



Monthly Report

May 2022



Administration

Hurricane Season Starts June 1; Prepare Now

June 1 marked the beginning of the hurricane season and right on cue two tropical systems flared up near Florida. The one we kept our eyes on was borne from a hurricane that made landfall in Mexico and then moved across the gulf to South Florida. Some areas of Southwest Florida received up to 11 inches of rain, but we were spared the worst of it. A second disturbance moved off the east coast with minimal development.

This time of year, tropical weather, plus severe thunderstorms capable of producing hail, damaging winds

and even tornadoes, should always be on the top of our minds. Residents should have an emergency plan in place and police their property for material (vegetative debris, lawn furniture, gardening tools, etc.) that could be wind-borne hazards.

There are numerous planning and information tools available online: Disaster Guide: www.charlottecountyfl.gov/EM Alert Charlotte notifications: www.charlottecountyfl.gov/alertcharlotte Know Your Zone: www.charlottecountyfl.gov/knowyourzone

Hurricane Preparedness Workshop

Thurs., June 23
5-6:30 p.m.

Mid-County Regional Library
2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Community Services

Calendar Contest Call for Entries

To highlight our wonderful natural environment, world-class facilities and our healthy, active residents, the theme of our 2023 county calendar will be Active Outside. Submit photos that feature people participating in outdoor activities, whether it's sports, swimming, boating, beachcombing, bird watching, hiking, playing at the playground or whatever

else you do outdoors. Fifteen photos will be featured in the 2023 Active Outside calendar.

Email photos to Brian.Gleason@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Use the subject line Active Outside and include your contact information and the subject of your photo. Deadline is Aug. 13, 2022.

Fertilizer Ban Between June 1-Sept. 30

Please be aware fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous may not be used on residential or commercial turf or landscape plants in Charlotte County between June 1 and Sept. 30.

During the summer rainy season, unnecessary fertilizing and improper fertilizer application can result in runoff that sends nutrients into waterways where they feed harmful aquatic algae.

Charlotte County Water Quality Manager Brandon Moody said in an interview with WGPU radio that the algal growth enabled by excessive nutrients "can cause a reduc-

tion in oxygen in the water that can make it difficult for fish and other organisms that need oxygen to survive. It can block out sunlight, which seagrass needs to be able to grow and thrive. So, it's important for us to do our part to maintain the balance, which is really what it's all about in ecosystems like Charlotte Harbor. It's about balance."

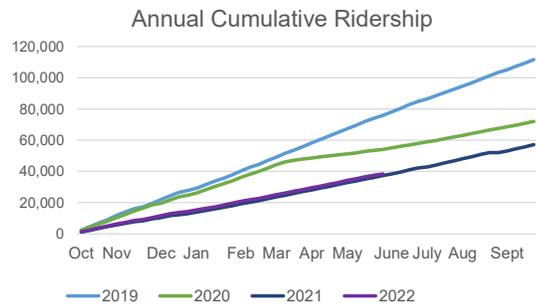
People often think complex environmental issues are beyond their control. This is one way everyone can play a role in reducing nutrient runoff.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/fertilizertips>.

Information Technology



Transit



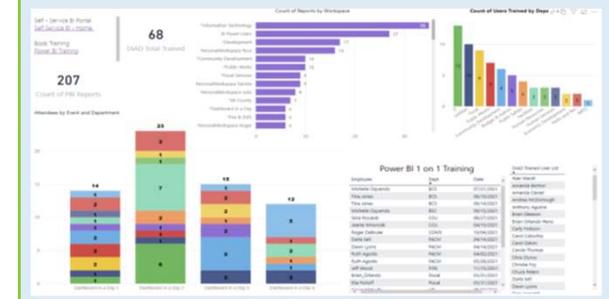
Director Highlights

Business Intelligence

Last month Information Technology Division received a National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award for the IT Managed Self-Service Business Intelligence program. The initiative improves the administration of existing county programs by providing accurate, timely data to decision makers when they need it. This data access also aids in effective public policy making. The program breaks down silos between departments through data sharing efforts so that departments have the ability to identify and address shared problems. The training program that fuels the initiative upgrades the level of training as well as empowers every employee in the county. All employees have access to the data and have the opportunity to be trained on how to use it effectively. This provides the tools to drive innovation in employees that would otherwise not have that opportunity.

May 2022

Sample Power BI Dashboard



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?



PLANNING STAGE



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED!!



Mazda Auto Dealership

798 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
7.4 acre auto dealership with car wash.

North Port Plaza

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

Dunkin' Donuts

19220 Veterans Boulevard, Port Charlotte
1,737 sq. ft. donut store with drive-thru.

Christian Brothers Automotive

24130 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte
10-bay automotive service building with an office and associated parking.

