



Monthly Report

October 2024



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Administration

County participates in nationwide Operation Greenlight

Charlotte County participated in Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort uniting counties in support of military veterans. The county has installed green accent lighting at three county facilities, the Family Services Center at 21500 Gibraltar Drive, the Charlotte County Administration Center at 18500 Murdock Circle and the Mac V. Horton West County Annex at 6868 San Casa Drive. Lights were turned on Nov. 4-11, 2024.

The initiative, led by the New York State Association of Counties in collaboration with

the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers, raises awareness around the challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state, and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

In addition to lighting county buildings, residents, businesses and other organizations were encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb in their home to a green bulb.



Charlotte County Transit launches phone app

Charlotte County Transit launched its Charlotte Rides Mobile App Oct. 7.

The free app will be available for download from the Apple App Store and the Android Google Play store at <https://qrco.de/bedlIT>. The app will enable Charlotte County Transit passengers to manage their trips anytime right from their smart phone. Riders will be able to make trip reservations, view upcoming and completed trips, and easily cancel trips.

Charlotte County Transit is a shared ride, curb-to-curb public transportation service provided to the general public in the Charlotte County service area.

Planning your next Transit ride just got easier!

Easily schedule your rides with the **Charlotte Rides** app.

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Post-hurricane status update

Charlotte County's hurricane debris contractor has surpassed 157,000 cubic yards of debris collected as of Nov. 14. That's nearly nine football fields of debris piled 10 feet high. Initial efforts were focused on construction and demolition debris, but vegetative debris collection began this week. To monitor debris collection progress, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/debris to view a dashboard.

The Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., in Port Charlotte is open 24 hours a day seven days a week for county residents. Construction, demolition, vegetative debris, white good as and recyclables only. No perishable waste, such as household garbage, is allowed. A driver license or some other proof of residency, such as a utility bill, is required. No commercial use is allowed.

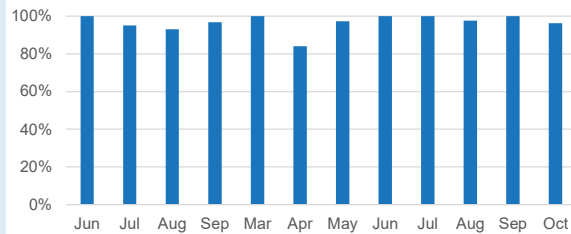
For a complete list of the status of Community Services parks, pools and facilities, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/activeagain.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

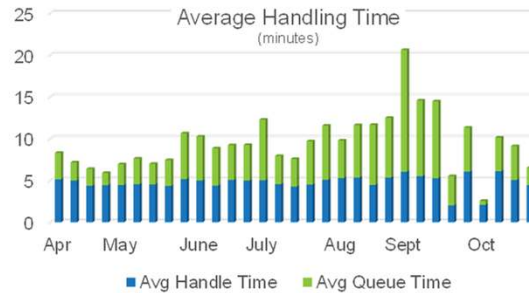


Customer Satisfaction
% Positive

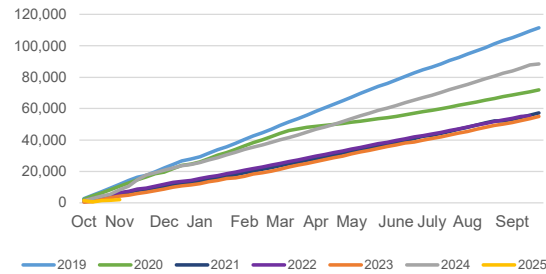


Transit

Transit Calls
Average Handling Time
(minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



