



Monthly Report

Feb. 2024

Commission receives sales tax project updates

Staff presented updates on 1% local option sales tax projects to the County Commission on Feb. 27. Charlotte County voters have approved the 1% tax on sales under \$5,000 six times, including by 67% percent of the vote in 2020. The tax has raised nearly \$600 million since it was first approved in 1992.

The first project on the 2020 sales tax list to be completed was Phase 2 of the Family Services Center on Gibraltar Drive in the Parkside area of Port Charlotte. Staff also reported the final project on the 2014 sales tax Tier 1 list — a multi-use path along a section of Kings Highway — has been completed. In addition, surplus funds from that extension were allocated to the Supervisor of Elections warehouse project. The facility design is complete and construction is expected to be finished in the spring of 2025.



Artist's rendering of the Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center

As work on the design of 2020 projects has progressed, staff reported to the board construction costs have risen dramatically. The budget for the supervisor's facility has been revised from \$4.7 million to \$8.8 million. The budget for the CharlotteCounty Sheriff's Office administration and 911 dispatch center has risen from \$19 million to \$45 million. The increases may determine whether

funding is available for the five proposed projects on the 2020 Tier 2 list.

The sheriff's District 2 office and training center, which is under construction at the site of the demolished old county jail on Airport Road. Construction is expected to be finished next summer.

The county has acquired property for the new Fire & EMS Station 17 and the Station 6 replacement. Property acquisition for the Station 3 replacement will be in the station design contract.

Three park projects are in design, including G.C. Herring Park, Phase 2 of the William R. Gaines, Jr. Veterans Memorial Park and Port Charlotte Beach Park recreation center and pool. Construction is expected to be completed on the pool in spring of 2025, the recreation center in the summer of 2025, and the other two parks later that fall.

County hosts Leadership Charlotte for Government Day

Charlotte County partnered with the City of Punta Gorda to host Government Day for the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2023-24 on Feb. 22. Class members toured the Emergency Operations Center and got an look at the Airplane Rescue and Fire Fighting prop on

the Public Safety Campus.

Public Works displayed its fleet of specialized equipment and the class learned about mosquito control efforts. At the Family Services Center, staff from Human Services and Utilities provided

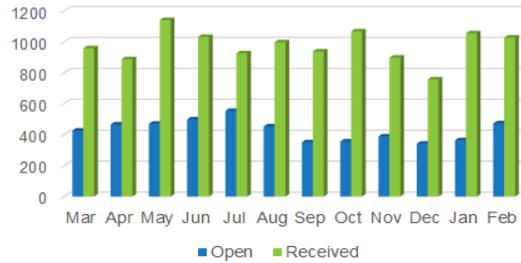
insights into department operations and facilities, including an upcoming expansion of the water reclamation facility at the East Port Environmental Campus. The day ended with tours and presentations at the city's Public Safety Building.



Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

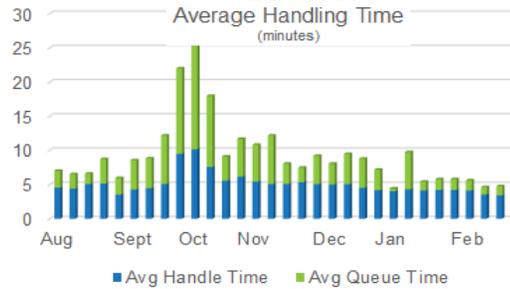


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

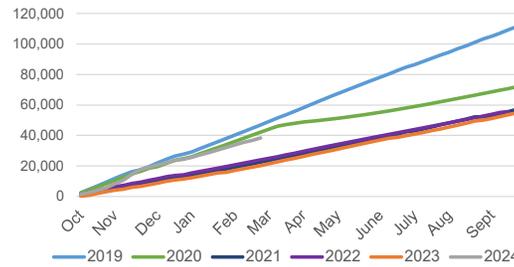


Transit

Transit Calls Average Handling Time (minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership

