



Monthly Report January 2026

County reorganizes several county departments, divisions

The County Commission approved three changes to how the county is organized.

The first change was to break out the Office of Emergency Management into its own department. Previously it was a division within the Public Safety Department. Emergency Management Director Patrick Fuller will continue to lead the newly created department.

Matthew McElroy was named Public Safety Department director and fire chief. Since

assuming the acting role in October, Chief McElroy has demonstrated consistent leadership, operational stability, and strategic vision across Fire & EMS and Public Safety functions. ion chief and deputy chief.

The former Human Resources Department has been renamed as People Operations, a strategic shift designed to strengthen how we support employees, leaders, and departments across the organization. This model enhances partnerships, responsiveness, and consistency by aligning People

Operations professionals directly with departments while maintaining centralized expertise in key functional areas, which enhances the employee experience from hire to retire.

Lastly, Charlotte County Transit Division has been moved to the Human Services Department to more closely align it with that department's mission to empower individuals and families to achieve stability by connecting them with vital programs and services.

Commission orders demolition of Cultural Center and library

Due to damage from Hurricane Ian and subsequent damage from hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Cultural Center of Charlotte County facility has been deemed a total loss, with the exception of the library.

The county recouped \$2.2 million from its insurance provider, which will be used to cover the cost of demolition, which will take about six to eight months to complete. Since the library was already scheduled to be replaced, the board opted to save money by taking it down at the same time as the rest of the structures on the property.



The County Commission proclaimed February as Spring Training Month. The board was joined by Tampa Bay Rays mascot, Raymond, for the ceremony, during which he hammed it up for the audience and officials on the dais.

Board backs proposal to create fire academy

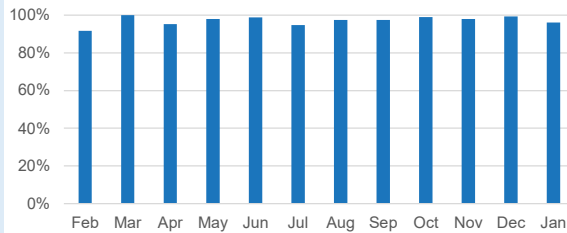
Fire Chief Matt McElroy discussed his proposed Public Safety Training Academy with the board. His presentation showed an urgent need for new first responders around the state due to unfilled positions (1,469), expected growth (3,961) and large number of existing first responders (2,490) expected to retire in the next five years. Charlotte County Fire & EMS currently has 66 vacancies among the 368 authorized positions in its budget. The board directed him to proceed with the proposal, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

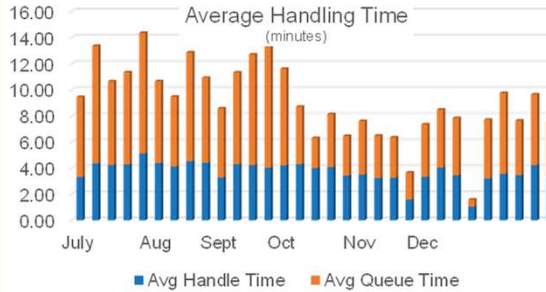


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

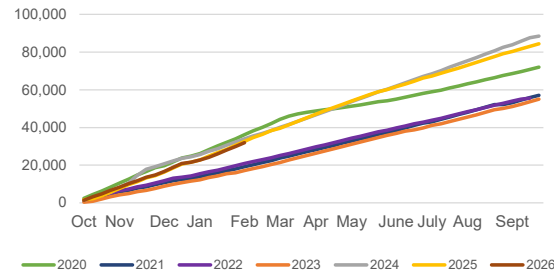


Transit

Transit Calls Average Handling Time (minutes)