Director Highlights

Transit - Disaster Support

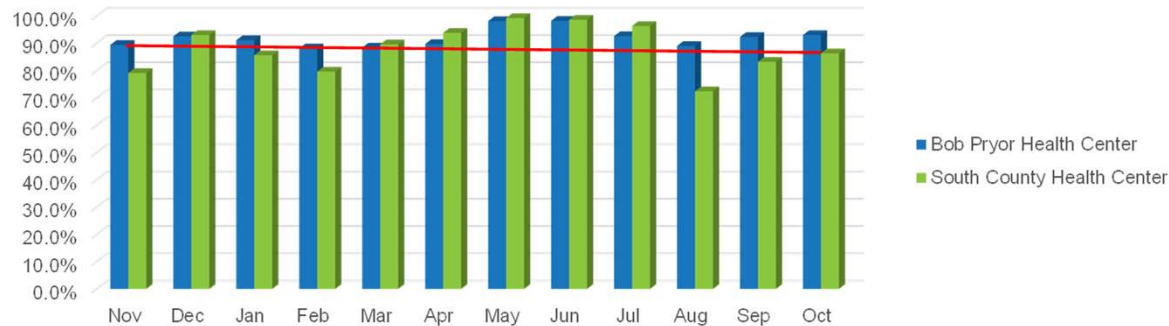
The Transit team played a vital role in response to Hurricane Milton by providing evacuation transportation of over 330 residents to shelters, including 23 pets. Transit worked closely with the Department of Health to safely transport residents to the Babcock special needs shelter and with Emergency Management to coordinate the transportation of bedridden residents needing evacuation. Following the storm, Transit organized a swift, efficient transportation plan to demobilize and return 192 residents and 27 pets home from Kingsway Elementary, Harold Ave and Babcock shelters. Charlotte County Public Schools praised the way staff and drivers "interacted with the shelter residents under some very difficult circumstances". Due to the immediate response to return residents to their homes, Transit was able to resume regular transportation service two days following Milton's landfall.

October 2024



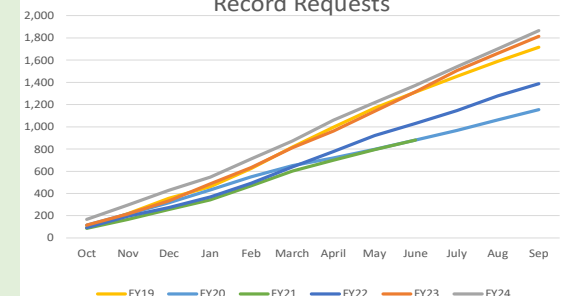
Health Center

Employee Health Center
Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



PERMITTING

Bread of Life Church

1443, 1451, 1459 Collingswood Blvd.,
Port Charlotte
5,000 sq. ft. place of worship

Blue Deep Creek

2490, 2480, 2460, 2452, 2362, 2360,
and 2352 Luther Road, Punta Gorda
Multi-family development with 70
dwellings units within two 3-story
buildings, 2,285 sq. ft. clubhouse, and
playground area

Crews Bank & Trust

1111 S McCall Road, Englewood
4,620 sq. ft. bank building to replace
an existing storm-damaged bank

Discount Tire

19661 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte
7,020 sq. ft. tire store to include
customer waiting area, service bays,
tire storage for sales, tire pressure
check area, and office space

LaQuinta Hotel

22417 Hancock Ave., Port Charlotte
Three story, 84-room hotel

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



7 Brew Coffee

4275 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
520 sq. ft. drive-thru coffee shop



Auto Shop Charlotte

524 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
2,600 sq. ft. auto repair building
and associated infrastructure



Jacaranda Place Phase 2

1200 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte
Multifamily apartment complex
featuring an integrated clubhouse,
with a total of 292 residential units