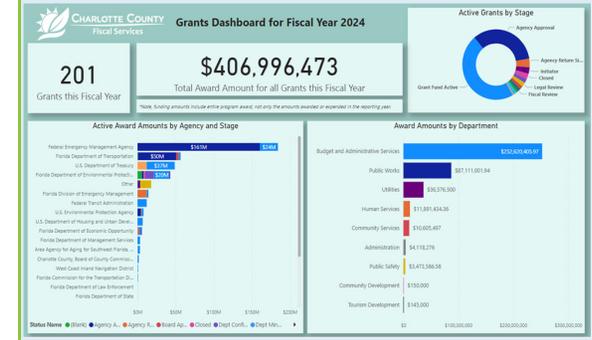


Director Highlights

Grants Management

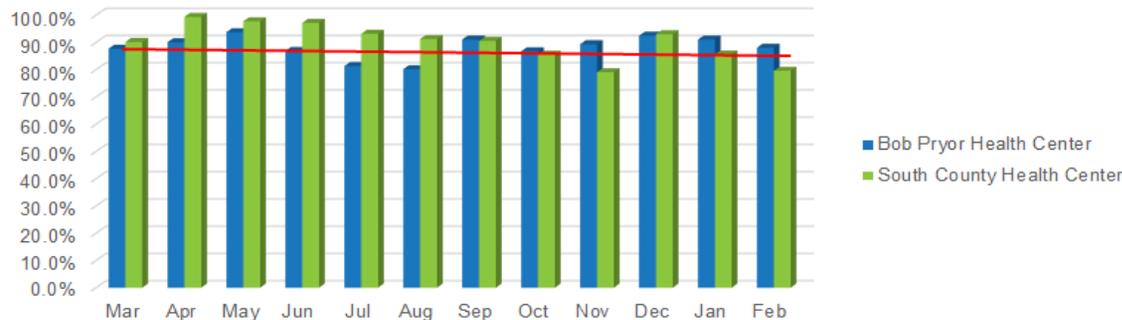
The Grants section of Fiscal Services is instrumental in managing Charlotte County's financial resources through the oversight of four departmental budgets and administration of over 200 grant projects in FY24, totaling over \$400 million in grant revenue. Beyond financial oversight, they ensure accountability by meticulously tracking, reconciling, and reporting grant expenditures, while also managing disaster relief projects totaling over \$200 million for Hurricanes Irma, Ian, Nicole, and Idalia. Their stringent compliance monitoring guarantees successful project completion and effective resource utilization, positioning them as vital drivers of Charlotte County's grant success and community support. This group is not merely a financial custodian but a dynamic force steering the County towards successful grant endeavors.

February 2024



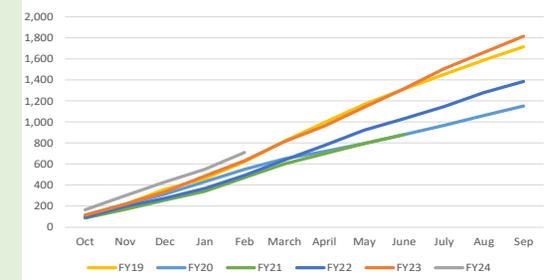
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



PERMITTING

7 Brew Coffee

4265 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
547 sq. ft. drive-thru coffee shop

Avery Port Charlotte

1120 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte
Five-story multifamily development with 250 dwelling units, swimming pool, and amenity building

Babcock Neighborhood School

43261 Cypress Pkwy., Punta Gorda
22,329 sq. ft. expansion to the existing K-8 school and a 4,068 sq. ft. art building

Charlotte Harbor Business Center

9225 Piper Rd., Punta Gorda
139,200 sq. ft. of warehouse space

David Boulevard Apartments

7056 David Blvd., Port Charlotte
Multifamily development with approximately 297 units

Dogwood Animal Clinic

19677 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte
4,650 sq. ft. animal clinic

Dr. Shaw Veterinary Clinic

27570 Disston Ave., Punta Gorda
6,000 sq. ft. animal clinic

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Buffalo Wild Wings & Del Taco

1490 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
1,145 sq. ft. Buffalo Wild Wings and 2,370 sq. ft. Del Taco restaurants with drive-thru



Christian Brothers Automotive

24130 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte
Ten-bay automotive service center



GCM Balentine Manufacturing

8381 Duffie Dr., Punta Gorda
48,000 sq. ft. and 15,000 sq. ft. manufacturing and storage buildings



Heartland Dental

5605 S. McCall Rd., Port Charlotte
4,520 sq. ft. single-story shell building



Mazda Car Dealership

798 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
Car dealership with wash and service bays to be constructed in two phases

COMPLETED



McAlister's Deli

19570 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte
4,600 sq. ft. restaurant with drive-thru



