



Monthly Report

January 2025



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Administration

One Charlotte, One Water plan meeting Feb. 20

Charlotte County has scheduled a public meeting for public input and discussion about the draft One Charlotte, One Water plan at 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2025 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., in Punta Gorda.

Learn about the background and purpose of the plan, proposed activities for water protection and improvement, and next steps in the process. Bring your questions and insights into how we can work for and with you to protect our waters now and into the future.

For more information about the One Charlotte, One Water plan, visit www.charlottecountyfl.gov/one-charlotte-one-water.



Rays report to spring training

The Tampa Bay Rays will be playing 15 home games at the Charlotte Sports Park so check their schedule and come out to cheer them on.

Some key dates and the link to the Rays' spring training schedule:

Feb. 11 - Pitcher & catchers reported

Feb. 16 - First full squad workout

Feb. 22, 1:05 p.m. - First home game at Charlotte Sports Park vs. the Red Sox

See the Rays complete spring training [schedule](#).



Ashley Turner, center, receives the Florida Association of Public Information Officers PIO of the Year Award from Florida Fire Chiefs Association PIO Section Chair Mike Jachles, left, and FFCA President Michael Choate of the Immokalee Fire Control District, right.

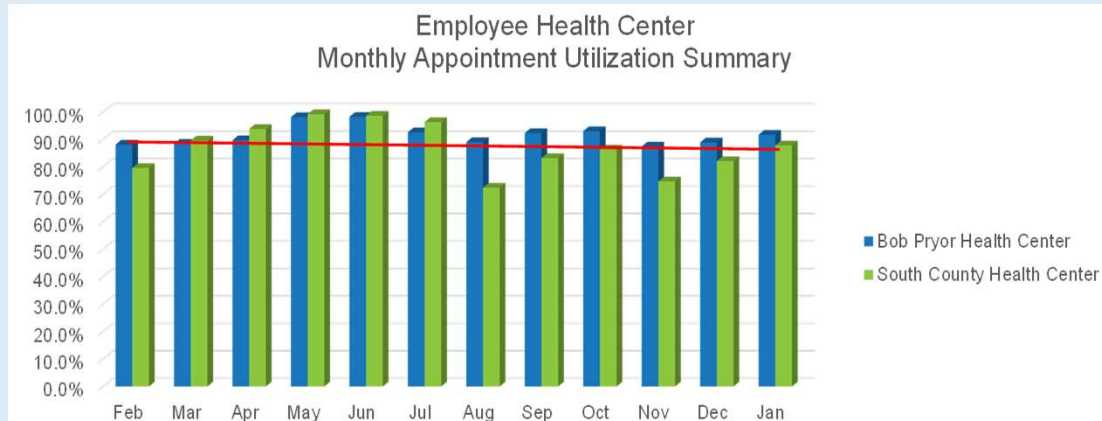
Turner wins Fire Chief's PIO of the Year Award

Congratulations to Social Media Manager Ashley Turner on being named PIO of the Year by the Florida Association of PIOs and Florida Fire Chiefs' Association. Ashley was honored at the Florida Fire & EMS Conference in Orlando for her dedication to keeping the community informed when it matters most.

The award recognizes PIOs who embody the mission of delivering the right information to the right people at the right time — a critical role during crises like hurricanes and floods. Ashley responded

to three hurricanes in Charlotte County. Her efforts have not only helped Charlotte County navigate challenging events but have also contributed to the Florida PIO Deployment Team's success.

Ashley deployed to fulfill a state Division of Emergency Management mission request to assist Madison County after Hurricane Debby this past hurricane season and Hurricane Idalia, as well. Plus, she's among an elite group of graduates from FEMA's Master PIO program.