Livano Charlotte Harbor

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



Suncoast Humane Society

2620 Worth Ave., Englewood
Multiple structures for the care
and treatment of surrendered and
abandoned animals

COMPLETED



Brix Coffee

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Babcock Update

COs issued since Aug. 2016: 3,206

Single family permits issued (Oct. 2024): 67

West Port Update

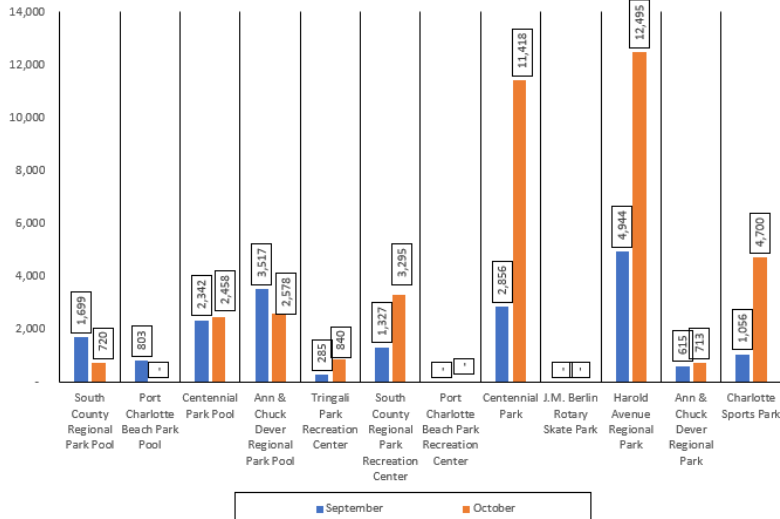
COs issued since April 2021: 724

Single family permits issued (Oct. 2024): 30

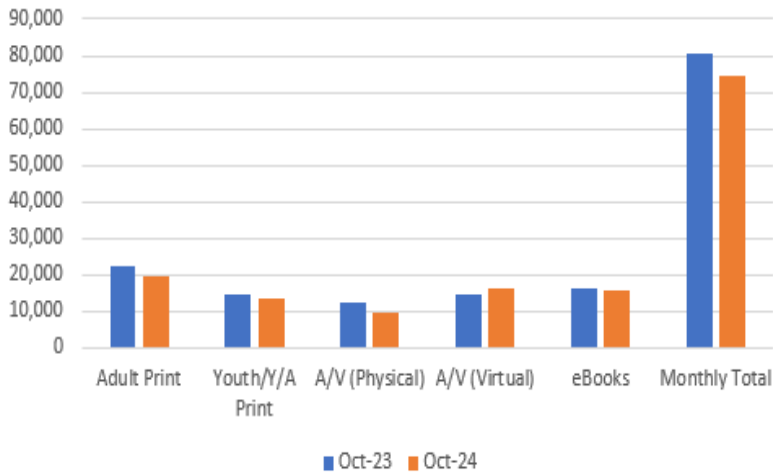
Total single family permits issued	271
Total single family COs issued	345
Total permits taken	3,505
Total permits issued (Oct. 2024)	3,469
Total permits issued (FY23-24)	45,136
Total permits issued (FY24-25)	3,469

Community Services

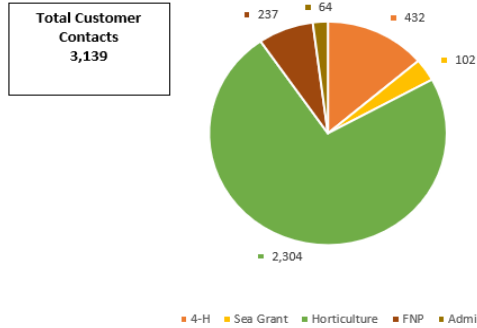
Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance



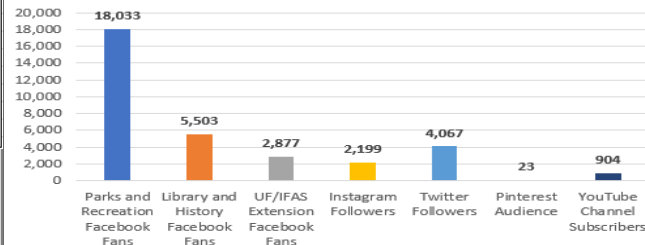
2023-2024 Library Circulation Comparison



UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts



Social Media Impact



Natural Resources

Eagle Nests

- 25 monitored by staff

Coastal Lighting

- 37 permits in review
- 9 permit inspections

Sea Turtle Nests

- 1,853 preliminary
- Loggerhead – 1,644
- Green – 207
- Kemps – 1
- Leatherback – 1

Derelict Vessels

- 72 open
- 3 removed
- 3 relocated
- 4 ready for removal

Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 3,810 trash bags collected
- 719 recycling bags collected
- 422 fields prepped for practices/games

Land Management

- 38 miles maintained
- Staff spent this month setting up and breaking down shelters and clearing debris post hurricanes.

Project Management

- Completed-13
- Not started -4
- In progress-54
- 71 total projects
- \$11,405,691

Charlotte County Businesses Recognized at the 2024 Industry Appreciation Awards

We are thrilled to share the highlights from the 32nd Annual Industry Appreciation Awards, a night dedicated to recognizing the outstanding contributions of local businesses that play a vital role in the growth and vitality of Charlotte County and beyond. This year's event, held at the picturesque Caloosa Sound Convention Center, brought together community leaders, business owners, and residents to celebrate local economic champions. These awards serve not only as a recognition of individual success but also as a reminder of the collective effort required to build a thriving economy. By supporting local businesses, Charlotte County EDO contributes to job creation, community well-being, and a vibrant local culture. Charlotte County business, Chapman Insurance Group, won the "Community Spotlight Award". LSI Companies, Inc. won "Small Business of the Year". Both awards are well deserved!



Brian Chapman
Champan Insurance Group

LSI Companies, Inc.