Equus Warehouse and Distribution

9450 Piper Rd., Punta Gorda
378,000 sq. ft. warehouse and distribution project



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

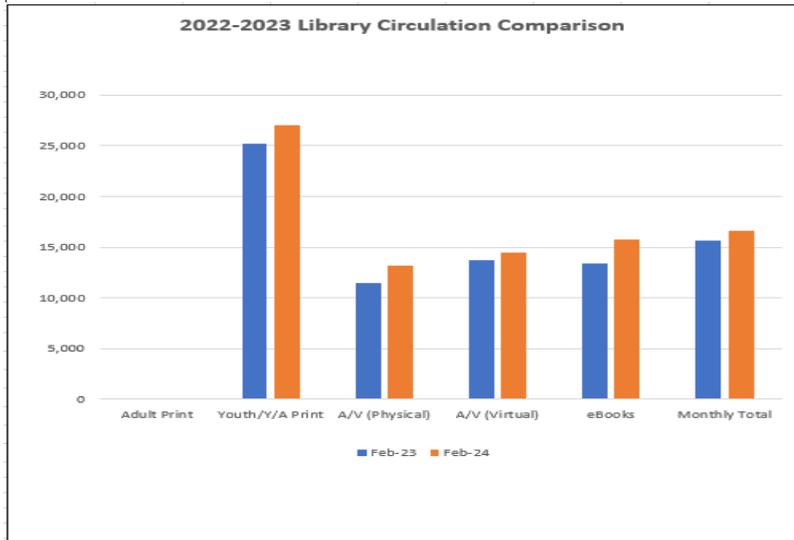
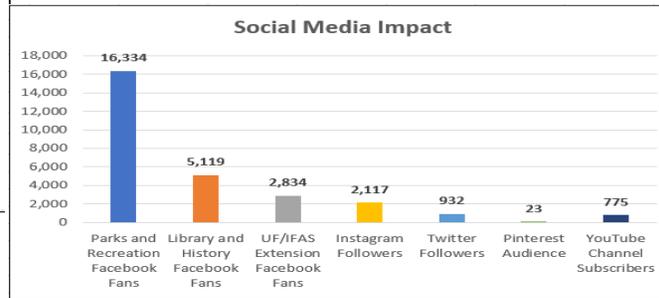
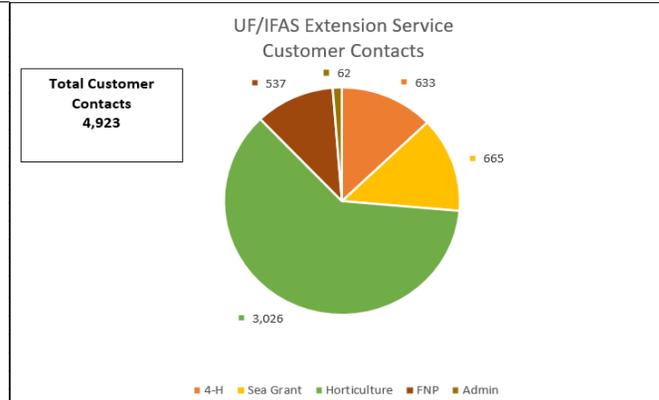
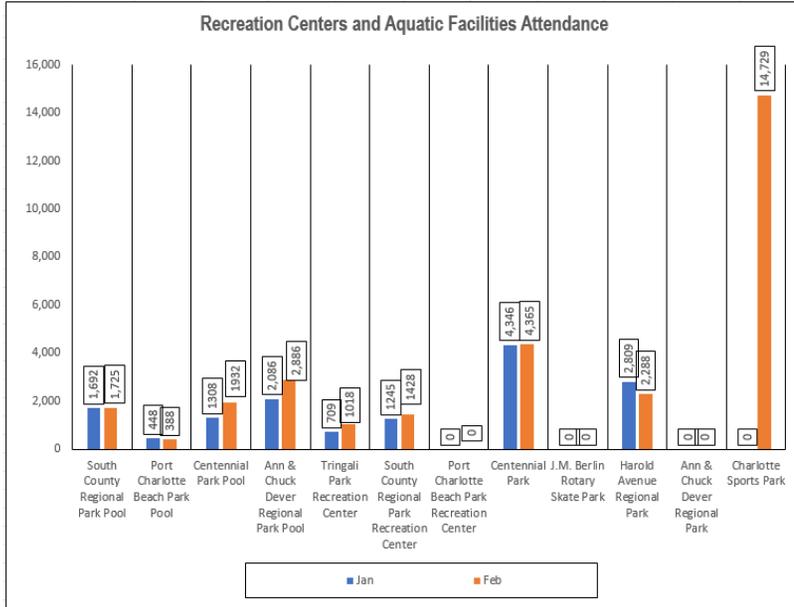
Babcock Update

COs issued since Aug. 2016: 2,540
Single family permits issued (Feb. 2024): 87

West Port Update

COs issued since April 2021: 543
Single family permits issued (Feb. 2024): 18

Total single family permits issued	342
Total single family COs issued	380
Total permits taken	3,865
Total permits issued (Feb. 2024)	4,027
Total permits issued (FY22-23)	81,910
Total permits issued (FY23-24)	19,983



Natural Resources

Coastal Lighting

- 28 permits in review
- 10 permit inspections

Eagle Nests

- 22 nests being monitored
- 1 nest with chicks
- 13 nests with eggs

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

- 7 open
- 1 removed
- 10 ready for removal

Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 3,549 trash bags collected
- 606 recycling bags collected
- 351 fields prepped for practices/games
- 2 tournaments– 8 fields used

Land Management

- 34.5 miles maintained
- 14 acres of exotics treated
- 8 acres of habitat managed
- 73 acres of overstory reduction
- Staff conducted 1 educational outreach event at Cedar Point Environmental Center.

