

# Monthly Report December 2024

## New year brings a new two-year county budget review process

With the arrival of the new year, we've already begun working on the 2025-26 budget with a pair of citizen input meetings this week. The board reviewed the budget process, which began with establishing strategic goals, developing approaches and a budget to achieve those goals and evaluating our performance and if any adjustments are needed.

We created a budget packet that included an employee survey, financial trends and projections and an organization and community

plans. In February, the board will hold a budget workshop and conduct its strategic focus area review. Part of this process will be reviewing the National Citizen's Survey that was conducted last year.

March through June departments will finalize their proposed budgets, review goals and initiatives and review them with my administration team in preparation for July's presentation of the proposed budget to the board and the public. In July, we hold public hearings

for changes to municipal service benefit unit budgets and rates. In July, the board holds any required public hearings for changes to municipal service benefit unit budgets and rates. MSBUs are taxing districts that fund road and drainage maintenance, waterway dredging, beach renourishment, fire protection and sanitation service.

In September, the board will hold a pair of public hearings and adopt a budget before the beginning of the new fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2025.

## Business Recovery Center Open at Mall

Residents and businesses impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton can get assistance at the Business Recovery Center, at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall across from Rack Room Shoes. The BRC provides SBA assistance to residents and business to help recover from economic losses.

Hours of Operation:  
10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday  
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday

Charlotte County Transit Services is offering free rides to the BRC. Call 941-575-4000 (Option 1) or book a ride on the Charlotte Rides mobile app.



**Charlotte County extends its condolences to the family and friends of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Elio Diaz following his tragic death in the line of duty. We stand in support of our sheriff's office colleagues during this devastating time.**

## Property Appraiser Now Accepting Applications for Property Tax Refunds

The Charlotte County Property Appraiser is now accepting applications for partial 2024 property tax refunds if a residential improvement was destroyed or rendered uninhabitable for at least 30 days due to a catastrophic event (hurricane, fire, or

other natural disaster). Applications, along with support documentation, must be received on or before March 1, 2025.

To apply and for qualifying requirements, visit [www.ccappraiser.com](http://www.ccappraiser.com) or call 941-743-1498.

## Keep Charlotte Beautiful Tire Amnesty Day

Keep Charlotte Beautiful will be hosting a Tire Amnesty Day event from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Charlotte County Administration Center parking lot located at 18500 Murdock Circle in Port Charlotte. Charlotte County residents can

drop off a maximum of 12 car and truck tires (22 in. or less) with proof of residency. No commercial tires will be accepted. For details, email Rhonda.Harvey@charlottecountyfl.gov or visit [www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org](http://www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org).

## Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

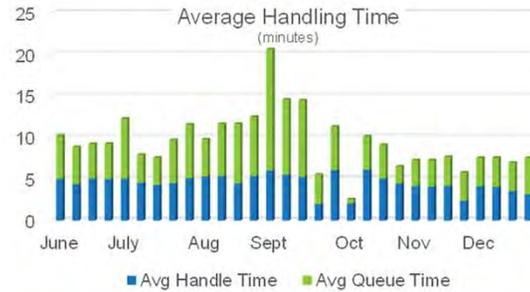


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

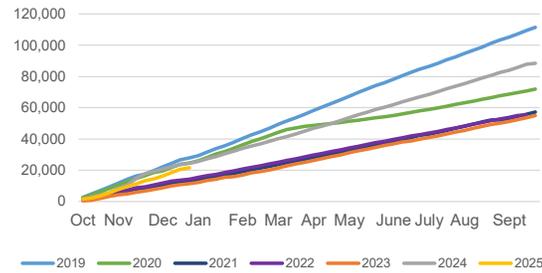


## Transit

Transit Calls Average Handling Time (minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



## Director Highlights

### Cybersecurity Readiness

On December 17th the IT Division, in conjunction with Emergency Management, held a cybersecurity exercise with the goal to prepare and improve our readiness to effectively respond to a real cyber incident. Here were some key objectives:

1. Test and Refine Incident Response Plans
2. Evaluate Team Readiness
3. Enhance Cyber Resilience
4. Improve Communication
5. Identify Gaps