Permitting

Charlotte County Behavioral Health Care Central Receiving Facility Expansion

1740 Education Ave., Punta Gorda
5,578 sq. ft. building expansion, modifying the dumpster enclosure and expanding the existing south stormwater pond

McDonald's

5950 Duncan Rd., Punta Gorda
3,859 sq. ft. building with dual drive-thru lanes and shared off-site retention

Publix Grocery & Liquor

Parcel # 402112251741 (El Jobean Rd. and Flamingo Blvd.)
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



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



Charlotte Harbor Business Center

9225 Piper Rd., Punta Gorda
139,200 sq. ft. warehousing and distribution development

Completed



Dollar General

25240 Sandhill Blvd., Punta Gorda
Commercial retail store

Permit Stats

199 single-family permits issued
288 single-family COs issued
3,454 permits taken
2,920 permits issued (Jan. 2025)
45,136 permits issued (FY23-24)
12,794 permits issued (FY24-25)

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

Project Spotlight

Babcock Ranch

39 single-family permits issued in Jan. 2025
3,303 single-family COs issued since March 2017

West Port

6 single-family permits issued in Jan. 2025
768 COs issued since April 2017

Current Plat Applications in Review

PP-24-07 Village 2 - Tract 1

Babcock Property Holdings, L.L.C. is requesting Preliminary Plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Village 2 – Tract 1, being a replat of Tract E-45, of Midtown at Babcock Ranch. The proposed subdivision consists of 220 lots and 10 tracts for roadway, drainage, and open space. The site contains 58.0± acres, within the boundary of the Babcock Ranch Community Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Increment 2 and in Commission District I.

PP-24-08 Village 2 - Tract 2

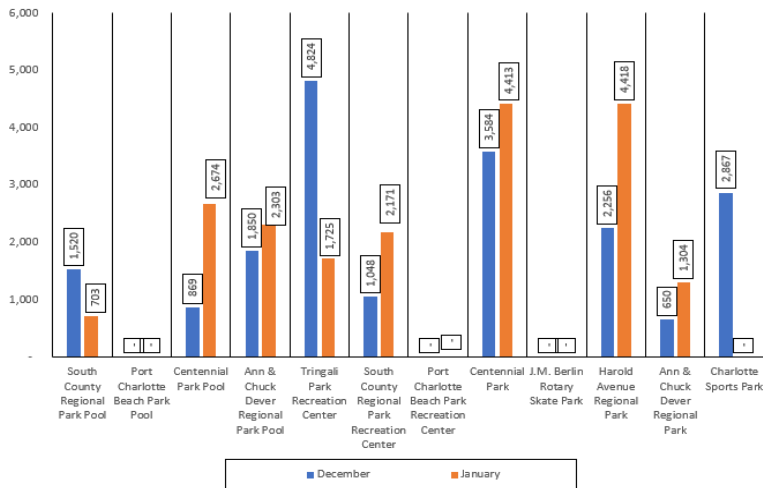
Babcock Property Holdings, L.L.C. is requesting Preliminary Plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Village 2 – Tract 2, being a replat of Tract E-46, of Midtown at Babcock Ranch. The proposed subdivision consists of 231 lots and 10 tracts for roadway, drainage, and open space. The site contains 58.55± acres, is within the boundary of the Babcock Ranch Community Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Increment 2, and in Commission District I.

PFP-25-01 Punta Gorda Commons East

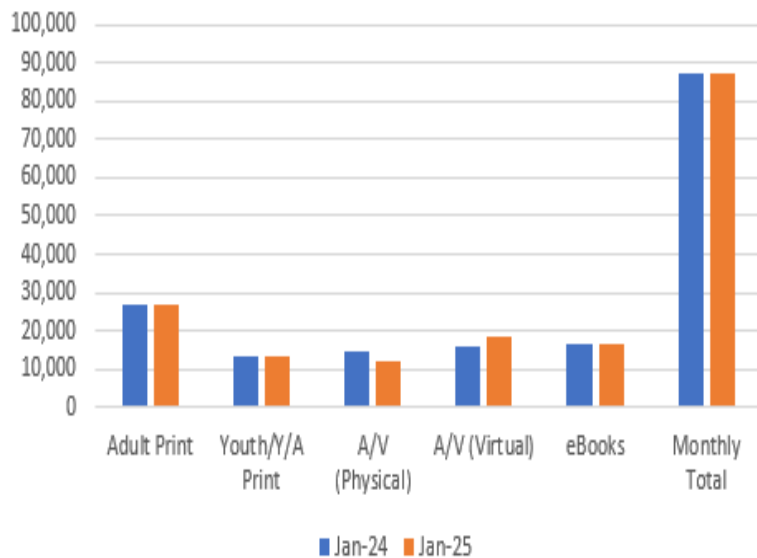
Punta Gorda Acquisition II LLC. is requesting Preliminary and Final Plat approval for a subdivision to be named Punta Gorda Commons East. They also seek approval of a Construction and Maintenance Agreement and surety to cover the construction of the plat infrastructure. The proposed subdivision, consisting of six lots and four tracts with supporting utility, and roadway infrastructure, is the east portion of the project proposed with DRC-21-00114, which will be plat in two phases. The site contains 38.993± acres, is in the Punta Gorda area and in Commission District II.

