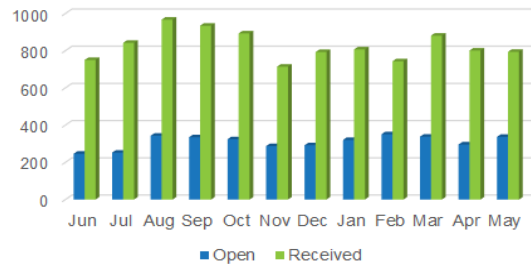
### Be Storm Ready

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

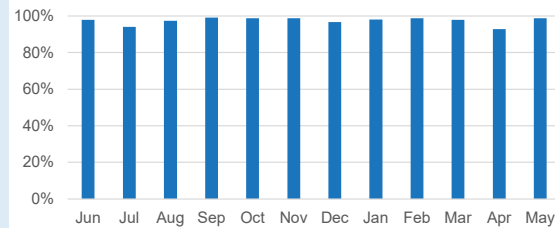
- Board up — windows, glass doors
- Stock up — supplies, water, cash
- Fill up — gas tanks, bathtubs, ice cube trays
- Clean up — potential projectiles in your yard
- Check up — insurance policies, contact lists
- Charge up — phones, rechargeable tools
- Zone up — Visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)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

## Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

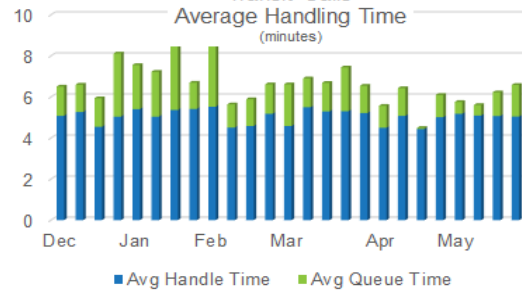


Customer Satisfaction  
% Positive

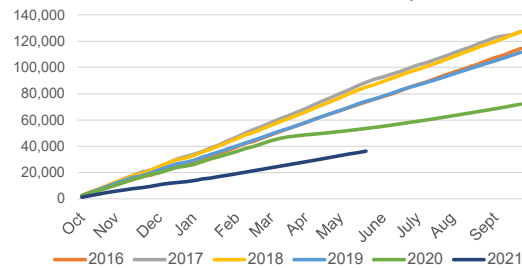


## Transit

Transit Calls  
Average Handling Time  
(minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



## Director Highlights

### Fuel Tank Inspections

As of January 2021, Charlotte County Risk Management began performing the required monthly visual inspections of the County's 34 Florida Department of the Environment (DEP) registered above ground storage tanks (AST) at 26 County sites. Previous inspections were performed by various outside contractors and the reports filed with Risk Management.

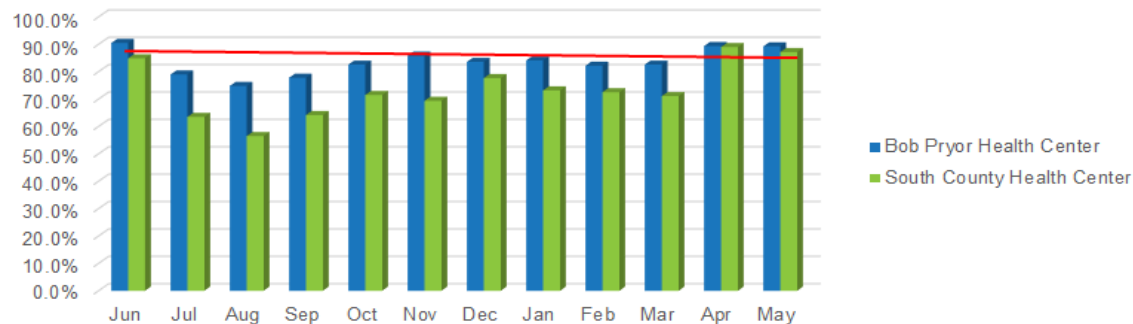
By shifting the report recipient to Fleet Management and having our Safety Manager, David Lyles, certified as an inspector we were able to bring the process entirely in-house and save \$82,000 per year.

