



# Annual Report 2018



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

**F L O R I D A**



## Annual Report 2018

2018 was a very productive and exciting year for Charlotte County. We made great progress on sales tax projects, new home and business construction continues to boom and our customer service culture is paying dividends.

In the following pages, we'll highlight programs, projects and services that have stood out among the many successes achieved in 2018. We've earned multiple awards, surpassed long-standing records and delivered promised projects to our customers.

As exciting as the accomplishments outlined in this report is the fact it is by no means a comprehensive review of all we have done. I'm so proud of the work my colleagues have done on behalf of our customers and I'm looking forward to seeing them continue to deliver exceptional service in the coming year.

— Ray Sandrock  
County Administrator



*The Annual Report is a report on the state of Charlotte County as required by F.S. §125.74(b)*

## McGuire Park Phase I

### Fast Facts

#### McGuire Park Improvements Phase I

Ribbon-cutting: Oct. 11, 2018

Budget: \$1,850,205

Amenities: splash pad, playground, court, horseshoe pits, restrooms, walkways, pavilions, benches & grassy activity areas

Funded by: 1% local option sales tax

Design: Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Construction: West Construction, Inc.



The McGuire Park Renovation project included enhanced safety design features such as additional lighting and more open and visible space, updated to ADA codes and standards. The inclusion of the splash pad will provide a family-friendly environment improving the overall quality of life in the community. McGuire Park was funded by the 1% local option sales tax.

## Transit Customer Service Enhancements

With the advent of Western Michigan University moving in we have enhanced service to the university and airport.

Transit has replaced nine buses and constructed a bus wash with federal grant funding. Riders appreciate the new small vehicles which stay cooler and are more comfortable.



## Performance Dashboards

Charlotte County launched a new performance dashboard initiative in 2018. Monthly department reports are now delivered in one-page summaries with reader-friendly graphics highlighting key metrics and accomplishments, such as building permits, library circulation, facility openings, etc. The monthly reports are available on [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov) – in the Hot Topics menu, click Monthly Reports.

93

PERCENT  
of on-time  
Transit service  
performance

17

PERCENT  
of increase  
in Transit  
ridership

## Building Permits

The Charlotte County Community Development Department issued 29,727 building permits in fiscal year 2017-18. So far this fiscal year, the department has issued 6,530.

Since June 2017, single-family home permits have surpassed 100 a month every month except two, and one of those months was when Hurricane Irma struck in September 2017.

Babcock Ranch has been growing quickly. As of December 2018, builders have received 297 single-family permits and 161 certificates of occupancy have been issued.



## Community Development: Technology

All applications are now available online – streamlining the processes and allow staff to focus their attention on applicants who require more assistance, such as owner builders. Contractors can easily enter permit applications without coming to the office, eliminating drive and wait time and reducing their costs.



## Promoting Development

A significant achievement for 2018 has been the ability of the Community Development Department to move forward the considerable amount of new development and re-development occurring in the county quickly, efficiently and professionally. The groundwork put in place over the past few years in terms of streamlined processes, technology and effective regulations, along with highly skilled employees have been tested by the sheer diversity of projects that have come through the department and they have passed with flying colors.

In development and construction, time is money and an effective and efficient development and permitting process can save both. Moving projects through the process in this way not only saves the applicants time and money, but gets the benefits of those projects to the citizens of the county as quickly as possible. One example of this type of development is the Springs at Port Charlotte. The Springs is a multi-family development of 276 apartments located at 24151 Beatrix Blvd.





## Fast Facts

### Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

*Groundbreaking: May 15, 2018*

*Budget: \$7,801,000*

*Size: 20,100 square feet*

*Location: 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda*

*Design: Harvard Jolly Architecture*

*Construction: Willis A. Smith, Florida  
Premiere Contractors*

## Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

The current location is the second busiest in the Charlotte County library system and is limited in space, parking and program opportunities. An archive is needed in this part of the county to house the thousands of materials in our collections and in the future.