Annual Cumulative Ridership



Director Highlights

County-wide Cellphone Project

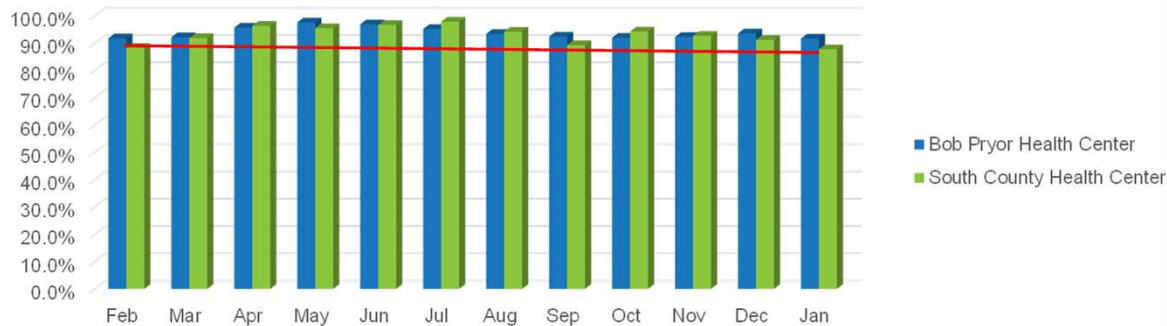
As part of the County's mobile-first initiative, all full-time and part-time county employees are being issued county-provided cell phones. This initiative reduces operational friction, accelerates service delivery, and ensures staff can work effectively across departments, in the field, and during remote or emergency situations. By standardizing mobile access countywide, we strengthen agility, resilience, and responsiveness—equipping employees with the technology needed to deliver efficient, high-quality public service to the community. Managers and supervisors have received their devices, and all other employees will be receiving theirs as the devices arrive over the next couple of months. Delivery will be coordinated with department/division leaders. So, stay tuned for the dates and times your team will receive them.

January 2026



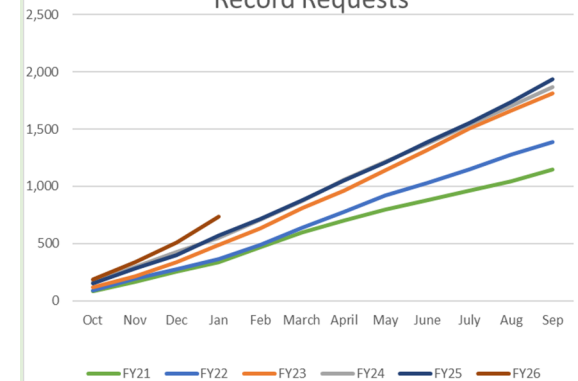
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



Communications

January 2026

CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Most Visited Pages

Utilities Billing
47,021 views

Utilities Notices
12,223 views

**People Operations
Employment**
11,958 views

Most Downloads

Utilities Payment Options
2,731 downloads

**Jan. 13 Regular
Meeting Agenda**
1,691 downloads

**Jan. 27. Regular & Land Use
Meeting Agenda**
1,262 downloads

Top Searched Terms

Permit
238 searches

Jobs/career
141 searches

DMV
107 searches

Social Media

In January, our social media channels showed steady growth and consistent performance as we entered the new year. Engagement and impressions remained strong, indicating our content continues to resonate with the community. Our top-performing posts for both reach and interaction were short, 12-second Reels.

Two posts stood out as key drivers: one highlighting the incentive stipend for public safety hires, and another prompting residents to share their favorite sunset locations and photos. Moving forward, we will continue to maintain a warm, familiar, and engaging social presence for the county.

Employee Newsletter

1,579 Emails		Email Engagement	
795 (50%)	167 (11%)	22%	78%
Opened	Clicked	Mobile	Desktop

Social Media

(Analytics Across all Departments)

**611
Posts**

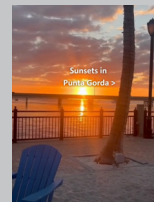
**2.93 million
Total Impressions**

**25,000
Engagements**

**498,000
Video Views**

**282,000
Total Followers**

Post of the Month



Sunsets at TT's
**2,700
Engagement**

Most Impressions



**BREAKING:
"Let me be clear"**
**236,000
Impressions**

Weekly Update By the Numbers

3 Email Campaigns

78,126
Emails Delivered

35,799
Emails Opened

2,620
Clicked

Most Clicked Link

**Hydroponic Gardening
Workshop**



Latest Updates

146
Streaming Views

796
YouTube
Live Stream

15,022
YouTube Views

1,669
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 #3

4322 El Jobean Road,
Port Charlotte
Demolition and reconstruction of
two-story building approximately
9,535 sq. ft. with paved areas,
including access drives and parking
facilities

Circle K

El Jobean Road / Flamingo Blvd.,
Port Charlotte
Parcel # 402112351012
3,956 sq. ft. convenience store with
starter gate six fuel canopy