Starbucks

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

Crescent B Commons

14750 Babcock Ranch Rd., Punta Gorda
2,500 sq. ft. Starbucks and 6,052 sq. ft. Pet Supermarkets with associated infrastructure.

West Port Phase II

17372 Toledo Blade Blvd., Port Charlotte
460 single family units, 300 multi-family units, and 662,911 sq. ft. of commercial located in Murdock Village.

PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

- Certificates of Occupancy issued since August 2016: 1,416
- Single Family Permits Issued May: 85

West Port Update

- Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued since April 2021: 75
- Single Family Permits Issued May: 12



O'Reilly Auto Parts

24000 Beatrix Blvd.,
Port Charlotte
7,453 sq. ft. auto parts store.



Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen

18600 Veterans Blvd.,
Port Charlotte
7,974 sq. ft. restaurant with associated infrastructure.

FedEx Distribution

9301 Piper Rd, Punta Gorda
250,950 sq. ft. distribution center.

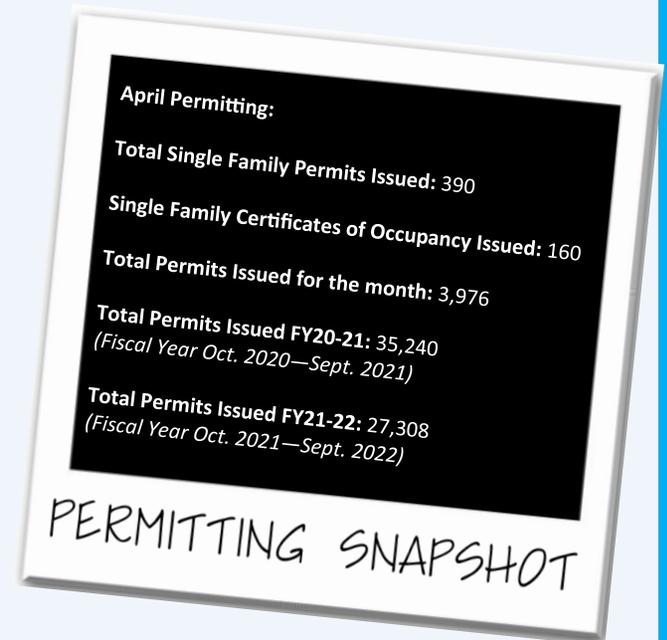


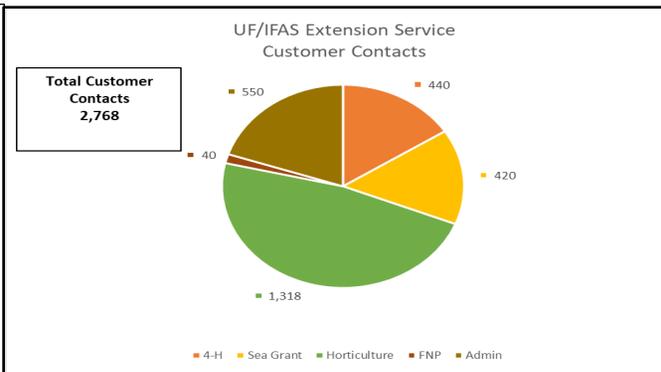
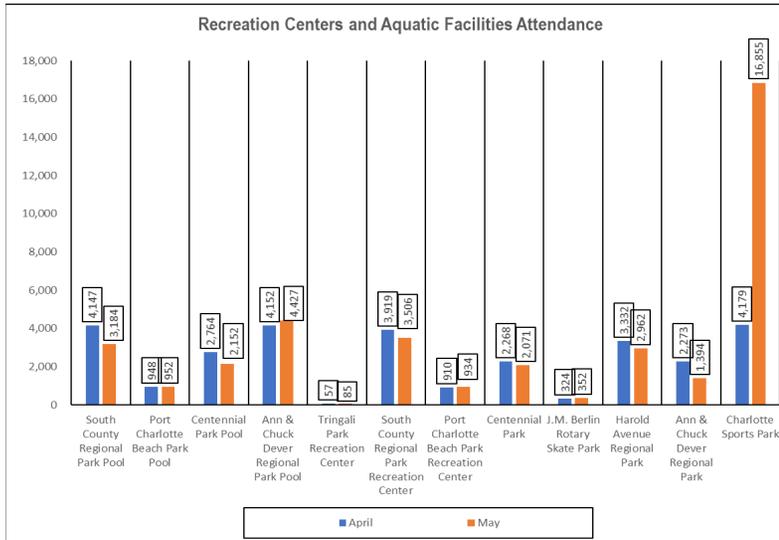
Village Marketplace