Funded by the 1% local option sales tax, the approximate 20,000-square-foot library and archive will serve the extended South County community. The facility scope includes library areas, meeting rooms, Friends of the Library area, youth and program space, computer area with instructional classes, and space for archive functions.

## Community Services Outreach & Partnerships

The Community Services Department made significant strides in marketing programs and events through social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Several Facebook posts exceeded 10,000 views, including the Boot Scoot Boogie video (15,945) from the Dance with Daddy Boots and Belles event and the opening of the South County Regional Park activity pool with a reach of 34,731. Partnerships continue to play an important role this year. The Kiwanis Club’s annual Kids Fest and Duck Race, held at Kiwanis Park, drew approximately 1,000 participants to help raise funds for programs for kids in Charlotte County.



The Peace River Riders Bicycle Club provided a grant to enable the purchase and installation of two bicycle repair stations at Hathaway Park and Bissett Park.

# What's Happening?

To help with the many requests coming in for more information about the construction projects underway in Charlotte County, the Community Development Department created a monthly publication showcasing some of the bigger or more interesting projects. This includes the stage of development from planning, through permitting and construction and on to completion and places a spotlight on three high profile projects in the county – Babcock Ranch, Murdock Village and Sunseeker. The *What's Happening* publication has been well received and helps inform the public as to what is happening in our community. Visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and on the Working page click the What's Happening link.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

#### IN PLANNING

- Arredondo Point/Lost Lagoon Development** – Dining, shopping, arts and entertainment district and waterpark in Murdock Village at 17362 Tolosa Blvd., Port Charlotte. Submitted Planned Development Concept Plan.
- Veterans Commons** – Commercial development with two retail buildings and gas station with convenience store at 13200 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte (near Cochran Blvd.). Final site plan, Phase 1 approved.
- Extended May America Hotel** – 24100 Beatrice Blvd., Port Charlotte. Final site plan approved by Board of County Commissioners. Building permits under review.
- Forsyth Memorial Hospital** – Four story parking garage with associated site work at 21296 Clean Blvd., Port Charlotte. Building permits under review.

#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Audizone** – Retailer of automobile parts and accessories at 13661 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte.
- Veterans Plaza** – Commercial development with two retail buildings and gas station with convenience store located at 20273 Kennelworth Blvd., Port Charlotte (near Abateca St.).
- The Kingdon** – Car care center at 24451 Sunlight Blvd., Punta Gorda.
- Millennium Physician Group** – Primary care practice at 3005 S MacCall Rd., Englewood.
- Grease Monkey** – Oil change services and more for autos and trucks at 243 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.
- Port Charlotte Marketplace** – Site formerly housed smart. Tenants include Burlington, HomeGoods, Ross, Lucky's Market, Jackson's, Express Nail Spa and health restaurant at 13600 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte.

#### COMPLETED!!

- Charlotte County Building Construction Services** – Office expansion at 13620 Murdock Cr., Port Charlotte.
- Springs at Port Charlotte** – Buildings 20 and 24 are completed at 21211 Beatrice Blvd., Port Charlotte.

#### PERMITTING SNAPSHOT

Total Single Family Permits Issued: 114
Single Family Permits Issued: 100
Total Permits Issued: 1,911
Total Permits Issued FY13-18: 25,727
Annual Prior Oct 2017 - 10,018
Total Permits Issued FY13-18: 4,530

#### PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

- Babcock Update**
  - 297 Single Family permits submitted since August 2018
  - 243 Certificates of Occupancy issued since August 2018
- Murdock Village Update**
  - Rezoning was approved for 400+ acres in the western section of Murdock Village.
  - Mixed-use development with a maximum of 2,400 single and multi-family units, commercial uses, and a 120-room hotel.
  - Preliminary subdivision plans for infrastructure for transit Equity Group is under review.
- Sunseeker Resort Update**
  - 20 acres of resort & public access along Charlotte Harbor. Demolition commenced at 4949 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. Final site plan, Phase 1 approved.