Project Management

- Completed 3
- Not started - 12
- In progress - 63
- 77 total projects, \$11,623,669

'WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD' CHARLOTTE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AREA IS GROWING

Charlotte County attracted plentiful new commercial developers and companies in 2023, continuing the county's growth trend of the last several years. Most of the building activity is taking place within industrial areas surrounding Punta Gorda Airport, as much of the rest of the county's land is zoned for residential use, and the land that is zoned commercial outside the airport area has insufficient acreage to support large-scale projects. See the full article in *Gulfshore Business* [here](#).



“Charlotte County never had facilities for manufacturing, Dave Gammon, Charlotte County Economic Development Director, said, ”so if a manufacturer wanted to build in Charlotte, they would have to be real estate developers first.”

That is changing, especially around Punta Gorda airport, where developers are constructing buildings on spec. “So, now these manufacturing companies can come and not have to play the real estate game,” Gammon says. “All they have to do is lease the space they want and start doing their manufacturing.” Read that full article [here](#).

February 2024

Family Services Center Phase 2



A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Open House was recently held in celebration of the opening of the second building for the Family Services Center complex. Located within the Parkside community, the Family Services Center is a collaboration among government and non-profit agencies working together to provide an integrated client service delivery system as a holistic campus approach. Human Services staff moved into this new 18,500-square-foot phase two building, along with multiple non-profit organizations including the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County. In addition to a large indoor multi-purpose area for youth services, the project also consists of outdoor play areas, a community garden, and a flexible courtyard gathering space. The project was designed by Fawley Bryant Architecture and was constructed by Tandem Construction. This project was completed on time and within the \$10.9 million budget.

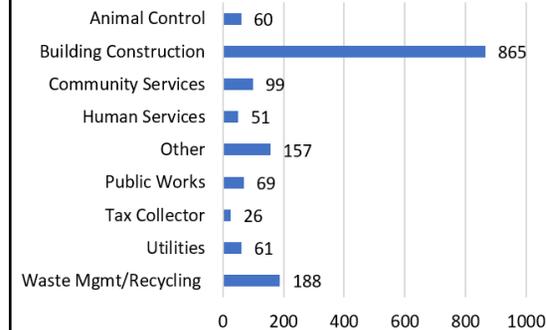
The shell build-outs for **Fire Station 9** and **CCSO District 5** in Babcock Ranch have been finished by Kitson Partners and the County will soon start on interior finish work. The CIP project is expected to be completed and in service by January 2025. Total interior build-out cost for both buildings is \$7,021,716.



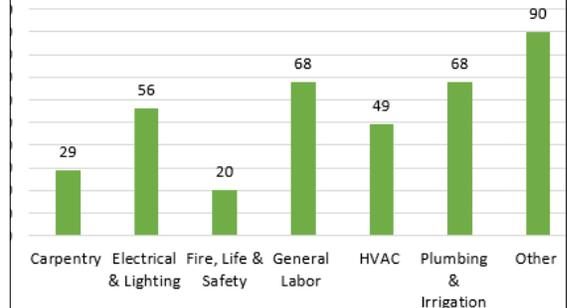
Construction of the new **CCSO District 4** office on Airport Road is proceeding with the completion of the building footers and stem wall installation. Foundation plumbing and roof drains are being installed with electrical conduits to follow. This 20,000-square-foot sales tax funded facility costs \$13,132,151 to build and is expected to be completed by June 2025.

On February 27, the Board awarded Schinkel Shultz the design portion of **Fire Stations 3, 6, and 17**. The construction manager at risk for these three projects was awarded to Wharton-Smith.

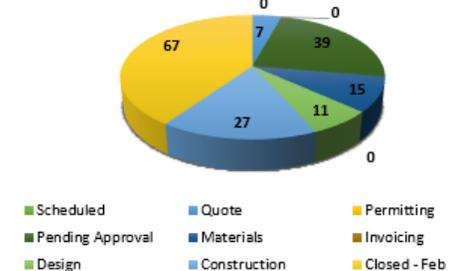
FY24 Switchboard Calls February 2024 Total Calls - 1576



FY24 Work Orders - February 2024 Total 380 (excluding Jail)

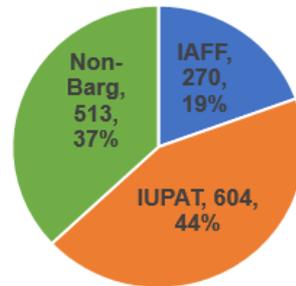


FY24 Small Projects- February



Workforce

Employee Count 1,387
 Avg Age 46
 Avg Hourly Rate \$27.36
 Avg Years of Service 7.9



Retention of New Hires February
 % completing probation 85%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 2.7%
 % of Workforce Retired this FY 1.3%

