

Monthly Report

Dec. 2025

A year passed and a new year ahead

By Hector Flores
County Administrator

2025 was a whirlwind that seemed to fly past. The year new offers an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and look ahead at some challenges and opportunities.

It goes without saying that hurricane recovery was omnipresent in 2025, with progress being made throughout the county. The beaches at Port Charlotte Beach Park and Englewood Beach reopened, shade structures were replaced at multiple parks and Mid-County Regional Library is well on its way for a planned April 2026 reopening. Staff are already hard at work restocking the thousands of materials that have been stored away.

Staff continue to work with federal agencies on grant requests to fund major recovery and resiliency projects. Resiliency has been a major theme of our work this year, with staff from all departments focusing on ensuring the county can better withstand future storms.

The Sales Tax Focus Group has been meeting monthly since August to review proposed projects to be funded by an extension of the 1% local option sales tax if a referendum is approved by voters on Nov. 3, 2026. The projects fall into four major categories: public safety, quality of life, infrastructure and schools.

The county is also exploring an extension of the Conservation Charlotte millage assessment,

which has funded the purchases of \$77 million of preservation lands. The funding comes from bonds backed by a .2 mil property tax, equal to about 20 cents on every \$1,000 of tax assessed land value. If the County Commission votes to move ahead, an extension referendum will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

One of the major issues the county is reviewing for the upcoming year is the potential impact of property tax reform on county operations and services. Staff will be presenting various scenarios to the board at its Jan. 20 workshop.

I'll close by repeating my appreciation for your valuable input throughout 2025 and express my and my colleagues' wishes you enjoy a healthy and prosperous new year.

Forecaster reports the county population continues to grow

The county received a population review and forecast presentation from its consultant Metro Forecasting. The consultant reported the county's population has grown from 224,147 residents in February 2025 to 235,255 in October 2025.

From June 2023, the county has added 16.9% more residents, or nearly 40,000 people. The consultant forecast there will be an additional 17,000 housing units built by 2030, adding 33,000 new residents. By 2035, we'll reach nearly 300,000 people.



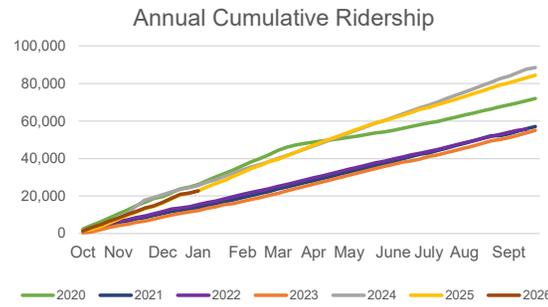
Community Outreach

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis attended a community meeting Dec. 11. Her presentation included information about the proposed extension of the 1% local option sales tax and the potential impacts of property tax reform on county operations.

Information Technology



Transit



December 2025 - Director Highlights

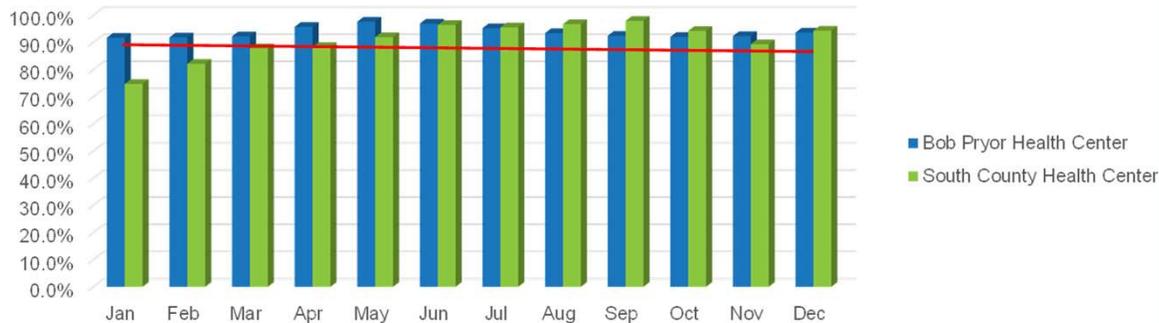
Transit

Over the past few years, Transit has advanced its operations through service modernization, technology enhancements, and division organizational realignment. Recent improvements include the launch of the Charlotte Rides mobile app that allows riders to schedule and manage trips and receive real-time vehicle tracking and arrival notifications and improve communication. Enhancements to scheduling, dispatching, and performance monitoring have increased efficiency, reliability, and customer communication. To further strengthen rider engagement and service equity, Transit formed a Community Outreach Team dedicated to rider education and feedback collection. The team plays a critical role in increasing awareness of services, supporting mobile app adoption and addressing barriers to access. In addition, AI-enabled onboard camera systems were installed on all Transit vehicles to enhance passenger and contracted driver safety. Key performance indicators have seen significant growth in completed trips, improved on-time performance, and decreases in average trip length (and duration). To support these initiatives, staffing was realigned into critical roles, including a Mobility Manager, Data Analyst, Grants Analyst, Safety Coordinator, and other specialized positions. These changes have strengthened financial oversight, data-driven decision-making, grant development, safety compliance, and overall service quality, enabling the program to better meet rider needs and operational demands.