December 2018

## Midway Boulevard Phase II

This phase provides a four- and five-lane connection between U.S. 41 and Kings Highway. It was funded by the voter-approved 1% local option sales tax. Midway Boulevard is a vital collector road for central Port Charlotte, while also connecting two major roadways. More than 11,000 vehicles a day travel along Midway Boulevard.



The complexity of this project went far beyond the impressive engineering and construction of the roadway and utilities. To handle the massive stormwater runoff generated by summer rains, Midway Boulevard was designed to hold and treat millions of gallons of runoff in ponds constructed along the project route. Expanded waterways and culverts now steer millions more gallons toward U.S. 41, where a series of microtunnels were burrowed beneath the highway to conduct stormwater to Charlotte Harbor.

## Fast Facts

### Midway Boulevard Phase II

*Ribbon-cutting: Dec. 13, 2018*

*Budget: \$26,225,000*

*Location: road widening from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway, Port Charlotte*

*Design: Giffels-Webster, Inc. Englewood*

*Construction: Forsberg Construction Inc.*



## Human Services Departmental Organization

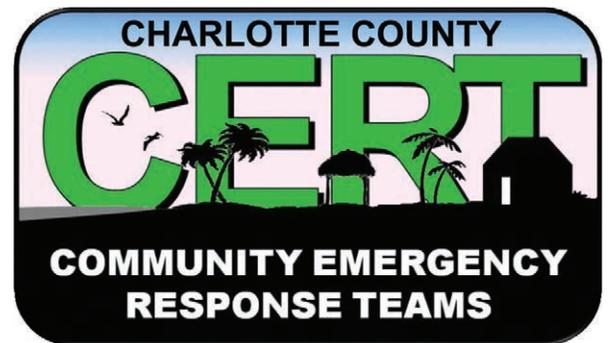
By merging the 211 call center with the Family Services Division, we created a centralized intake process for all clients and created the Neighborhood Services Division. This change allows for comprehensive intake and assessment of a client's situation and need, as well as in-depth case management for clients seeking self-sufficiency services. Intake coordinators will provide referrals to internal divisions and community partners. Streamlining entry into services saves time, resources and avoids duplication.



Human Services has been a strong founding partner and supporter of Together Charlotte and the 2018 Housing Report published in August 2018. Human Services has also partnered with the Gulf Coast Partnership in the development of its coordinated entry system for homeless prevention.

## Emergency Management Hurricane Operations

Emergency Management reviewed the response to 2017's Hurricane Irma and has worked to make Charlotte County an even more prepared and resilient community based on the lessons learned from that storm. Joint efforts of Emergency Management, Information Technology, Human Services and the Charlotte County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have increased the capacity of the Emergency Operations Center Call Center. Through a partnership with Community Services, emergency sheltering plans have been streamlined to ensure efficient operations when the need arises to open a shelter.



The message of our public outreach activities has been refined to include not only personal and family preparedness tips and the tools available to residents to stay informed and determine their individual vulnerability, but also a thorough explanation of storm surge and how to interpret the forecasts issued by the National Hurricane Center and communicated by the local media. The steps to improve the overall preparedness and resilience of Charlotte County was put to the test during our annual hurricane exercise, where county departments and many disaster partners come together in the Emergency Operations Center and work through a hurricane scenario that has direct impacts to Charlotte County.

## Sports and Events

In addition to other meeting and sports business generated in 2018, the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau was either directly responsible for, or instrumental in securing or supporting major sporting events with combined estimated direct expenditures in excess of \$14 million dollars.

At the Sunshine State Games Track & Field, Taekwondo and Judo Championships in June, 888 out-of-county athletes participated. More than \$345,000 was estimated to have been generated in direct expenditures and approximately 650 hotel room nights. Also in June, the Sugar Bert Boxing National



Qualifier took place at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center and attracted a total of 301 boxers, which included 181 from out of state along with more than 1,300 family members, coaches, officials and staff. The event generated approximately \$512,435 in direct expenditures and well over 300 hotel room nights.

The B3R Sports Invitational Cross Country Meet in September and the FHSAA Regional Cross-Country Meet in November took place at The Farm on S.R. 31. Each event attracted approximately 900 runners plus coaches, officials and family members.

