



Monthly Report

April 2020



Administration

County begins implementing gradual reopening plan

Charlotte County has begun implementing a gradual reopening plan following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Gov. Ron DeSantis.

County beaches, fishing piers, dogs parks, sports courts (except basketball) and park restrooms are now open, as is the minitransfer and recycling centers. For facility status, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the COVID-19 Information banner.

After the governor allowed restaurants to reopen indoor dining at 25% capacity, the Charlotte County Commission adopted a resolution allowing expanded outdoor dining in restaurant parking lots.

County administration is developing a plan to reopen certain offices to the public and restore in-person services. Our Facilities Department has been working to install hand sanitizer stations, increased cleaning of surfaces, handles, railings, etc. Additional protec-

tive measures are being installed, including acrylic partitions. When offices reopen, social distancing practices will be enforced.

We are working with our lobbyists in Tallahassee and Washington to advocate for assistance to cities, counties and states impacted by higher expenses and reduced revenue due to the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic.

The county worked with the Department of Health to set up a drive-through coronavirus test site at Charlotte Sports Park. The site can accommodate between 80 and 160 tests per day. Visit COADFL.org to register.

Guiding all decisions about reopening, the county's top priority is the safety of the public and its employees. It has been gratifying to see so many residents practicing social distancing and wearing personal protective equipment when out in public. Stay safe and be well.

BEACH GUIDELINES

- Stay home if you're sick or if someone at home has COVID-19.
- No gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Keep at least six feet between you and other people.

County Commission approves 2020 1% local option sales tax extension project list

- School Security Upgrades
- Water Quality Infrastructure
- Family Services Center – Phase 2
- Edgewater Dr. Phase 3-5 Design; Phase 4 Construction
- Harborview Road
- New Fire Station 17
- Airport Rescue and Firefighting Training Prop
- Radio Management Warehouse

- CCSO Administration/911
- Fire Station 6 Replacement
- Fire Station 3 Replacement
- CCSO District 4 and Training Complex
- Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center Renovation
- G.C. Herring Park
- William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park

- Bicycle, Pedestrian Sidewalks and Trails **Tier 2**
- Water Quality – Vacuum Stations
- CCSO District 2 Office
- Charlotte Sports Park Renovation
- South County Annex
- Edgewater Drive – Phase 3
- Port Charlotte Beach Park Pool

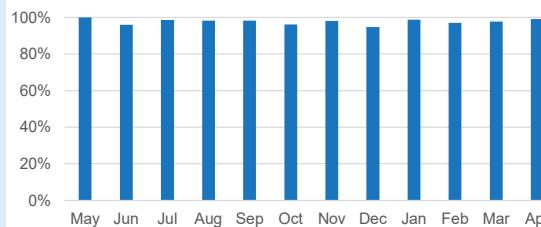
Budget & Administrative Services

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

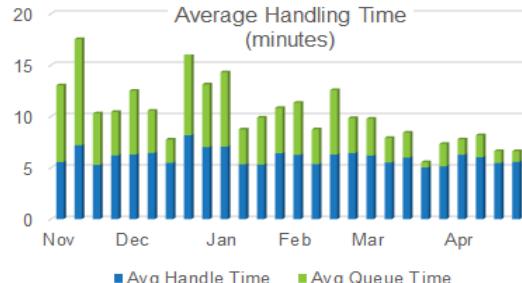


Customer Satisfaction
% Positive

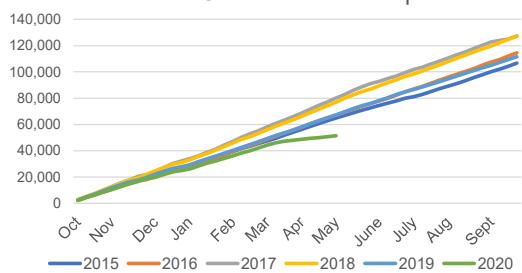


Transit

Transit Calls
Average Handling Time
(minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



Director Highlights

COVID-19 Response

Much of the early part of April was focused on COVID-19 response and IT played an integral role. Working with each department we developed a strategy to allow anyone who could work remotely to do so. To accommodate this effort, a new larger firewall was installed and our capacity for Virtual Personal Networks (VPN) expanded.

Over 300 County employees are now working remotely. In addition to those workers who already had laptops and VPNs, 60 desktops were sent home and 144 laptops prepped. The graph below depicts the average daily number of VPN connections over the past three months with a peak of 354.