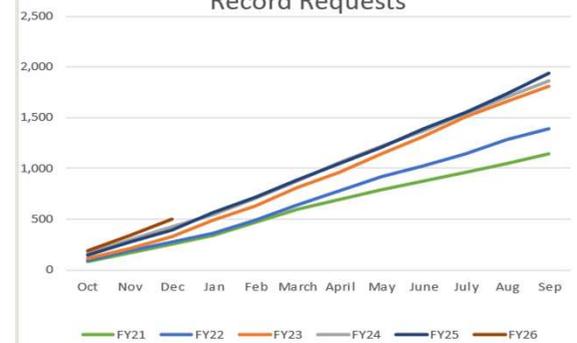
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



Communications

December 2025

CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Most Visited Pages

Utilities Billing
45,707 views

Building Construction Permits
7,706 views

People Operations Employment
7,683 views

Most Downloads

Utilities Payment Options
969 downloads

Solid Waste Curbside Holiday Schedule
966 downloads

Dec. 9 Regular Meeting
900 downloads

Top Searched Terms

Permit
172 searches

Jobs/career
99 searches

Burn Ban
90 searches

Internal Communications

The Communication Department is the sponsor department of the Connect@Work redesign, which is currently underway. A steering committee oversees the project being performed by a vendor.

The vendor is conducting an analysis of the existing content and will produce design options for approval by the steering committee. The vendor is charged with delivering a more user-friendly site that is also mobile compatible. The steering committee will approve the design submitted, review the proposed platforms on which the new site would be built.

Employee Newsletter

1,636 Emails		Email Engagement	
774 (47.3%) Opened	137 (10%) Clicked	25% Mobile	75% Desktop

Social Media

(Analytics Across all Departments)

518 Posts

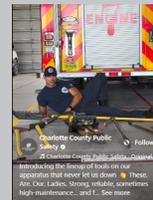
2.88 million Total Impressions

48,000 Engagements

1.16 million Video Views

2,000 Total Followers

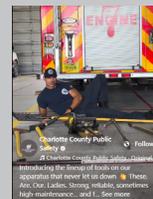
Post of the Month



Line up of tools, our ladies.

16,400 Engagement

Most Impressions



Line up of tools, our ladies.

349,800 Impressions

Weekly Update By the Numbers

3 Email Campaigns

70,227
Emails Delivered

35,723
Emails Opened

2,927
Clicked

Most Clicked Link

Charlotte County Rabies Alert



Latest Updates

131
Streaming Views

796
Youtube Live Stream

26,719
YouTube Views

1,876
Website Views

Under Review

Buc-ee's

25599 Harborview Road,
Punta Gorda
74,000 sq. ft. gas station with 120
fueling stations and 740-spot
parking area, and associated
utilities, and stormwater

Charlotte County Fire Station #6

1020 Bloxham Ave., Punta Gorda
Approximately 9,948 sq. ft. building
with parking, stormwater, access
drives, paved areas and rear bay
access

Discount Tire

19661 Cochran Blvd.,
Port Charlotte
Approximately 7,020 sq. ft. tire
store with parking

Exprezo #151

279 Duncan Road, Punta Gorda
A convenience gas station with 12
pump stations

Midtown Market Place

45005 Cypress Parkway,
Punta Gorda
135,500 sq. ft. project consisting of
10 commercial buildings

Whataburger

1470 Tamiami Trail,
Port Charlotte
2,571 sq. ft. restaurant building
with drive-thru facilities and
associated parking, dumpster
enclosure, and utilities

Under Construction



Aroma Joe's

16400 Franklin Avenue,
Port Charlotte
1,600 sq. ft. coffee shop with
drive-thru and associated
infrastructure



Rick Johnson Tire Shop

5520 Duncan Road, Punta Gorda
Tire and auto repair service
center



Towneplace Suites

9044 Mac Drive, Punta Gorda
112-room hotel, parking,
landscaping, and stormwater

Completed



7Brew Coffee

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



Charlotte County Logistics Center

3110 Loveland Blvd., Bldg D,
Port Charlotte
New 20,000 sq. ft. Supervisor of
Elections facility with climate-controlled
storage, emergency management
space, and warehouse support