Community Services

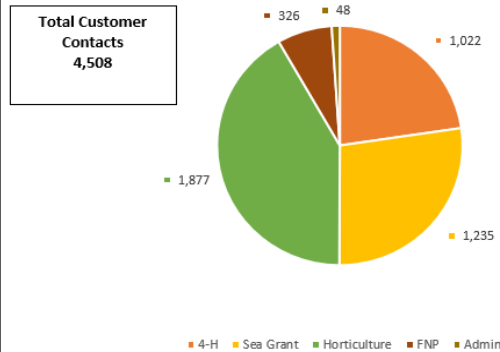
Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance



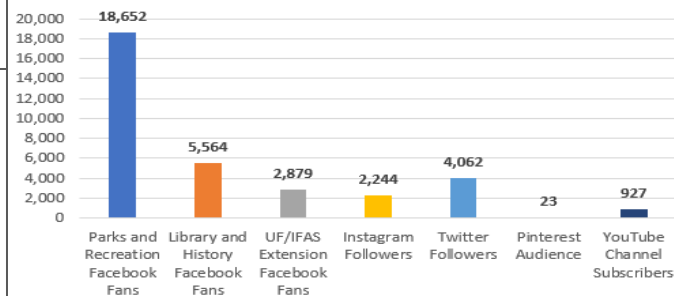
2024-2025 Library Circulation Comparison



UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts



Social Media Impact



Natural Resources

Eagle Nests

50 monitored by staff
5 nests with eggs
22 nests with chicks

Coastal Lighting

45 permit reviews
3 inspections

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

Open-13
Removed – 17
Relocated- 0
Ready for removal - 13

Sea Turtle Nests

N/A

Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 258 fields prepped for practices and games
- 2,238 trash bags collected
- 191 recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 38 miles trails maintained
- 19 acres exotics/invasives treated
- 18.2 miles of habitat managed
- **Educational Outreach:** Staff conducted 4 outreach events this month, including multiple speaking engagements for the Rotonda West Community.
- **Presentations**
- Pythons & Invasive Herpetofauna
- Gopher Tortoises
- Bird Discussion for the Florida Master Naturalist Program
- **Gopher Tortoise Survey:** Nearly 20 acres of habitat surveyed at Tippecanoe Environmental Park per permit requirements.

Hurricane Cleanup:

- 65 contractor bags + 4 dump truck loads of debris removed from Cedar Point Environmental Park.
- Half a mile of fence line repaired after hurricanes Helene & Milton.

Project Management

- Projects Completed - 14
- Projects - In progress – 19
- Total projects - 81
- Total – \$ 15,730,323



Cheney Brothers

This week, our Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Manager, [Mark Odell](#) and our Business Attraction Manager, [Kristy Sisler](#), visited Cheney Brothers, one of the largest food distributors in the Southeast, right here in Charlotte County! Founded in 1925, Cheney Brothers has grown from a small, family-owned business into a leading distributor, while staying true to its commitment to quality and service. Mark met with their leadership team to discuss how we can continue to support their growth and workforce needs, while ensuring they remain a cornerstone of our community's economic success.



BRE Highlighted Visits

[Mark Odell](#) and [Kristy Sisler](#) visited one of Charlotte County's coolest economic cornerstones: [Blue Bell Creameries](#). Known for its iconic ice cream and -32-degree deep freezers, Blue Bell has been a steady source of employment and economic strength in Charlotte County. Their dedication to quality and community keeps this business a sweet part of Charlotte County's success story.