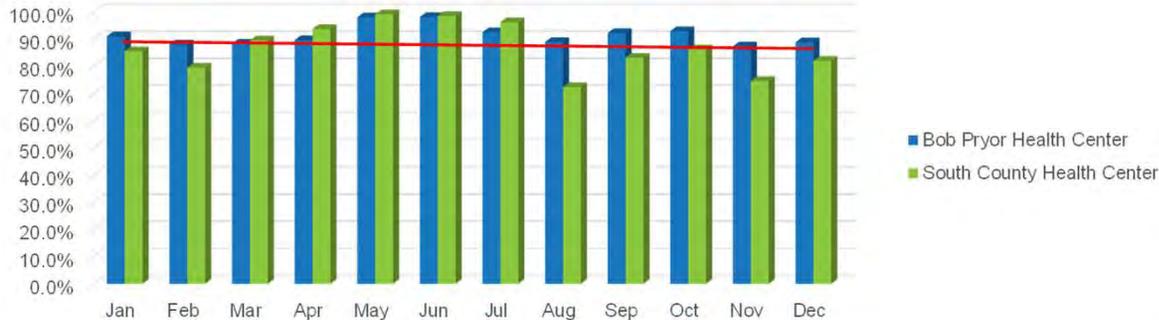
By conducting these exercises, we can minimize the impact of cyber incidents and ensure a more robust and coordinated response.

### December 2024



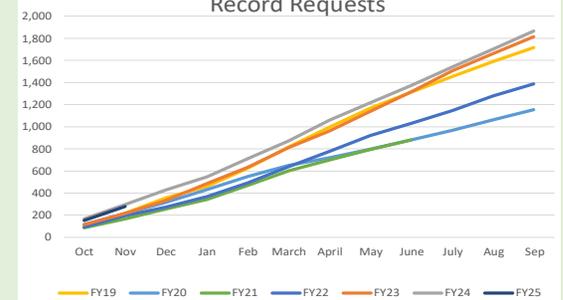
## Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



## Records Management

Record Requests



## Permitting

### Paradise Island Contracting & Paradise Pub

14882 & 14990 Ingraham Blvd., Port Charlotte  
Includes two buildings: a 7,200 sq. ft. contractor's office and warehouse (Building 1) and a 1,200 sq. ft. bar without food service (Building 2)

### Publix Grocery & Liquor

Parcel # 402112251741  
47,240 sq. ft. grocery store with a 2,100 sq. ft. attached liquor store, a 9,800 sq. ft. detached retail area, and associated parking, landscaping, utilities, and stormwater systems

### West Port Village

17512 Toledo Blade Blvd., Port Charlotte  
A modification for Ordinance Number 2020-008 to allow for a mixed-use development to include 350 single family lots/units, 330 multi-family units, of which 100 multi-family units will be affordable units, 150 hotel keys, 150,000 sq. ft. of government use, and 250,000 sq. ft. of commercial area

## Under Construction



**Charlotte Harbor Business Center**  
9225 Piper Rd., Punta Gorda  
139,200 sq. ft. warehousing and distribution development



**Dr. Shaw Veterinary Facility**  
27570 Disston Ave., Punta Gorda  
6,000 sq. ft. animal clinic



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

## Completed



**Dollar General**  
25240 Sandhill Blvd., Punta Gorda  
Commercial retail store

## Permit Stats

**192** single-family permits issued  
**252** single-family COs issued  
**3,220** permits taken  
**2,976** permits issued (Dec. 2024)  
**45,136** permits issued (FY23-24)  
**9,874** permits issued (FY24-25)

