



Monthly Report

March 2024

Sports Park wins USA 10 Best spring training site

Charlotte Sports Park has won the 2024 USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for Best Spring Training Facility, beating out nine other stadiums in Florida and Arizona. The sports park also won the award the last time we were nominated in 2014.

Thanks to our fans for voting us No. 1. County Administration is so proud of everyone

who worked so hard to get the stadium back in shape after Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc in Sept. 2022. It's been great to have the Rays back for spring training.

Between March 2023 and January 2024, our repair contractor, Wharton-Smith, performed more than \$17.5 million worth of repairs. There was substantial damage to the practice field turf,

batters eyes and backstops. The Major League clubhouse, Building A, Building B and the press tower suffered water intrusion. The interiors were mitigated and rebuilt, along with roof replacements. The main stadium and baseball field lost the sports lighting and roof structure covering the stadium seats. The roof was rebuilt and all new LED stadium lights and light poles.



Charlotte Sports Park USA 10 Best spring training site announced before March 22 Rays game.

County celebrates Women's History Month and International Women's Day



The Charlotte County Commission adopted a proclamation declaring March 8 as Zonta Yellow Rose Day.

Charlotte County celebrating Women's History Month in March and recognized women's achievements and contributions to history, culture and society. The County Commission adopted a proclamation at its Feb. 27 meeting declaring March 8 as Zonta Yellow Rose Day. The date is also International Women's Day.

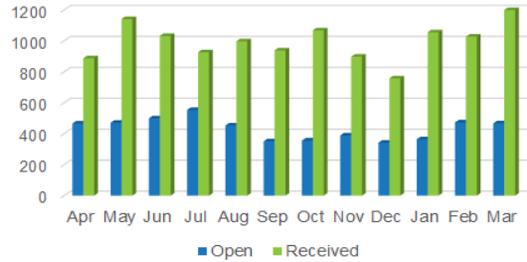
The proclamation cited Zonta International as a "leading global organization of professionals building a better world for women and girls through service, advocacy and funding. Zonta envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In

such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence."

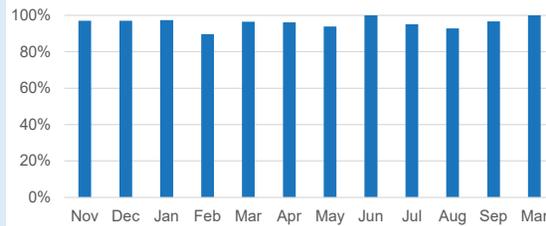
County staff participated in several events highlighting and promoting professional development for women. On Tuesday, members of the county Lean In Circle held their regular meeting. The Lean In program is based on a management book by Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg that encourages women to be more assertive in their workplace, take on leadership roles and advocate for career advancement opportunities.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

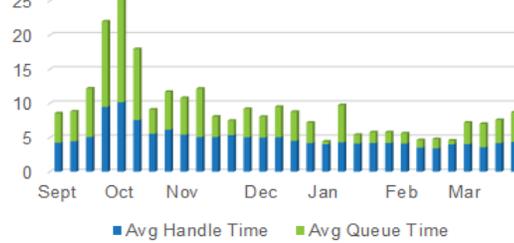


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

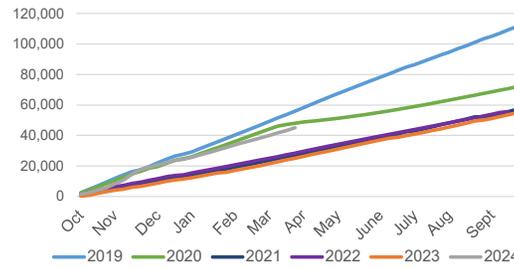


Transit

Transit Calls Average Handling Time (minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



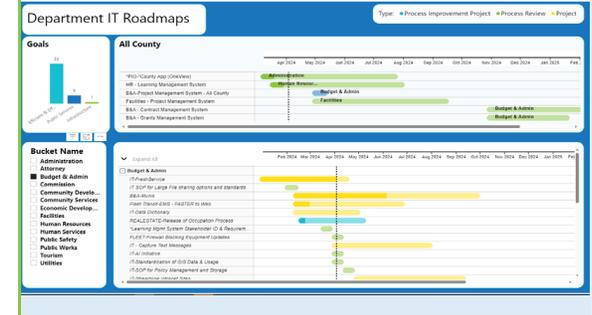
Director Highlights

Technology Roadmaps

Over the last six months the Business Analysts from Information Technology have been meeting with each County department to explore their business and technology needs. These needs have been transformed into a Technology Roadmap that prioritizes and distinguishes between process reviews, process improvements and projects. During the month of April each department will meet with Administration to review and refine these maps. The agenda for these strategic conversations will focus on the following points:

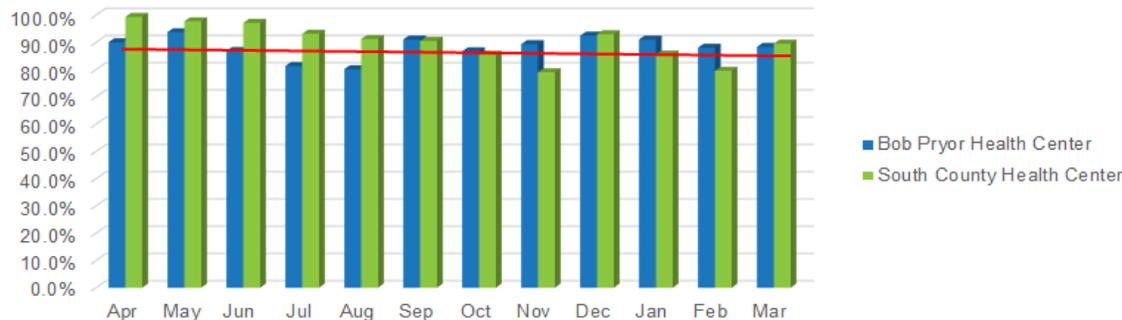
- Briefly review your project list and what they will accomplish.
- Describe your highest priorities and what business goals they advance.
- Which "all-county" projects will benefit you most?
- Review your key measures and what they tell you.
- What did you learn about your measures as a result of this exercise?

March 2024



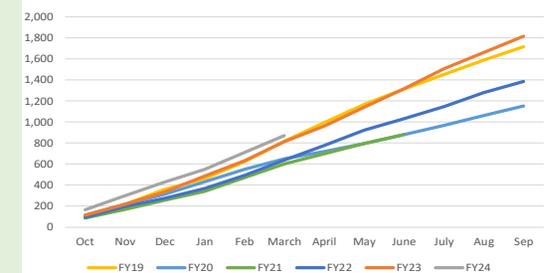
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



PERMITTING

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

Dogwood Animal Clinic

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

Fountain Pools

8253 Duffie Dr., Punta Gorda
2,400 sq. ft. building trades contractor's office

Kahwa Coffee

19580 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte
1,500 sq. ft. drive-thru restaurant

My Place Hotel

24490 Sandhill Blvd., Punta Gorda
63-room hotel

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Brix Coffee

844 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
800 sq. ft. drive-thru coffee shop



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



Livano Charlotte Harbor

100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
333-unit apartment complex with a swimming pool and clubhouse



Mazda Dealership

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



Whiskey Joe's

5000 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
Restaurant, outdoor tiki bar, event pavilion, and recreational areas



Equus Warehouse and Distribution

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



Total single family permits issued	361
Total single family COs issued	336
Total permits taken	4,027
Total permits issued (March 2024)	4,464
Total permits issued (FY22-23)	81,910
Total permits issued (FY23-24)	24,447

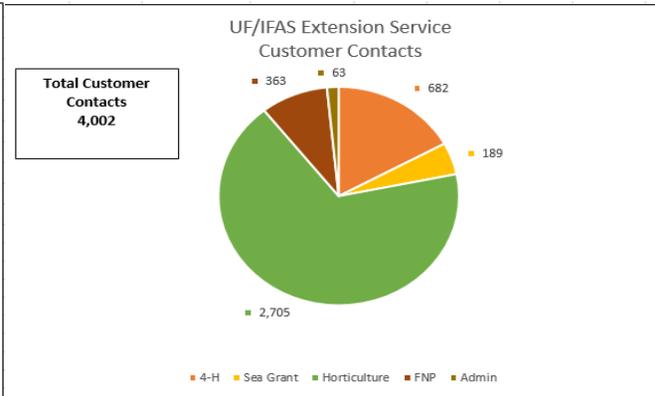
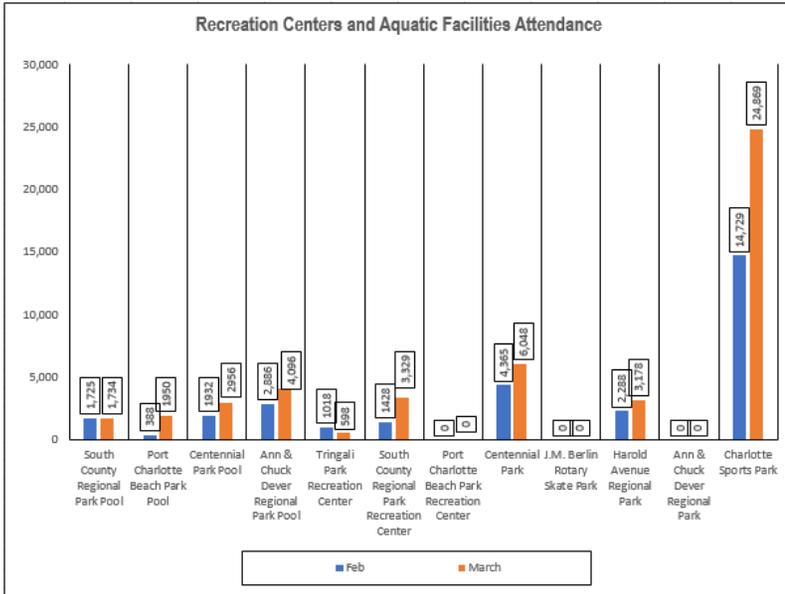
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