Blue Bell Creameries

New Business Networking Event

The New Business Networking Event was a success. 🎉

This event was all about empowering businesses, fostering connections, and linking local professionals with the resources they need to thrive.

Our partner resources in attendance were [SCORE Mentors](#), [Florida SBDC at FGCU](#), [CareerSource Southwest Florida](#), [Tradesman Place](#), [Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida](#), and [FutureMakers Coalition](#). If you missed it, don't worry—this is just the start.



EDO Attends

JA Inspire 2025

The EDO joined the [Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's "JA Inspire Show 2025"](#) to support the cause of empowering tomorrow's workforce. 💡 Inspiring students, showcasing career paths, and investing in the future



Upcoming Events

2/5/25 - Childcare Community Conversation



5/7/2025 - Entrepreneur Support Organization

5/23/25- New Business Networking Event Q2

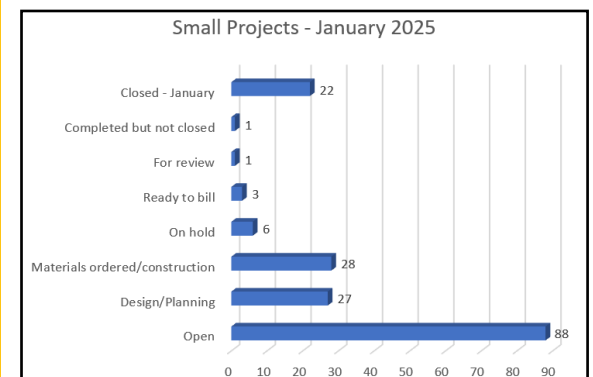
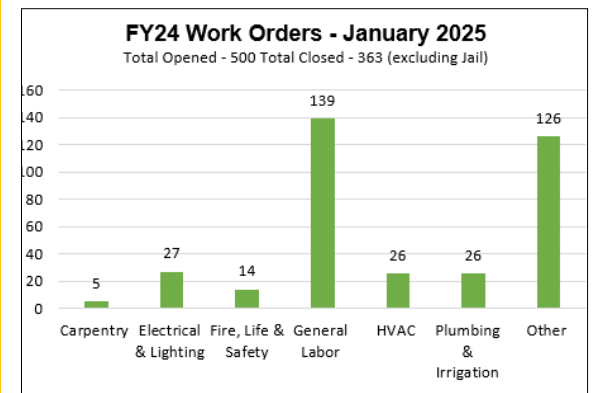
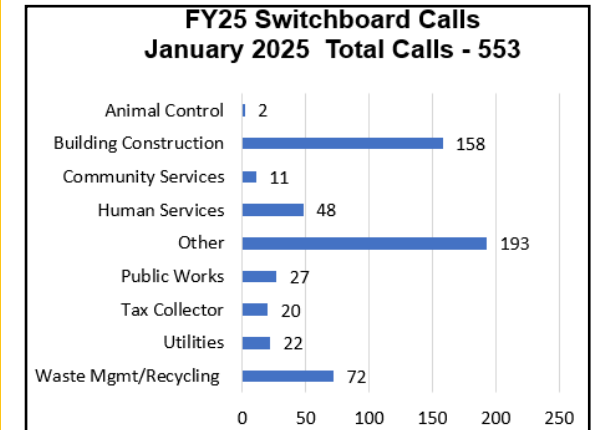


Charlotte Sports Park Dining Pavilion

On September 28, 2022, Charlotte County was hit by Hurricane Ian a Category 4 storm that devastated our county and the surrounding areas. The Charlotte Sports Park experienced damages throughout the facility and practice fields and ultimately rendering the dining pavilion a total loss. The damaged structure was demolished August 15, 2023 and a temporary dining facility was put in its place for the 2024 Spring Training season. Construction for the new facility began October 12, 2024 and the team worked tirelessly to make sure the dining pavilion was completed February 2nd in anticipation for the 2025 Spring Training season.