Separations

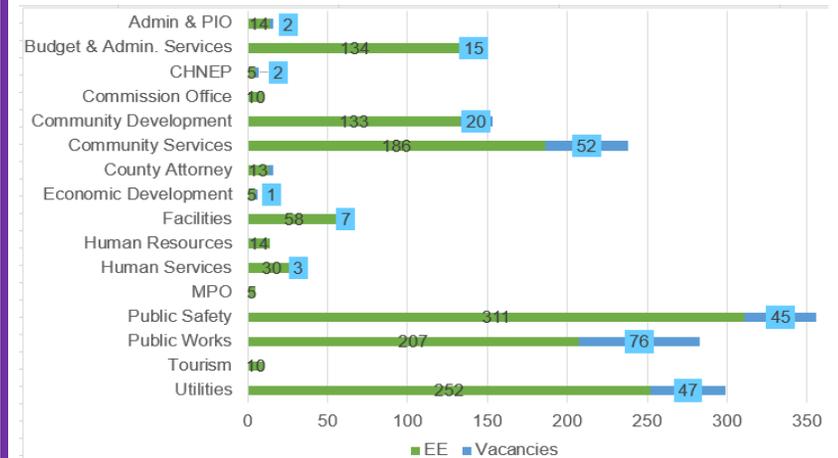
February
 Turnover 1.3%
 Separations 18



Training & Development

Training 98 EE's 14.25 1,397 contact hrs
 % using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

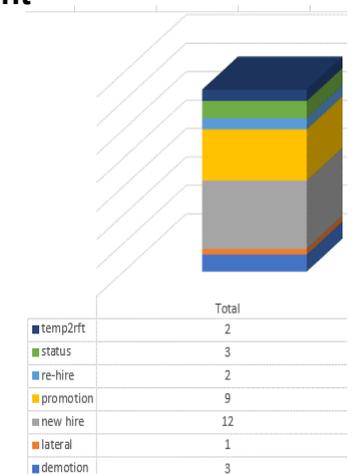
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 274

Recruitment

Applications Taken 881
 Job Posting Hits 28,199
 New Hires 12
 Recruited Pos FT 86
 Posted PT/Sea/Intern 12



1151

Total Clients Served February 2024



We Celebrated



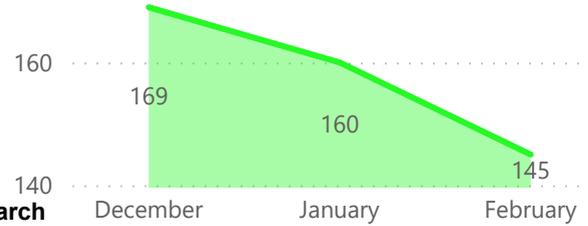
Our Family Services Center

Ribbon Cutting & Open House



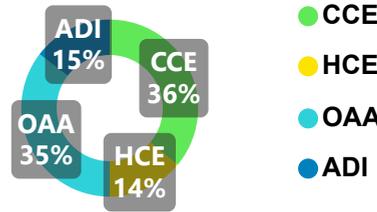
Aging & Adult Services

Clients Served by Month



Case Management

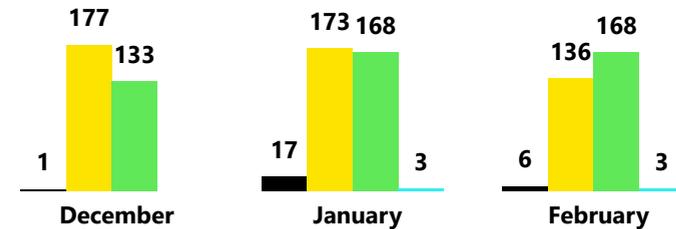
● New Cases ● Completed/Closed/Termed ● In process/ Research



Intake Services

4230

Calls for Assistance



Case Coordinator Mary Prod receives recognition for 5 years of outstanding service.

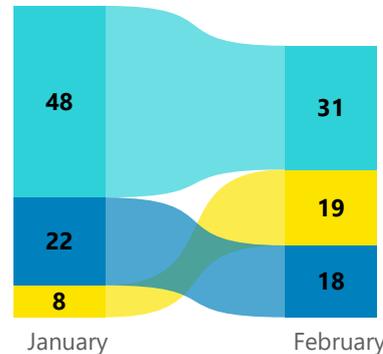


- Energy Assistance-In Progress
- Energy Assistance-Completed
- Fastrack Applications
- DIP

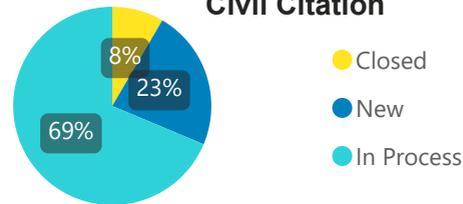
Neighborhood Services

● Completed/Closed/Termed ● In process/ Research ● New Cases

Case Management



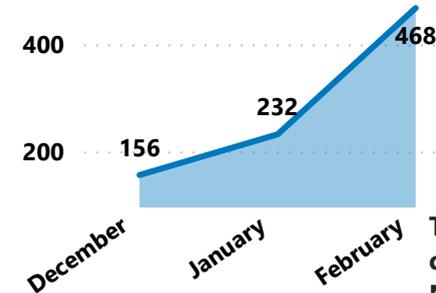
Civil Citation



Neighborhood Services Project Manager Rich Gromalski received an award for his years of service to Charlotte County.

