



# Monthly Report December 2021

## Charlotte County accomplished much in 2021

2021 presented its share of challenges, especially with the ongoing pandemic, but the county logged many accomplishments and milestones this year.

Our Public Works Department received its hard-earned accreditation from the American Public Works Association. The team-building and staff development process improves internal communication and documentation of duties and responsibilities and delivers improved operational performance.

County departments earned 13 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, bringing the number of awards we've received since 1987 to 38. In his citation recognizing the coun-



**Charlotte County  
Administrator  
Hector Flores**

ty's achievements, NACo President Gary Moore said, "This year's Achievement Award-winning programs illustrate the innovative ways counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America."

We were recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for exceeding the state's 75% goal for recycling. The county's 78% recycling rate for 2020 tied for first in the state with Pinellas County. It is the fourth year in a row the county has exceeded the state's recycling goal.

Visitors have identified the county as a relative safe haven amid the COVID-19 outbreak. With our high vaccination rate and myriad outdoor activities year-round, tourism numbers soared from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021. Tourism development tax revenue climbed 36.8% to \$6,071,981 and visitor numbers rose 23.4% to about 863,000.

### Capitol Projects Milestones

The Human Services Department's new Family Service Center opened in November. The Gibraltar Drive center houses county partner agencies, including The Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Department of Health and more.

We also completed the final phase of the Burnt Store Road widening. Burnt Store is now four-laned from the Lee County line to U.S. 41. The project is a vital hurricane evacuation route for thousands of Charlotte and Lee county residents.

### Centennial event commemorated 100th anniversary

Charlotte County has been commemorating the 100th anniversary of its creation on April 23, 1921 when Charlotte, Highlands, Glades and Hardee counties were divided from DeSoto County.

The county held a Centennial Gala on April 23, 2021, created a Centennial website ([www.CharlotteCounty100.com](http://www.CharlotteCounty100.com)) and Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/CharlotteCounty100](https://www.Facebook.com/CharlotteCounty100)) and held more than a dozen commemorative events, attended by thousands.

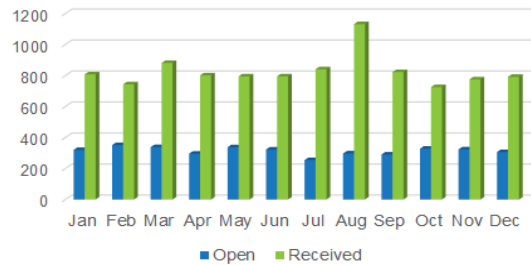


Centennial street sign toppers were installed at historic and prominent intersections, banners were hung from the Gilchrist and Collier bridges and seals were installed on driveways, entryways and manhole covers.

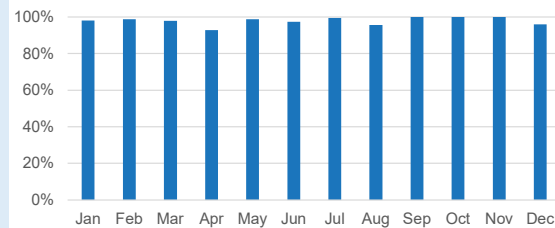
Here's to the next 100 years!

## Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

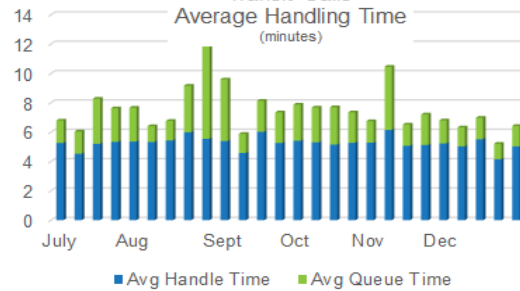


Customer Satisfaction  
% Positive

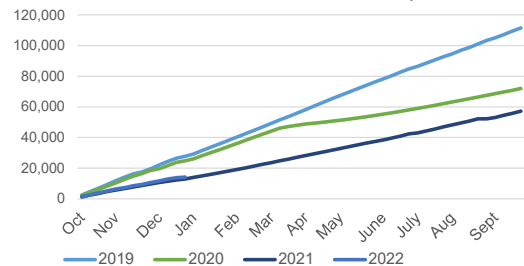


## Transit

Transit Calls  
Average Handling Time  
(minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



## Director Highlights

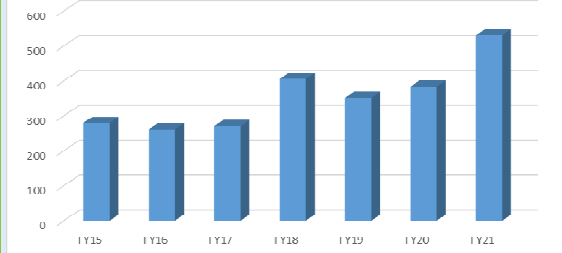
### Release of Easement

Real Estate Services division oversees the County's release of easement program. A release of easement is necessary when a property owner wants to put a permanent structure within an easement dedicated for public use. These are normally drainage and utility easements. Since the County maintains in excess of 150,000 easements this is a very important function. A release of easement serves two main purposes.