Discount Tire

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

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



Charlotte Technical College Aviation Tech Facility

28375 Challenger Blvd., Punta Gorda
19,420 sq. ft. aviation maintenance
technical school



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

190 single-family permits issued
122 single-family COs issued
2,397 permits taken
2,152 permits issued (Jan. 2026)
8,622 permits issued FY26 YTD
12,794 permits issued FY25 YTD
36,626 permits issued (FY24-25)

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

Project Spotlight

Babcock Ranch

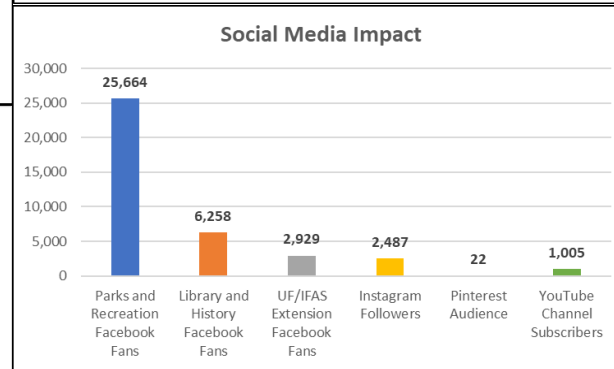
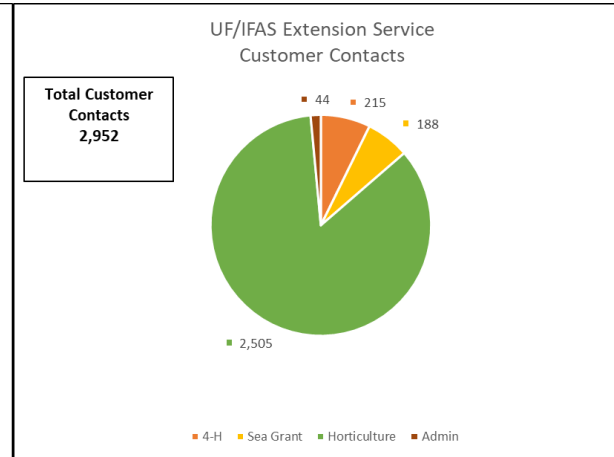
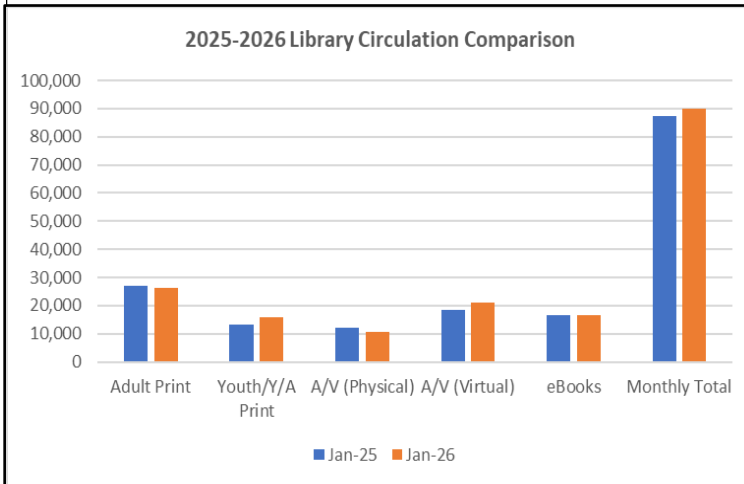
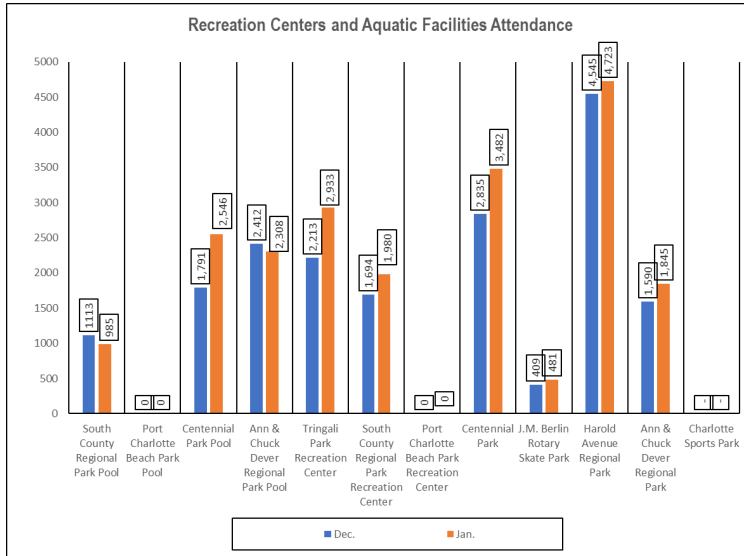
59 single-family permits issued in
Jan. 2026
3,925 single-family COs issued
since March 2017