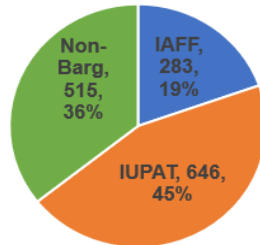


- ♦ The Construction Manager @ Risk, Tandem Construction, has demolished the pool, pool house, restroom, and recreation center within the construction area at Port Charlotte Beach. Demolition of the asphalt within the fenced area is upcoming. The design team, Harvard Jolly, is working diligently to gather information from stakeholders for pool, pool house, and center.
- ♦ An amendment to the contract was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on January 14th to include the roof over the atrium at the Mid-County Regional Library as a way to help mitigate damages from future storm events. CSA has prepared and submitted their design contract to Wharton Smith, the Construction Manager @ Risk and is currently under review.
- ♦ The certificates of occupancy for Charlotte County Sheriff Office District 5 and Charlotte County Fire Station 9 were obtained on January 10, 2025 and the buildings are nearing substantial completion. The ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for April 23, 2025.



Workforce

Employee Count 1,444
Avg Age 38
Avg Hourly Rate \$27.87
Avg Years of Service 7.81



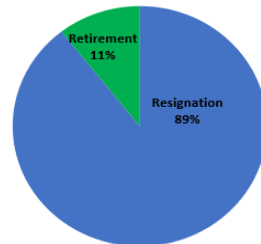
Retention of New Hires
% completing probation January 74%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 2.7%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 0.5%

Separations

January
Turnover 1.3%
Separations 19

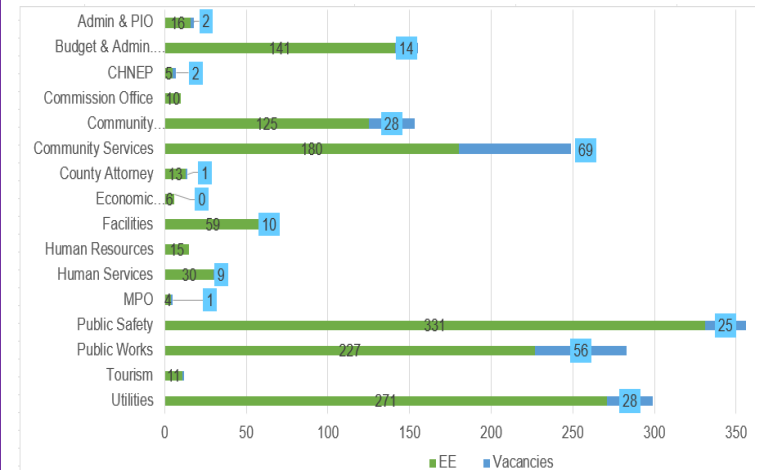


Training & Development

Training 27 Hours 158 Ees 4,266 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

Human Resources

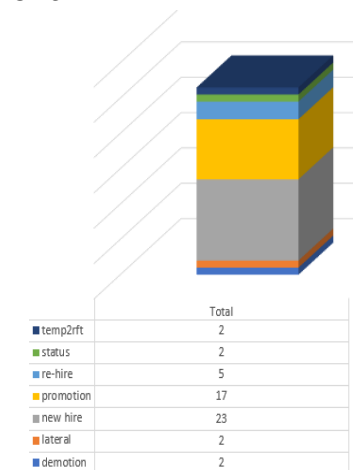
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 247

Recruitment

Applications Taken 841
Job Posting Hits 36,274
New Hires 23
Recruited Pos FT 68
Posted PT/STARR 18





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.

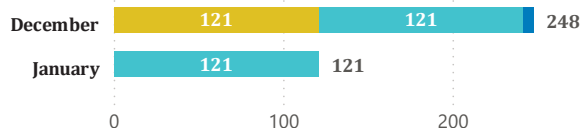
Aging & Adult Services:

222

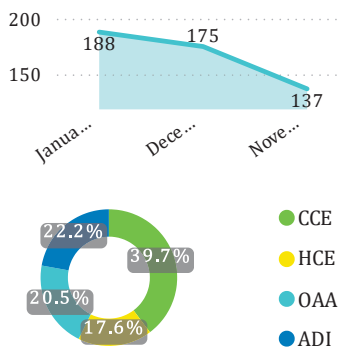
Aging & Adult Serv...