1. It ensures that the public no longer has an interest in the publicly granted or dedicated easement.
2. Should the owner ever sell the property, a recorded release of easement clears up a potential cloud on the title should a survey reveal a permanent structure encroaching in a public easement

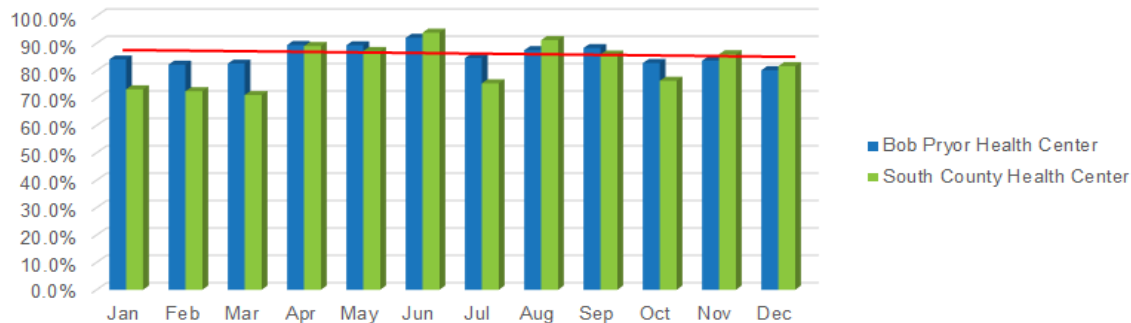
### December 2021

OCCUPATION AND RELEASE OF EASEMENTS (YR)



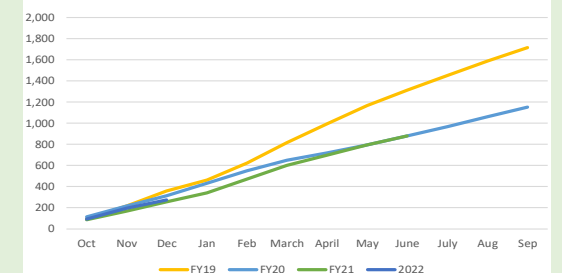
## Health Center

Employee Health Center  
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



## Records Management

Record Requests



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?



PLANNING STAGE



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED!!



## Home Base Living

2197 Peasley St, Port Charlotte  
33 multi-family units with an amenity center.

## North Port Plaza

14520 Chancellor Boulevard, Port Charlotte  
A one-story 15,300 sq. ft. shopping plaza.

## Fawcett Memorial Hospital

21260 Olean Boulevard, Port Charlotte  
47,200 sq. ft. 2-story Surgery & Intensive Care Unit

## D'Aprile Commercial and Residential

130 Yorkshire St., Port Charlotte  
Six multi family units and a 12,000 sq. ft. commercial building with associated infrastructure .

## Starbucks

18501 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte  
2,500 sq. ft. Starbucks with double drive-thru lanes.

## Urgent Care Facility

19580 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte  
5,100 sq. ft. retail/medical building.

## Culver's Restaurant

26440 Jones Loop Road, Punta Gorda  
4,190 sq. ft. restaurant with an outdoor patio and a drive thru.

## Tommy's Express Car Wash

19010 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte  
Automated car wash.



## Take-5 Oil Change

19205 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte.  
5,100 sq. ft. quick oil change location.



## BJ's Wholesale

19150 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte  
103,120 sq. ft. retail building with associated infrastructure.



## Modwash Car Wash

19740 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte  
Automated car wash.

## Starbucks

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



## O'Reilly Auto Parts

24000 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte  
7,453 sq. ft. auto supply store with associated infrastructure

## Sunseeker

4949 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte  
Mixed-use development consisting of 783 hotel units, restaurants, bars, and retail, located in the Charlotte Harbor CRA.



## PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

### Babcock Update

- Certificates of Occupancy issued since August 2016 = 1,216
- Single Family Permits Issued December = 64

### West Port Update

- Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued since April 2021 = 43
- Single Family Permits Issued December: = 6



### December Permitting:

Total Single Family Permits Issued: 288

Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 125

Total Permits Issued for the month: 2,664

Total Permits Issued FY20-21: 35,240  
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2020—Sept. 2021)

Total Permits Issued FY21-22: 8,553  
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2021—Sept. 2022)

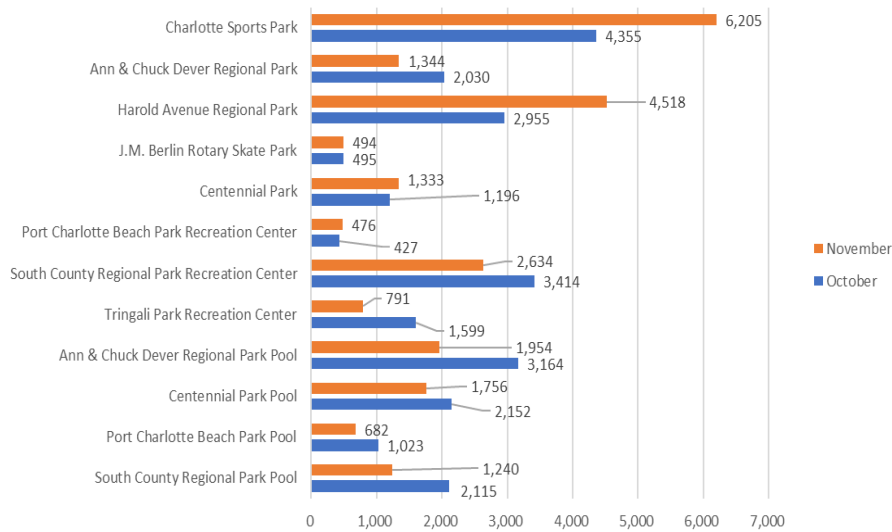
PERMITTING SNAPSHOT



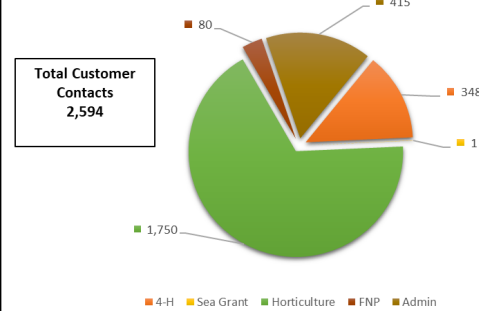
CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
Community Development

December 2021

Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities  
Monthly Attendance



UF/IFAS Extension Service  
Customer Contacts



## Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

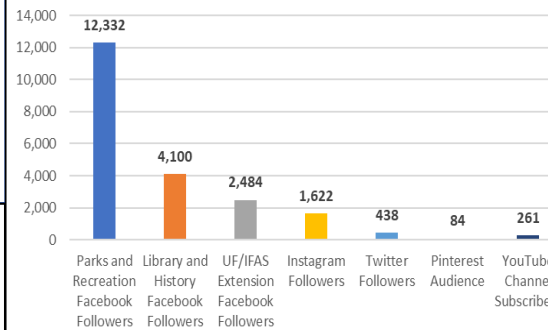
- 163 youth leagues and adult softball practices
- 5,587 trash bags collected
- 846 recycling bags collected

## Land Management

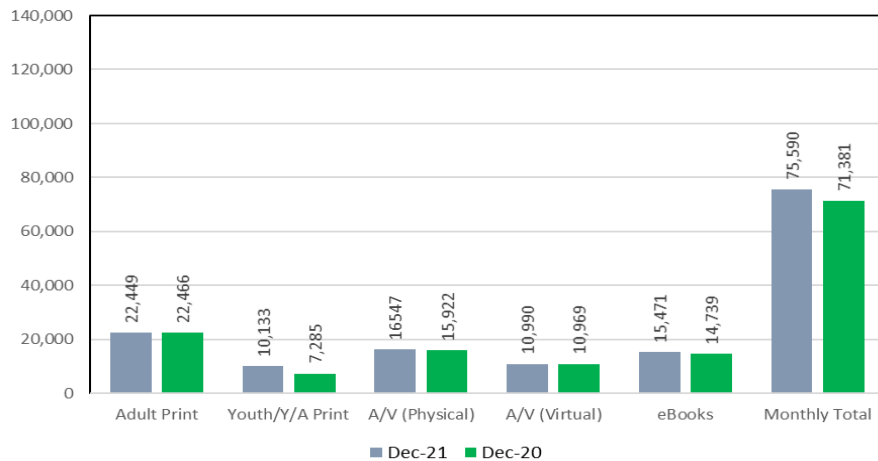
@500 overstory pine trees removed at Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park.

Recipient site permit report surveys on 40 acres of Tippecanoe Environmental Park.