### May 2021



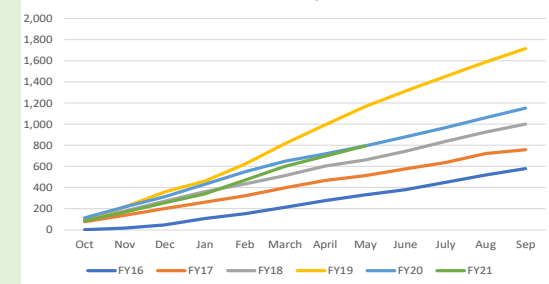
## Health Center

Employee Health Center  
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



## Records Management

Record Requests



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

## IN PLANNING

**Piper Rd. Distribution Center** 250,950 sq. ft. distribution center with associated infrastructure located at 26700 Jones Loop Road, Punta Gorda.

**Take 5 Oil Change** 5,100 sq. ft. quick oil change building with associated infrastructure located at 19205 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte.

**Jacaranda Place** Final Detail Site Plan approved for an 88 unit multi-family apartment complex located at 1200 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte.

**Village Marketplace** 2,495 sq. ft. restaurant with a drive thru and three 1,286 sq. ft. units of retail space located at 1799 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

**Simple Life** 230 single-family residential units with amenities located at 12150 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda.

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**Starbucks** 2,500 sq. ft. building with associated parking and drive thru lane located at 2901 S. McCall Road, Englewood.



**BJ's Wholesale** 103,120 sq. ft. retail building with associated infrastructure located at 19150 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte.

**O'Reilly Auto Parts** 7,453 square foot Auto Parts Store, located at 14520 Chancellor Blvd., Port Charlotte.



**Crescent B Commons** Babcock Ranch commercial area. Project includes Publix and other retail located at 42021 Cypress Parkway, Punta Gorda.



## COMPLETED!!

**Port Charlotte Storage** Four self-storage buildings, parking, and infrastructure located at 23950 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte.



**San Casa Storage** 11 unit Storage Facility located at 7030 San Casa Blvd., Englewood.

## PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

### Babcock Update

- 1,346 Single Family permits submitted since August 2016
- 947 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: 253**  
Single Family Permits Issued—Babcock: 56

**Total Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 151**  
Single Family Certificate of Occupancy Issued—Babcock: 30

**Total Permits Issued: 3,161**

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

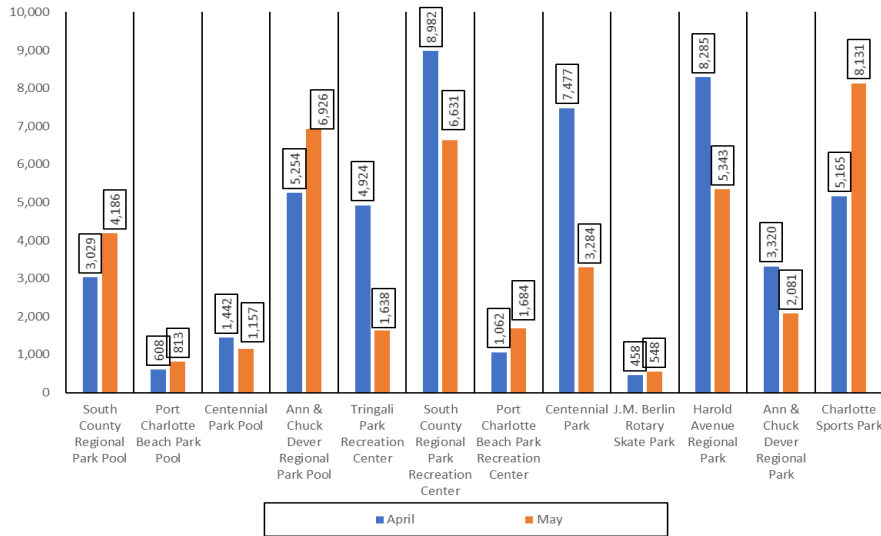
**Total Permits Issued FY20-21: 22,875**  
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2020—Sept. 2021)