FY23-24: Oct. 2023 through Sept. 2024  
FY24-25: Oct. 2024 through present

## Project Spotlight

### Babcock Ranch

**3,351** COs issued since Aug. 2016  
**12** single-family permits issued in Dec. 2024

### West Port

**748** COs issued since April 2017  
**12** single-family permits issued in Dec. 2024

## Current Plat Applications in Review

### FFP-24-03 Sandhill Boulevard Duplexes

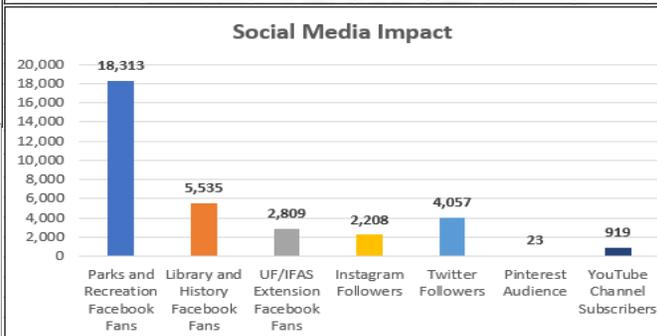
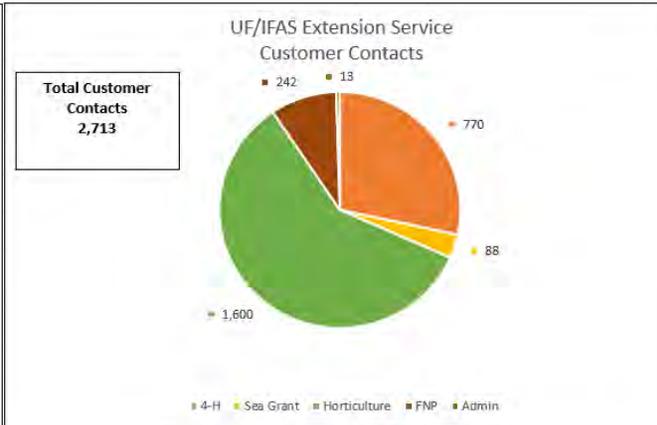
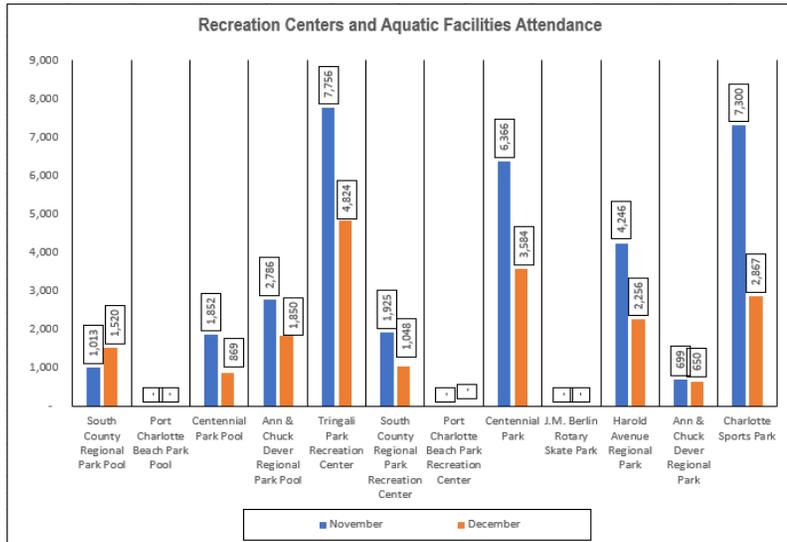
Andres Boral of Boral Engineering & Design, Inc. is requesting Preliminary and Final Plat approval for five-lot residential subdivision to be named, Sandhill Boulevard Duplexes, being a replat of P1, the vacated lots 2 through 6 of Punta Gorda Isles Section Twenty-Three. The property contains 2.30± acres and is located at 26241 Sandhill Boulevard.

### FP-24-01 Tuckers Cove - Phase 2

Lennar Homes, LLC is requesting Final Plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Tuckers Cove – Phase 2, being a replat of a portion of Tract F-1 of Tuckers Cove. The proposed subdivision consists of 505 residential lots and 7 tracts. They also seek approval of a Developer's Agreement and surety to cover the construction of the plat infrastructure. This site contains 116.15± acres and is in the boundary of the Babcock Ranch Community Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Increment 2 and in Commission District I.

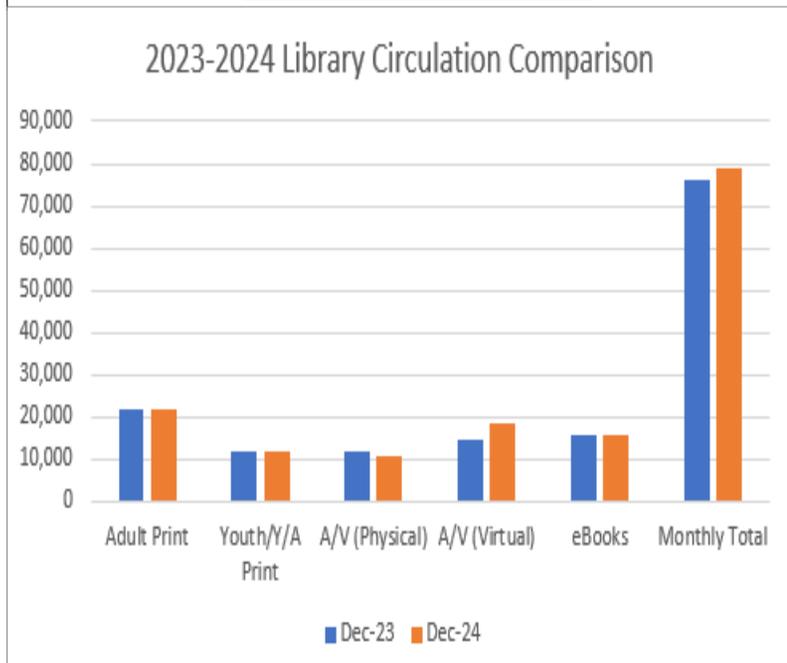
### FP-23-04-06 West Port East 1A

KL West Port Expansion, LLC is requesting Final Plat approval for a residential subdivision to be named, West Port East 1A, consisting of three right-of-way tracts, three open space access and drainage, and public flowage easement tracts, four drainage area tracts, two open space/access area tracts, and six future development area tracts. This site contains 187.33± acres and is within the boundary of the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and in Commission District IV.