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

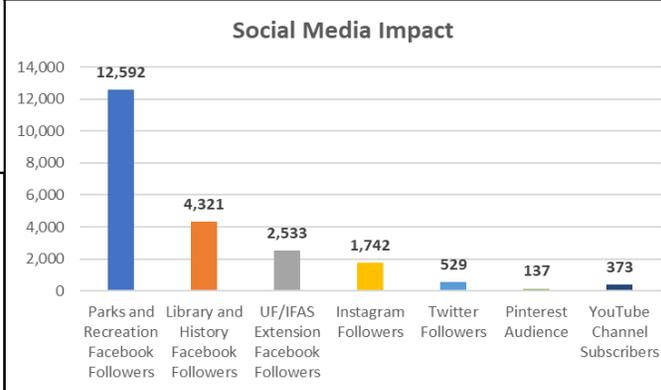
Sunseeker

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

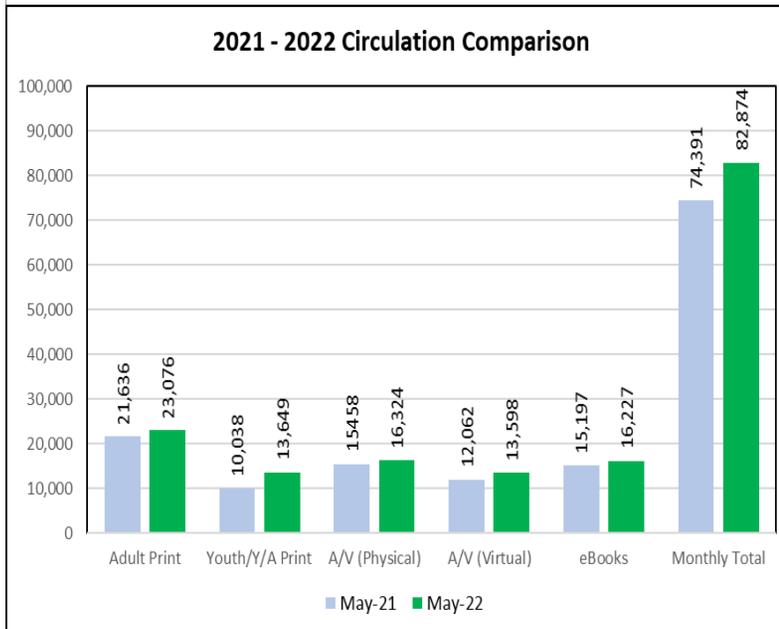




- ### Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance
- 425 youth leagues and adult softball practices
 - 2 Tournaments
 - 6,226 trash bags collected
 - 965 recycling bags collected



- ### Land Management
- 18 acres exotic treatment
- ### Project Management
- 34 projects, \$3.8 MM



- ### Coastal Management
- #### Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

 - 6 Cited
 - 3 Open Cases
 - 4 Removed by owner
 - 1 Ready to be removed
 - 1 Removed by County
 - 2 Relocated
 - 2 Pending

Coastal Lighting

 - 24 Permit Reviews
 - 5 Inspections
 - Sea Turtles
 - 592 Nests
 - Shorebirds
 - Adults - 642

Economic Development Director on WGCU's Gulf Coast Life



We explore economic development across SWFL with a focus on Charlotte County

Published May 23, 2022 at 9:03 AM EDT

▶ LISTEN • 24:59

Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor under construction

Charlotte County Office of Economic Development / <https://www.sunseekerharbor.com>

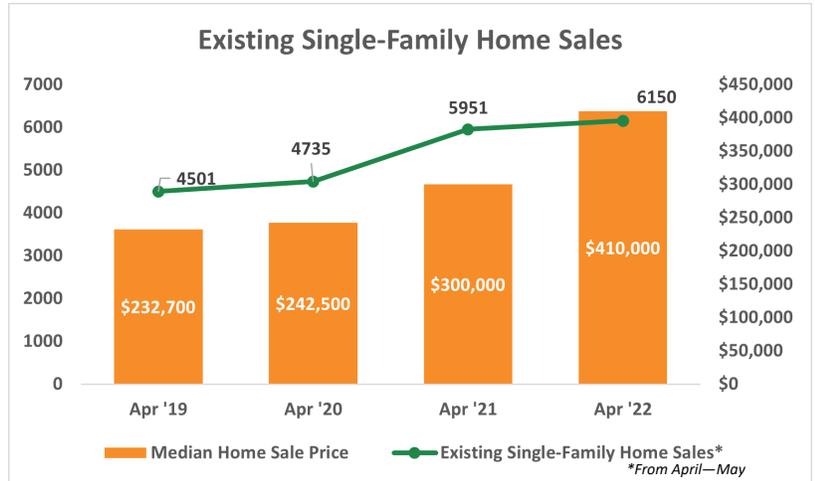
Economic Director, Dave Gammon, was recently a guest of WGCU, Southwest Florida's NPR-member radio station. Dave sat down with WGCU's Sandra Viktorova and Mike Kiniry along with fellow guest, Amir Neto, Director of the Regional Economic Research Institute at FGCU to discuss the tremendous growth the county is experiencing and the opportunities it holds. You can listen to the show [HERE](#).