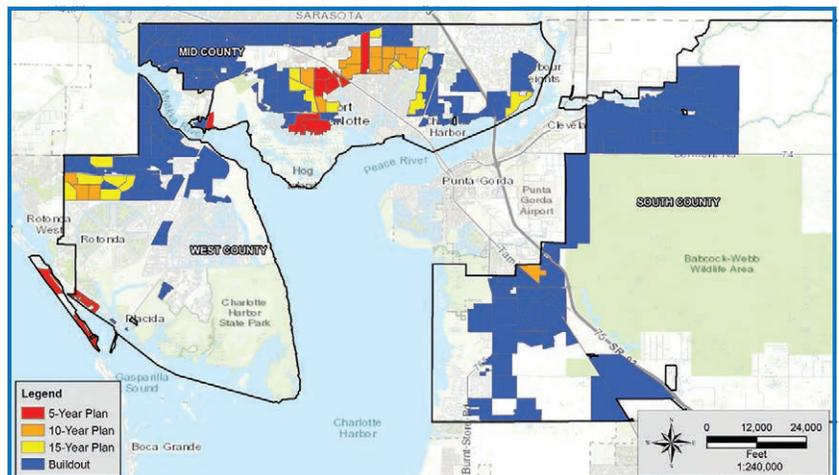
In December, the USA BMX Florida State Championship Series event took place at the Charlotte BMX track in Carmalita Park. 522 riders competed and were accompanied by approximately 1,350 family members, generating an estimated \$398,709 in direct expenditures.



## Utilities Improvements

This year Utilities refocused and organized the department to better align with the practices of the county. Final adoption of the Sewer Master Plan allowed for strong, consistent communication of the priorities and funding realities of the program. This focus allowed for the county's commitment of RESTORE Pot 3 funding to the program, provided investment in the board's Blue Water Strategy and cessation of the sewer line extension program.

Departmental improvements include quarterly workshops for utility-specific business, which allows the board opportunity for discussion of complex issues, deliberation of options, and the commitment to sustainable practices in infrastructure management and responsible rate management. The end results were increased confidence in the department's ability to deliver consistent and reliable messaging on the plans, budgets, and timelines of major activities.



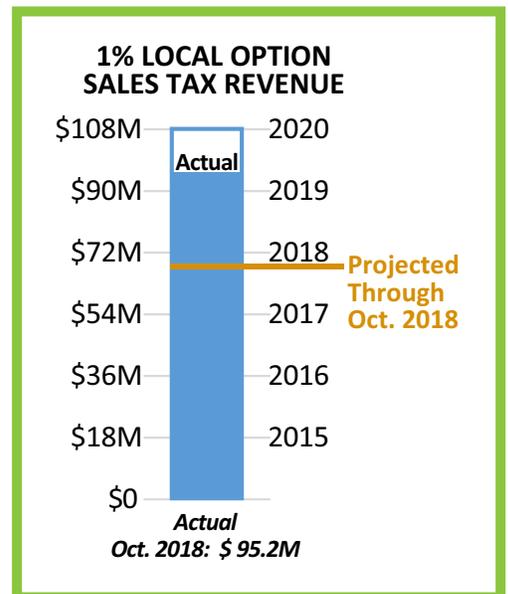
## Sales Tax Projects

Charlotte County made substantial progress on sales tax projects in 2018, including the opening of an addition to the South County Regional Park recreation center in December. The project added a pair of 600-square-foot rooms to the center, which will be programmed for a fitness room and a multi-purpose room for meetings, arts and crafts and other uses.

The South County Regional Park addition was one of three **recreation center renovations** approved by voters in the November 2014 1% local option sales tax referendum. Other projects underway are a new gymnasium at Harold Avenue Park and a multipurpose room, as well as kitchen renovations and storage space at Tringali Park.

Construction is underway on **new recreation centers** at Ann and Chuck Dever and North Charlotte regional parks.

The **Punta Gorda Charlotte Library** is nearly two-thirds done and scheduled to be completed in August 2019. Piper Road is being extended north from Henry Street to U.S. 17 at the existing Regents Road intersection and will be complete in early 2019.