### Natural Resources

<p><b>Eagle Nests</b> 27 monitored by staff 25 nests with eggs 2 nests with chicks</p> <p><b>Abandoned/Derelict Vessels</b> Open-12 Removed - 0 Relocated- 0 Ready for removal - 24</p>	<p><b>Coastal Lighting</b> 38 permit reviews 3 inspections</p> <p><b>Sea Turtle Nests</b> 1,530 total 1,473 Loggerhead 55 Green 1 Kemps 1 Leatherback</p>
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### Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 58 fields prepped for practices and games
- 1,722 trash bags collected
- 224 recycling bags collected

### Land Management

- 76 miles trails maintained
  - 11 acres exotics/invasives treated
  - 32 acres of overstory reduction
  - Staff hosted an educational outreach event with the Junior Leadership Charlotte program at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, teaching navigation using maps and compasses, followed by a discussion on the importance of the natural environment.
  - Staff surveyed nearly 20 acres of gopher tortoise habitat at Tippecanoe Environmental Park as part of permit requirements.
  - Continued hurricane recovery efforts, removing nearly 150 contractor bags and 6 dump truck loads of debris from Cedar Point Environmental Park.
  - Repaired almost 1 mile of fence line damaged by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- ### Project Management
- Projects Completed - 41
  - Projects - In progress - 30
  - Total projects - 49
  - Total - \$ 14,676,830



## BRE Highlighted Visits

### Amigo Pallets

Economic Development recently took a behind-the-scenes look at Amigo Pallets, a company that's redefining sustainable pallet solutions right here in our community! We're proud to have businesses like Amigo Pallets making an impact in Charlotte County. Huge thanks to the team for sharing their story with us!



### SuperTrak

Innovation and engineering excellence were on full display during Mark Odell's visit to SuperTrak. From state-of-the-art mulching machines to advanced hydraulic systems, SuperTrak is leading the way in land-clearing solutions right here in Charlotte County. Thank you, SuperTrak, for an insightful tour and a firsthand look at how you're driving progress!

## PowerLatino TV Spotlight

PowerLatino TV recently sat down with our very own Mark Odell, Charlotte County's BRE Manager, to discuss big ideas and his work helping businesses thrive in our community. Stay tuned for the release of this exciting feature—you won't want to miss it!



## 40 Under 40 Michael Peet



We are excited to spotlight Michael Peet, MBA, as the next honoree in our 40 Under 40 series!

As the Chief Operating Officer of HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital, Michael has played a pivotal role in driving innovation and operational excellence in healthcare for our community. His leadership exemplifies the dedication, vision, and talent that fuel Charlotte County's growth and success.

Stay tuned as we share more about Michael's achievements, his journey to leadership, and his insights into fostering progress in Charlotte County.

## Charlotte County EDO Attends CTC Groundbreaking for Aviation Training Facility

Charlotte Technical College has started construction on a state-of-the-art Aviation Training Facility near the PGD Air Center. Set to open in December 2025, this 19,420-square-foot facility will offer advanced training in Aviation Maintenance Technology, equipping students for high-skill, high-wage careers.

Funded through local partnerships and legislative support, this initiative cements Charlotte County's role as a premier aviation hub.



# Facilities Management

December 2024

## The Cultural Center Kick-off Meeting

Harvard Jolly has been selected as the design consultant to begin the master planning for the cultural center's replacement. The project will investigate the site and constructability options for a new facility. The project team will work with stakeholders to research and provide industry standards and examples of cultural center ownership and operations. A kick-off meeting with the project team was held to discuss project expectations and next steps.