West Port

7 single-family permits issued in
Jan. 2026
893 COs issued since April 2017

Current Plat Applications in Review

FPC-25-18: BRD Development, L.L.C. is requesting Preliminary Plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Alta Key which was previously known as Village 2 – Tract 2, being a replat of Tract E-46, of Midtown at Babcock Ranch, as recorded in Plat Book 27, Page 16A through 16Z9, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida. It was preliminarily approved under petition "PP-24-08". The proposed subdivision consists of 231 residential lots and 10 tracts for roadway, drainage, and open space. The site contains 58.55± acres and is generally located southeast of Cypress Parkway, north of Saw Palmetto Parkway, and west of the County line with Glades County. The site is within the boundary of the Babcock Ranch Community Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Increment 2, the East County area, and in Commission District I.



Natural Resources

- Eagle nests with eggs 8
- Eagle nests with chicks 22
- Coastal lighting permits in review 38
- Coastal lighting permit insp. 11
- Abandoned vessels removed 1

Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 337 fields prepped
- 3,852 trash bags collected
- 216 recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 38.4 miles maintained
- 37.6 exotics/invasives acres treated
- 135 acres overstory reduction.
- Staff conducted 2 educational outreach events this month. One was about ecosystems of SWFL and the other was a component of the Florida Master Naturalist course on Birds. Staff conducted multiple additional surveys including gopher tortoise surveys at GC Herring Park and Shell Creek Preserve and vegetative plot monitoring at multiple properties.

Project Management

- Projects completed 25
- Project not started 19
- Projects in progress 75
- \$67,875,561

Cheney Brothers Recognized with Excellence in Business Award

Charlotte County Economic Development recognized Cheney Brothers, Inc. with a Charlotte County Excellence in Business Award during January 2026. The recognition acknowledged the company's consistent, behind-the-scenes contributions to the local economy and its long-term investment in workforce stability. The award reflects the type of operational leadership and reliability that often occurs quietly but plays a critical role in supporting Charlotte County businesses and employment.



January 40 Under 40 Honoree Jordan Aquila

Charlotte County Economic Development published its January 40 Under 40 spotlight featuring Jordan Aquila, President of Buffalo Graffix and President of the Charlotte County Jazz Society. The feature highlighted local business leadership and community involvement as part of the County's ongoing talent recognition initiative.



8th Grade Career Exporation Day

Kay Tracy, Director of Charlotte County Economic Development, participated in a January 2026 education and workforce engagement focused on introducing students to early career pathways and future training opportunities. The visit emphasized the importance of connecting students with workforce options at an early stage and strengthened coordination between economic development and education partners.



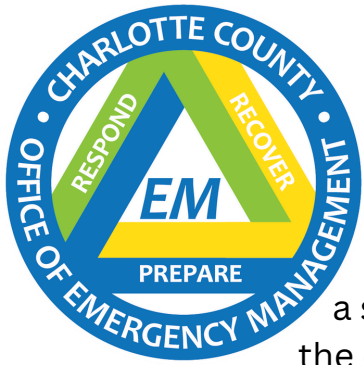
Upcoming Events

- New Business Card Networking Event March 17, 2026
- Entrepreneur Support Organization Q1 Meeting March 17, 2026
- Built To Last Restaurant Series featuring Ed Rensi February 23, 2026



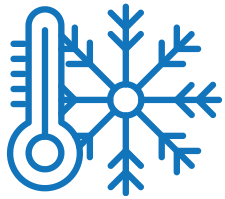
CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference

Kay Tracy, Director of Charlotte County Economic Development, participated in the 25th Annual CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference on January 30, 2026, in Bonita Springs, Florida. The conference convened commercial real estate professionals to review market conditions influencing development and site selection relevant to workforce and economic development.