Veteran Services

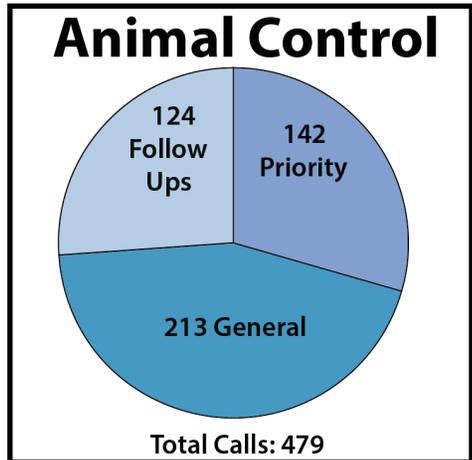
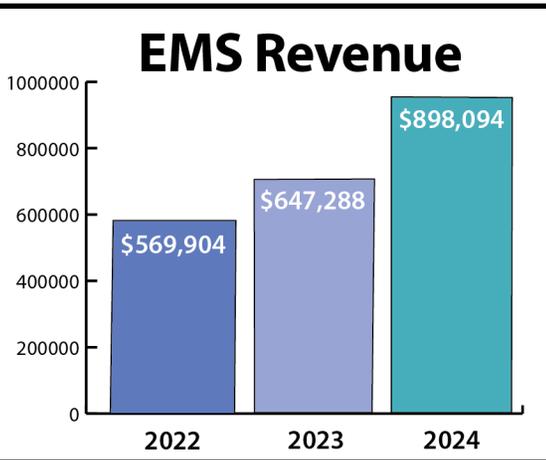
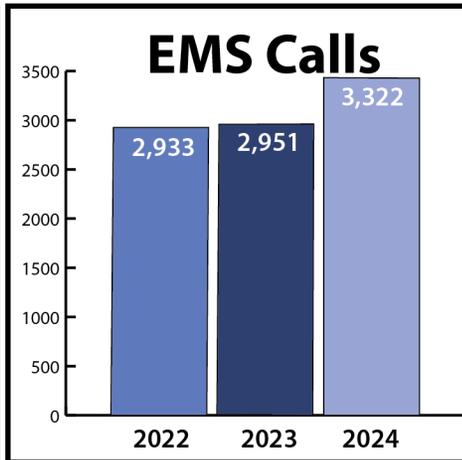
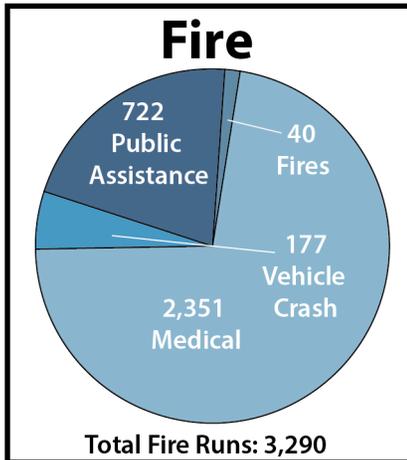
VA Clients Served



Tampa Bay Rays invited our Veteran Services Team to conduct outreach at the Rays/Yankees game. VSO Nick Cook even caught a ball!

Our Mission: To collaborate and provide programs and connections that increase financial stability and support individuals and families as they work to reach their fullest potential.

Public Safety



Be Prepared For Wildfire Season

With Florida experiencing a twelve-month wildfire season, preparation is key to ensuring the safety of homes and communities. While the most active period typically spans from December through June, wildfire activity peaks during March, April, and May. In the face of such threats, adopting FireWise practices becomes imperative for residents living in woodland areas.

During wildfires, the primary concern is safeguarding homes from the advancing flames. Despite the intense heat, proper precautions can ensure that structures remain standing. The mantra to remember in such situations is simple: "Be Ready, Be Firewise."

Implementing proactive measures can significantly reduce the risk of property damage and loss. Clearing debris, leaves, and flammable vegetation from the vicinity of structures, such as decks, sheds, and trailers, is essential. Additionally, maintaining a defensible space around homes by trimming vegetation at least 30 feet away can hinder the spread of wildfires.

Ensuring multiple evacuation routes is crucial in emergencies. Having two ways out of the neighborhood can be a lifesaver if one route becomes impassable. Moreover, regular maintenance tasks like cleaning gutters and downspouts of debris can prevent embers from igniting combustible materials.

Preparing emergency supplies and belongings in advance can expedite evacuation processes and mitigate panic during crises. A well-equipped emergency kit should include essentials such as water, non-perishable food, medications, important documents, and a first-aid kit.