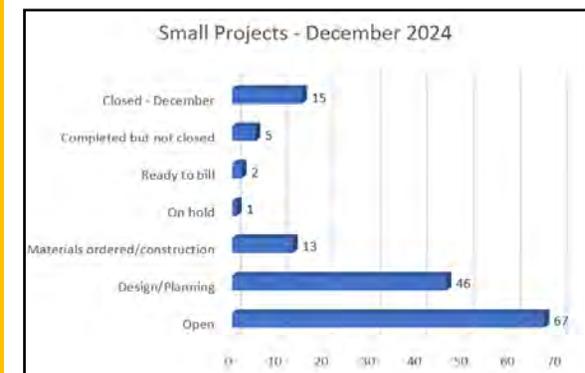
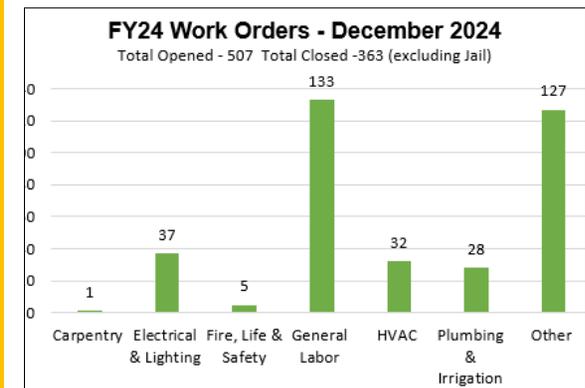
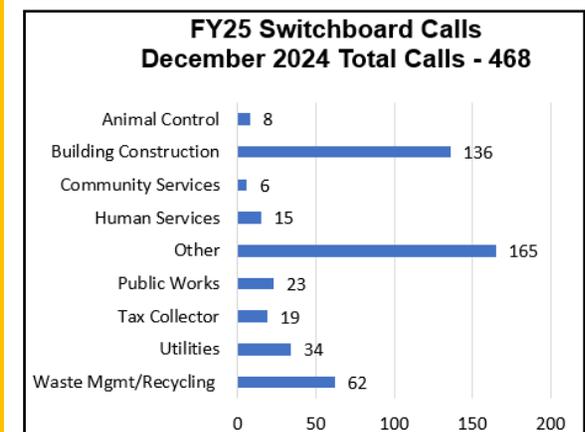


- ◆ The United States Army Corps of Engineers issued the Riverside Boat Ramp project permit on December 19, 2024. With the permit issuance, the engineer is finalizing the contract documents and specifications to prepare for the construction phase.

- ◆ The Bridgeless Barrier Island Feasibility Project held a public input meeting to discuss previous survey results with residents and stakeholders. A second survey was distributed, which closed in December. Survey results will now be gathered and analyzed to guide next steps for the project.
- ◆ Coordination meetings for Fire Station 17 have occurred with Facilities, Public Works, and Utilities to discuss site configurations that will accommodate a new water tower for Utilities while aligning with a future roadway. The collaborative efforts have provided the design engineer with direction to begin producing conceptual plans to determine the positioning of the future station.



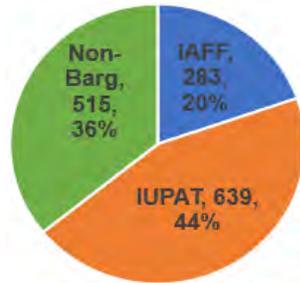
The holiday tree at the Murdock Administrative Complex



# Human Resources

## Workforce

Employee Count 1,437  
 Avg Age 45  
 Avg Hourly Rate \$27.85  
 Avg Years of Service 7.75



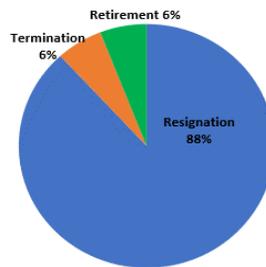
**Retention of New Hires** December  
 % completing probation 80%

## Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 2.7%  
 % of Workforce Retired this FY 0.3%

## Separations

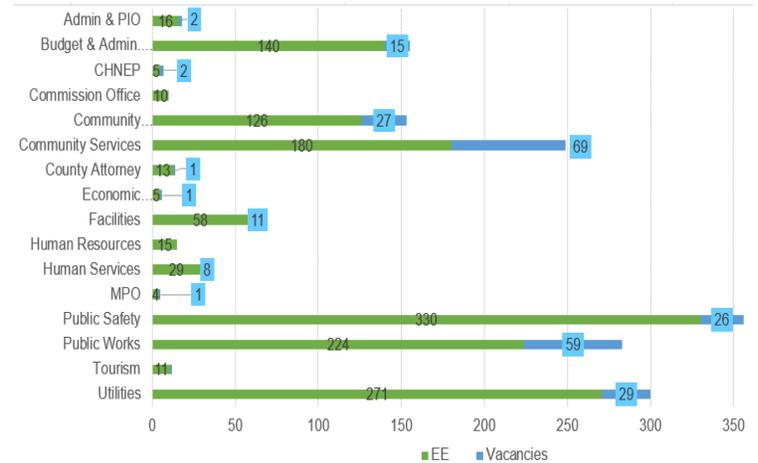
**December**  
 Turnover 1.2%  
 Separations 17