Emergency Management

This month marked a major milestone with Board approval to establish Emergency Management as a stand-alone department, separate from Charlotte County Public Safety. This transition strengthens the county's ability to focus on preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts while maintaining strong coordination with Public Safety, Fire & EMS and other county partners.



Cold Weather Operations

Supported numerous cold weather shelter activations to protect vulnerable populations during extended cold weather events.



CERT Program Impact

55 CERT members participated in advanced training. CERT volunteers contributed approximately 75 hours in support of firefighter rehabilitation efforts.



Professional Leadership

Attended the 2026 Florida Emergency Preparedness Conference in Miramar Beach, where Patrick Fuller was elected and installed as FEPA Secretary for 2026 and Christine Fankhauser earned the Florida Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM) certification.



Training & Exercises

Ellen Pinder assisted with instruction for G141, while planning is underway for Points of Distribution (PODs), HURREX, and Reunification exercises.



Hurricane Readiness

Hosted the Region 9 Annual Hurricane Readiness Session with FDEM leadership to prepare for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season.



Sheriff Admin/911 Certificate of Occupancy

The Sheriff's Administration Headquarters and 911 facility reached a major milestone with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy on January 20th. The project has now entered the turnover phase, with remaining punch-out items being actively addressed.

Furniture installation is currently underway, bringing the building closer to being fully ready for staff to move in. Coordination with the Sheriff's Office continues as final details are completed. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 26th to formally commemorate the facility's completion and recognize the collaborative efforts that delivered this critical public safety sales tax project.



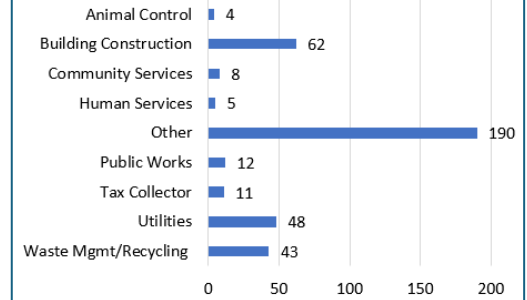
A kickoff meeting was held for the Community Services Parks Restroom project. The project will design two prototype restrooms, a large and a small, and construct several throughout multiple parks within the county.

The shortlisting of design consultants for the new Solid Waste Landfill Maintenance Building is complete, and the recommended firm will be presented to the Board for approval at the February 10th meeting.

Construction started at the Riverside Boat ramp with the installation of environmental protection measures, a cofferdam, and concrete pilings. The next steps are concrete forming and pouring of the underwater structure.

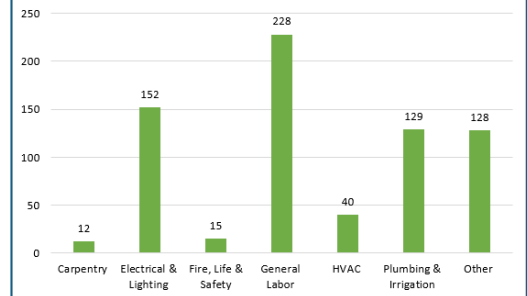
We have received the Certificate of Completion for the Hurricane Recovery Project at the Mid-County Regional Library. The contractor is currently addressing punch list items and final details, while library staff continue preparations to reopen the facility to the public.