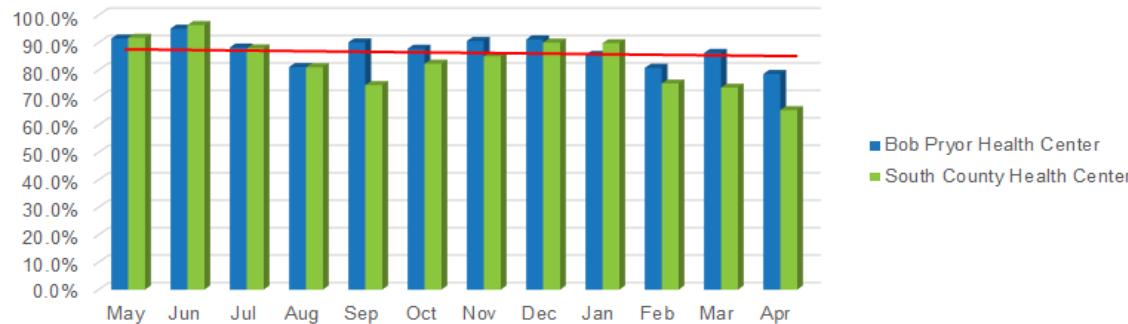
April 2020

Average Number of VPN Connections



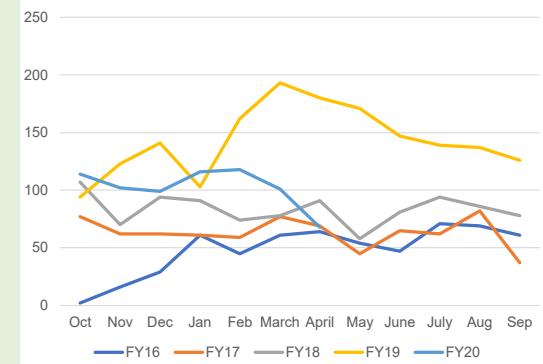
Health Center

Employee Health Center
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

IN PLANNING

- **P.C. Storage** – Construction of four self-storage buildings, parking and infrastructure at 23950 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte. Site plan approved. Going to Board of County Commissioners for approval in June.
- **Heritage Landing Pod A** – Modification for proposed multi-family tract within the development consisting of 18, 4-unit coach homes with attached garages and associated infrastructure at 14600 Sycamore Court 20, Punta Gorda.
- **AutoZone** – Retailer of automobile parts and accessories at 24040 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte. Final site plan approved.
- **Charlotte County Fire Station #10** – New fire station at 61 Gasparilla Way, Placida will replace existing station. Preliminary site plan in review.
- **Punta Gorda Airport** – Proposed project for a long-term parking facility at 27101 Airport Road, Punta Gorda. Preliminary and final site plan in review.

PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

- 776 Single Family permits submitted since August 2016
- 566 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.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Port Charlotte Station** – Retail development consisting of retail, medical, restaurant and associated infrastructure at 379 Kings Highway, Punta Gorda.



- **Extra Space Storage** – Fully enclosed self-storage facility and 29 covered RV parking spaces at 4536 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

- **Auto Services** – at 23498 McCaslin Court, Port Charlotte.



- **7-Eleven** – Gas station and convenience store at 861 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

- **Twisted Fork** – American restaurant at Black Widow Harley-Davidson at 2224 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte.



COMPLETED!!

- **Veterans Common** – Commercial development with retail buildings and gas station with convenience store at 19200 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte.



Total Single Family Permits Issued: 116
Single Family Permits Issued—Babcock: 24

Total Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 149
Single Family Certificate of Occupancy Issued—Babcock: 35

Total Permits Issued: 2,415

Total Permits Issued FY18-19: 28,701
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2018—Sept. 2019)