COs issued since Aug. 2016: 2,596
Single family permits issued (March 2024): 108

West Port Update

COs issued since April 2021: 571
Single family permits issued (March 2024): 15

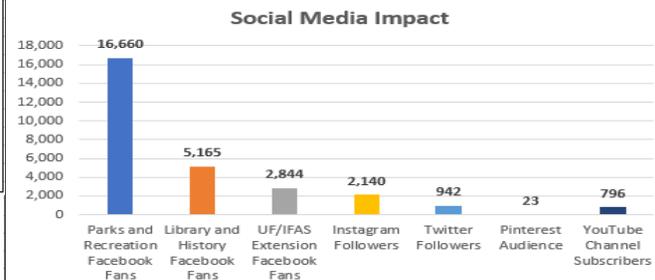
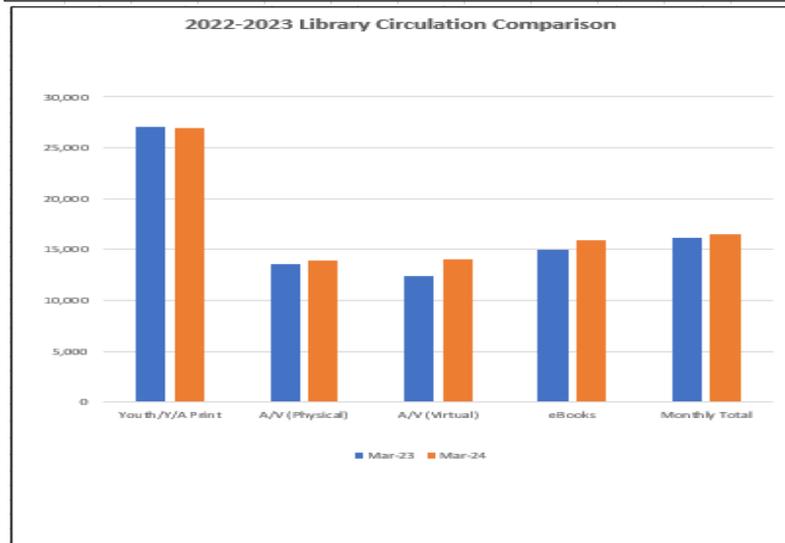


Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 4,218 trash bags collected
- 738 recycling bags collected
- 534 fields prepped for practices/games
- 1 tournaments– 2 fields used

Land Management

- 38.5 miles maintained
- 26 acres of exotics treated
- 12 acres of habitat managed
- 431 acres of overstory reduction
- Staff conducted 1 educational outreach event at Rotunda Community. Calvin Bernard led a nature walk covering wildlife, conservation and listed species.



Natural Resources

Coastal Lighting

- 29 permits in review
- 7 permit inspections

Eagle Nests

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

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

- 7 open
- 8 removed
- 6 ready for removal

Project Management

- Completed -13
- Not started - 9
- In progress-56
- 78 total projects, \$11,794,320.68

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY IN ECAP FOR 140,000 SQ. FT. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING



Elected officials from Charlotte County, the City of Punta Gorda, and the Airport Authority welcomed Capital Partners to the neighborhood during the groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured here (left to right) are Peter Mork, Bill Dryburgh, Donna Peterman, Mayor Lynne Matthews, Paul Andrews, Commissioner Bill Truex, Commissioner Ken Doherty, and Dr. Deborah Lux. The picture on the right shows Capital Partners presenting Karen McElhaney, Executive Director of C.A.R.E (The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies) with a check for \$10,000.



Pictured are Consul General of Canada in Miami, Sylvia Cesaratto, and Canada/Florida Chamber of Commerce guests. These guests of the Charlotte County BCC enjoyed a game of Spring Training Baseball when the Tampa Bay Rays played against the Toronto Blue Jays.



Gulfshore Business: Made in Charlotte County
Read the full article [here](#).