FY26 Switchboard Calls January 2026 Total Calls - 383

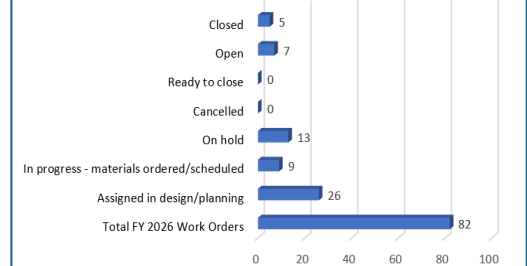


FY26 Work Orders - January 2026

Total Opened - 725 Total Closed - 615



Small Projects - January 2026



Human Services

January 2026

Aging and Adult Services



Veteran Services

\$165.4K

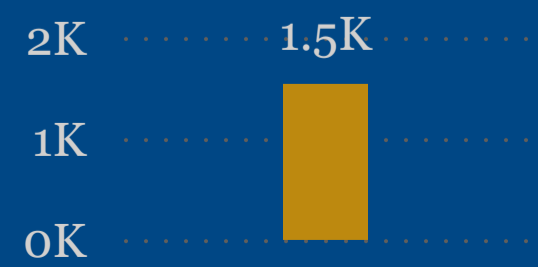
Retroactive Payments

\$89.3K

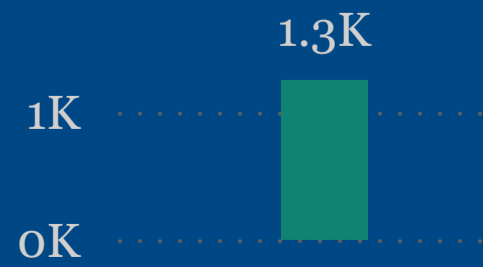
Reoccurring Payments

Our Veteran Services team conducted outreach at Public Works to meet with veterans and review potential benefits and claims, while working to expand similar efforts across all divisions. They also expedited a claim for a local veteran affected by a house fire, resulting in a substantial increase to help the family meet their needs. Great work, Veteran Services team!