Permit Stats

183 single-family permits issued
239 single-family COs issued
2,134 permits taken
2,108 permits issued (Dec. 2025)

36,626 permits issued (FY24-25)
6,470 permits issued (FY25-26)

FY24-25: Oct. 2024 through Sept. 2025
FY25-26: Oct. 2025 through Sept. 2026

Project Spotlight

Babcock Ranch

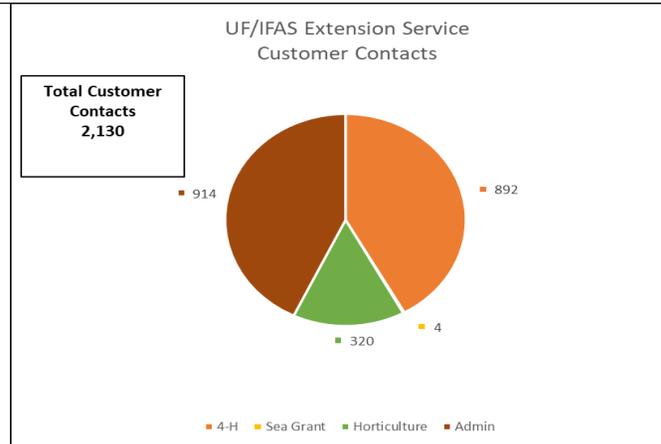
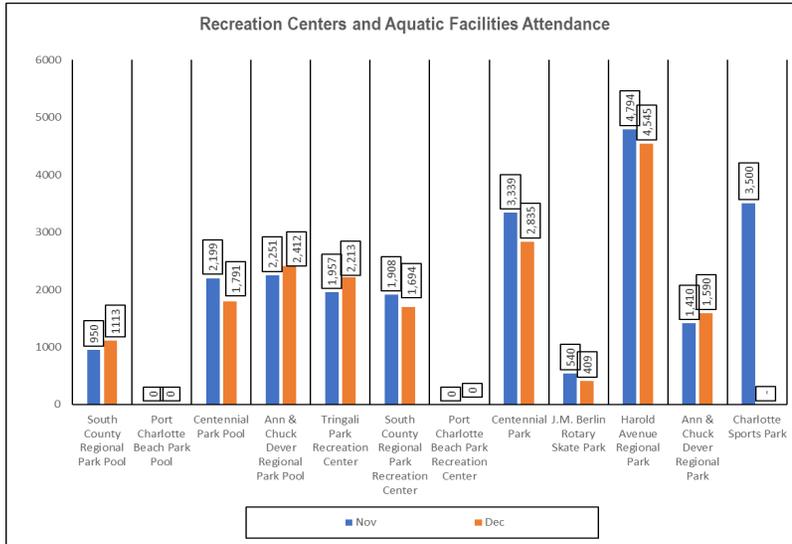
47 single-family permits issued in
Dec. 2025
3,886 single-family COs issued
since March 2017

West Port

8 single-family permits issued in
Dec. 2025
880 COs issued since April 2017

Current Plat Applications in Review

PFP-25-19: Zemel Land Partners, LLC and Chardev North, LLC is requesting preliminary and final plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Firelight North – Plat I consist of 337 single-family lots and 55 additional tracts. If approved, this will completely replace the previously approved preliminary plat (PP-23-08-09). They also seek approval of a Construction and Maintenance Agreement and surety to cover the construction of the plat infrastructure. This site contains 349.10± acres and is generally located North of Zemel Road, South of Arbor Circle, East of Burnt Store Road, and West of Deer Pass Road. The proposed subdivision is in the Punta Gorda area and is in Commission District II.