March 2024

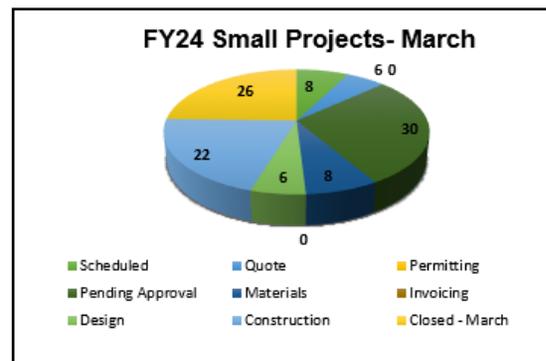
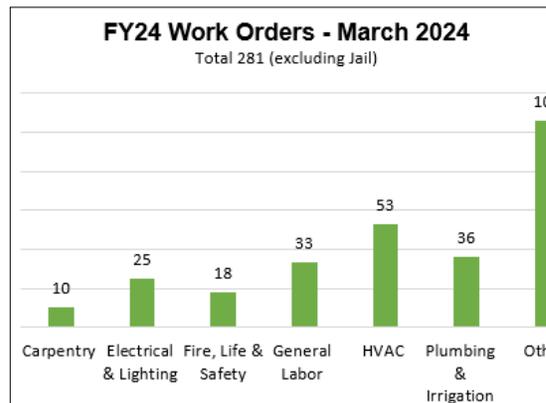
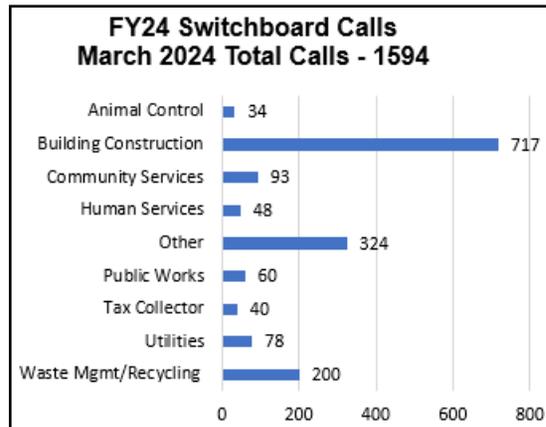
CCSO District 4 Groundbreaking



Groundbreaking for the new CCSO District 4 office on Airport Road took place on March 28th. This 20,286 square foot state-of-the-art facility will have road patrol and detective offices along with K9 support and kennel operations. In addition, it will have an expanded training component along with four separate conference rooms for training. The \$14 million dollar facility was designed by Schenkel-Shultz, Inc. and is being constructed by Wharton-Smith Inc., with construction expected to be completed in June 2025. All underground utilities have been installed, including electrical conduits, floor boxes, water lines, roof drains, and chiller lines. On April 4th about 300 cubic yards of concrete (35 truckloads) was poured and finished.

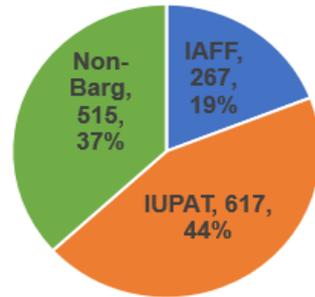


- ◆ On March 26th, the Board approved the Construction Manager@Risk for design of the first phase of GC Herring Park and the second phase of William R. Gaines Jr. Memorial Park projects.
- ◆ Requests for Proposal are advertised for the design of the Emergency Operations Center expansion project.
- ◆ Both the Supervisor of Elections Warehouse and the Sheriff Administration Building Guaranteed Maximum Prices (GMPs) were approved during the March 12th Board meeting. The Supervisor of Elections total project budget is \$8.2M and Sheriff Administration Building total project budget is \$45M.
- ◆ The monument sign and maintenance building at Indian Spring Cemetery was refreshed. Improvements included patches and repairs to stucco, plumbing and other minor repairs. New locks were installed and the building was prepped, pressure washed, and painted throughout.



Workforce

Employee Count 1,399
Avg Age 46
Avg Hourly Rate \$27.24
Avg Years of Service 7.9



Retention of New Hires **March**
% completing probation 92%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 2.9%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 1.7%