Social Media Impact



2020 - 2021 Circulation Comparison



## Coastal Management

### Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

- 7 Cited
- 1 Letter Returned
- 2 Open Cases + 1 Reopened
- 5 Removed

### Program Coastal Lighting

- 10 Permit Reviews
- 4 Inspections

### Final Sea Turtle Count

- Loggerhead 1,657
- Green 96
- Kemp 1



### Charlotte County Entrepreneur Spotlight

Amanda Benton recently sat down with Charlotte County entrepreneur and veteran, Michael Bluemling Jr. to discuss why he picked Charlotte County for his new F45 Training Port Charlotte West facility and what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

Michael has always wanted to make a difference and change the world. He was in the US Army Infantry as a Non-Commissioned Officer. His time in the military allowed him to pursue an education through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Michael credits his time in the Military and his education as the foundation that led him to run for Congress and write 3 books.

This spring Michael is opening a F45 Training facility with his business partner Kevin Martinuzzi in the Charlotte Square Plaza in Port Charlotte. Michael said he chose Charlotte County to start his business because he saw the opportunity to make a difference here. He said that the area is set to grow and the community is very supportive of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Michael's advice to anyone who wants to become an entrepreneur: "set realistic goals for yourself, have grace for yourself and surround yourself with people that believe in your ideas."

Michael's F45 Training facility will be open this spring. You can find more information by visiting their website: <https://f45training.com/portcharlottewest/home>.



*Left: Michael Bluemling Jr and his business partner Kevin Martinuzzi.*



*Right: Michael Bluemling Jr. and his service dog, Chanel.*



### 2022 Charlotte County Business Expo



The Economic Development Office will be at the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's 11th Annual Business Expo Thursday, February 3rd at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. The expo is a great opportunity to meet community business owners. Stop by and say hi!



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

Cleared4Takeoff.com

December 2021



The new Transit Facility located at 535 Theresa Blvd (old JB Yard along Veterans Blvd.) will be ready for move-in within the next few weeks. The new facility has a total of 5,885 square feet along with a large secured parking lot for all the County shuttle buses.

Amenities include a bus driver's lounge area with office workspace, locker space and kitchen area, operations and administrative staff offices, command control room for dispatchers, conference room, break area, restrooms with shower facilities for extended operations, and a generator.

Building design was started by Hall Darling Design Studio in July 2019. Construction was completed by Wharton-Smith Inc. The total design and build time was 29 months.

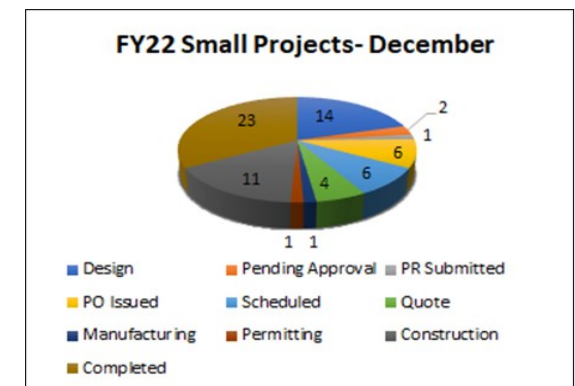
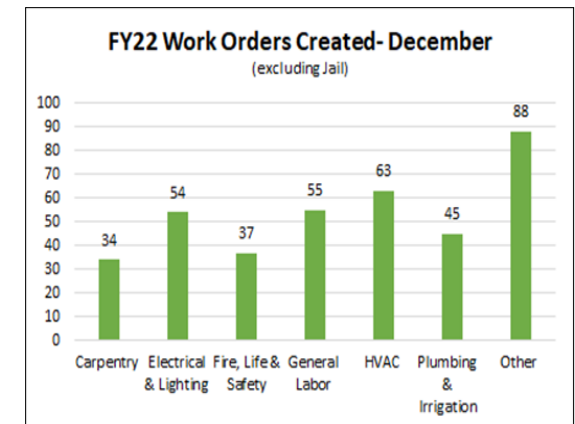
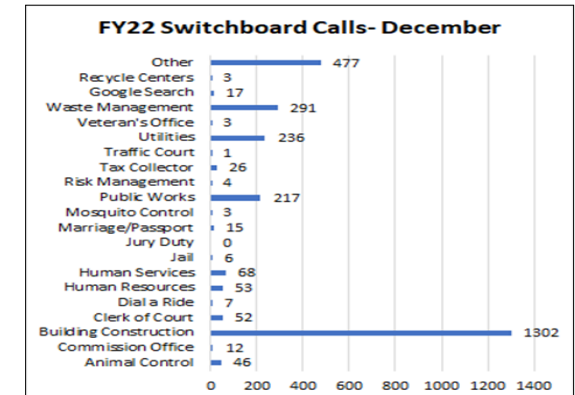
Total project cost of \$3,769,901.00 was Grant-funded by the Federal Transit Administration under The Buy America Act.

- ◆ The damaged William R. Gaines Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park main entrance sign was replaced and both signs were updated with new military seals to include Space Force per order of precedence.