2024 Future of Florida Forum (F3)

Kay Tracy, Director of Economic Development, attended this year's Future of Florida Forum. Florida's business leaders, elected officials, education, workforce, and community advocates united around the Florida 2030 Blueprint's Six Pillars Framework to address what's needed for Florida's residents, businesses, and economy to succeed in 2030 and beyond.



Pictured above, FGCU Leadership team with President Dr. Aysegul Timur
(Second from Left)

Newcastle Aviation makes a Generous Donation

Always a friend to Charlotte County and our Economic Development Office, Frank Matos, VP of Sales for Newcastle Aviation in Fort Myers FL, was eager to share donated disaster relief supplies for the benefit of Charlotte County residents impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We appreciate Frank's call and personal delivery to our distribution depot.

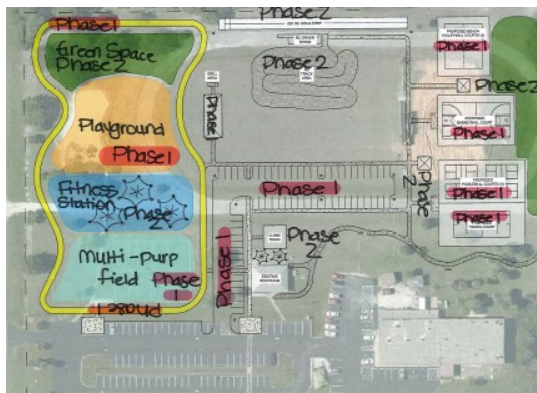


Facilities Management

October 2024

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park

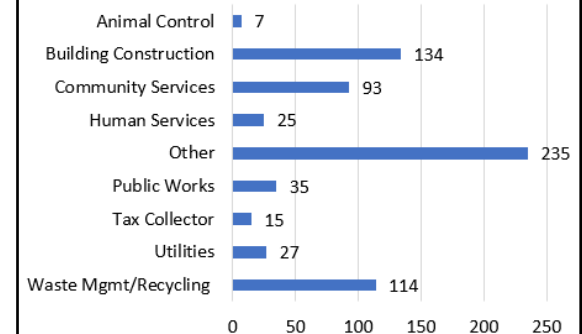
On October 15th, 2024 we held a design kick-off meeting with Kimley-Horn and provided the conceptual layout plans for two Parks projects. William R Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Phase II includes the following amenities: One large pavilion, three bocce ball courts with shade canopies, two pickleball courts, one additional tennis court and tying in the current restroom building to the sewer system. G.C. Herring Park Phase I includes the following amenities: One playground for ages 2-5 and one playground for ages 5-12 both with shade canopies, demolition of existing basketball court and construction of new basketball court, a multipurpose field area, exercise/running/walking track, four pickleball courts, one tennis court, two sand volleyball courts, one large pavilion, and additional parking with lighting.



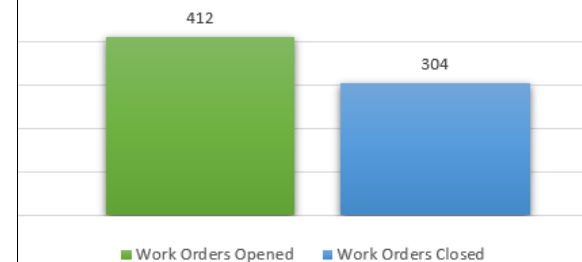
- ◆ This month, staff continues to complete damage assessments, collect data, assist other county departments, and work through repairs from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- ◆ A kickoff meeting was held on October 15th, 2024 for the EOC Expansion Project. The project scope includes a 5,000-square-foot expansion, partial remodel of existing EOC facility, and associated site improvements. The goal is to understand what and how much can be built on the property, and how best to spend available funding.
- ◆ A kickoff meeting for Fire Stations 3, 6, and 17 was held on 10/18/2024. Public Safety and the Fire Staff are extremely excited to get these projects off the ground.