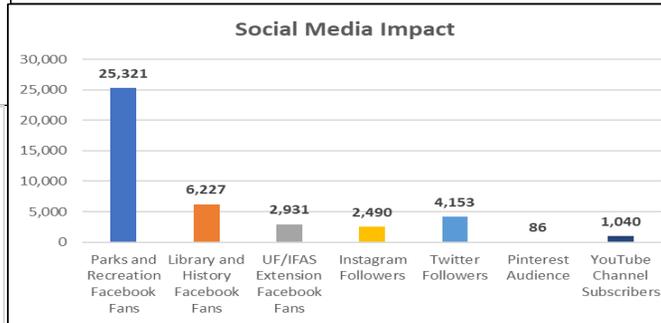
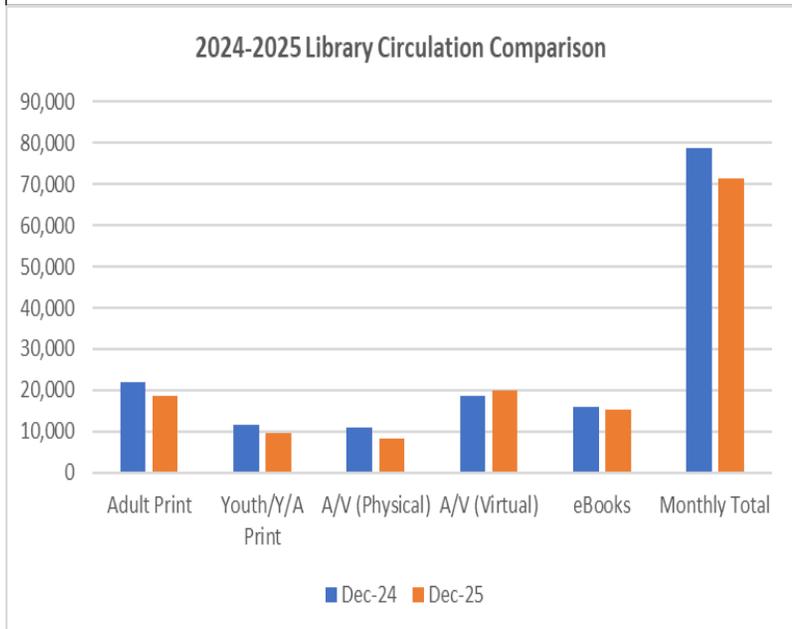


Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 153 fields prepped
- 2,350 trash bags collected
- 667 recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 76.9 miles maintained
- 43.7 exotics/invasives acres treated
- Staff conducted multiple additional surveys including gopher tortoise surveys at Amberjack Environmental and Shell Creek Preserve and vegetative plot monitoring at multiple properties.



Natural Resources

- Eagle nests monitored 37
- Eagle nests with eggs 25
- Eagle nests with chicks 3
- Coastal lighting permits in review 17
- Coastal lighting permit inspections 6
- Abandoned vessels removed 5

Project Management

- Projects completed 22
- Project not started 66
- Projects in progress 109
\$67,435,021.29

EDO Participated in Regional Industry Engagement

Charlotte County Economic Development attended the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lunch held at TT's on Charlotte Harbor in late December. The event brought together members of the local business community and provided an opportunity for relationship-building and engagement with local employers and partners. Participation in chamber events supports ongoing business connectivity and reinforces the role of relationships in advancing economic activity across Charlotte County.



Economic Development Hosted December Business Networking Event

Charlotte County Economic Development hosted a December business networking event designed to bring together local employers, entrepreneurs, and economic-development partners. The gathering supported peer-to-peer engagement, strengthened business relationships, and reinforced ongoing efforts to support business retention and expansion across the county.



Economic Development Released 2025 Business Survey Results

Charlotte County Economic Development released results from its 2025 Business Surveys in December, based on feedback collected through its Business Mixer events. The results captured input from local businesses on challenges, priorities, and growth plans, helping inform future economic development programs and partnerships.

Read results [HERE](#).



January Business Engagement and Outreach Activities

Charlotte County Economic Development will continue business engagement efforts in January through scheduled outreach activities and networking opportunities with local employers and partners. Upcoming events will focus on maintaining direct connections with the business community and supporting ongoing retention and expansion efforts across Charlotte County.

Learn about events [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

New Business Card Networking Event
March 17, 2026

Entrepreneur Support Organization Q1 Meeting
March 17, 2026

2026 Community Champions Breakfast
February 5, 2026

8th Grade Career Exploration Event
January 20, 2026

Fire Station 6 & 17

Fire Stations 6 and 17 are 2020 Sales Tax-funded capital improvement projects. Replacement Fire Station 6, located at 1020 Bloxham Avenue in Punta Gorda, will include nine bunk rooms and a three-stall apparatus bay. New Fire Station 17, located at 1711 Tamiami Trail, will include fourteen bunk rooms, a four-stall apparatus bay, and an on-site fuel station. Both projects have recently finished design, and the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)'s were approved by the BOCC during the December 9th regular meeting.

At Port Charlotte Beach, construction is well underway. The Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) underground work for the pool house and pool equipment building has been completed, with slab preparation and concrete pours scheduled. At the recreation center, ground columns are currently being poured, elevated docking is being formed, and MEP rough-ins for the elevated deck are scheduled.

The Special Needs Saferoom project has been awarded HMGP grant funding and CDBG-DR matching funds; both agreements have been fully executed. The shortlisting process to select a design consultant has been completed, and the BOCC approved the ranking to award the top-ranking firm at its December 9th meeting. Contract negotiations with the top-ranked firm are currently underway.

The Supervisor of Elections Warehouse has received its Certificate of Occupancy. Following completion of assess control installation, the facility will be ready for move-in.