## PERMITTING SNAPSHOT

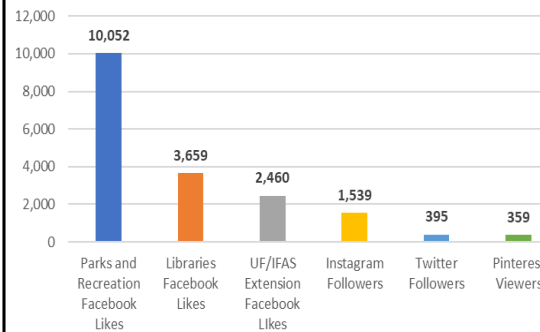


**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Community Development

**Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance**



**Social Media Impact**



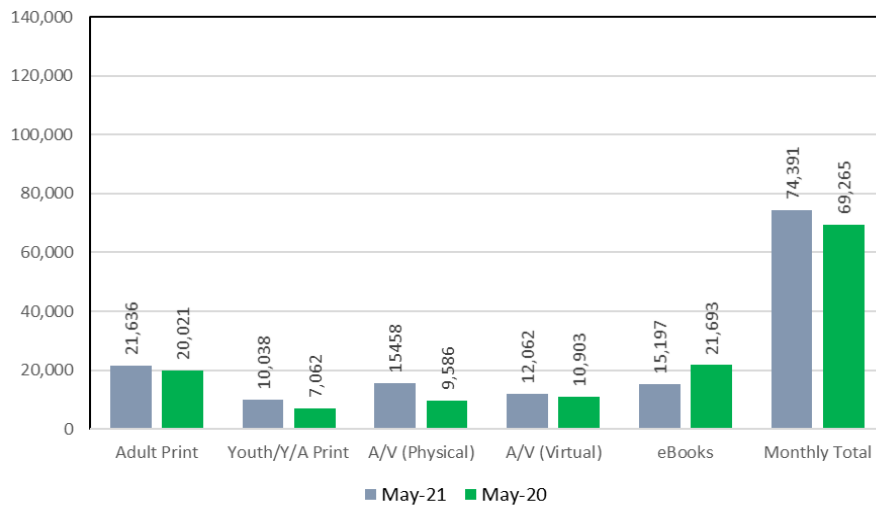
## Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 430 Youth Leagues and Adult Softball practices
- 1 Tournaments/8 fields
- 5,352 Trash bags collected
- 896 Recycling bags collected

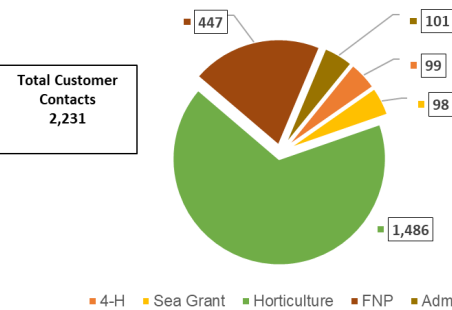
## Land Management

- 87.6 Miles trails maintained
  - 5.2 acres exotic treatment
- ## Project Management
- 52 Projects

**2020 - 2021 Circulation Comparison**



**UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts**



## Coastal Management

### Abandoned/Derelict Vessels Program

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

### Coastal Lighting

- 26 Permit Reviews, 1 inspection
- 3 Lighting Inspections
- 2-night coastal lighting inspections
- 75 violations

## Sea Turtles

235 Loggerhead  
1 Kemps Ridley

## Shorebirds/Seabirds -

Adult High Count – 551

Nest High Count – 163

Chick High Count – 49



### Middle Portion of Murdock Village 30-Day Notice



At the May 11th Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area Agency meeting, the Agency reviewed a Letter of Interest to purchase the middle portion of Murdock Village that is still CRA owned. The middle portion is approximately 186 acres and is between West Port and Arredondo Pointe. A portion of land is occupied, noted by the red boxes on the map to the left and a portion is owned by Charlotte County Public Schools and could be reconfigured as shown in blue.

The Agency voted to post a 30-Day Notice of Intent to Dispose CRA Property. This notice invites proposals to purchase from other developers and interested parties. Responses will be received until 5:00pm on June 16th.

The Agency will review submitted proposals at the July 13th Murdock Village CRA Agency meeting. It is anticipated that one or more proposers will be selected to negotiate and enter into an agreement which will achieve the Agency's objective of (a) accomplishing the Agency's community redevelopment vision, (b) best recovering the substantial costs incurred by the Agency in acquiring the lands involved, and (c) initiate redevelopment as soon as feasible.