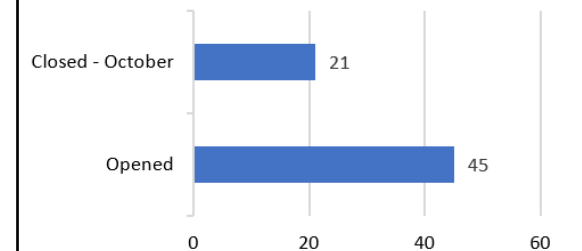
FY25 Switchboard Calls October 2024 Total Calls - 685



FY25 Cityworks Work Orders - October 2024 (excluding Jail)



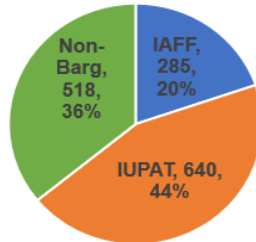
FY25 Small Projects - October 2024



Human Resources

Workforce

Employee Count 1,443
Avg Age 45
Avg Hourly Rate \$27.82
Avg Years of Service 7.67



Retention of New Hires
% completing probation **October** 84%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 2.8%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 0.2%

Separations

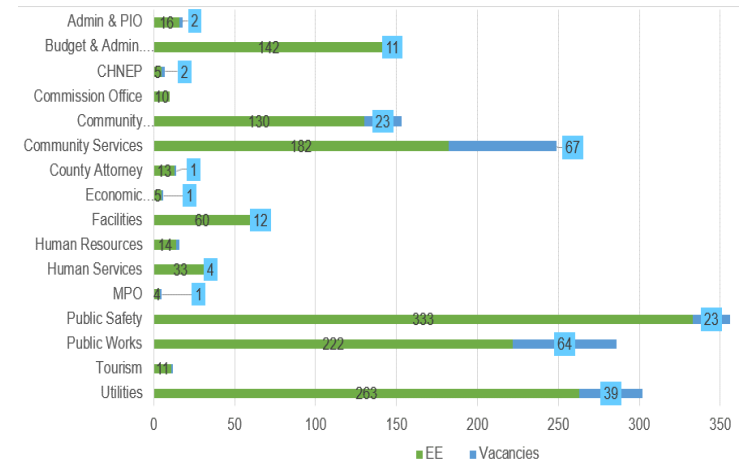
October
Turnover 1.2%
Separations 17



Training & Development

Training 21 6 126 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

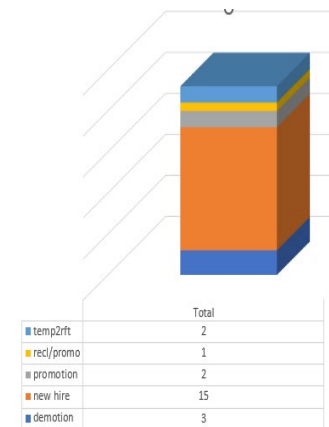
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 255

Recruitment

Applications Taken 779
Job Posting Hits 26,627
New Hires 15
Recruited Pos FT 59
Posted PT/STARR 10

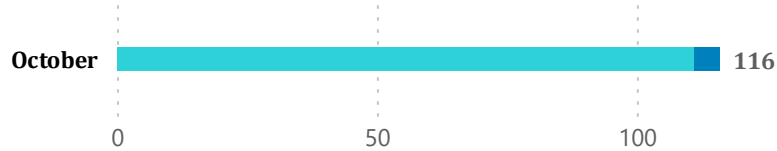


Aging & Adult Services:

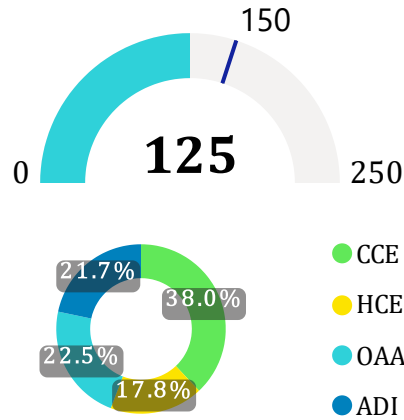
300
Service Calls

Case Management

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



Total Clients Served

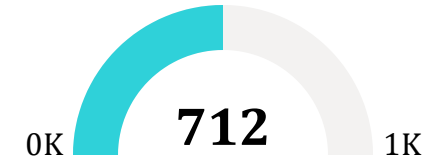


Intake Services:

31K
Intake Service Calls

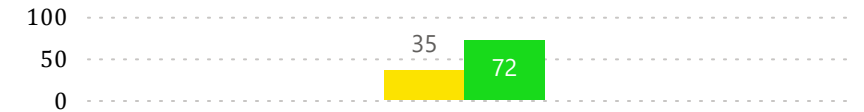
35
LIHEAP-Applications

Total Clients Served



Fastrack VS Screening Tool

● Screening Tools ● Fastrack Applications:



Neighborhood Services:

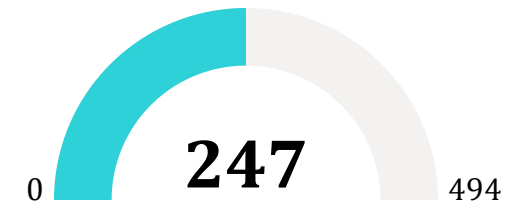
Data Unavailable

Veteran Services:

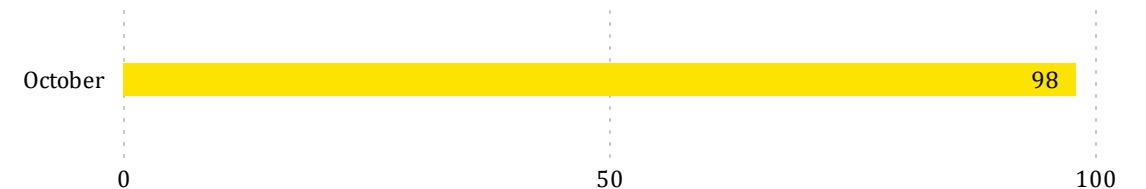
98

Calls for Assistance

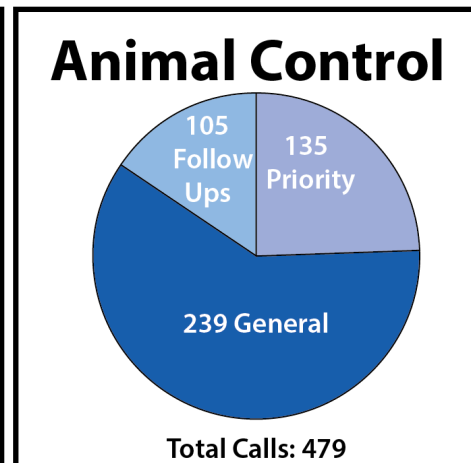
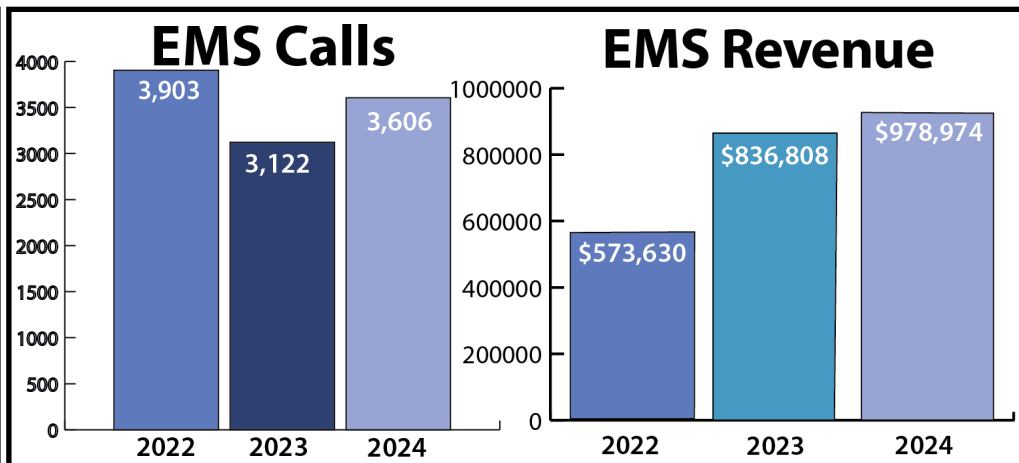
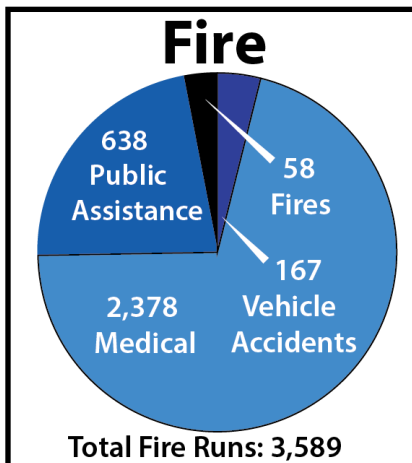
VA Clients Served



VA New Claims



Public Safety



Fire Prevention Week

Since 1925, Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the week of October 9 when President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance. Fire prevention week is a time to highlight lifesaving education designed to decrease casualties caused by fire and save lives.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme was "Smoke Alarms, Make Them Work For You!" Because of hurricane recovery, our department was not able to share this important message as much as we would have liked, but it is never too late.