Charlotte County, Florida Economic Development
Published by HubSpot • May 10 at 11:30 AM

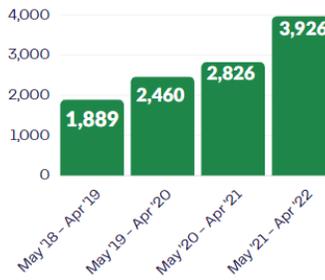
It's Day 2 of #EconDevWeek22 and we are continuing to look at the growth and development in Charlotte County. In 2019 Kolter Land Partners acquired 450 acres of land in Murdock Village to build West Port. The master planned community is well under way and will eventually be home to over 2,000 residences. For more information on West Port visit <https://hubs.la/Q019Yh6l0>.



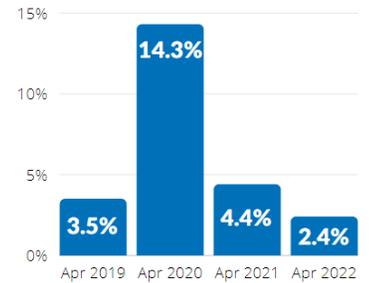
Charlotte County Economic Indicators



Single Family Home Permits Issued



Unemployment Snapshot



Economic Development Week

Economic Development Week was created by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in 2016. To increase awareness of local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities, and improve communities' quality of life everywhere, they have continued the tradition this year.

The Board of County Commissioners officially proclaimed May 9-13 as Economic Development Week at their board meeting on May 10th.

This year our department focused on the growth Charlotte County has seen and the challenges that come with growing.

Click on the social media links below to see how we celebrated.



Click the icons to visit our social media and website.



May 2022



New Fire Station 5 is located on 15200 Burnt Store Rd, Punta Gorda, replacing the old fire station located on 26287 Notre Dame Blvd. The 9,232 sf building will be ready for move-in within several weeks. The apparatus bay section accommodates four emergency response vehicles. The station has separate bunk gear storage, kitchen space with all the latest amenities, laundry room, radio control room, workout room, sleeping quarters, restroom/shower facilities, and a day room. The structure was constructed with impact windows and emergency generator power.

This new fire station will be able to house more fire staff and equipment to better serve the public as our community grows. Wilder Architecture, Inc. designed the building and Wharton-Smith, Inc. completed the construction under the construction manager delivery method.

- ◆ Reconfiguration of the Eastport Utilities Customer Service area was completed to support the reopening to the public.

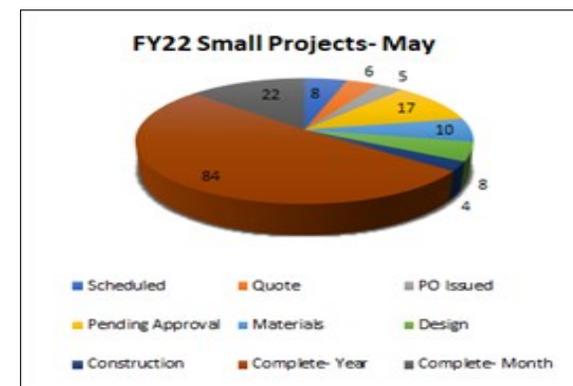
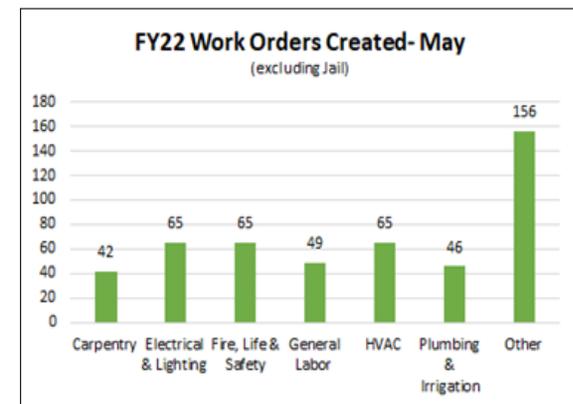
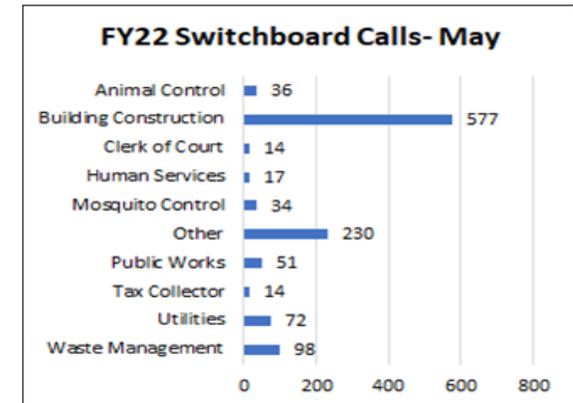


- ◆ The Facilities team recently stocked supplies preparing for hurricane season. We ran our generators and chainsaws and fueled vehicles.