- ◆ Programming and conceptual design is underway for the Family Services Center Phase 2 project. This project will allow the full realization of an integrated services model and the co-location of government Health and Human Services at one location, adjacent to the recently opened Phase 1 building.
- ◆ Tringali Hockey Rink Surfacing - The final surface grind was performed and infill of the remaining voids is complete, improving the condition of the surface for use. The sports court striping is scheduled for end of January.

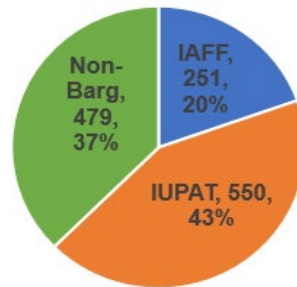
- ◆ The Centennial Park Community Garden was connected to potable water via a 400 linear foot run to the water meter on Jenks Drive.



# Human Resources

## Workforce

Employee Count 1,280  
Avg Age 46  
Avg Hourly Rate \$24.23  
Avg Years of Service 8.45



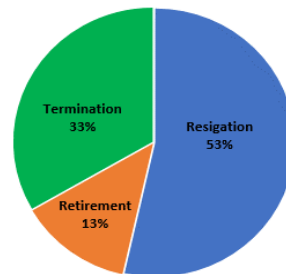
Retention of New Hires	December	YTD
% completing probation	100%	86.7%

## Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years	3.1%
% of Workforce Retired this FY	1.3%

## Separations

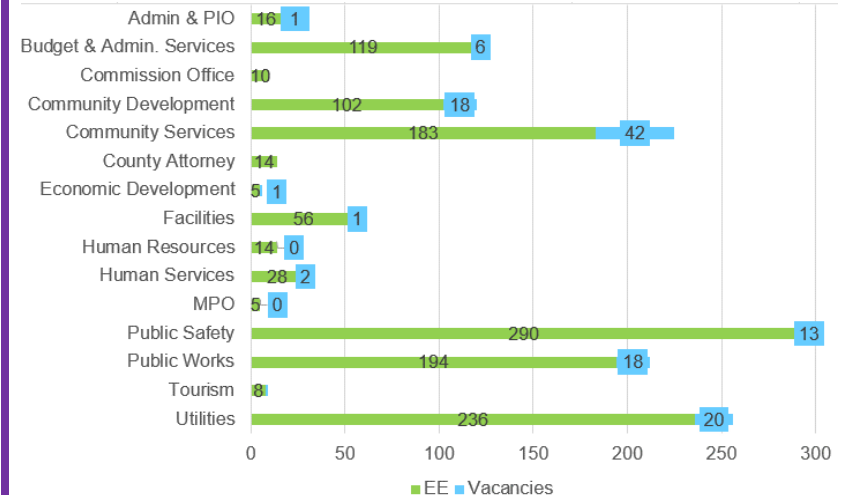
	December	YTD
Turnover	1.2%	3.6%
Separations	15	46



## Training & Development

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

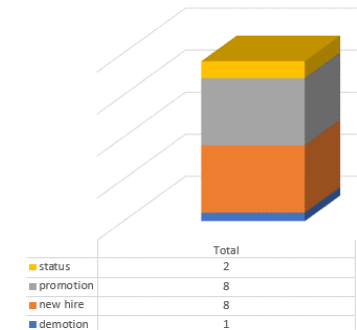
## Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 123

## Recruitment

Applications Taken	343
Job Posting Hits	29,113
New Hires	8
Recruited Pos FT	38
Posted PT/Sea	11





## NBC2 - Giving Tree

This December, staff from the Aging and Adult Services Division, worked with NBC2, local Ford Dealerships and the local chapter of the Kwanis Club, to deliver Christmas gifts to Seniors and their families. Over 120 presents were dropped off at the Human Services office on Loveland Blvd. and staff personally bundled up and delivered packages to their clients.

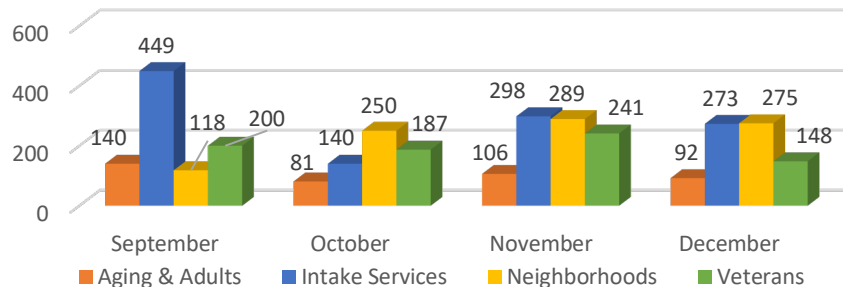


## Making Waves

The faces of Human Services are changing. After 35 years of service with Charlotte County, Deedra Dowling announced that she would be retiring in January after 35 years. Starting as a Case Manager, Deedra worked her way through the ranks to become the Manager of the Aging & Adult Services Division. Please join us in wishing her well.