Case Management

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



Total Clients Served



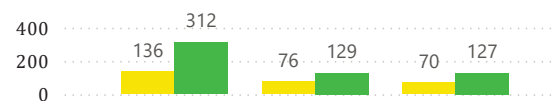
Intake Services:

22K

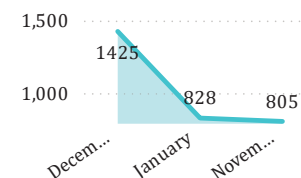
Intake Service Calls

Fastrack VS Screening Tool

● Screening Tools ● Fastrack Applications:



Total Clients Served



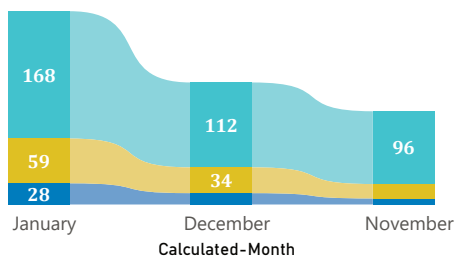
226

LIHEAP-Applications

Neighborhood Services:

Case Management

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



Civil Citations



327

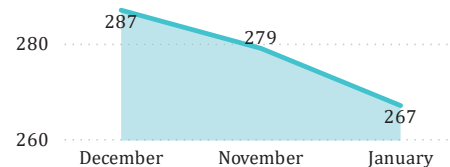
Total Clients Served

Veteran Services:

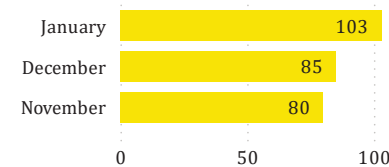
268

Calls for Veteran Assistance

VA Clients Served



VA New Claims



Credentials, Competition, and Community

Emergency Management:

Three members of our Emergency Management team earned prestigious certifications from the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA). Two specialists achieved their Florida Associate Emergency Manager (FAEM) certifications, while one earned the Florida Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM) certification, recognizing their advanced expertise. All three were honored at the FEPA conference in Orlando, receiving certificates and commemorative pins. These achievements demonstrate our team's commitment to providing the highest level of service to our community. Congratulations to these dedicated professionals!

Fire & EMS :

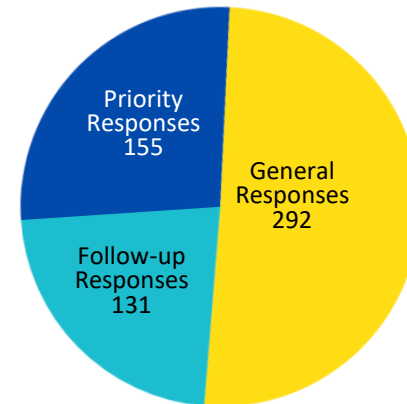
Charlotte County Fire & EMS's Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) competed at the Florida Fire and EMS conference in Orlando. The team faced realistic mayday scenarios, demonstrating their expertise in firefighter rescue. The RIT competition evaluates a team's ability to quickly locate, rescue, and stabilize a fallen firefighter. Our team's performance highlighted their skill, teamwork, and commitment to firefighter safety. We are proud of their dedication to training for these critical situations.

Animal Control:

Your local Animal Control team recently participated in their annual pepper spray and bite stick/baton training. This important training ensures our officers are prepared and safe when facing unpredictable situations in the field. It reinforces best practices and helps them maintain control while working with animals.

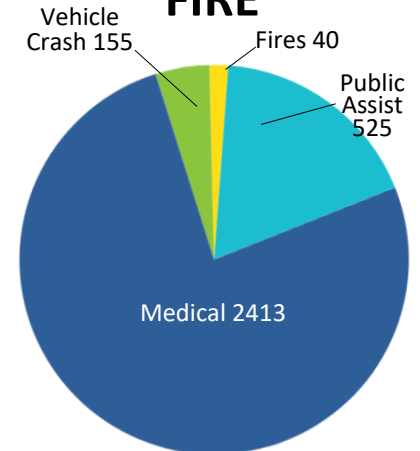
In other news, two members of the Animal Control team shared their expertise and enthusiasm at the Junior Achievement Inspire conference. This event provides local youth with valuable insights into a variety of career paths, giving them a chance to explore options beyond the traditional classroom setting. Our team members were excited to connect with these future leaders and showcase the important work of Animal Control.