Calls/Requests for Assistance

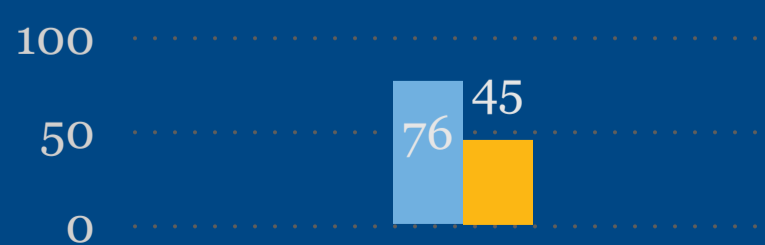


Total Clients Served



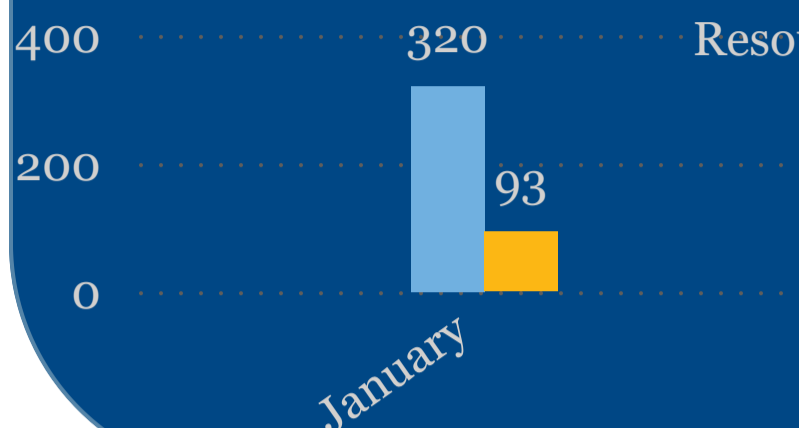
Veteran Claims

● New Claims ● Claims Awarded



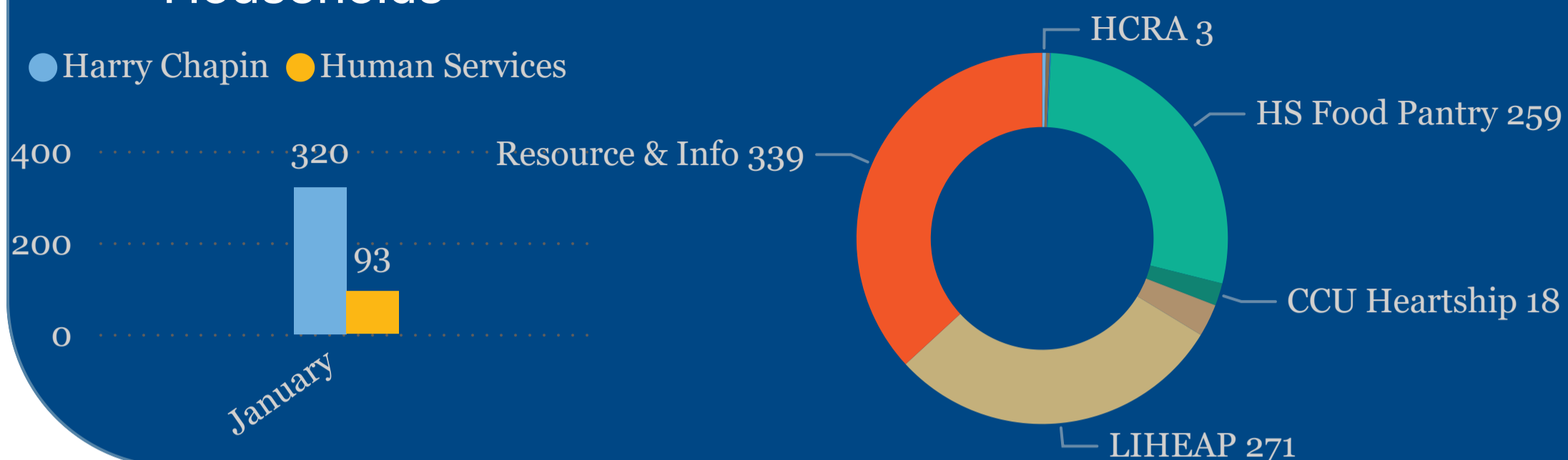
Food Pantry Households

● Harry Chapin ● Human Services



Intake Services

Intake Services - Service Mix



5
Outreach Events

6
Season of Sharing Application

142
Fastrack Applications

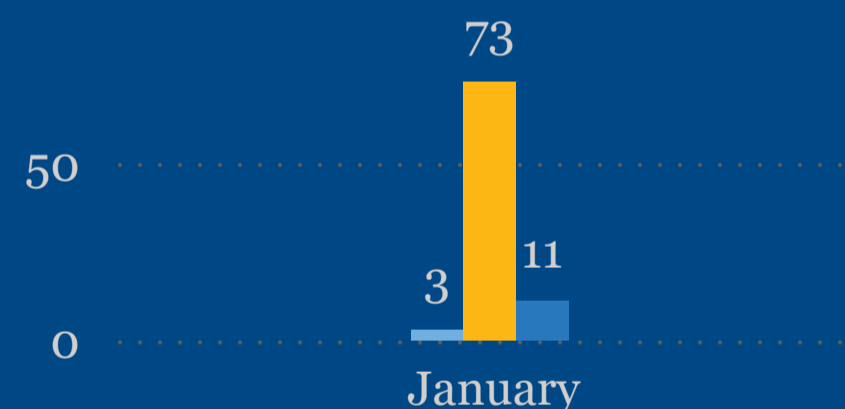
Family Stability Services

148
Total households In Progress

305
Total Clients Served

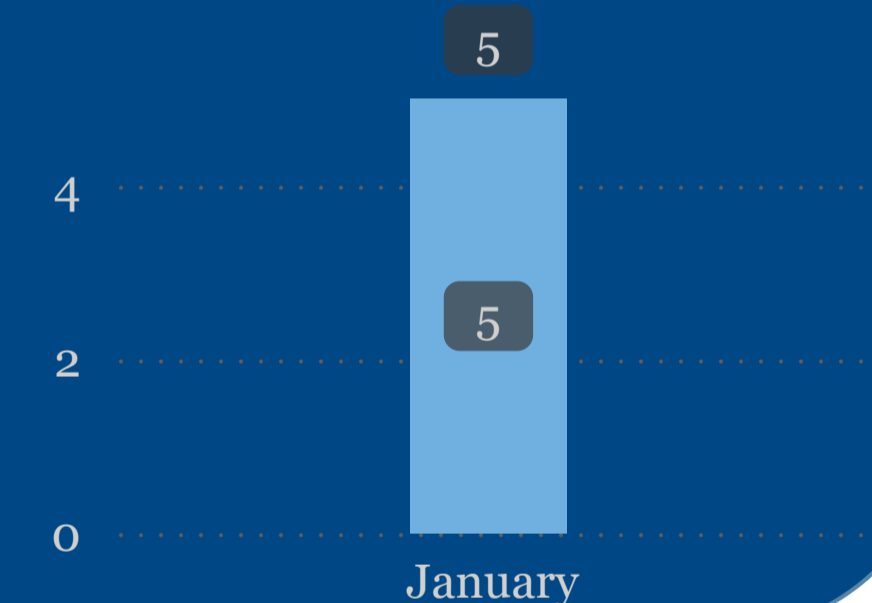
Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program