## Training & Development

Training 23 Hours 85 Ees 1,955 contact hrs  
 % using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

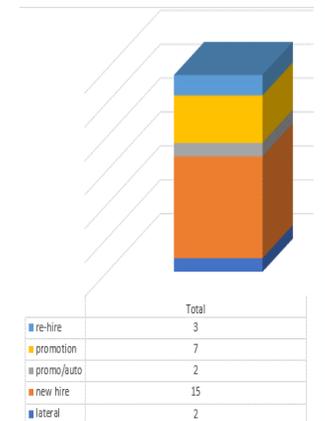
## Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 252

## Recruitment

Applications Taken 594  
 Job Posting Hits 32,348  
 New Hires 15  
 Recruited Pos FT 72  
 Posted PT/STARR 14



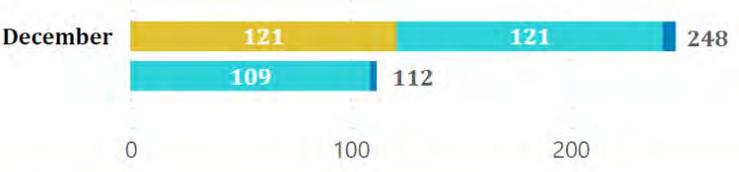
**Aging & Adult Services:**

**155**

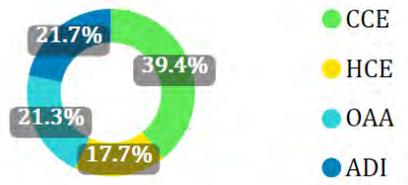
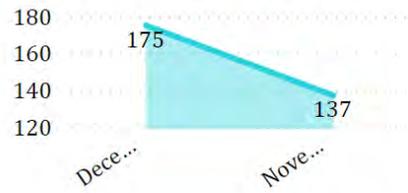
Aging & Adult Serv...

**Case Management**

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



**Total Clients Served**



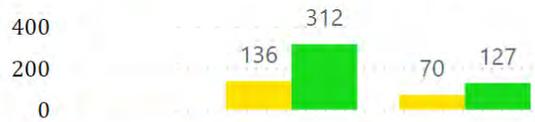
**Intake Services:**

**17K**

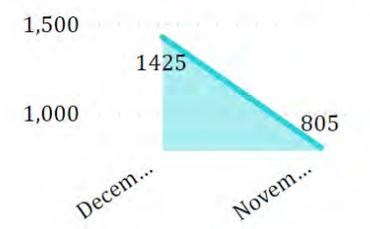
Intake Service Calls

**Fastrack VS Screening Tool**

● Screening Tools ● Fastrack Applications:



**Total Clients Served**



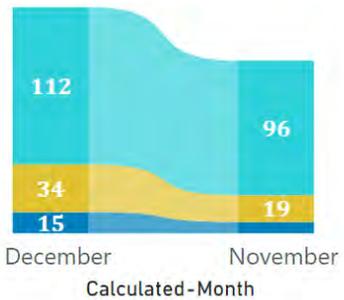
**166**

LIHEAP-Applications

**Neighborhood Services:**

**Case Management**

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



**Civil Citations**



**327**

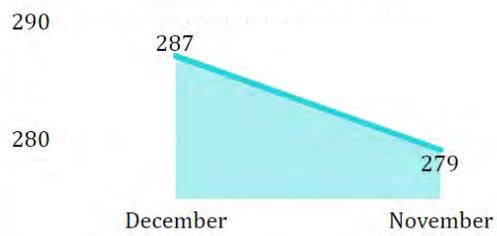
Total Clients Served

**Veteran Services:**

**165**

Calls for Veteran Assistance

**VA Clients Served**



**VA New Claims**





### Spotlight on Community

December was a month filled with holiday cheer for Charlotte County Public Safety as the department embraces opportunities to support local children and families.

A key highlight was the successful fundraising campaign by the Charlotte County Firefighters for Kids Foundation which raised an impressive \$4577. This generous contribution helped make Christmas extra special for 75 children in Charlotte County, ensuring they receive gifts and experience the joy of the holiday season.