ANIMAL CONTROL



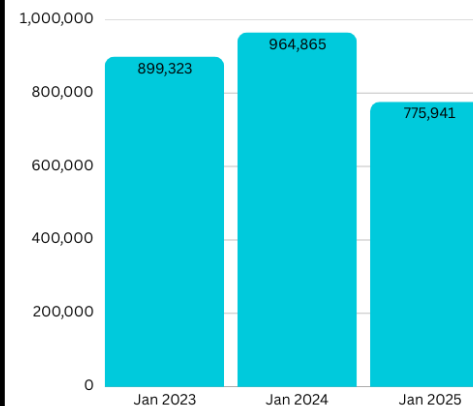
Total Calls: 578

FIRE

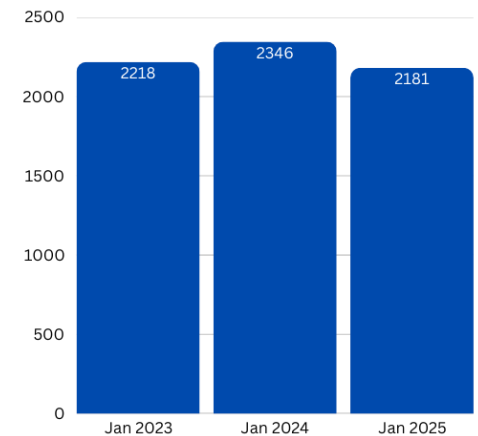


Total Calls: 3538

EMS Revenue



Billable EMS Calls



MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps
distributed

45

23

Total number of
mosquitos identified
to species

2

Phone Complaints
Resolved



Calm before the Storm

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1253

Work Orders
Opened

967

Work Orders
Closed

142

Service
Requests
Opened

163

Service
Requests
Closed

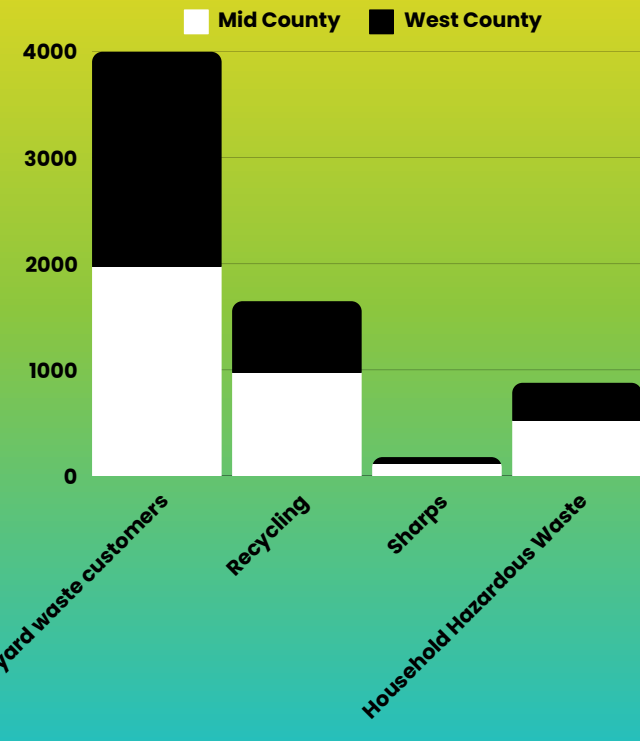


ENGINEERING

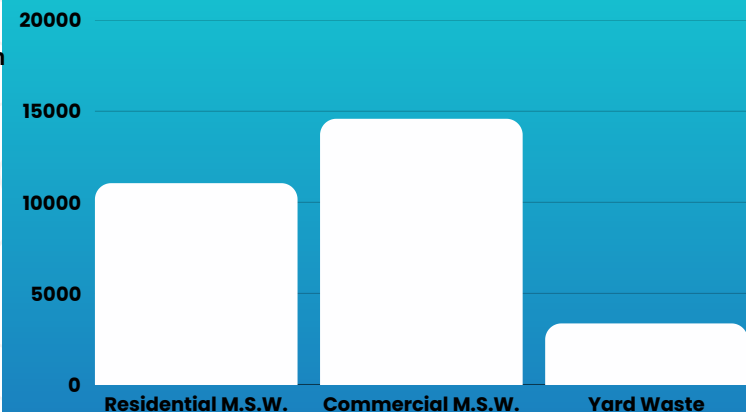
The Peace River Water Authority has hired Woodruff and Sons to install a 42 inch Ductile Iron Water Main from Serris Drive 13.5 miles in length ending at Gulf Cove in West County. This entails crossing the Myakka River. Our inspection Team watches over many aspects of this project ensuring safety of the traveling public as well as the workers on site. They also do spot inspections to ensure all product is installed per plan and to State, County, and City specifications and mandates. This project is approximately 28% complete and is slated to be completed by the spring or early summer of 2026.

SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations



Landfill



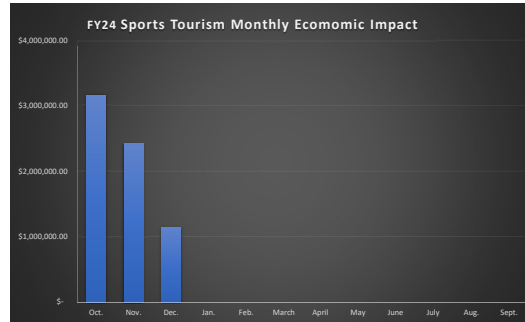
SPORTS

December 2024	
Events:	4
Sports:	National Collegiate Athletic Assoc. Swim and Dive Training at Centennial Park Pool (3 teams)
	US Sports Congress Conference

Sales Update

2025 Fiscal Year to Date Total Sports Tourism Economic Impact
\$ 6,721,046.00

2025 Fiscal Year to Date Total Sports Tourism Events
19



LEISURE

January 2025:

Event: Holiday World Show in Belfast, Ireland (January 10-12)

Attendees: Over 40,000 Consumers

Stand Staff: Gary Fletcher, Cellet Marketing Account Director

Engagement: 192 visitors to stand, over 150 visitor guides distributed

Purpose: Raise brand awareness of the destination among travel enthusiast in Northern Ireland.



Event: New York Travel & Adventure Show (January 25-26)

Visitor Guides Distributed: Over 500