### Fast Facts

#### South County Regional Park Recreation Center Renovation

Groundbreaking: June 5, 2018

Budget: \$550,000

Features: fitness & multi-purpose rooms

Location: 670 Cooper St. Punta Gorda

Design: ADG Architecture Inc.

Construction: Jon F. Swift, Inc. and Atlas Building Company

The **Family Services Center** is in the design phase. The building will replace the existing one on Gibraltar Drive and house Neighborhood Services Division staff together with community partners providing youth and family services.



With sales tax revenue exceeding projections, **Tier 2 projects** will be funded. Through October 2018, the sales tax raised \$95.2 million. Future revenue is projected to be \$43.75 million for a total of \$137 million. The Tier 2 projects are the Port Charlotte Beach Park sailing center, the Justice Center generator, the North Charlotte Regional Park Aquatic Center, Charlotte Harbor trails and wayfinding signs and the Placida boat ramp expansion. The Placida project replaces a proposed boat ramp at Cattle Dock Point.

Projects completed in 2018 also include the **Charlotte County Jail medical wing** and **McGuire Park Phase I**.

## Jail Infirmary

Funded by the voter-approved 1% local option sales tax, the new three-story building is connected at the rear of the current facility, extending the main hall servicing the infirmary. The first floor is the clinical area comprised of examination rooms, dental clinic, laboratory, pharmacy, medical storage and administrative area. The medical area is located on the second floor consisting of a nursing station and medical housing units. The mental health area on the third floor is comprised of a nursing station and housing units. Safety screening was installed on the existing jail second-floor housing units.



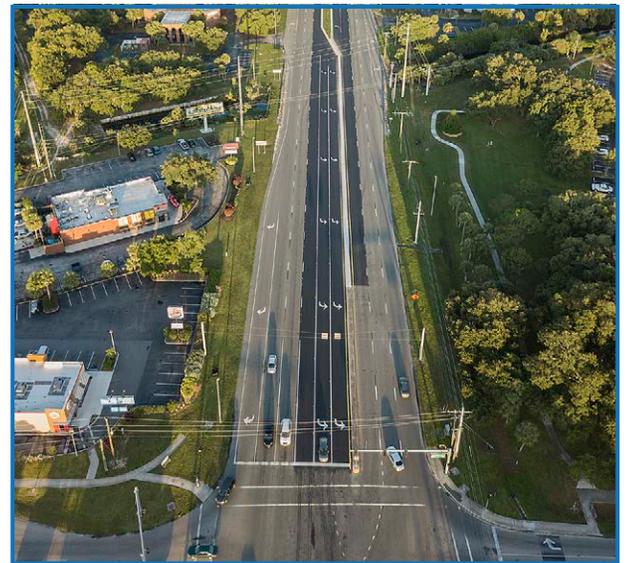
The infirmary reduces the cost for outsourcing patients to area hospitals and clinics. The mental health area addresses the unique needs of the inmates.



## Turn Lanes

Traffic congestion was high at the triple left turn lanes on Veterans Boulevard at Kings Highway. After careful review of the traffic volumes and traffic signal timings, Public Works reconfigured existing lanes to accommodate the huge volume of left turns from Veterans Boulevard onto Kings Highway without using consultants and contractors. The improvements have had a big positive impact on the traffic flow.

To accommodate the amount of left turn traffic from U.S. 41 onto Murdock Circle, Public Works coordinated with FDOT to extend northbound left turn lanes and complete the construction in this year. This improvement has had a big impact on the traffic queues at this intersection.



## Paving Programs

In 2018, the county's paving contractor completed the FY16 Paving Program (\$23.8 million), continued working on the FY17 Paving Program (\$22.9 million) and started the FY18 Paving Program (\$11.9 million). The FY18 Paving Program has paved the Harbor Heights MSBU, the final phase of the Deep Creek MSBU, a portion of the Northwest Port Charlotte MSBU, an area of the South Gulf Cove MSBU; zones of the Greater Port Charlotte MSBU where Utilities has recently completed water main replacement and sanitary sewer installation, and paving of Harborview Road, Pine Street, Acline Road, Burnt Store Road and Golf Course Boulevard which are county maintained roadways. When these three projects are complete, 455 miles of roadway will be resurfaced and 508,000 tons of asphalt will be laid.