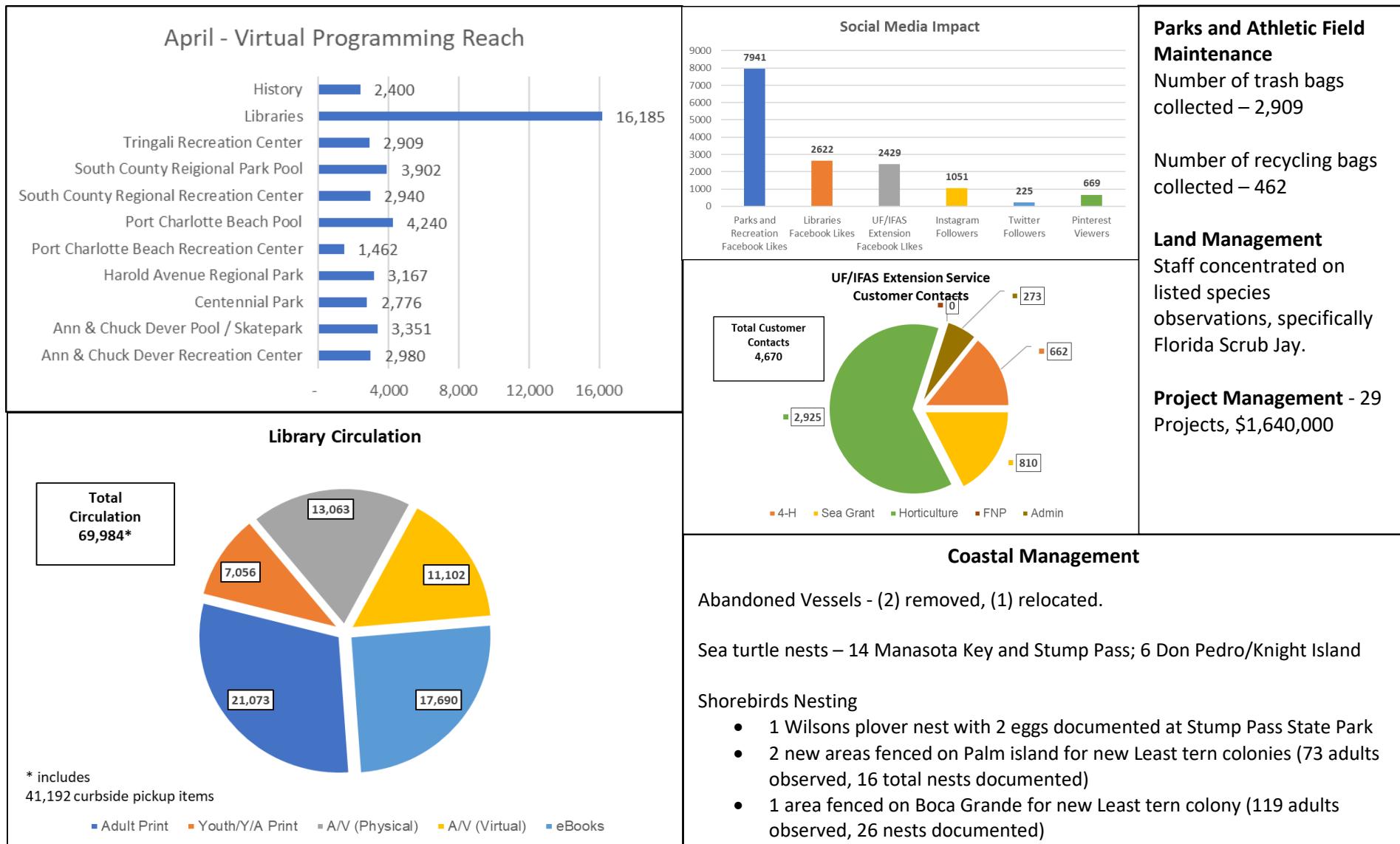
Total Permits Issued FY19-20: 16,527
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2019—Sept. 2020)

PERMITTING SNAPSHOT



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Community Development

Community Services





Facilities Construction & Maintenance



Recent Accomplishments

- ◆ The deteriorating roof and downspouts at the Rebecca Neal Owens / Harbor Heights meal site



BEFORE



AFTER

were replaced with a new galvalume metal roof, gutters, and downspouts prolonging the building's life.

Centennial Park Aquatics Center

April 2020

Centennial Park Aquatics Center received the certificate of occupancy with walk though complete. The first 2014 Tier 2 sales tax project is in the final construction stages before turning over to the Community Services Department. The facility was planned and constructed adjacent to the Tier 1 Centennial Park Recreation Center project completed last year. The aquatics center includes a 50-meter competition pool with diving well, short and long swim lanes with starting blocks, scoreboard, bleachers, and shade structures. The pool house includes restrooms with showers and lockers, pump and control room, office and storage space. Site improvements included additional parking and a community garden.