All proposers must provide a written proposal to the Charlotte County Economic Development Office, on or before June 16, 2021 on or before 5:00 p.m.

More information on the Murdock Village CRA can be found at: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/cra/murdock-village/>

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



Cleared4Takeoff.com

# Facilities Construction & Maintenance

## Airport Rescue & Fire Fighter (ARFF) Simulator - Groundbreaking Ceremony

May 2021

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Airport Rescue & Fire Fighter (ARFF) Simulator took place at the Public Safety Complex. This \$9.4 million project is funded by a state grant and sales tax. The project expected completion is in March 2022. This state-of-the-art simulator will be one of the newest in the nation. It will provide realistic “live fire” training for both internal and exterior aircraft fuselage, engine and wing fires, as well as landing gear and brake fire training as required for Fire/EMS certification. This is all accomplished while blending high intensity realism and the stress of fighting real fires with the security of firefighter protection from injury.



## Forward Progress

- ◆ Family Services Center Phase 2 – The Design Request for Proposal (RFP) shortlisting was completed, with rankings requiring Board approval in June. The CM at Risk RFP is in Purchasing, and is expected to be released in June.
- ◆ On May 11, 2021, the Board approved the design consultant ranking for a new Charlotte County landfill scale house facility.
- ◆ Placida Boat Ramp West Expansion has proceeded into the schematic design phase.
- ◆ Lake Betty Restroom – A proposal was requested to add restroom architectural design to the existing park improvement contract providing a smoother transition.
- ◆ Tringali Hockey Rink – A Request for Quote was submitted to Purchasing for grinding the court surface. Repairs were made to the cutout in the court center for Geotechnical testing.

## Notable Happenings

- ◆ Construction of the new Fire Station 10 on Don Pedro Island, Placida is moving along with the installation of the roof trusses and sheathing. The exterior cast-in-place stairs are formed and ready to pour. Interior layout began with mechanical, electrical & plumbing (MEP) rough-ins starting soon. FPL is expected to install permanent power to the site within the next few weeks.



- ◆ The people counter stanchion at the Centennial Park Recreation Center Pool is the first of three such installations planned. The other stanchions will be located at Port Charlotte Beach and South County Regional Park pools.



These sensors will provide the County with patron usage data.

## Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ The Port Charlotte Beach Sailing Center is completed. Certificates of Occupancy for all three structures were approved by the Building Department. This project was constructed under budget and within the required time.

- ◆ The Murdock Chiller Plant project was completed in May 2021. This project included installation of two new chillers including pumps, motors and piping; replacement of two water cooling towers, along with installation of two overhead doors to provide access to the chillers and other equipment for future maintenance and repairs.

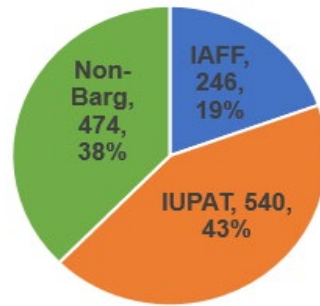




# Human Resources

## Workforce

Employee Count 1,260  
Avg Age 46  
Avg Hourly Rate \$23.83  
Avg Years of Service 8.52



Retention of New Hires	May	YTD
% completing probation	76%	87.0%

## Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years	3.0%
% of Workforce Retired this FY	1.8%

## Separations

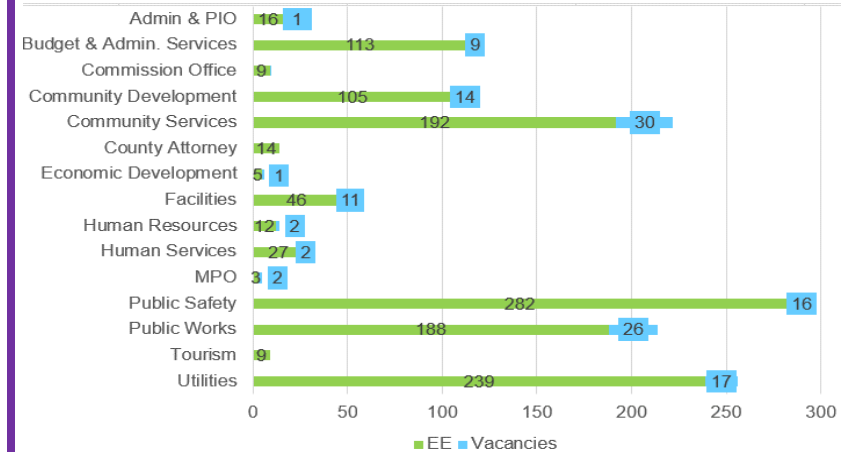
	May	YTD
Turnover	1.0%	8.2%
Separations	12	103