- ◆ DMK Associates Inc. signed an agreement to conduct an evaluation for Live Oak Point Boardwalk Renovations to propose design and construction methods for repairs to the boardwalk damaged by a storm on 12/21/2021.

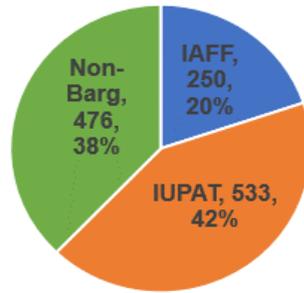
- ◆ The Lake Betty Restroom project is in the design development phase, consisting of detailed discussions of building systems and components. Drawings and specifications were submitted for stakeholder review, while cost estimates are being prepared.

- ◆ Lighting District Campus upgrades at the Tech Shop include installing metal roof and gutters, new windows, new main entrance door, corresponding repairs and interior paint throughout. Exterior painting was completed on both buildings to match the Public Works Administration building.



Workforce

Employee Count 1,259
Avg Age 46
Avg Hourly Rate \$24.28
Avg Years of Service 8.47



Retention of New Hires

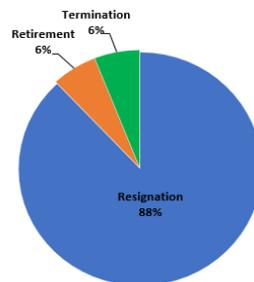
	May	YTD
% completing probation	79%	85.6%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years	2.9%
% of Workforce Retired this FY	2.7%

Separations

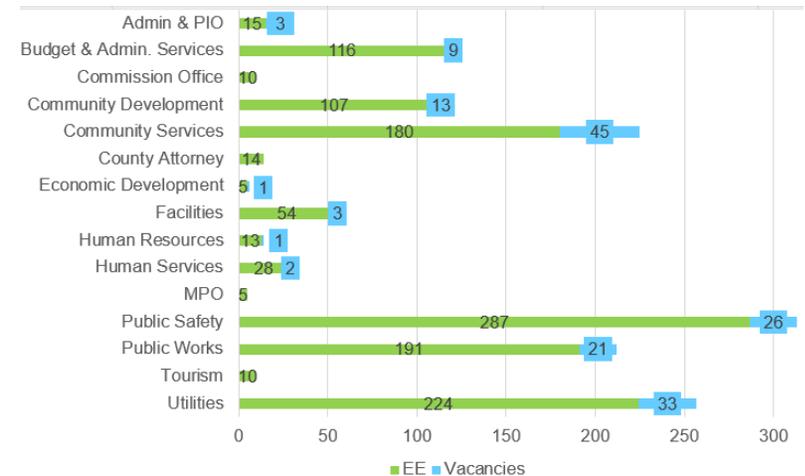
	May	YTD
Turnover	1.4%	7.9%
Separations	17	142



Training & Development

Training	108 EE's	15 hrs	1,620 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement		1%	

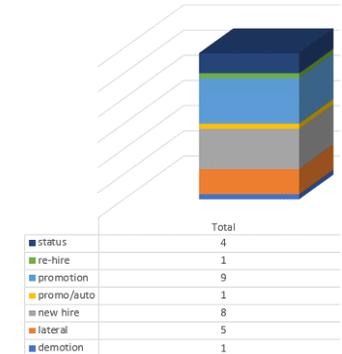
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 157

Recruitment

Applications Taken	498
Job Posting Hits	22,849
New Hires	8
Recruited Pos FT	46
Posted PT/Sea/Intern	21



Family Services Center - Lunch and Learn Series



In an ongoing effort to begin integrating services and programs at the Family Services Center, staff from Human Services and their community partners have started a **"Lunch and Learn Series"**. In April, they kicked off the series with **Drug Free Charlotte**, who introduced their staff and shared information on the wide array of Early Childhood Programming for children and families. The **Charlotte Behavioral Health Center** followed in May, presenting an overview of the importance of mental health awareness and the programs and services they have available for Charlotte County residents. With each program, staff learns about new resources and each

Professional Development at Loveland Blvd. and the Family Services Center

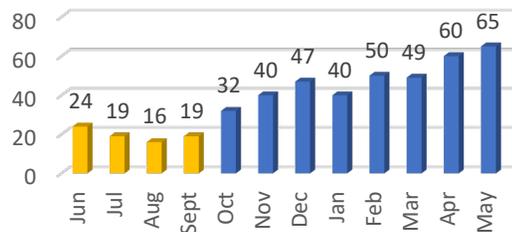


Throughout May and June, staff attends a variety of State and National conferences meant to expand their professional networking potential and learning about new best practices being implemented throughout the Country. While attending they also share information about our new Integrated Services Model, Fastrack Online Financial Assistance program and Veteran's outreach and advocacy programs. In July, staff will be working with the Florida Juvenile Justice Department to train staff for additional Civil