Separations

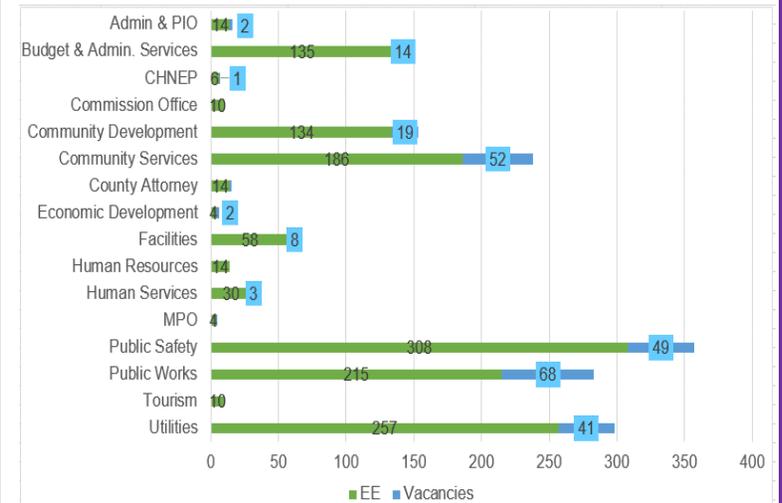
March
Turnover 1.4%
Separations 19



Training & Development

Training 250 EE's 14.25 3,563 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

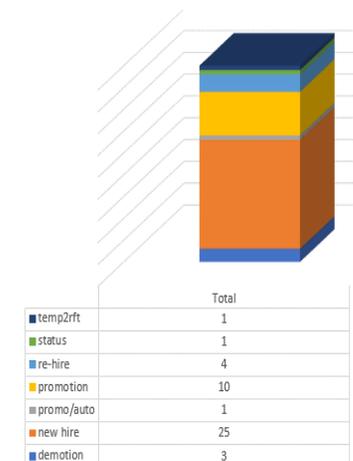
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 262

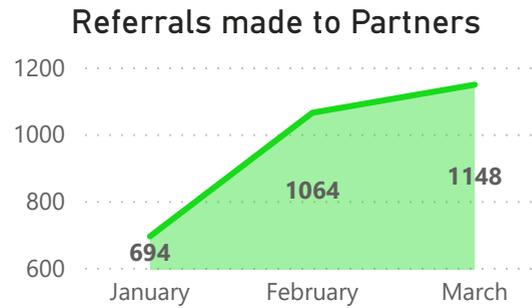
Recruitment

Applications Taken 865
Job Posting Hits 18,390
New Hires 25
Recruited Pos FT 77
Posted PT/STARR 15