## Mid-County Regional Library Renovation

Mid-County Regional Library was transformed with a modern redesign encompassing all the public areas. The adult public spaces were realigned to provide more seating areas and better collection access and lighting. The adult services desk was redesigned and positioned to allow for better public service. The teen area was enclosed and enhanced with an audio-visual center, power bars for working with laptops and devices, and new furniture. And, the children’s wing now has a bright, colorful, modern vibe that has delighted children and parents alike.

## Summer Camp

Our summer camp program traditionally serves an average of 200 children ages 4 to 13 at South County Regional Park and Harold Avenue Park. This year, the camp program expanded to Tringali Park, serving an additional 30 children. Campers enjoyed weekly field trips to places like Mote Marine and Billie Swamp Safari while also participating in the World’s Largest Swim Lesson where they had swim instruction simultaneously with children in more than 600 locations around the world. We also welcomed a new partnership with Lutheran Services which provided peer pressure and anti-bullying programs.



## Capital Management Plan

A multi-year effort in the Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department began in 2013 which culminated in FY18 with the launch of a comprehensive Capital Maintenance Plan. The CMP is based on a capital asset management system (FOScore) that enables staff to record the condition of major infrastructure systems within buildings and sites. This comprehensive database enables the department to interactively manage maintenance of individual facility components and entire systems. Creating the assessments was only the first step. To achieve significant progress toward resolving deferred maintenance needs, in 2018 a construction manager was selected to implement the annual CMP.

This two-part program has enabled the department to become better stewards of both the county’s assets and the taxpayers’ money. This tool helps plan, manage and implement building and site maintenance. In the future, FOScore and the CMP will also help guide staffing needs and budget planning.



## FMD Award

Facilities Construction and Maintenance is one of eight engineering and maintenance entities in the U.S. to win a 2018 Facility Maintenance Decisions Achievement Award.

The recognition was for the Capital Management Plan and awarded by Facility Maintenance Decisions, a publication for engineering and maintenance managers with institutional and commercial facilities.

The Facility Maintenance Decisions Achievement Awards recognize the role maintenance and engineering departments play in the successful, cost-effective and energy-efficient operations of the nation’s institutional and commercial facilities.



## West County Annex

The 19,000 square-foot West County Annex was completed in June. The building amenities include a high efficiency HVAC system, LED lighting, automated lighting controls and low flow fixtures. The facility supports the Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, West County Public Official, Human and Social Services, Veteran Services, Supervisor of Elections, Englewood Community Care Volunteer Clinic with exam rooms, dental care and laboratory services, W.I.C. Office, C.A.R.E. Victim Services and Conference/Voting Room.



Englewood and other West County residents benefit from having a local full-service government annex facility to service their needs. The annex was funded by the 1% local option sales tax.

## APWA 2018 Awards

Public Works was recognized at the APWA Florida Chapter conference in Jacksonville for two awards. Engineering won Project of the Year 2018, Transportation, \$25 million to less than \$75 million for the Edgewater Drive Phase 2 Improvements. Maintenance & Operations won the Management Innovation award for the Hurricane Irma Storm Debris Collection Management System. The Florida APWA chapter endorsed the application for national APWA consideration.

## New Marine 1 in 2018



Purchased with grant dollars, Marine 1 enhances firefighting and rescues of the injured and sick from our waters and barrier islands. Designed to better operate offshore and during inclement

weather, Marine 1 can serve as a mobile fire hydrant to certain parts of our barrier islands.

## Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners



**Ken Doherty**  
Chairman  
District 1



**Christopher Constance**  
District 2



**Bill Truex**  
Vice-Chairman  
District 3



**Stephen R. Deutsch**  
District 4



**Joe Tiseo**  
District 5