For further guidance on wildfire preparedness and mitigation strategies, resources like FireWise.org offer invaluable information. By following these guidelines and remaining vigilant, residents can significantly enhance their resilience to wildfires and safeguard their homes and communities. Remember, being FireWise isn't just a recommendation; it's a crucial step towards protecting lives and property in wildfire-prone regions.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control



Adulticide
2,021
acres treated

Larvicide
3,960
acres treated

340
Total number of
mosquitos identified
to species

CityWorks

1250
Work Orders
Opened

694
Work Orders
Closed

196
Service
Requests
Opened

220
Service
Requests
Closed

**Application
Requests
Received**

124

Completed

24



**Engineering Division
Hurricane Ian Projects**

71
Total Projects

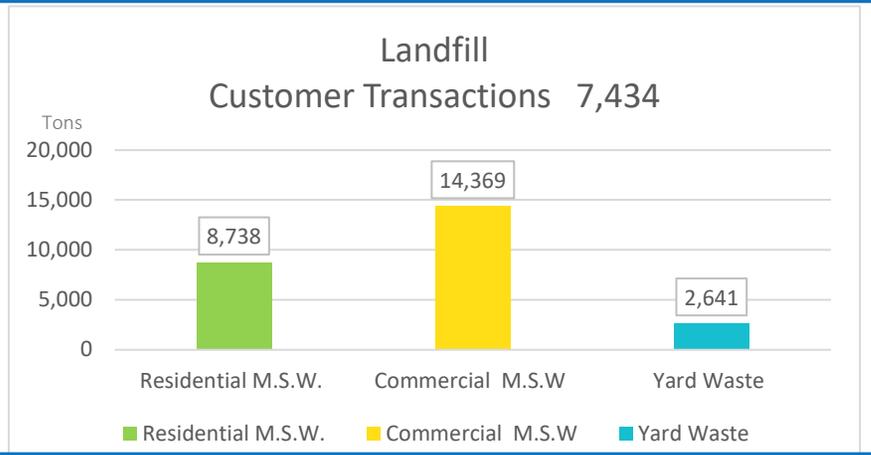
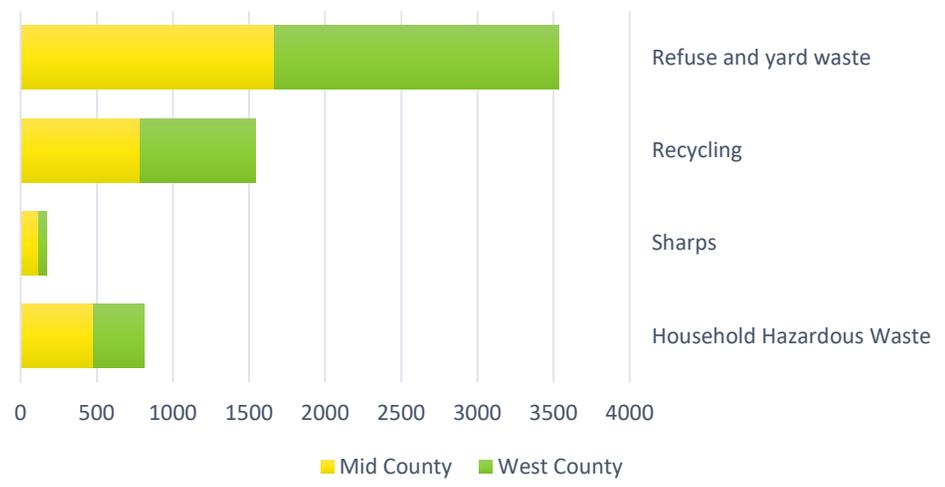
0
Planning

1
Purchasing

68
Complete

2
Construction

Transfer Facility Customers



Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT

(Current Month)

Jan-23	\$963,143	↑ 13.9%
Jan-24	\$1,097,198	

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)

Jan-23	\$2,488,043	↑ 2.4%
Jan-24	\$2,547,814	

PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

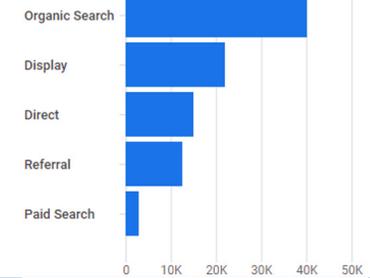
Website Users: 75,000

Sessions: 97,645

Top Origin Markets:

FL, NY, IL, GA, MI, OH, VA, PA, MA, IN

Sessions by Channel Group



SPORTS

Sales February 2024

Florida Youth Soccer Association – Region C Commissioners Cup

South County Regional Park

February 10-11, 2024

Charlotte Soccer Federation was the host club to execute the Florida Youth Soccer Associations Area C Commissioners Cup. 270 Boys and Girls in Region C competed for points and standings in the 2024 Florida State Series.