## Training & Development

Training	9 Ee's	10 hrs	90 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement		1%	

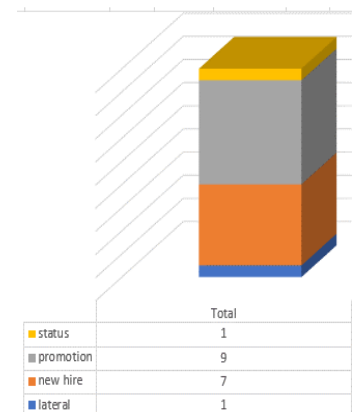
## Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 132

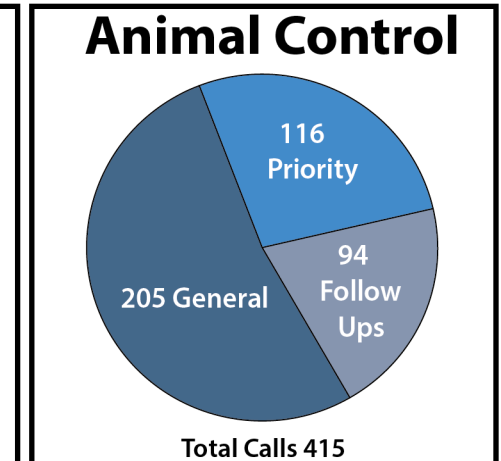
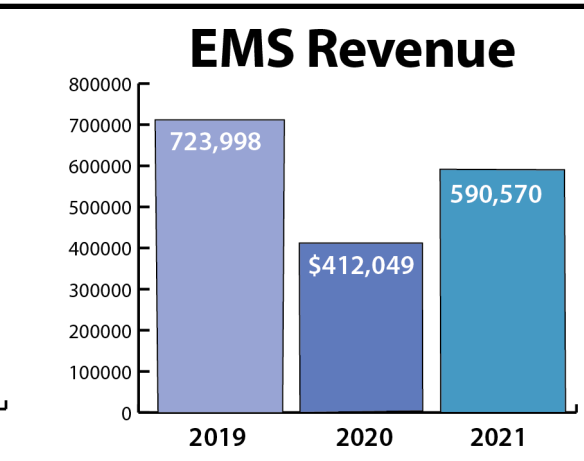
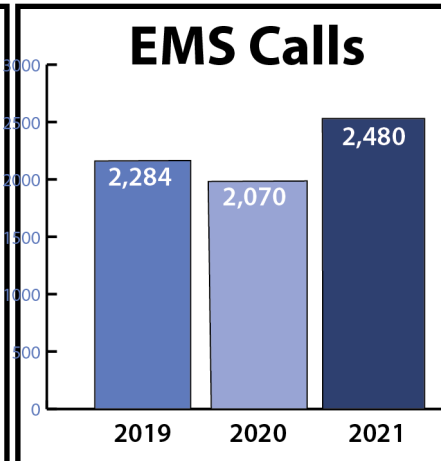
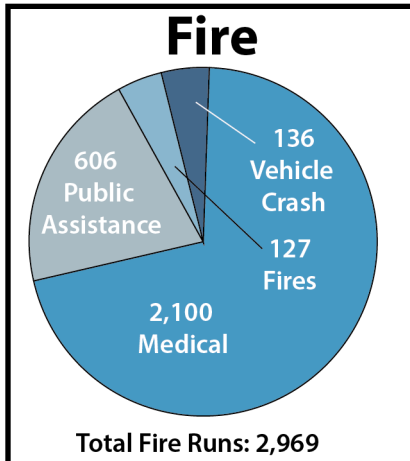
## Recruitment