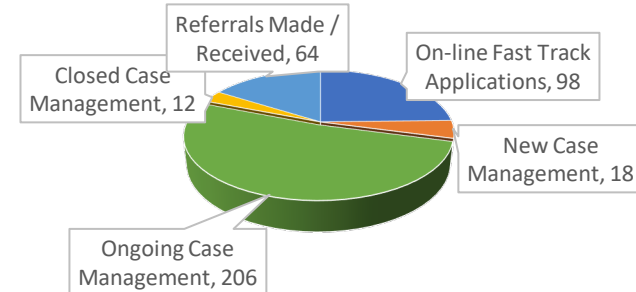
Also, welcome Matthew Mc Gee as the new Assistant Veteran Services Officer to the Division. Matt is a Veteran representing the Coast Guard and he and his family just recently move to Charlotte County from Upstate New York where he worked as a Program Specialist for Veterans Affairs.

## 4th Quarter Comparison - Clients Served by Division



The Intake Services increase in September represents the residents needing Energy assistance.

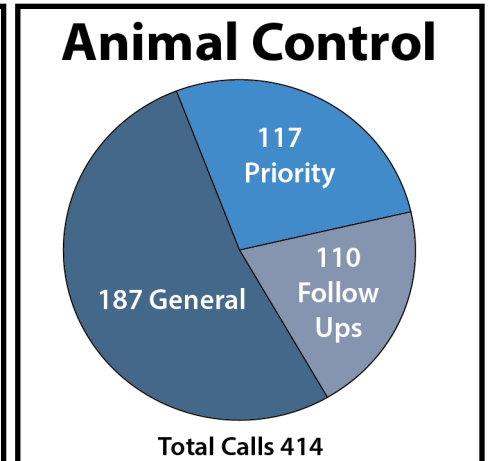
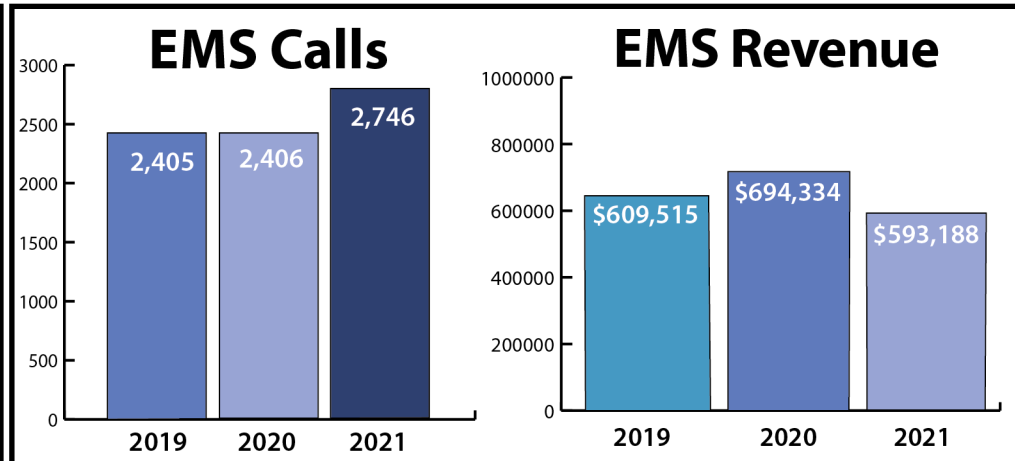
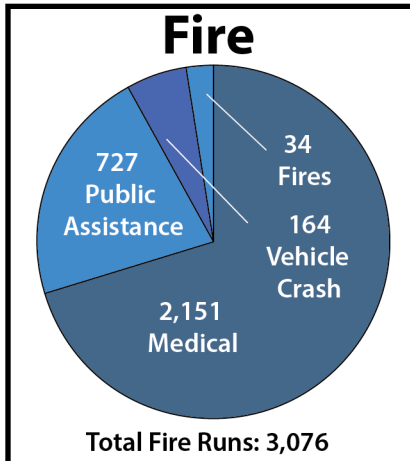
## December 2021 Case Management and Fast Track Applications



## On the Horizon

Going into January, staff will be working with all of its community partners, from both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Family Services Center to establish a grants and development committee. These agencies and organizations include: Phase 1 - Boys & Girls Club, Charlotte Behavioral Health, Charlotte County Sheriff, Department of Health, Drug Free Charlotte County, Jewish Family and Children's Services and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; and Phase 2 - Area Agency on Aging, Healthy Start, Gulf Coast Partnership, Lutheran Services of Florida, United Way and Valeries House. Together, this group will share ideas and resources to draw more funding to Charlotte County and expand the number and types of programming available to clients as well as residents.