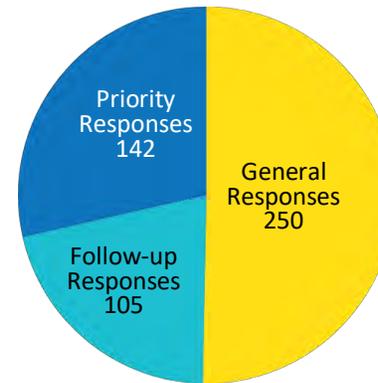
Furthermore, we joined forces with the Charlotte County Firefighters for Kids Foundation, Move Mountains, and Target for the heartwarming "Heroes & Helpers" event. The festive atmosphere was palpable as volunteers, including retired and off-duty CCFEMS members, spouses, fire prevention inspectors, and even Station 2's impressive engine, ladder truck, and rescue vehicle, transformed Target into a holiday workshop. With the support of a grant from Target and a matching contribution from the Charlotte County Firefighters for Kids Foundation, the event brought holiday magic to local middle and high school students.

These events exemplify the department's dedication to serving the Charlotte County community. By partnering with other organizations and individuals, we were able to spread holiday cheer and make a positive impact on the lives of many.

### End of Hurricane Season

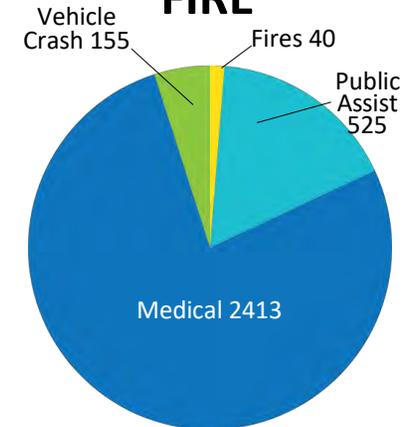
After a year of unprecedented hurricane activity, Charlotte County residents are breathing a collective sigh of relief as the 2024 hurricane season officially came to an end on November 30. While our Emergency Management team welcomes the break, they remain focused on recovery efforts, as well as preparing for next season.