Applications Taken	521
Job Posting Hits	26,235
New Hires	7
Recruited Pos FT	41
Posted PT/Sea	10





# Public Safety



## Upcoming Changes

Charlotte County Fire & EMS celebrated the official beginning of the ARFF trainer project with a ground-breaking ceremony. ARFF is short for aircraft rescue and firefighting, and the new training prop will allow our crews to receive the training required by the FAA. The training prop will include a simulated aircraft fuselage and engine, be equipped with gas so instructors can simulate aircraft fires.

The only ARFF trainer in Florida is in Jacksonville. With the opening of the ARFF trainer, scheduled for early 2022, Charlotte County will become a popular destination with airport firefighters across the country, as they will have a new option to receive their required training.

In addition to the new ARFF trainer, Charlotte County Fire & EMS has several additional new stations in the works. Construction on the new Station 5, located on Burnt Store

Road in south Charlotte County, should be completed by March 2022. Station five houses five members around the clock.

A new Station 10, located on Don Pedro Island, will provide a new two-bay fire station for two full-time staff and have space for up to five staff members when required. The new station will also have a small training area and an emergency generator system. Magnum Builders projects Station 10 to be ready for service by November.

Station 2, which services the Murdock area, is also being replaced. The new station will be in the Murdock Village area on Collingswood Blvd and will house a staff of seven, a fire engine, an ambulance, and a ladder truck. The design will allow for future growth needs. The budget is \$6.5 million and is forecast to be ready for service by next February.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
FLORIDA

# Public Works

## In the Works

North and South Gulf Blvd on Don Pedro/Knights Island looks a little brighter after our TSM striping crew applied some much needed touch ups.



## Did You Know

During National Public Works Week, Charlotte County Public Works has been recommended for accreditation by the American Public Works Association. This news comes after many years of hard work by the Public Works team.

This recommendation for accreditation affirms that Charlotte County operates at the highest level and benchmarks our practices against organizations throughout the country.



## Working Together

The Zemel Road Landfill has been a long-standing sentinel chicken site for Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control houses. However, the chickens have seemed overly stressed and edgy at that location. To solve this, a permanent concrete slab was installed by members of M&O and staff from Mosquito Control built a 10'x10'x6' kennel on top. This season, the new set of sentinel chickens will get to enjoy plenty of room on their shaded piece of real estate which will be much better for the health and well-being of the birds.



Larvicide: **0 acres or 0 sq. miles - 0 treatments**

Adulticide: **7,808 acres or 12.2 sq. miles - 6 treatments**

In addition to servicing the fogging units, motors etc. 5.81 tons of waste tires potential breeding sites were collected throughout the County.

Several training opportunities to include MOT, Adult Mosquito ID, Clarke Workshops, and several FDACS trainings were attended.

Aquatics invoiced **\$ 41,311.62** to MSBUs, Mitigation Sites, CCU, Right of Way, and Parks.

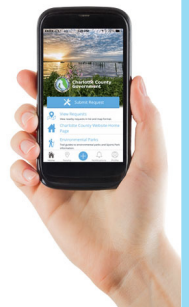
## Charlotte County Application Requests May 2021

Requests Received

**227**

Requests Completed

**192**



## Key Performance Indicators

### Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)

Apr-20	\$94,631	↑ 513.5%
Apr-21	\$580,592	

### Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Prev Month)

Mar-20	\$701,101	↑ 36.2%
Mar-21	\$954,893	

## PureFlorida.com

### Website Traffic

Users: 51,334

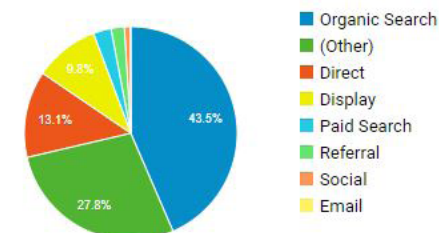
Pageviews: 104,748

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

New vs. Returning Visitors: 84.7% vs. 15.3%

### Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: May 1 – 31, 2021



## Sports May 2021

### Recent Events

#### USA BMX- State Qualifying Series Championship

##### Charlotte BMX Track May 7-9, 2021

Partnered with Charlotte BMX Track in hosting the USA BMX State Qualifying Series Championship. Over 700 riders traveled from across the State, and some as far as California, to participate in this last race to garner points to qualify them for the National Championship. By hosting this race, Charlotte County saw \$1.2 Million in economic impact.