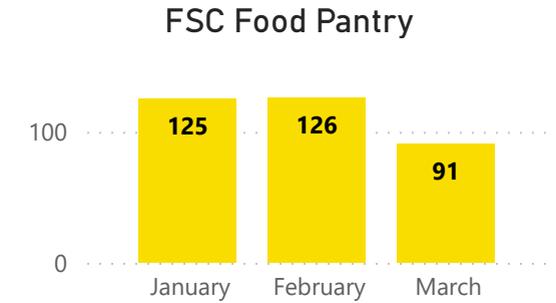




Total Clients Served March 2024



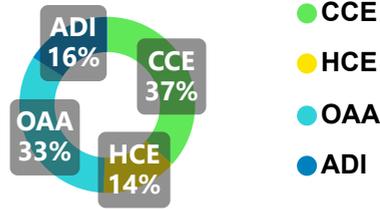
5908
Calls for Assistance



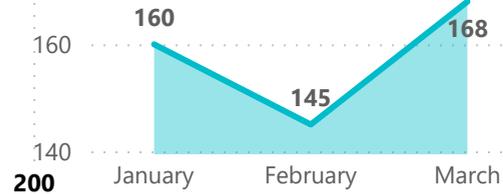
Aging & Adult Services

Case Management

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

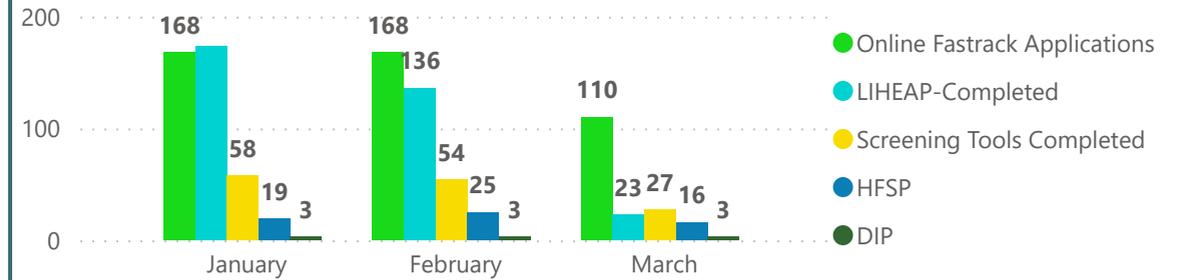


Total Clients Served

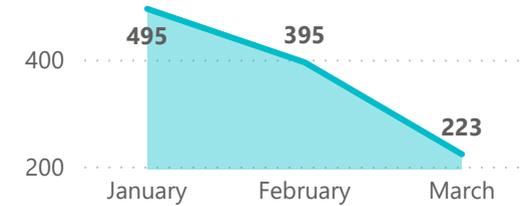


Intake Services

3687
Intake Services Calls



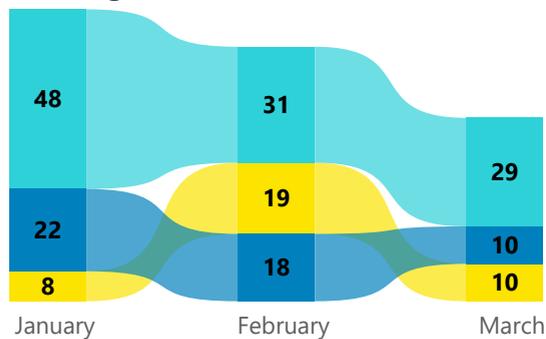
Total Clients Served



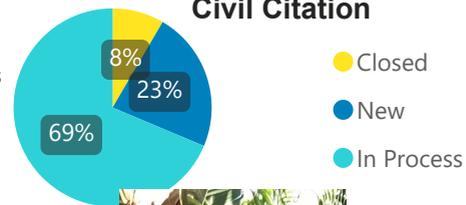
Neighborhood Services

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

Case Management



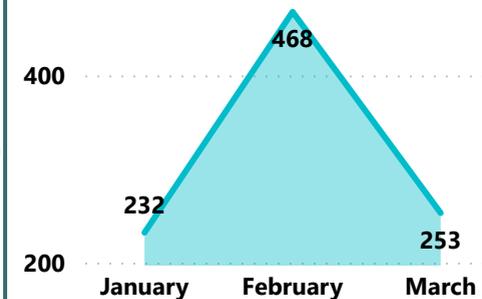
Civil Citation



Congratulations to Tara Blackson our new Family Stability Supervisor and Kelly Gammon our Compliance Specialist on their promotions.

Veteran Services

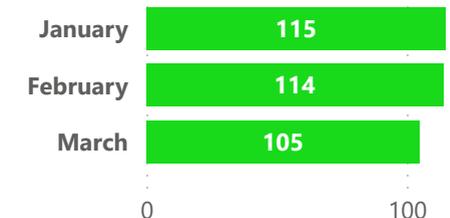
VA Clients Served



1921
Calls for Veteran Services Assistance

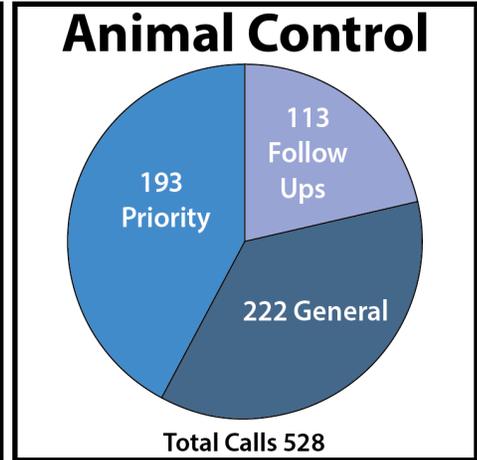
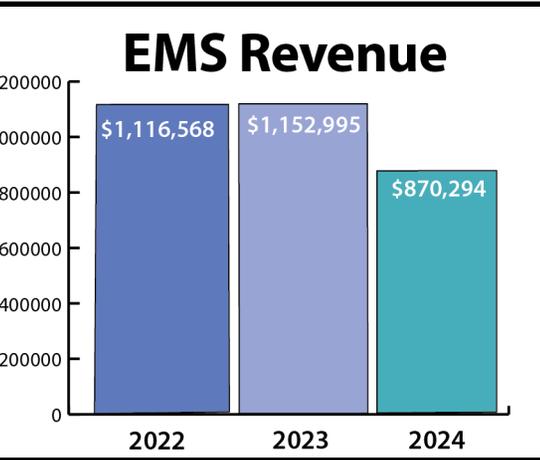
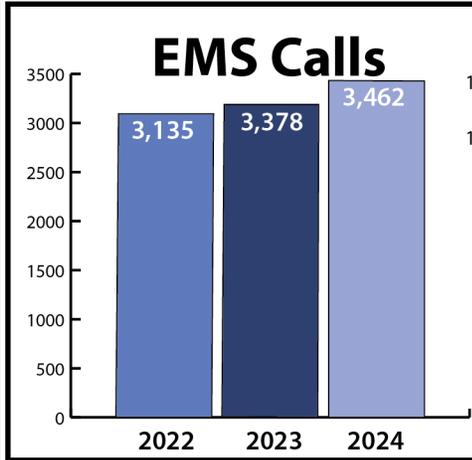
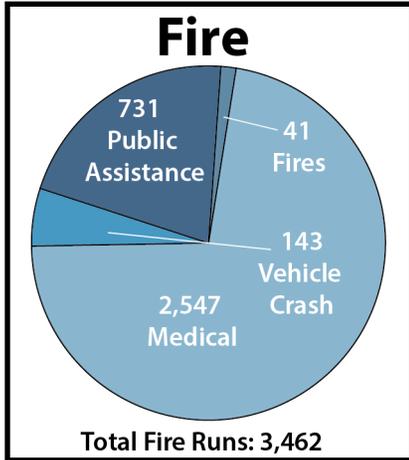
Calls for Veteran Services Assistance