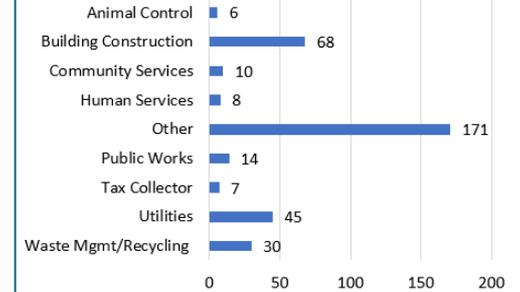
2020 Sales Tax Projects

Replacement Fire Station 6

New Fire Station 17

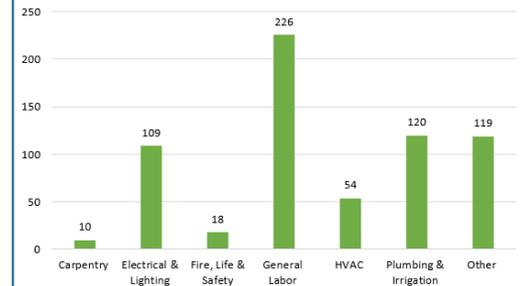


FY26 Switchboard Calls December 2025 Total Calls - 359



FY26 Work Orders - December 2025

Total Opened - 842 Total Closed - 656



Small Projects - December 2025



Human Services

December 2025

Aging and Adult Services

137 Total Clients
31K Total Service Hours
\$186K Total Spending

1325 Homemaking Hours
175 Grandchild Care Hours

384 Companionship Hours
5220 Personal Care Hours

2272 Respite Care Hours
26,040 Emergency Response Systems Hours

AAS hosted a Senior Social in December, giving 52 seniors a chance to connect and enjoy the holiday season. AAS also participated in Gulf Coast's Giving Tree program, ensuring 83 seniors received a gift and spreading holiday cheer.

Veteran Services

\$163.4K

Retroactive Payments

\$89.3K

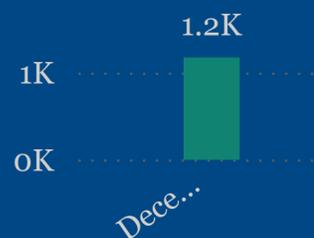
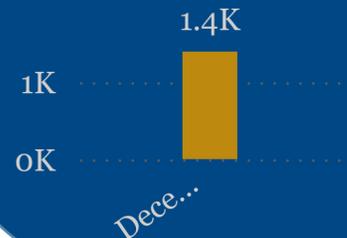
Reoccurring Payments

The YMCA hosted a Veteran Outreach Event featuring an Army vs. Navy Football Game viewing to engage and connect with local veterans. Additionally, a Senior Social was held at the Family Services Center as an outreach event for seniors, providing opportunities for socialization and community engagement.

1.4K Calls/Requests for Assistance

1.2K Total Clients Served

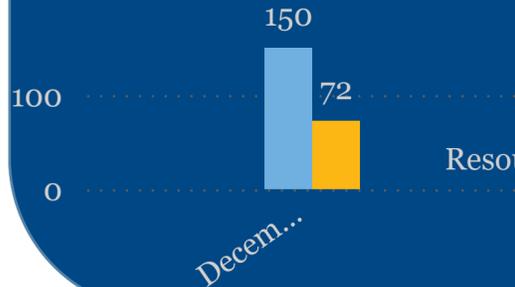
87 New Claims
44 Claims Awarded



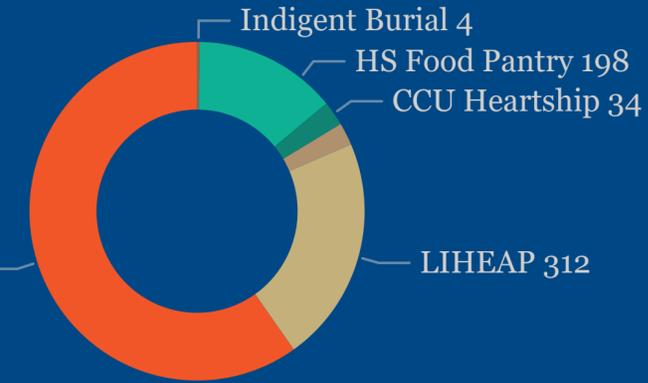
Intake Services

Food Pantry Households

● Harry Chapin ● Human Services



Intake Services - Service Mix



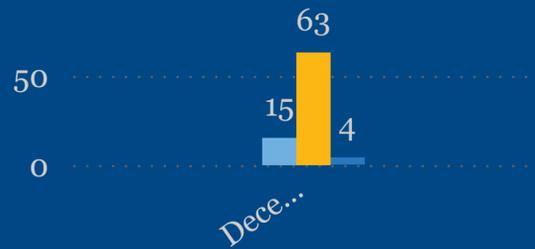
1 Outreach Events
5 Season of Sharing Application
99 Fastrack Applications