#### Sea Dragon's - USA Swimming Regional Swim Meet

##### Centennial Park Pool//May 15-16, 2021

Partnered with the Sea Dragon's Swim Club to host a USA Swimming swim meet that attracted 210 participants from across the region including a team from Miami. They had over 600 fans cheering on their kids and friends at our new Centennial Park pool deck.



#### USSSA Prostyle Baseball- Global World Series Qualifier

##### County Baseball Fields//May 29-30, 2021

The county's well-groomed baseball fields were home to Prostyle's 7th Annual World Series Qualifier that hosted 6 age groups ranging from 9 and under through 18 and under. A total of 60 teams and families participated in the tournament. Teams and their families traveled from as far away as Orlando and Miami.

### Sports Corner

Amateur Sports has played a huge role in driving the economy in Florida and throughout the country. Amateur sports started in 1879 in Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit and Saint Louis by establishing athletic clubs. These clubs started as an avenue for providing young men and women the chance to compete in various sports, the first being track and field and swimming. It slowly became overrun by professional athletes and it hurt the competitiveness of each sport. So, they invented the word Amateur as, "any person who has never competed in an open competition for public or admission money, or professional for a prize". Today amateur sports is a Billion dollar industry and will continue to provide an avenue for children to reach the next level while enhancing family interaction.

**Fun Fact:** Since we have hosted the USA BMX Nationals and State Qualifying Series Championship, here are some fun facts about the sport. BMX stands for Bicycle Motocross and racing was invented in 1969 in Palms Park, Los Angeles. Children road their bicycles to watch a motorcycle motocross race and after the race they jumped on the track to ride around. Prior to being kicked off, the track owner wanted them to keep going so he could see if the track could be used for bicycles and provide children a way to race their bikes.

## Public Relations/Media May 2021

A total of 55 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of over 18 million and a media ad value of approximately \$1 million.

National Distillery Day: Alligator Bay Distillery - ABC7 More Explores celebrated National Craft Distillery Day - May 22 with the "Rum Brothers" Alex and Benjamin Voss. As owners of Alligator Bay Distillers, they have proudly worn that title since 2015 while opening their small batch "Cane to Bottle" rum distillery in Punta Gorda, Florida. Masters of the craft, Alex and Ben create their award-winning rum and whiskey from scratch using "100% Floridian black strap molasses, locally sourced from Clewiston, Florida".



The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau is a sponsor of the CCA Florida STAR competition. Charlotte County welcomes anglers and non-anglers participating in the summer-long statewide CCA Florida STAR competition, May 29 – Sept. 6. STAR's signature divisions include the West Marine STAR Tagged redfish and the Tigress Outrigger & Gear Tagged Dolphin Division (Mahi Mahi). Participants in STAR's Signature category will be competing for over \$500,000 in prizes.





## PROTECT OUR WATER!

Help improve and protect our water quality!  
Do NOT use fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus on any turf or landscape plants between June 1 to September 30.



- **Fertilizer Use:**

The use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus is prohibited from June 1 to September 30.

- **Hurricane Season 2021:**

It is essential to prepare for a hurricane, especially regarding your water and sewer. Our hurricane preparedness flyer provides a check list of tasks and supplies.

[Hurricane Preparedness: Utilities](#)



## IMPACTS



- **Loveland Grand Master Lift Station:**

Loveland Boulevard from Midas Court to Wickens Avenue will be closed until July 16.

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](http://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](http://ElJobeanProject.com)

- **Easy Street Sewer Force Main Replacement:**

Replacement of the existing 6" sewer force main along Easy Street.

## OPERATIONS

- **Calls:** 6,580
- **Call Wait Time:** 39 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 64,438
- **Sewer Connections:** 41,739
- **Water Connections:** 63,789

### Charlotte County, FL App Requests

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

**1,104 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](#)