Veteran's New Claims



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

In Florida, wildfires are a year-round concern, with spring marking a notable increase in activity, especially in Charlotte County. With Florida ranking second in the nation for wildfire occurrences, it's imperative that every homeowner takes proactive measures to safeguard their property.

Establishing a defensible space around your home is crucial. This involves creating a buffer zone between your house and surrounding vegetation, refraining from storing firewood or debris nearby, and avoiding highly flammable plants like saw palmetto, pine, and pampas grass in close proximity.

Escaped burning debris ranks among the leading causes of wildfires in Florida. While burning yard waste doesn't require authorization from the Florida Forest Service, adherence to county ordinances is essential. In Charlotte County, yard debris burning is permitted under specific guidelines, including pile size and distance from structures and roads. Larger piles require authorization, suppression equipment, and additional setbacks.

If you do conduct a burn pile, never leave it unattended and keep firefighting tools like a water hose and shovel nearby. Avoid burning on windy days and ensure smoke doesn't obscure visibility on nearby roads.

To further fortify your home against wildfire risks, embrace the "Be Ready, Be Firewise" approach. Here are some key steps to take:

Keep surfaces beneath decks, sheds, and trailers clear of debris and flammable vegetation.

Ensure you have at least two exit routes from your neighborhood in case of blockage.

Trim vegetation at least 30 feet from your home to create a defensible space.

Regularly clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ignition sources.

Prepare emergency supplies and belongings in a safe location.

For more comprehensive guidance on wildfire preparedness, visit www.FireWise.org. Together, let's prioritize safety and protect our homes and communities from the threat of wildfires.

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control



Adulticide

Larvicide

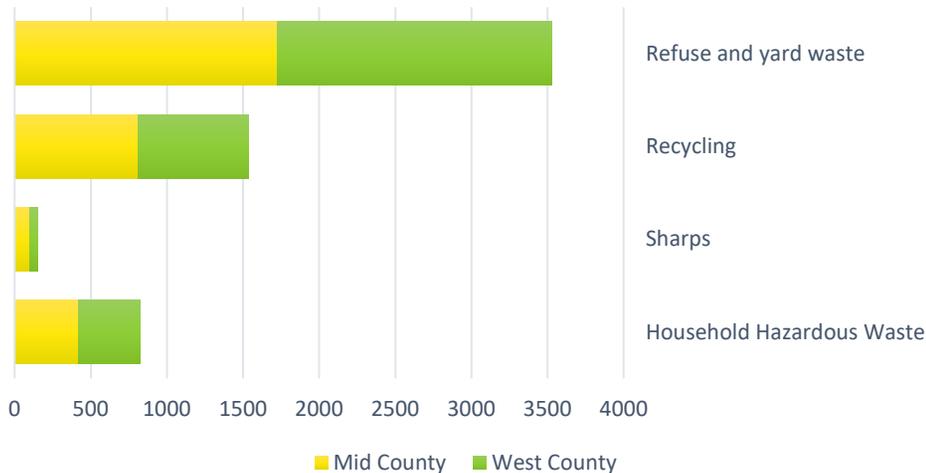
17,914
acres treated

4,885
acres treated

1,549

Total number of
mosquitos identified
to species

Transfer Facility Customers



CityWorks

1305
Work Orders
Opened

945
Work Orders
Closed

199
Service
Requests
Opened

73
Service
Requests
Closed

Application Requests

Received

92

Completed

24



Engineering Division
Hurricane Ian Projects

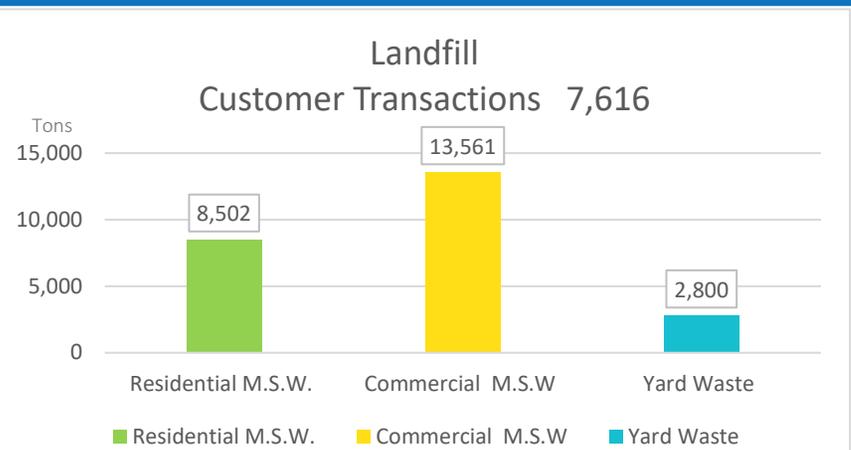
71
Total Projects

0
Planning

1
Purchasing

68
Complete

2
Construction



Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT
(Current Month)