Family Stability Services

56 Total households In Progress
3 Braided Funding Households Served

Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program

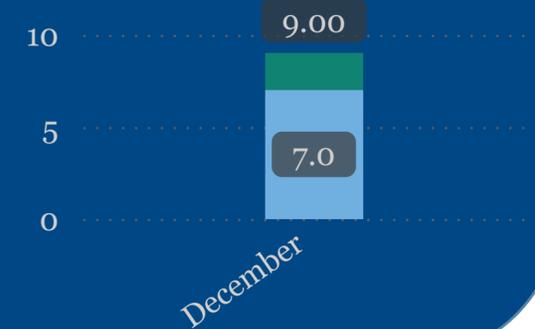
● New Cases ● In Progress ● Closed



Two members of the Family Stability Team, Leia McCall and Paula Odarczenko, graduated from the Charlotte County Ambassador Program.

COAD & Disaster Cases

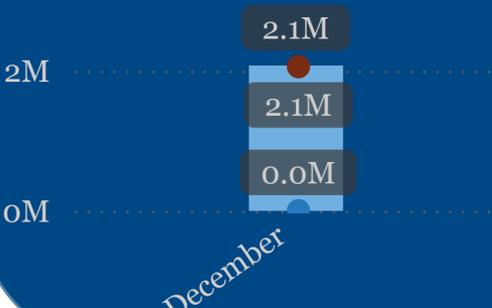
● Assigned ● Denied



Neighborhood Services

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

● Budget ● Encumbered ● Spent



The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) met on 12/15/2025 and voted to recommend the donation of five surplus single-family lots to Habitat for Humanity. The recommendation is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in early February.

6 Charlotte HOME Applications

0 Single-Family

0 Multi-Family

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

0 New Projects

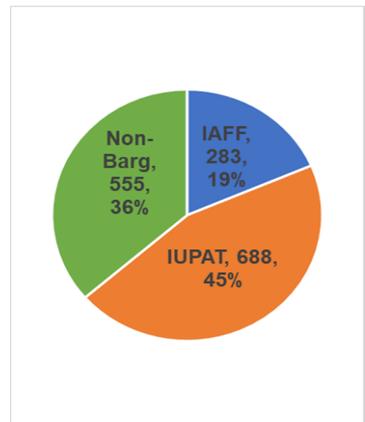
29 In Progress Projects

0 Completed Projects

People Operations

Workforce

Employee Count 1,526
 Avg Age 45
 Avg Hourly Rate \$30.01
 Avg Years of Service 9



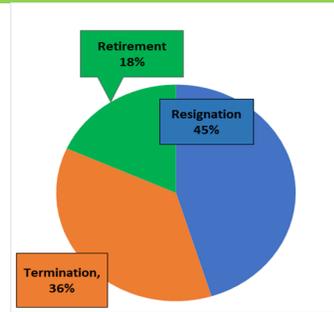
Retention of New Hires December
 % completing probation 91%

Succession Planning

EE's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 3.3%
 % of Workforce Retired this FY 1.4%

Separations

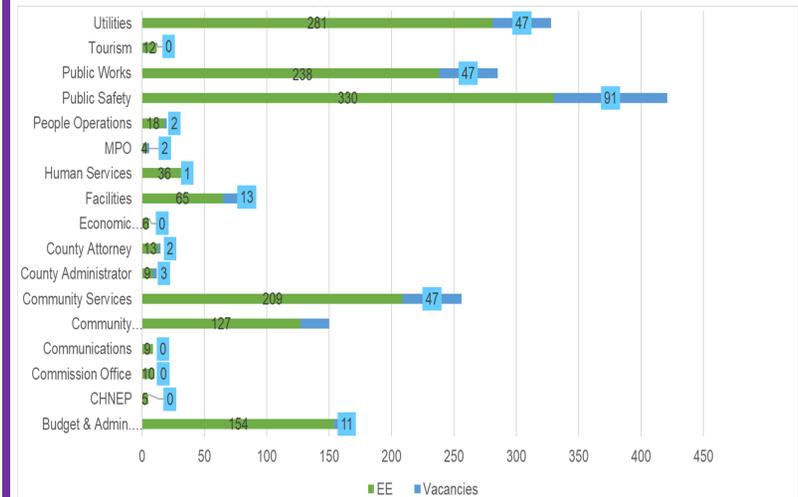
December
 Turnover 0.7%
 Separations 11



Training & Development

Training 17.5 103 EEs 1,803 contact hrs
 % using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