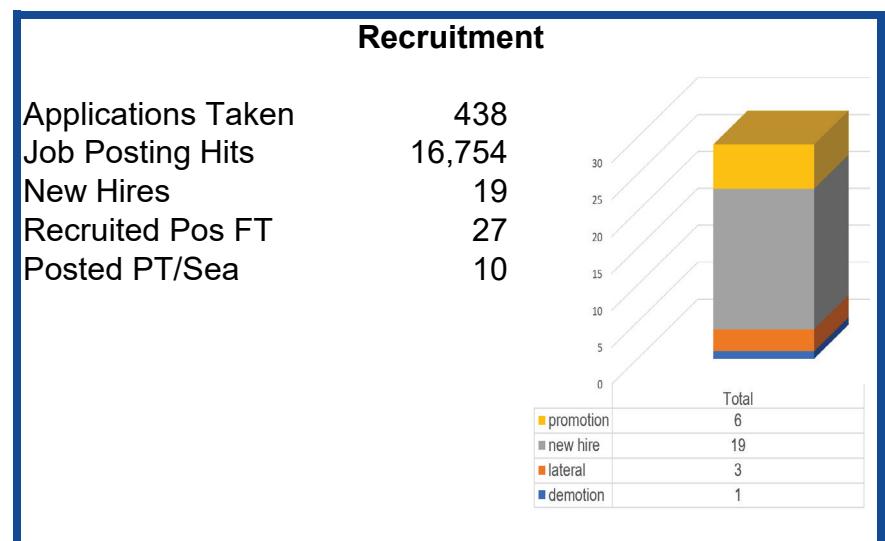
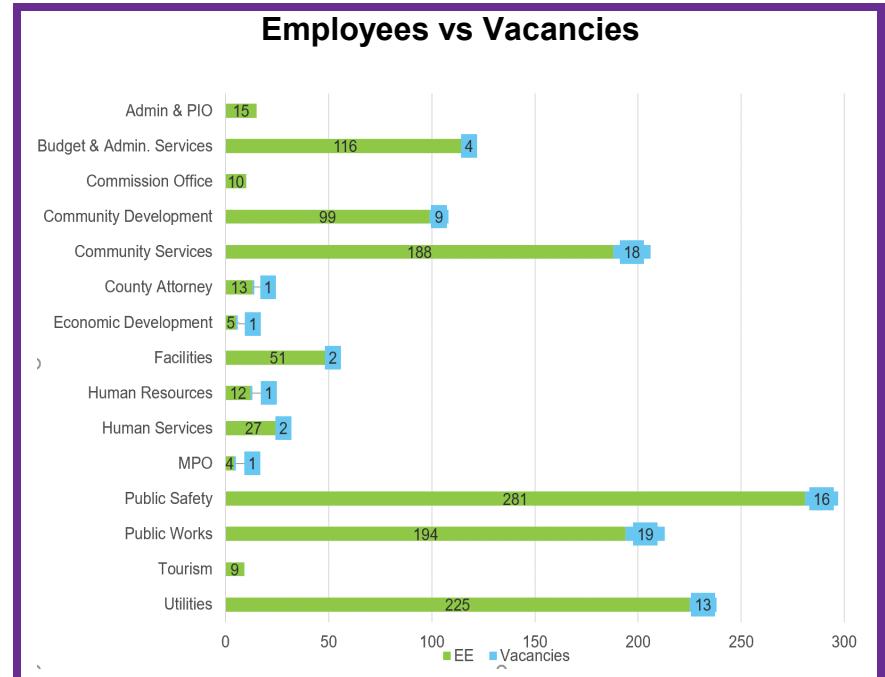
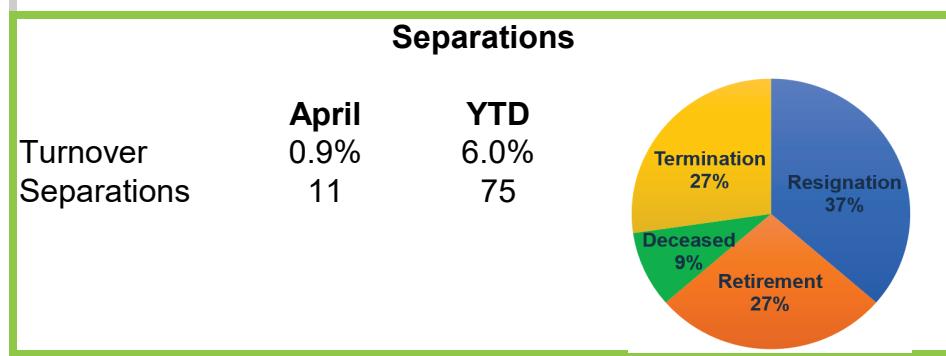
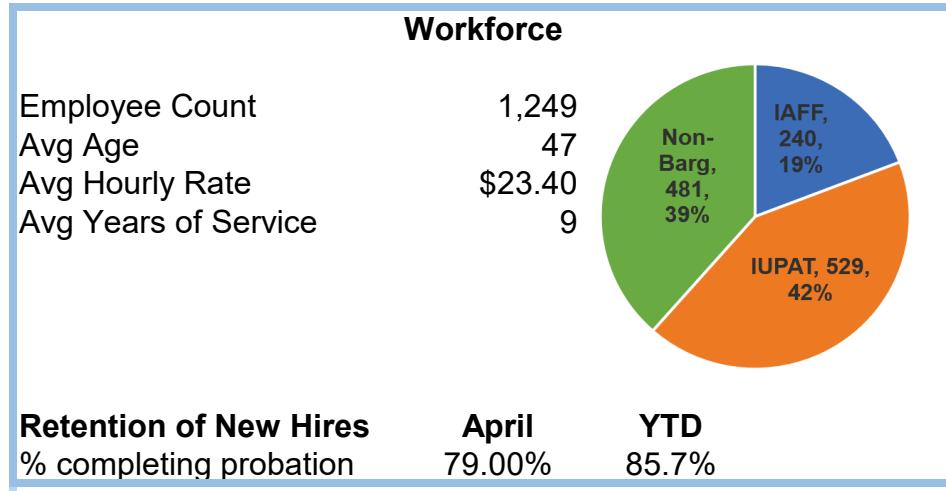
Forward Progress