### ANIMAL CONTROL



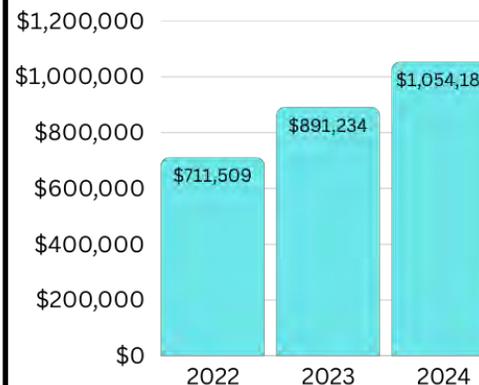
Total Calls: 497

### FIRE

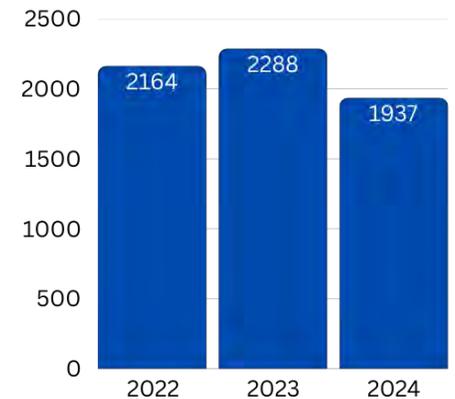


Total Calls: 3408

### EMS Revenue



### Billable EMS Calls



## MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

Adulticide  
**2,832**  
acres treated

**159**  
Total number of  
mosquitos identified  
to species

**21**  
Chickens blood  
sampled



## MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

**949**  
Work Orders  
Opened

**760**  
Work Orders  
Closed

**95**  
Service  
Requests  
Opened

**143**  
Service  
Requests  
Closed

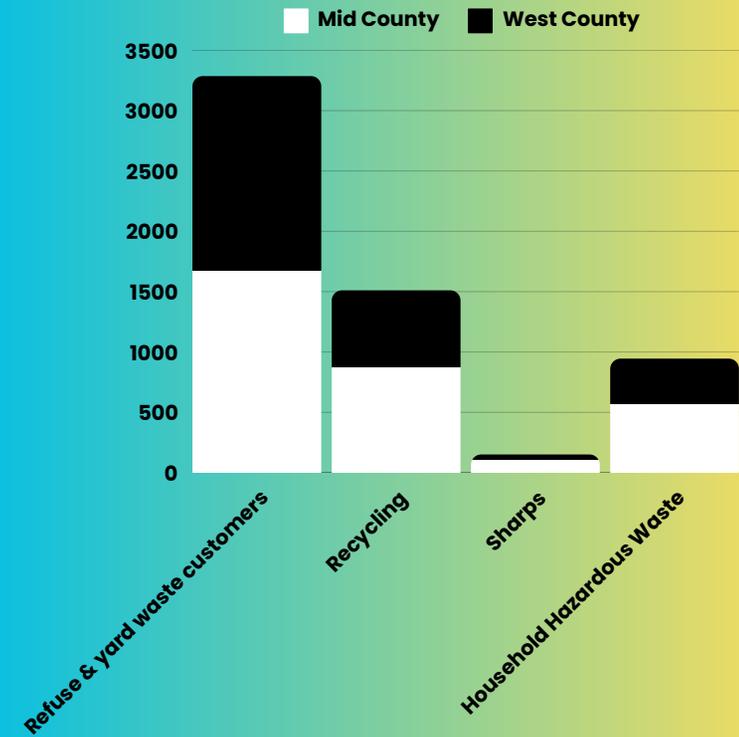
## ENGINEERING

The Anne Merry Bridge is situated on Don Pedro Knights Island, which is a bridgeless barrier island. There are two bridges on the island: the Anne Merry Bridge and the Michael Kosinski Bridge. The Anne Merry Bridge sustained damage during Hurricane Milton, necessitating emergency repairs. As it is a single-lane bridge, it was crucial to complete these repairs to ensure access to the other side of the island. The repair took about one week, and the bridge is now open again. However, a more permanent solution will be needed, which involves hiring a design firm to create the engineering construction plans.

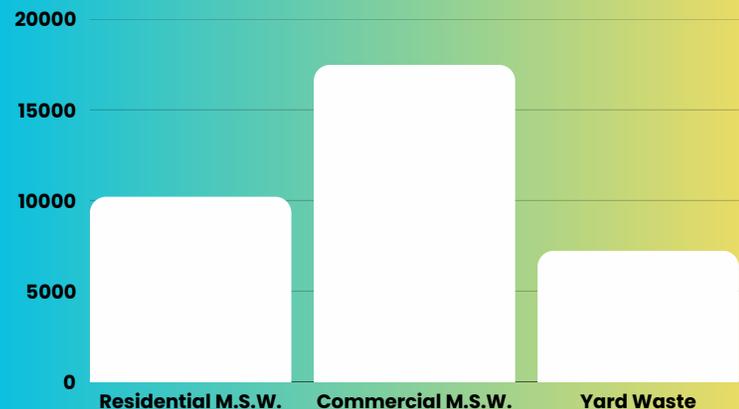


## SOLID WASTE

### Transfer Stations



### Landfill



## SPORTS

### Sales Update

November 2024	
Events:	8
Sports:	Gymnastics Softball Baseball Pickleball Running Dog Agility

<b>2025 Fiscal Year to Date Total Sports Tourism Economic Impact</b>	
\$	5,585,674.00

<b>2025 Fiscal Year to Date Total Sports Tourism Events</b>	
	15



## LEISURE

December 2024:

Germany: Sommers Touristik Marketing represented Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach at events in Frankfurt (87 travel agents) and Munich (55 media partners), boosting awareness and connections in the German market.

United Kingdom: Barrhead Travel opened a flagship store in Belfast. Michelle McBeath from Cellet Marketing attended to strengthen relationships and ensure training and product development for Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach.

Domestic: Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach staff is preparing for the Travel & Adventure Show in New York this January to promote Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach to travel agents and consumers.



## PureFlorida.com

### Website Traffic

Website Users: 93,202

Sessions: 111,680

Top Origin Markets:

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

## Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT  
(Current Month)

Nov-23	\$423,160	↑ 36.6%
Nov-24	\$578,139	

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)

Nov-23	\$788,175	↑ 16.9%
Nov-24	\$921,459	

## 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).

Social media influencer, Marybeth McLaughlin with Paddle Adventurer promoted Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach as she spent a day on the water paddleboarding with Nicole Killian, owner of SUP Englewood. Follow us



Visitors to Charlotte County in fiscal year 2024 saved local residents an average of **\$1,078** per household in taxes.

# OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 9,040
- **Call Wait Time:** 3 minutes, 10 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 49,042  
(150 increase from November)
- **Water Connections:** 72,482  
(263 increase from November)

## Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 1 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 2 Utilities Billing
- 4 Utilities Department Service
- 7 Total

## Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

3,350 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 1,056 individuals for the month of December.



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

Utilities

# WATERING YOUR LAWN THIS WINTER



KNOW YOUR LAWN'S NEEDS THIS COOLER SEASON!

- You only need 1 inch of water per week.
- Water early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Avoid watering during the hottest part of the day.
- Water deeply but infrequently to promote deep root growth and save money!

# 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. Construction for Zones 3, 4 and LPS is expected to start in the spring.

[AckermanProject.com](http://AckermanProject.com)

**December Connections: 24 Total Connections: 415**

## **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.**