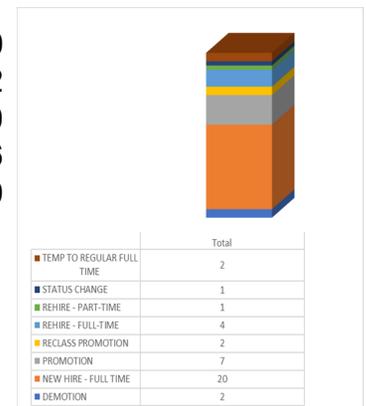
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 290

Recruitment

Applications Taken 3,490
 Job Posting Hits 242,512
 New Hires 20
 Recruited Pos FT 56
 Posted PT/STARR 9



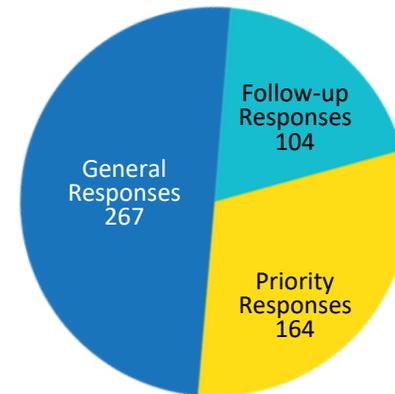
Santa's Pancake Breakfast Brings the Community Together

The holiday season came to life at Charlotte County Fire & EMS Headquarters during the annual Santa's Pancake Breakfast, where more than 600 residents gathered to celebrate the spirit of the season together. Families, friends, and neighbors filled the morning with laughter, conversation, and holiday cheer as they enjoyed a warm breakfast prepared and served by our team, festive music, and time with Santa himself.

Guests of all ages lined up for stacks of pancakes while children shared smiles, wishes, and photos with Santa. Live Christmas music set the tone for the morning, while a special operations demonstration offered a behind-the-scenes look at the skills and readiness of public safety professionals. The event also featured interactive touch-a-truck experiences with equipment from Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and local utilities, giving families a hands-on opportunity to learn more about the tools that serve their community.

Adding to the excitement were several special guests, including Splash the search and rescue otter, along with an adorable kitten and puppy from the Animal Welfare League, who quickly became crowd favorites. Fawcett Hospital provided breakfast and a hot cocoa station that kept everyone warm and smiling. From the first flip of the pancakes to the final round of holiday hugs, Santa's Pancake Breakfast once again demonstrated the strength of community connection and the joy of the season.

ANIMAL CONTROL



Total Calls: 535





MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps distributed

91

75

Total number of mosquitos identified to species

8

Phone Complaints Resolved



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1134

Work Orders Opened

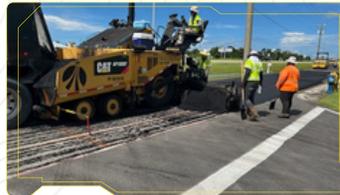
951

Work Orders Closed

124

Service Requests Opened

ENGINEERING



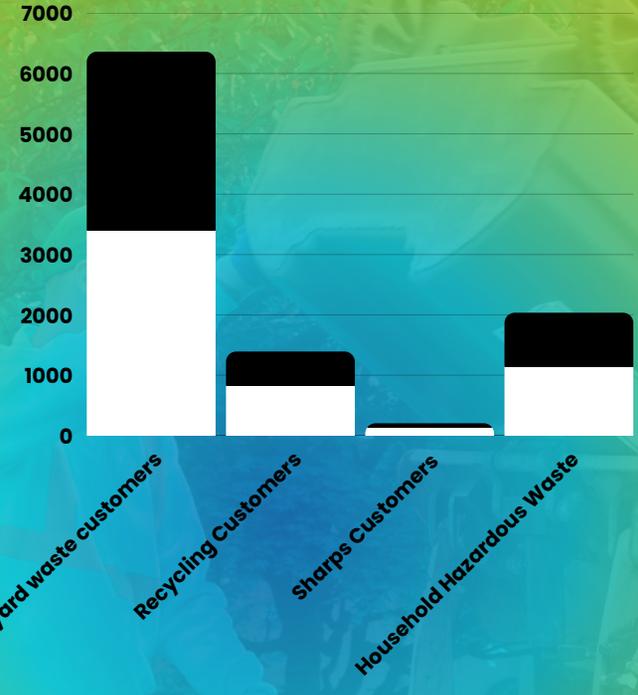
The FY25 R&B/EWE/Placida Contract- approx. 15,639 tons of asphalt have been placed since October 01, 2025

The FY25 Rotonda West/Pioneer Trail Contract- approx. 18,911 tons of asphalt have been placed since October 01, 2025

SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations

● Mid County ● West County



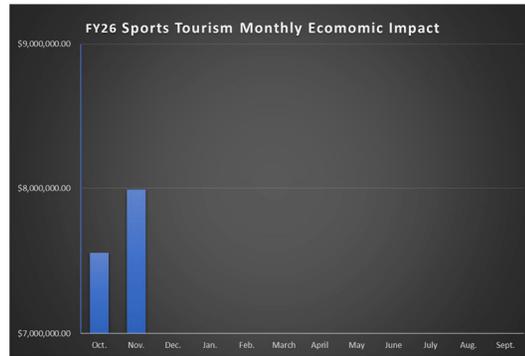
Landfill in Tons



SPORTS

Sales Update

November 2025	
Events:	7
Sports:	Softball
	Baseball
	Dog Agility
	Pickleball
	Gymnastics
	Air Show



November 2025 Sports Tourism Economic Impact
\$ 7,989,994.00



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 80,491
Sessions: 98,292
Top Origin Markets:
FL, NY, IL, OH, GA, PA, MI, NJ, VI, CA

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)			
Nov-24	\$578,139	↓ -12.0%	
Nov-25	\$508,544		

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)			
Nov-24	\$921,459	↑ 1.1%	
Nov-25	\$931,170		

Public Relations & Social Media

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach hosted Canadian influencer Lea Nadeau of @sparkandbloom. During her visit she explored the great outdoors with her family, kayaking with SUP Englewood, hunting for shark teeth along Englewood Beach, and spotting alligators on an unforgettable adventure with Babcock Ranch Eco Tours.



Tag your Charlotte County adventure photos with **#BestSideOutside** for a chance to be showcased on our website [PureFlorida.com](https://www.pureflorida.com).



LEISURE - December 2025:

Sales efforts: Staff connected with travel agents and promoted Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach through special marketing programs. Planning is underway for big events like travel shows, familiarization trips (FAMs), and campaigns to help agents sell our destination.

International Exposure: Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach is now part of German travel programs, including: **AMERIKA Reisen's 11-day "Florida Sunshine Tour"** and The **"Big Florida Special"** section in their USA catalogue. Featured in **FVW TravelTalk**, a major German travel magazine. Participated in the **Visit USA Hamburg media event**, meeting 54 journalists and sharing PGEB brochures.

MEETINGS - December 2025:

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Meetings and Conventions Sales Manager attended the US Sports Congress Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. Throughout the three-day conference, staff connected with 80 industry professionals and shared information about the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach area.

As a direct result of these conversations, staff received two requests for proposals by the end of the conference for potential board meetings, incentive trips, and smaller conferences - groups that may not have previously considered our destination.

Visitors to Charlotte County in fiscal year 2025 saved local residents an average of **\$865** per household in taxes.

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 5,989
- **Call Wait Time:** 44 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 50,438
(112 increase from November)
- **Water Connections:** 74,393
(95 increase from November)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 6 Misc. — Utilities Department
- 4 Utilities Billing
- 13 Utilities Department Service
- 23 Total

Utilities Department Facebook

4,377 followers

Water Quality Reports:

[Peace River Water Quality Report](#) 

[Burnt Store Water Quality Report](#) 

Remember, every drop counts!

Important Information:

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

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

In December, the Customer Payment Center assisted 1,183 individuals. 40,788 payments were processed using Paymentus.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

December Stories

The Utilities Department had an impactful month delivering exceptional service to customers. Hear staff share stories about the progress we're making to enrich our community's quality of life through safe, reliable water services.

Water Booster Stations



Water booster stations are a key part of our water system. Behind the scenes, operators ensure this infrastructure works properly, so customers can count on safe, reliable water every time the tap is turned on.

Facility Tours Scheduled



We're excited to host guided tours of water and wastewater facilities this winter. Participants will learn how potable water is produced, wastewater is treated and how the department supports the health and growth of Charlotte County.

Years of Service



During December's Regular and Land Use Meeting, the Board of County Commissioners recognized staff for their years of service. The department is proud to provide drinking water, reclaimed water and wastewater service to the community.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

The Board of County Commissioners approved the use of a packaged plant to temporarily increase wastewater capacity for this service area. The Commission also supports a permanent expansion of the facility. Engineering design and permitting for the expansion are on schedule.

Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:

Serving customers in mid-county, this project improves infrastructure reliability with a wastewater collection system to service approximately 1,300 properties with sewer service, new water service lines and a vacuum station that will provide sewer collection. For more information, visit

AckermanProject.com.

Hillsborough Boulevard Water Main Project:

This project is installing an eight inch water main along Hillsborough Boulevard from Yorkshire Street to US 41. Pipe installation is taking place at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Cranberry and Cornelius Boulevards.

East Port Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

This project will expand treatment capacity from six million to nine million gallons of wastewater per day. As part of the upgrade, advanced wastewater treatment technologies are being incorporated to produce higher quality reclaimed water. Construction is currently 73% complete.

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