# Public Safety



## Santa Firehouse Breakfast

After canceling the annual Santa Firehouse Pancake Breakfast due to COVID concerns in 2020, the event came back bigger and better than ever. In recent years, we held the Santa Firehouse Pancake breakfast on two different days at two of our stations. This December, to host the event while still mindful of COVID concerns, we decided to host the event outside under a tent.

On the morning of Dec. 22, we had over 400 people show up to enjoy a free pancake and sausage breakfast in the Public Safety Building parking lot. Because of the spread-out venue, we were able to make it more of an open house event. While Santa was the main attraction, visitors could see fire engines, aircraft firefighting trucks, helicopters, tractors, and SWAT vehicles up close and personal. Our special operations team demonstrated how they rescue a patient from a rooftop and



how they can cut apart a car to help a patient.

The Punta Gorda Fire Department brought their friend "Sparky, the fire dog" and passed out fire safety material. The University of Florida IFAS Extension 4H program had fun children's activities at their table. Thanks to the small army of volunteers, Public Safety employees, and our community partners' generosity, the event was a success. We are looking forward to next December and are already looking for ways to improve it.



## In the Works

The Lighting District has installed a new video vehicle detection system at the intersection of Westchester Blvd. at Kings Highway called Gridsmart. The new system replaces the aging Wavetronix Radar System that has been in place about 12 years. The Gridsmart system comes with a ton of new benefits such count data, bicycle and vehicle detection, and traffic incident management video capabilities.



## Did You Know

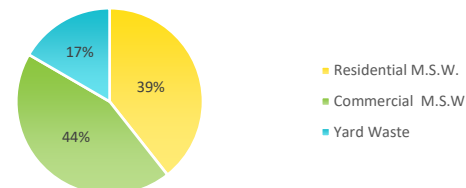
Our Public Works Engineering division has recently completed a 20-year project to replace 40 water control structures throughout Mid-County.

The replacement of these structures was determined to be necessary based upon the Master Stormwater Plan that was developed in 1998. The last structure was completed in October 2021. These improvements provide better flood control to help protect property and infrastructure during a rain event.

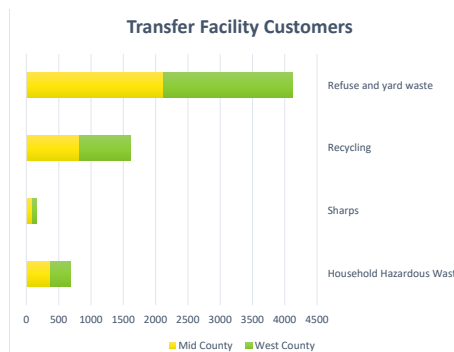


## Solid Waste

Landfill  
Customer Transactions 5,414



Transfer Facility Customers



Larvicide: **16.6 acres or .026 sq. miles - 6 treatments**

Adulticide: **17,024 acres or 26.6 sq. miles - 10 treatments**

Landing rate counts performed 307

Number of CDC traps distributed and collected 36

Total number of mosquitos Identified to species 187

Accela Complaints resolved 13

Telephone complaint resolved 42

Aquatics invoiced **\$ 42,880.89**

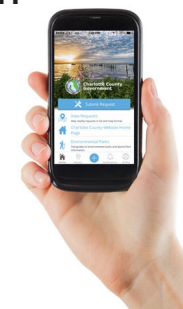
## Charlotte County Application Requests November 2021

Requests Received

**54**

Requests Completed

**133**



## Key Performance Indicators

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

Nov-20	\$259,390	↑	59.2%
Nov-21	\$412,964		

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

Oct-20	\$255,365	↑	40.4%
Oct-21	\$358,478		

## PureFlorida.com

### Website Traffic

Users: 29,709

Pageviews: 79,415

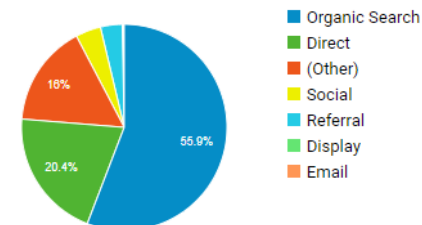
Top Origin Markets:

FL, MI, IL, OH, NY, PA, VA, MN, MA, KS

New vs. Returning Visitors: 83.6% vs 16.4%

### Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: November 1 - 30, 2021



## Sports December 2021

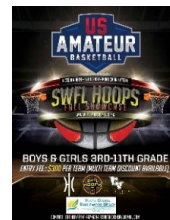
### RECENT EVENTS

#### US Amateur Basketball - Florida Aces Showcase

Centennial Park, Harold Avenue Park, South County Regional Park

December 4-5, 2021

231 athletes ranging from 4th grade through 8th grade showcased their talents on our courts. They had over three hundred spectators cheering them on which created 233 room nights since some traveled as far as Orland and Jacksonville.