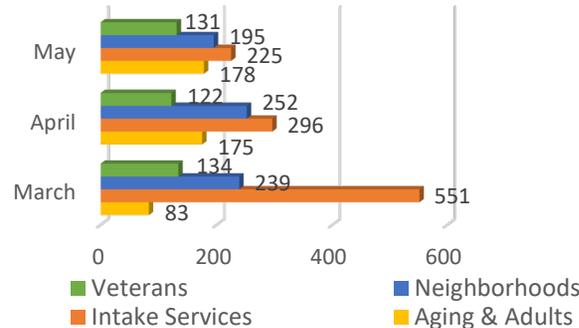
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

2021- 2022 Youth Served - Civil Citation

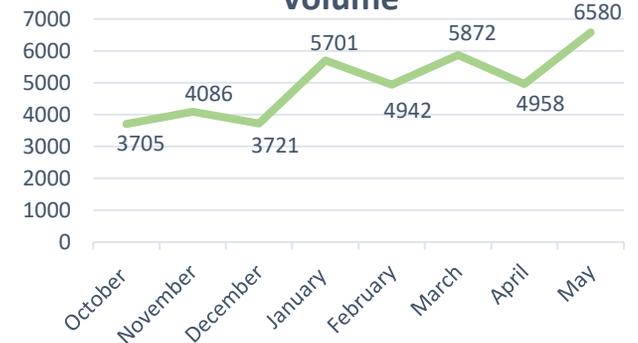


MAY 2020 SERVICE COUNTS

Number of Clients Served per Division



Information & Resources Call Volume

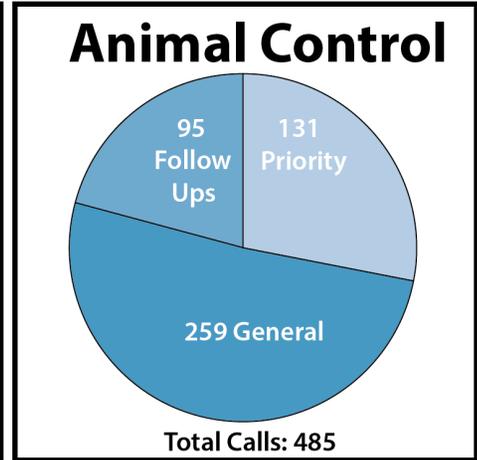
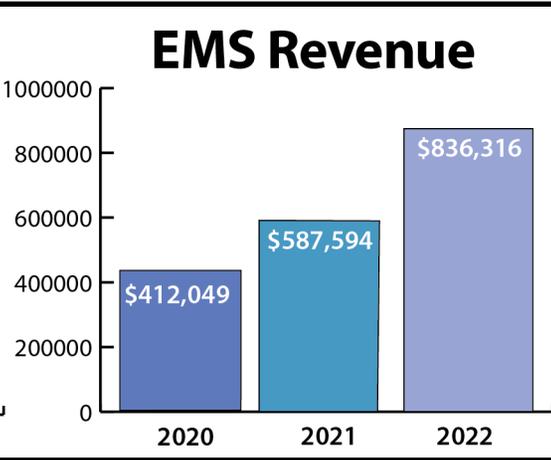
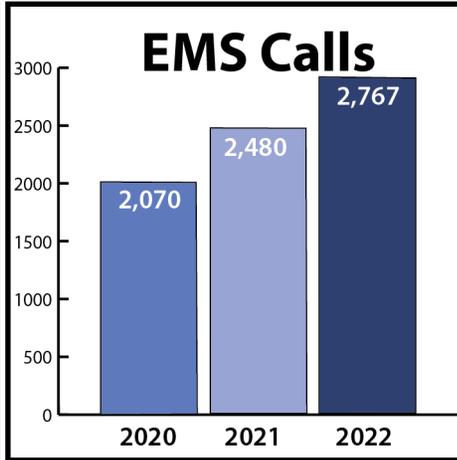
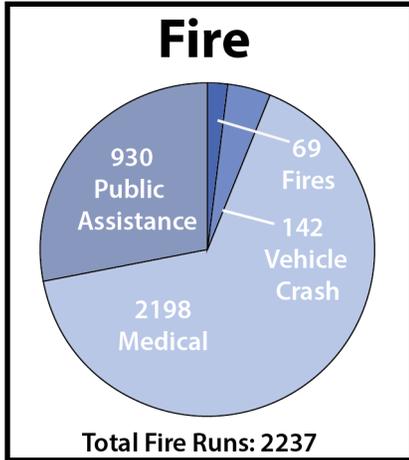


Increased Need For Assistance - With rising inflation impacting households in a variety of ways and the official closing of the "Our Florida" Emergency Rental Assistance Program on May 15th, the department has seen a rise in call volumes from residents requesting information, rent/mortgage assistance, Veteran's benefits and claims review, self sufficiency case management and emergency energy assistance.