Engagement: Face-to-face interactions with more than 30 travel agents and hundreds of consumers

Giveaway: 2-night stay to one travel agent via the event's passport program

Purpose: Raise brand awareness among travel enthusiasts and professionals in the New York area



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 117,592

Sessions: 135,158

Top Origin Markets:

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

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT
(Current Month)

Dec-23	\$662,441	↑ 0.6%
Dec-24	\$666,407	

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)

Dec-23	\$1,450,617	↑ 9.5%
Dec-24	\$1,587,867	

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).

"Scho and Jo", social media travel influencers, enjoyed kayaking with SUP Englewood, airboat and swamp buggy rides with Peace River Charter, a guided tour through CHEC at Bill Clay Park Preserve, and Peace River Botanical Sculpture Gardens.

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: 8,412
- Call Wait Time: 2 minutes, 1 second
- Sewer Connections: 49,154
(112 increase from December)
- Water Connections: 72,647
(165 increase from December)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 4 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 2 Utilities Billing
- 14 Utilities Department Service
- 20 Total

Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

3,396 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 1,018 individuals for the month of January.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

SPRING H₂O HARMONY FACILITY TOUR 2025

CHARLOTTE COUNTY WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITY TOURS

- 02.26** PUNTA GORDA BURNT STORE FACILITY
- 03.04** PORT CHARLOTTE WEST PORT FACILITY
- 03.28** ARCADIA PEACE RIVER FACILITY
- 04.15** ROTONDA WEST ROTONDA FACILITY

GUEST STARRING

WATER RECLAMATION
PROCESS | TREATMENT
PLANT OPERATORS |
TRANSPORT, PROCESSING
AND DISPOSAL OF
BIOSOLIDS

RESERVING YOUR SPOT

Call 941.764.4304 or email
CCUPR@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

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

January Connections: 0 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.