Smoke detectors play a crucial role in keeping families safe from fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms, or where no smoke alarms are present at all. Working smoke detectors are essential because they provide an early warning, giving families more time to escape in case of a fire. "Smoke alarms that work save lives. Modern homes are built with synthetic materials which burn hotter and faster while emitting toxic smoke, limiting the time to safely escape to less than three minutes," said Jason Fair, Charlotte County's public safety director and chief of fire & EMS. "The early warning from a functioning

smoke alarm can save your life."

Smoke alarms are designed to detect smoke before we even notice it. Fires can spread extremely fast, especially at night when people are sleeping and may not notice signs of danger right away. Working smoke detectors can wake people up, allowing them to get out quickly before the fire becomes life-threatening.

To ensure smoke alarms work when needed, you should test them at least once a month by pressing the test button. Additionally, it's essential to replace smoke alarm batteries once a year or whenever the device "chirps," signaling a low battery. Many people find it helpful to change the batteries during daylight saving time to remember this important safety step. You should replace your smoke alarms entirely every ten years, as they can wear out over time.

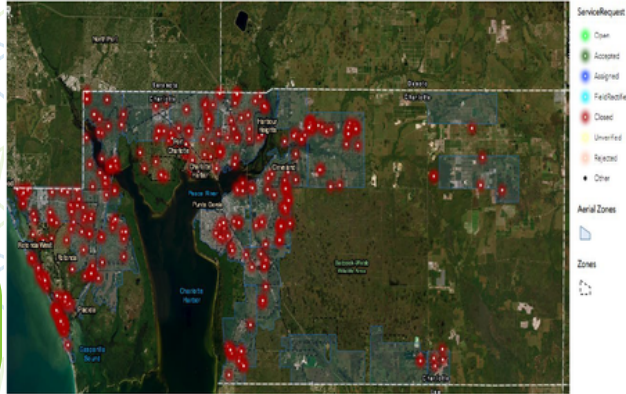
Having smoke detectors in key areas of the home is also important. It is important to have smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home. This setup ensures everyone can hear the alarm wherever they are.

By following these guidelines, families can improve their safety and reduce the risk of injury or death from a home fire. Working smoke detectors truly are lifesavers.

Public Works

Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control

- 21 chickens bled
- 357 landing rate counts performed
- 110 traps distributed



Adulticide

132,734
acres treated

Larvicide

19,097
acres treated

3,565

Total number of
mosquitos identified
to species

Engineering Projects Highlight

Tom Adams Bridge – Emergency Repair from Hurricane Milton

Storm surge caused by the recent Hurricane Milton caused undermining of the concrete slope paving (riprap) and the sidewalks at all 4 quadrants of the bridge. The County needed to hire a contractor for an emergency repair. With the Sarasota portion of Beach Road being destroyed and not open to traffic, the Tom Adams Bridge is the only way onto and off of Englewood Beach. It was crucial to repair the bridge to protect the roadway, our contractor should be complete with the emergency repair by November 13, 2024.