- ◆ Port Charlotte Beach Sailing Center, Tier 2 sales tax project, request for bid was advertised with receipt of the bid packages closing on June 3. The project includes a pavilion for classes, boat storage building, and small workshop.
- ◆ The Family Services Center Phase One design development is complete and under review by the project team. The project remains on schedule and at the budget.

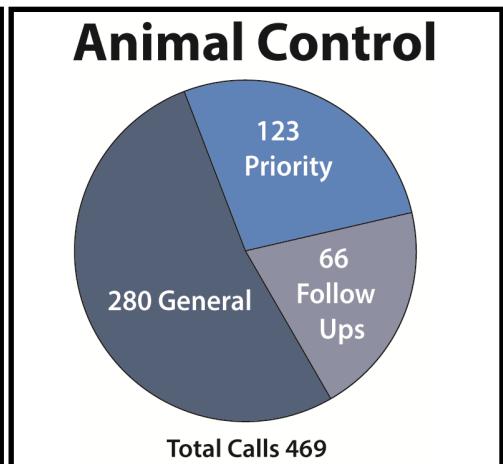
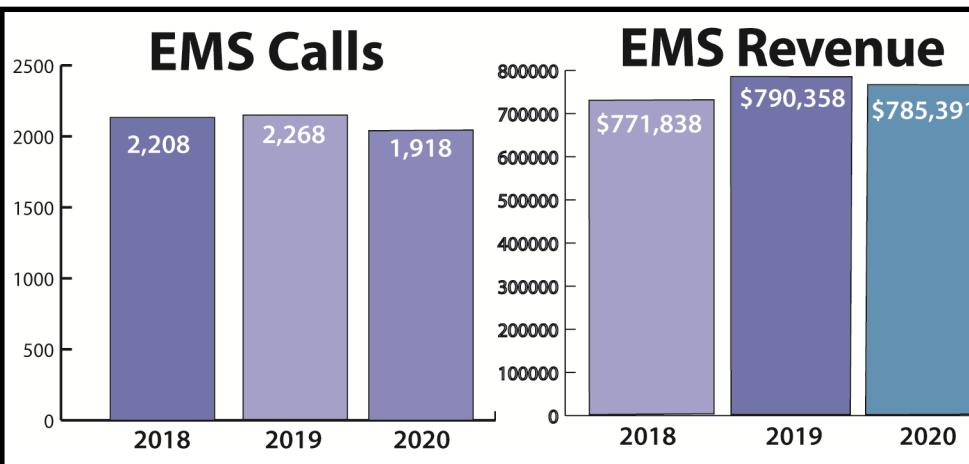
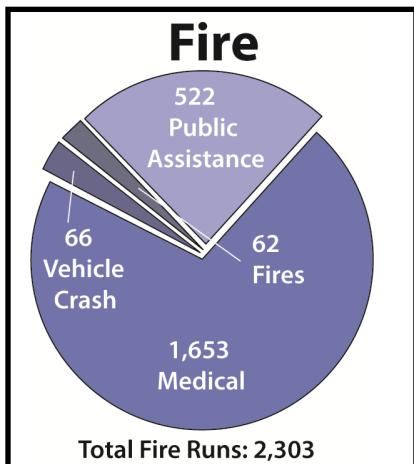