Feb-23	\$905,395	↑ 40.4%
Feb-24	\$1,271,369	

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)

Feb-23	\$3,393,438	↑ 12.5%
Feb-24	\$3,819,183	

PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 88,637

Sessions: 115,983

Top Origin Markets:

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

Sessions by Primary Channel Group

SESSION PRIMARY CHAN...	SESSIONS
Organic Search	46K
Display	23K
Direct	17K
Referral	15K
Email	6.7K
Paid Search	3K
Organic Video	1.6K

SPORTS

Sales March 2024

Apex Promoz – Adventure Race

Oyster Creek Preserve and Anne & Chuck Dever Park

March 8-10, 2024

This new elite endurance race attracted high-level athletes that have the ability to continuously race for 24 to 48 hours, judged on the total miles ran and not their time. Eighty-five participants traveled in from destinations throughout the country since this takes an elite athlete to withstand the time frame and terrain. The winner endured 175-200 miles in the two-day competition.



Pickleplex of Punta Gorda – Pickleplex Annual Challenge

Pickleplex of Punta Gorda

March 15-17, 2024

The PicklePlex of Punta Gorda hosted their annual fundraiser tournament named Punta Gorda Challenge with 400 athletes from throughout Florida and the Northeast participating. They added a para-athlete division with nine para-athletes participating this first year.



Annual Challenge

Destination Athletes – Centennial Invitational

Centennial Park Pool

March 21-24, 2024

Destination Athletes had over 400 swimmers participate in this Florida swimming sanctioned event. Clubs from across the country traveled in during their Spring break. Many families see this an opportunity to take an extended family vacation and teams had Four Points by Sheraton provide team and family meals throughout the duration of their stay.



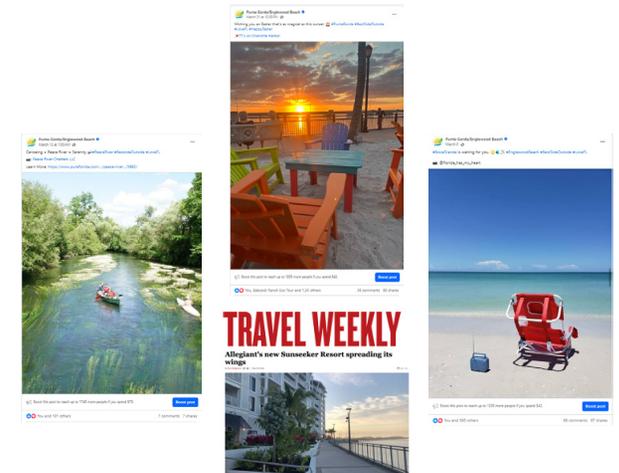
Fun Fact

With Baseball Spring Training ending and regular season starting, did you know....

- Spring Training began in 1988 when the Washington Capitals held a four-day camp in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Minor League players that are called up to participate in Spring Training do not receive a salary, only stipend for meals and hotel.

Public Relations/Media March 2024

A total of 85 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of approximately 698,991,074 and a media ad value of approximately \$1,312,558.02.



Check out our top social media posts for the month of March
[@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: 7,953**
- **Call Wait Time: 44 seconds**
- **Sewer Connections: 47,516**
(216 increase from February)
- **Water Connections: 70,376**
(263 increase from February)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 3 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 8 Utilities Billing
- 6 Utilities Department Service
- 17 Total

Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

2,651 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 737 individuals for the month of March.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

Simple Ways to Conserve Water

Inside and Outside Your Home.

- Check for leaks.
- Run dishwasher full.
- Collect rainwater.
- Install low flow shower-heads.
- Install faucet aerators.
- Use drought-tolerant plants.
- Watch the weather, wait to water.
- Drink Tap Water.
- Irrigate at dawn.
- Wash full loads of laundry.
- Skip the garbage disposal, compost it.
- Turn off sink when brushing or shaving.



April is Water Conservation Month!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:

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

AckermanProject.com

March Connections: 41 Total Connections: 315

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. Construction of the 8-inch water main is expected to start this month.

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. On-site work has begun.



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