M&O Work Orders

1179

Work Orders Opened

394

Work Orders Closed

473

Service Requests Opened

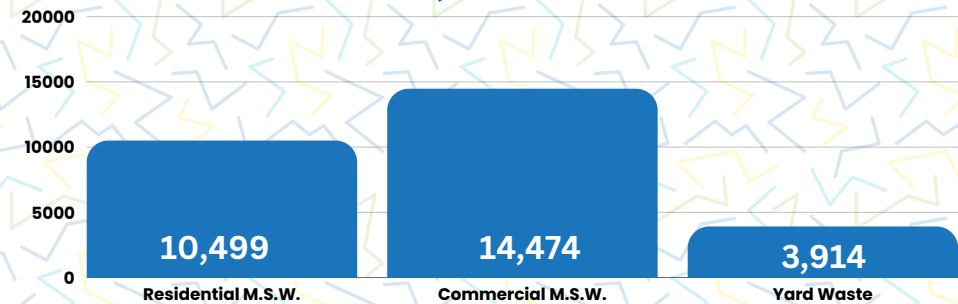
49

Service Requests Closed

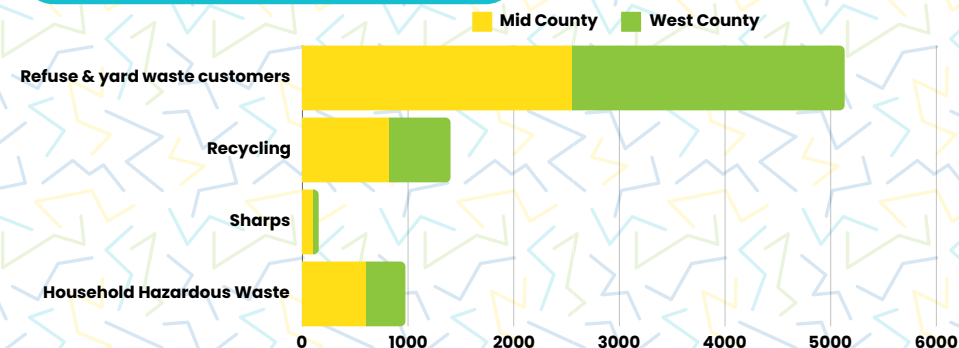
Solid Waste

Landfill

Customer Transactions **7,933**



Transfer Facility Customers

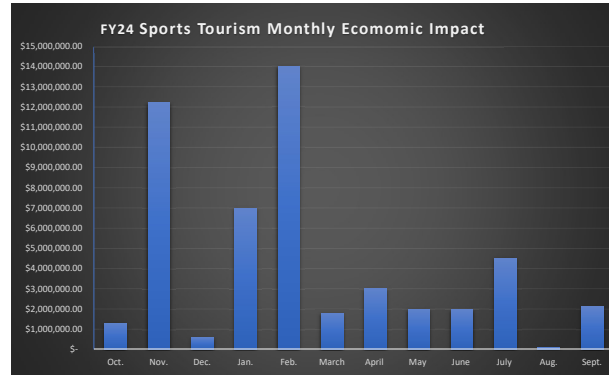


SPORTS

Sales Update

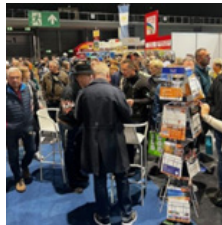
September 2024	
Events:	7
Sports:	Martial Arts Basketball Soccer Softball Pickleball
3 Events Cancelled - Hurricane Helene	

Fiscal Year to Date	
Total Economic Impact Sports Tourism	
\$	50,541,524.00



LEISURE

In October 2024, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau made significant strides in international marketing through several key events. At the Fairflight German Tour Operator Marketing Co-op in Erfurt, Germany, 150 German Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach visitor guides were distributed at a consumer travel show with 40K visitors, offering excellent exposure. Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach's German representative also participated in the Reisebörsen travel fairs in Chemnitz and Regensburg, distributing 200 brochures per city through the Reisebörsen staff, highlighting the increasing travel interest for the 2025 season. Additionally, at the Brand USA Travel Week in London, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach staff and our United Kingdom representative met with around 30 buyers over three days, promoting Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach as a destination.



MEETINGS

While there were no new bookings in October, it was an active month for RFPs including four strong leads with a total of just over 2,000 room nights. Due to the hurricanes, direct contact with future booked groups was necessary to address any concerns. A big thank you to Sunseeker Resort and Comfort Suites for being there with donations post Milton.

PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 113,000

Sessions: 189,629

Top Origin Markets:

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

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT
(Current Month)

Sep-23	\$434,940	↓ -1.6%
Sep-24	\$427,847	

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)

Sep-23	\$7,509,916	↑ 16.1%
Sep-24	\$8,716,898	

Public Relations & Social Media

Tag your Charlotte County adventure
photos with

#BestSideOutside

for a chance to be showcased on our website

[PureFlorida.com](https://www.pureflorida.com).

Follow us



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

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 7,181
- **Call Wait Time:** 1 minutes, 43 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 48,618
(115 increase from September)
- **Water Connections:** 71,774
(172 increase from September)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 10 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 2 Utilities Billing
- 15 Utilities Department Service
- 27 Total

Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

3,298 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 893 individuals for the month of October.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities



FRYING TURKEY?



Know where to
dispose of
leftover oil.

CharlotteCountyFL.gov/SolidWaste

REDUCE WATER AND LIMIT SEWER USAGE

Hurricane Preparedness



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 complete, and Zones 1 and 2 sewer connections are underway.

AckermanProject.com

October Connections: 7 Total Connections: 342

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 underway. The Utilities Department reminds motorists to always remain alert and to exercise caution when traveling near construction zones.

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. Construction is underway.

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