Notable Happenings

- ◆ The new transit facility plans are 80 percent complete in design development. The construction manager at risk was approved by the county commissioners. This new facility will be located on Veterans Boulevard near the mid-county mini-transfer station.
- ◆ Great weather in April accelerated the Justice Center re-roofing making remarkable progress. The entire building re-roof is nearly complete, with only a few tasks remaining in the project.
- ◆ The Justice Center renovations have moved into the north wing with the build out for the Public Defender's Office and one of the two courtrooms. This phase of construction moved to primarily nighttime operations.



Public Safety



COVID Adjustments

During April, the Public Safety Department has had a mix of employees working from their office and from home. Many of the employees who make up the support staff at headquarters have been working from their temporary home office. Those who can't work from home and accomplish their jobs (fire & EMS, EVM, logistics and senior admin staff) have been following CDC recommendations and taking proper COVID-19 precautions. For example, Public Safety Employees are wearing masks when social distancing is not practical or can't be accomplished inside buildings or in confined areas like fire engines. In the administration building, the employees who are still working in the office wear face masks when interacting with co-workers or when they are in a common space like the breakroom.

Fire Prevention and Animal Control staff have been working

out of their homes whenever it is possible and coming into the office only when it is necessary. The four EOC staff members probably feel like the EOC is their new home as they continue to lead the counties response to the COVID response.

While leading the COVID response, Patrick Fuller and his staff have also been working to prepare for the looming hurricane season. The new challenge is social distancing and COVID precautions if we have to activate shelters for hurricane evacuation.

On top of these issues, Fire & EMS crews have been extremely busy battling the many brush fires that continue to pop up across our county. The continued drought has created ideal situation for a continued busy brush fire season. Anyone who works outside should take extra precaution to ensure accidental fires do not spark up. As a reminder, the countywide burn ban is still in effect which means outdoor fires are not allowed.



Public Works

In the Works

In response to COVID-19 pandemic county transfer facilities were closed in April. Public Works recognized the need to collect sharps containers and residential household hazardous waste in the community. The Solid Waste division established curbside collection of these items at your residence. A maximum of three sharps containers and a maximum of 10 containers of household hazardous waste of any combination were collected by appointment.



Did You Know

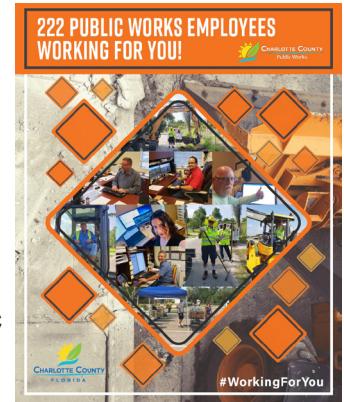
Charlotte County Public Works department created an informative video regarding for the recent mosquito hatching to include when spraying has occurred and the affected areas. Mosquito Control will continue to treat and spray as weather permits.



Working Together



Public Works worked with Emergency Management in the JIC in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, our public information officers as part of the JIC participated in campaigns and shared graphics to help the community.



Larvicide: **2,440.00 acres or about 4 sq miles of state lands**

Adulticide: **49,920 acres with dibrome**

68,916 with Kontrol

18,356 with Zenivex

Aquatics invoiced **\$13,273.06** to MSBUs, Mitigation Sites, Parks, and Right of Way

The unit also closed 417 public stuff complaints and 621 telephone complaints in April 1038 total cases.