American Kennel Association – Agility Trials and World Team International Sweepstakes Class

Bratty Paws Dog Plex

February 15-18, 2024

Over 100 participants competed with their dog in the 2024 AKC agility trials and World Team International Sweepstake Class. Owners traveled in from across the country to compete in indoor agility, outdoor sprint timing, and dock jumping.

Snowbird Baseball Classic – NCAA College Games

Centennial Park, South County Regional Park

February 16 - March 22, 2024

The annual Snowbird Baseball Classic kicked off this year with 30 NCAA Division I & III College teams from across the country playing conference games. Come cheer on your favorite team, alma mater, or volunteer if you just love the game. Go to www.snowbirdbaseball.com for more information.

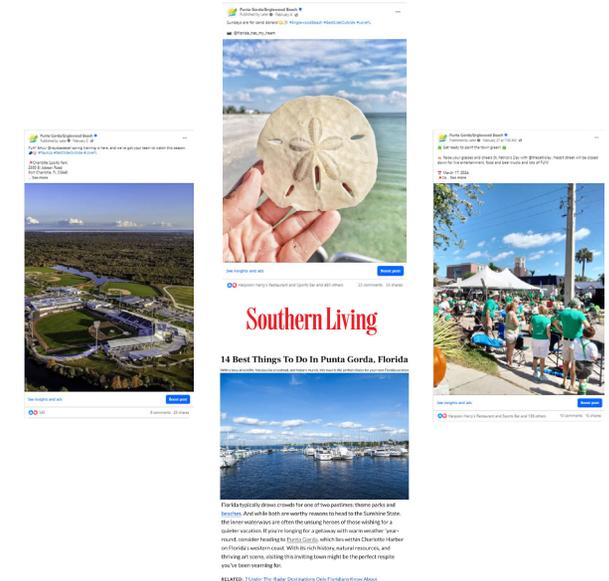
Fun Fact

With Snowbird Baseball taking place and other NCAA college teams vying for a spot in the College Baseball World Series, did you know.....

- In 1947 Kalamazoo Michigan was home to the inaugural Baseball World Series
- President George H. W. Bush played first base for Yale University during the 1948 College Baseball World Series
- Texas Longhorns have had the most appearances with 37 at the College World Series

Public Relations/Media February 2024

A total of 964 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of approximately 1,836,996,054 and a media ad value of approximately \$3,412,493.97.



Check out our top social media posts for the month of February
[@realpureflorida](https://www.pureflorida.com)

Visitors to Charlotte County in fiscal year 2023 saved local residents an average of **\$1,026** per household in taxes.

OPERATIONS

- Calls Presented: 8,306
- Call Wait Time: 1 minutes 11 seconds
- Sewer Connections: 47,300
(297 increase from January)
- Water Connections: 70,113
(321 increase from January)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 1 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 11 Utilities Billing
- 8 Utilities Department Service
- 20 Total

Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

2,637 Follows

2023 Water Quality Reports:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-CCR-Peace-River>

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-CCR-Burnt-Store>

Remember, every drop counts!

Important Information:

The Customer Payment Center is located at the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, B-109, in Port Charlotte is open.

Monday through Friday—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Customer Payment Center assisted 731 individuals for the month of February.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

TAKE THE FOG FREE PLEDGE



ENTRY

EMAIL US A
VIDEO OR
PICTURE OF HOW
YOU'RE
DISPOSING OF
FATS, OILS &
GREASE.

PICTURES AND VIDEOS
WILL BE POSTED ON THE
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
UTILITIES FACEBOOK
PAGE!



Each entry
will receive a
reusable can
lid!

Email us at:
CCUPR@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

EXAMPLES

- Wipe excess grease/oils with paper towels before washing.
- Pour cooled fats, oils, and grease into a sealed container and store until ready to be thrown out.
- Pour cooking oil into a separate container and take it to our local recycling facility.
- Scrape food scraps into the garbage can.
- Use sink strainers to catch food scraps.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:

Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 2,135 properties with sewer service. Zones 1, 2 and the vacuum station are currently underway. The vacuum station is operating, and sewer connections in Zones 1 and 2 have begun.

AckermanProject.com

February Connections: 25 Total Connections: 274

Hillsborough Boulevard 8-inch Water Main Project:

This project is installing an 8-inch water main along Hillsborough Boulevard from Yorkshire St. to US 41. The water main will be installed parallel to the Peace River Manasota Water Authority's 42-inch Phase 2B Pipeline. The right-of-way has been cleared along Hillsborough Blvd. from Serris Dr. to Atwater St. and materials are being delivered.

East Port Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

This project includes expanding the current water reclamation facility to treat six million gallons of wastewater per day to nine million gallons per day. The project also includes advanced wastewater treatment, which is a valuable addition to the treatment process to ensure treated water has as low concentrations of nutrients as possible. The official groundbreaking was held on Feb. 15.

2023 WATER
QUALITY REPORTS
NOW AVAILABLE

To provide safe, reliable drinking water, reclaimed water and wastewater service for the enrichment of the community.