"We help you navigate life's choppy waters"

Our Mission: Connecting people and resources.

Public Safety



New Facilities Soon

In the May 2021 report, we were talking about new projects and stations in the works. In this report, we will give an update and share some pictures of a few projects. In April, we held a ribbon-cutting event for our new Station 10 on Don Pedro Island. We are happy to report that the crew is enjoying their new home.



Our new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) simulator is nearing completion. The airplane prop sitting next to our training tower is easy to spot and has expectedly drawn a lot of interest. Once operational, Charlotte County can boast to have the most advanced ARFF simulator in the country. While we hope to have it completed



and turned over to us by mid-July, we are planning to host a grand opening and ribbon-cutting in October.

Two other replacement stations, Station 5 on Burnt Store Road and Station 2 on Collinswood are nearing completion. Station 5 will allow us to provide better service to the residents moving into the southern part of our county along Burnt Store Road. When Station 2 is completed, we have future room to expand to keep up with the



growth in the West Port neighborhood between US 41 and El Jobean Roads.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY FLORIDA Public Works

In the Works

Our Lighting District recently repaired a signal cabinet to be able to go back into service. A refurbished UPS Battery Back Up unit was installed at the intersection at Olympia & US 41 Southbound. This unit was removed from a recent project and repurposed to the City of Punta Gorda, making the intersection safer during storms and power outages.



Did You Know?

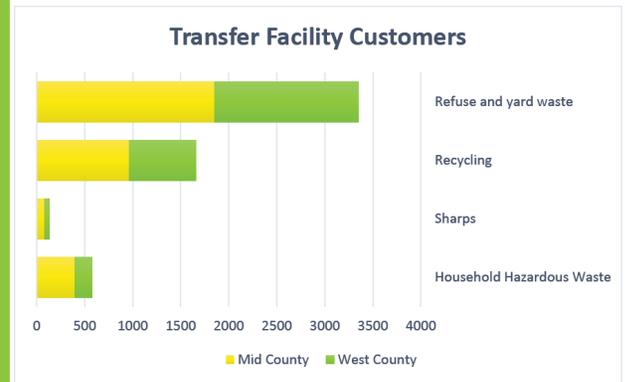
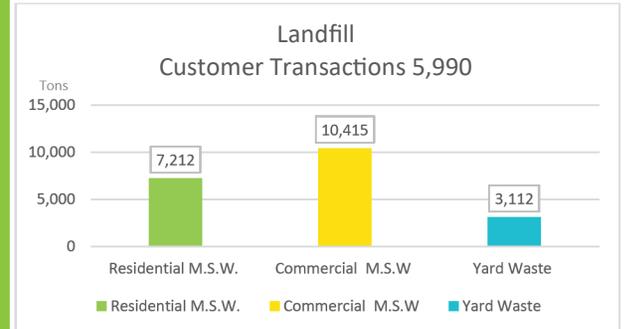
Markham Waterway Bridge Rehabilitation is ongoing. This project is located on Chamberlain Blvd. over the Markham Waterway, between McDill Dr. & Ramblewood St. in Northwest Port Charlotte. This project will include necessary bridge repairs as noted in the FDOT Bridge Inspection Report, which includes updating the bridge to current design codes, bat exclusion, and Charlotte County utility relocation.



This picture shows the new Texas rail and sidewalk almost complete. The contractor's upcoming work will include curb and gutter, sealing cracks, and roadway work.

This picture shows the new Texas rail and sidewalk almost complete. The contractor's upcoming work will include curb and gutter, sealing cracks, and roadway work.

Solid Waste



Larvicide: **2,046 acres - 17 treatments**

Adulticide: **152,463 acres or 411 sq. miles - 60 treatments**

Landing rate counts performed **579**

Number of CDC traps distributed and collected **65 / 2**

Total number of mosquitos Identified to species **579**

App Complaints resolved **276**

Telephone complaint resolved **229**

Aquatics invoiced **\$33,866**



Charlotte County Application Requests May 2022

Requests Received

393

Requests Completed

403



Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT
(Current Month)

Apr-21	\$580,592	↑ 23.0%
Apr-22	\$714,190	

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT
(Prev Month)

Mar-21	\$954,893	↑ 38.4%
Mar-22	\$1,321,665	

PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Users: 52,834

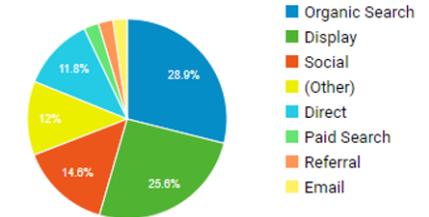
Pageviews: 109,096

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

New vs. Returning Visitors: 86.8% vs 13.2%

Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: May 1 - 31, 2022



Sales May 2022

SPORTS

USA Swimming/Florida Swimming – Region 5 High School Meet

Centennial Park
May 13-15, 2022

The Sea Dragons Swim Cub hosted 13 regional schools for this three-day meet. They competed in both the long course, 50-meters, and the short course, 25-yards. This meet will provide each athlete points towards Florida Swimming Association.