Charlotte County Application Requests

April 2020

Requests Received

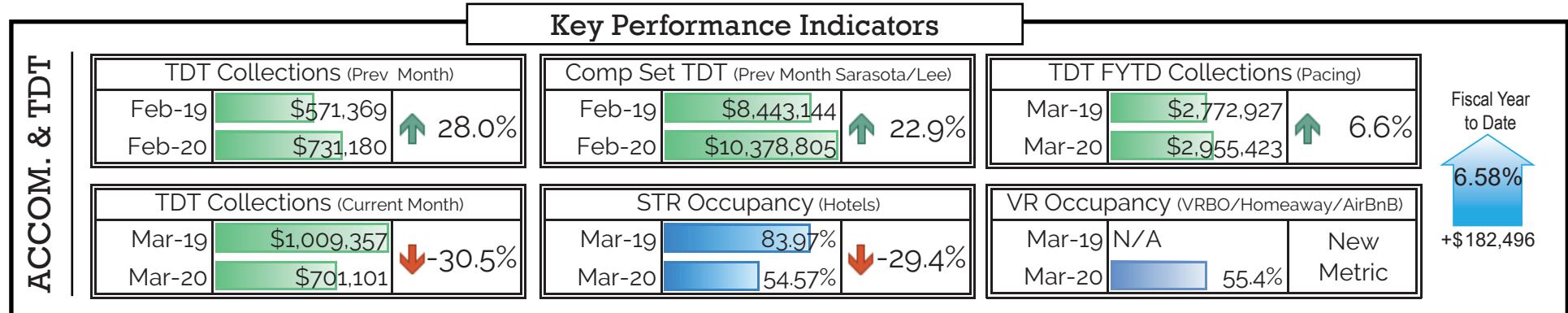
566

Requests Completed

537



Tourist Development



*These numbers represent initial COVID-19 drops which began mid-March.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Local Business Updates

The Tourism industry has arguably been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The VCB took action well before federal and state agencies began shutdowns. Some of the actions taken are updated

- All outbound marketing still suspended.
- Public and Industry facing COVID-19 resources continually updated on website
- Coordinating with EOC, Human Services and other County agencies as needed.
- Continual update and periodic survey of local hospitality related businesses to provide public facing information on the status of those businesses, and aggregating in central cloud based database.
- Continued to build on “Best Side Your Side” campaign
- T-shirt sales currently at over 600 T-shirts sold raising over \$7,200 for COAD fund (70% of applicants are hospitality ind. employees)

“Best Side Your Side” Industry Support Campaign

Retro “Greetings From Pure Florida”
Charlotte county T-shirt



Social Media Influencers
#BestSideYourSide



BestSideYourSide.com



WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Charlotte County residents are encouraged to follow these guidelines regarding lawn watering unless additional municipality or neighborhood restrictions apply.

Lawn watering should always occur before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. on your assigned day.



Even-number addresses:



Odd-number addresses:



No discernable address:



The Southwest Florida Water Management District declared a Phase 1 Water Shortage for Charlotte County. The primary purpose of the water shortage is to alert the public that watering restrictions could be forthcoming. The Charlotte County Utilities Department asks that customers be mindful of their water consumption and avoid any unnecessary or wasteful use.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **Loveland Grand Master Lift Station:** Master Lift Station and 48" Gravity Interceptor, 14,000 LF of 48" pipe and 2,800 LF of 24" pipe. Construction has resumed after a short delay. Crews will be working along Kings Highway and moving east to Loveland Blvd. New anticipated completion is Winter 2021.

- **US 41 Southbound Utility Improvements from Enterprise Dr. to Morningstar Waterway:** This is in coordination with an FDOT multi-use path project. The existing water pipes will be replaced with new pvc pipes.

For more information, visit:
US41Utilities.com

- **Myakka Booster Pump and El Jobean Vacuum Station:**

Construction of a new building for the Myakka Potable Water Booster Station and the El Jobean Vacuum Sewer Station. The booster station will increase potable water pressure to West County at the Myakka River and the vacuum station will provide sewer collection for the El Jobean Septic to Sewer Project.

For more, information, visit:
ElJobeanProject.com



OPERATIONS

- **Calls:** 7,255
- **Call Wait Time:** 9 mins 37 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 62,669
- **Sewer Connections:** 40,382
- **Water Connections:** 62,043

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 3 Misc.—Utilities Department
 - 14 Utilities Billing
 - 6 Utilities Department Service
- 23 Total**

963 Facebook Page Likes

2019 Water Quality Reports:

<https://tinyurl.com/2019-CCR-PeaceRiver>
<https://tinyurl.com/2019-CCR-BurntStore>

Important Information:

Water shutoffs have been suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

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.



**DRINKING
WATER WEEK**
May 3–9, 2020

There when you need it