#### NCAA College Swim and Diving Teams – Winter Training

Centennial Park, Ann & Chuck Dever Park, South County Regional Park

December 11, 2021 – January 8, 2022

330 college athletes traveled to Charlotte County for the inaugural winter swimming and diving training. Each team brought between 35 and 100 of their best swimmers and divers to train in our new and newly renovated aquatic centers for 5-8 days. The teams had a chance to stay on Englewood Beach and in Punta Gorda. Busses lined up every morning at 6am for their morning training and then again from 3p-6p for their afternoon training. The following teams trained or stayed in our destination:

Auburn University – Alabama

Milligan University – Tennessee

Hillsdale College – Michigan

George Fox University – Oregon

USA Swimming New Jersey Race Club – New Jersey

Hope College- Michigan



**GEORGE FOX  
UNIVERSITY**



### FUN FACTS

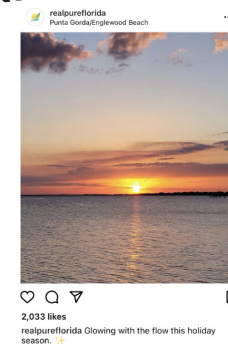
- Most college swimmers swim 6-12 miles a day.
- The first goggles invented for swimming were made from tortoise shells.
- Swimming was first introduced at the Olympics in 1896.
- Benjamin Franklin invented swim fins.

## Public Relations/Media December 2021

A total of 29 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of almost 30 million and a media ad value of approximately \$47K.

**#BestSideOutside**

Follow and tag us  
@RealPureFlorida



One media mention of note includes an article on distillery tours that appeared in the Palm Beach Florida Weekly. Our very own Alligator Bay Distillers was featured whereby co-owners Alexander and Benjamin Voss explain the process of how alcohol is made while also promoting their tours and the opportunity to purchase a variety of their rums straight from the source.



Visitors to Charlotte County save local residents an average of **\$875** per household in taxes every year.





*Looking for your  
account balance?*

Visit:  
[tinyurl.com/  
CCUAccountSearch](https://tinyurl.com/CCUAccountSearch)



941.764.4300

[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](https://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

**Looking for your account balance?  
No need to call!**

Visit: [tinyurl.com/CCUAccountSearch](https://tinyurl.com/CCUAccountSearch)



## **IMPACTS**



- **Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Replacement:**

Please use caution while traveling along Rio De Janeiro Ave. from Rampart Blvd. north towards Sandhill Blvd. Crews will be working along the roadway. Intersection closures are expected this month.

- **Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:**

Please use caution while traveling within the project area as crews are working along the roadway. Road closures are expected.

**Additional Impacts:**

[Emergency Utility Notices](#)

## **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- **El Jobean Septic to Sewer Project:**  
Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 300 properties with sewer service. On-site sewer connections for Phase 1 and 2 have started. Residents will receive a door hanger approximately one week before the connection to your home. Phase 3 connections are expected to start within the next few months.  
For project information:  
[ElJobeanProject.com](https://ElJobeanProject.com)
- **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 are currently underway. Crews are working on the water main replacement throughout the project area.  
For project information:  
[AckermanProject.com](https://AckermanProject.com)

- **Quesada Boulevard Sewer Force Main Replacement Project:**  
Replacement of 12-inch and 20-inch sewer force main along Quesada Blvd from the Master Lift Station to the Lion Heart waterway. Crews are working on finalizing the installation of the 20-inch force main.
- **Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Project:**  
Construction of a larger sewer force main to improve transmission capacity for the Deep Creek neighborhood. Crews will be working on Phase 2 this month. This work will occur along Rio De Janeiro Ave. heading north towards Sandhill Blvd.  
[Project Map](#)

**Additional Utilities Projects:**

[Utilities Projects | Charlotte County, FL](#)

## **OPERATIONS**

- **Calls Presented:** 8,038
- **Call Wait Time:** 19 minutes 6 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 65,623
- **Sewer Connections:** 42,563
- **Water Connections:** 64,905

### **Charlotte County, FL App Requests**

- **2 Misc.—Utilities Department**
- **7 Utilities Billing**
- **5 Utilities Department Service**
- 14 Total**

**Charlotte County Utilities Facebook**  
**1,438 Follows**

### **2020 Water Quality Reports:**

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

### **Important Information:**

Charlotte County Utilities should be your first call for utility issues. Staff is available 24 hours, 7 days a week at 941.764.4300.

### **Do you have a simple question?**

Email us at:

[CCUSupport@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:CCUSupport@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

### **Payment Options**

*Providing safe, reliable drinking water and  
wastewater service since 1991.*