United States Specialty Sport Association –Super National Invitational Tournament

Centennial Park, South County Regional Park, Harold Avenue Park, Charlotte Sports Park
May 21-22, 2022

We are pleased to host the USSSA's State Super NIT Baseball Championship for the first time in Charlotte County. This large tournament utilized all our baseball fields within the county including converting softball fields for play. Over 90 teams traveled in from throughout Florida creating a large economic impact and generated many room nights. We will now be host to this large tournament for many years to come.

Fun Fact

From the stats below, kids are getting busier...and parents' debt is increasing.

- 67% of boys and 47% of girls participate in team sports by age 6.
- 51% of third-to-fifth-grade boys who live in the suburbs participate on three or more team sports.
- 65% of kids participate in a sport only to be with friends.

MEETINGS

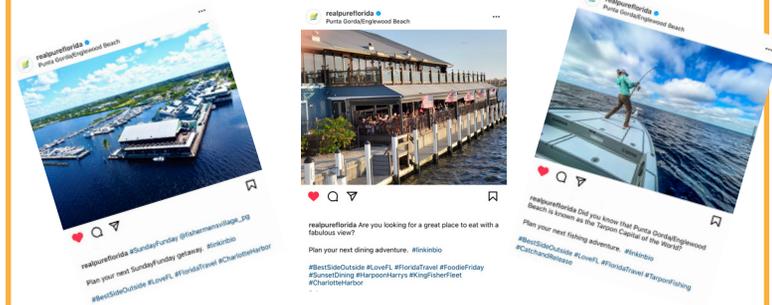
College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) May 1-4.

The meetings department had an assist with sports as Jeff joined Ryan Flemming and Kaitlyn Huber from Community Services team to attend the CSCAA Annual Convention in Chicago to promote our swimming facilities and winter training opportunities. The team staffed the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach booth in the vendor area where coaches from across the country gathered between sessions. Coaches from Saginaw Valley State, Southern Virginia University, Auburn, Hillsdale, and Kalamazoo College all were very interested in the winter training. It was also great to have two departments partner together to attend.



Public Relations/Media May 2022

A total of 9 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of approximately 4,983,124 and a media ad value of approximately \$8,734.60.



Follow and tag us @realpureflorida

NOTABLE MEDIA MENTIONS

Insider Travel Report, which boasts over 100,000 verified and active selling travel agents, provided positive coverage. The editorial focused on our annual National Travel & Tourism Week celebration including Denella Ri'chard, host of Traveling with Denella, as our keynote speaker, as well as the positive impacts of tourism on our community.



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



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 IS HERE!



BE STORM-READY WITH WATER AND SEWER

It is essential to prepare for a hurricane, especially regarding water and sewer.

[Hurricane Preparedness: Utilities](#)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **SR 776 Sewer Force Main Project:** Upsizing the existing sewer force main to 12-inch and 16-inch lines along SR 776 from Biscayne Drive to the Charlotte Sports Park. This is an in-kind project for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Consent Order. Acquisition of materials delayed the start of the project. Construction is expected to begin this month.
- **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. Zone 1 sewer connections are expected to begin this fall.
For project information: AckermanProject.com
- **Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Project:** Construction of a larger sewer force main to improve transmission capacity for the Deep Creek neighborhood. Crews are working on Phase 2 of the project. Work is occurring along Rio De Janeiro Ave. heading north towards Deep Creek Blvd. [Project Map](#)
- **Sewer Lift Station Generator Project:** Installation of stationary and mobile generators at our major sewer lift stations throughout the county. This project will allow lift stations to continue operations during storms and events when power is lost. All stationary generators are being installed at the 500-year flood elevation.
[Utilities Projects | Charlotte County, FL](#)

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 7,817
- **Call Wait Time:** 3 minutes 27 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 66,876
- **Sewer Connections:** 43,421
- **Water Connections:** 66,010

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- **3 Misc.—Utilities Department**
- **7 Utilities Billing**
- **4 Utilities Department Service**
- 14 Total**

[Charlotte County Utilities Facebook](#)
1,547 Follows

2021 Water Quality Reports:

<https://tinyurl.com/2021-CCR-Peace-River>
<https://tinyurl.com/2021-CCR-Burnt-Store>

Remember, every drop counts! 💧

Important Information:

The Customer Support Center is open!
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

CCUSupport@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

[Payment Options](#)