● New Cases ● In Progress ● Closed



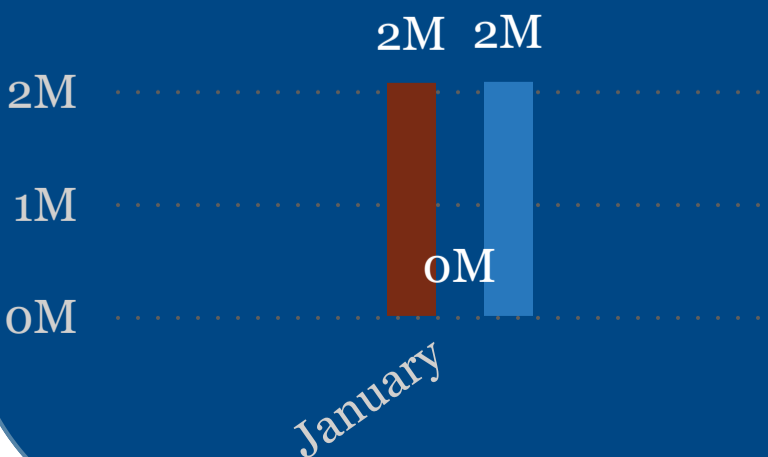
COAD & Disaster Cases

● Assigned ● Denied



Affordable Housing Trust Fund

● Encumbered ● Spent ● Budget



Neighborhood Services Division presented at the Region 6 SHIP Administrators' Roundtable on best practices in disaster recovery.

Neighborhood Services

Charlotte HOME Applications

5
Single-Family

0
Multi-Family

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

0
New Projects

29
In Progress Projects

0
Completed Projects

MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps distributed

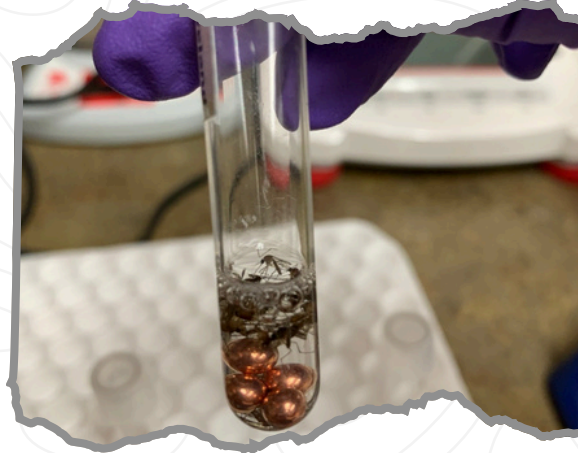
62

33

Total number of mosquitos identified to species

1

Phone Complaints Resolved



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1254

Work Orders Opened

771

Work Orders Closed

141

Service Requests Opened

ENGINEERING

The paving on Veterans Blvd and Cochran Blvd is completed and all operations are in full intended use.

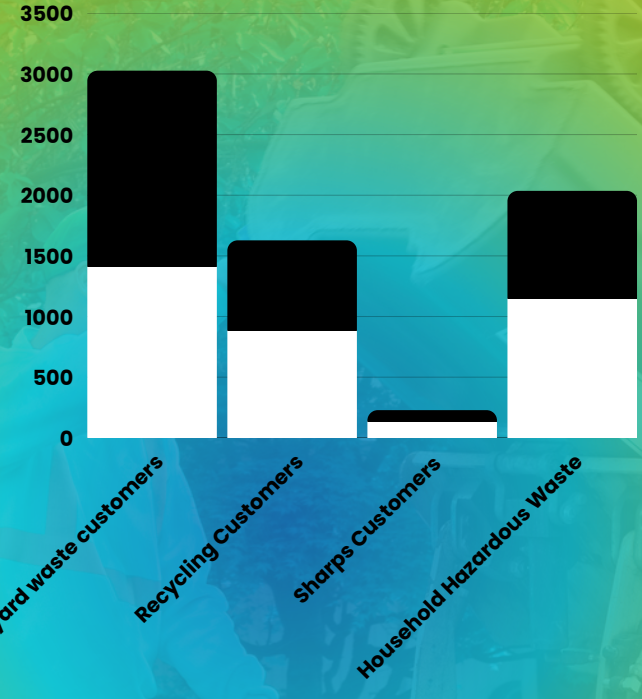
EHC Construction will be working on final restoration for the next couple of weeks and that will close out the project.



SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations

● Mid County ● West County



Landfill in Tons



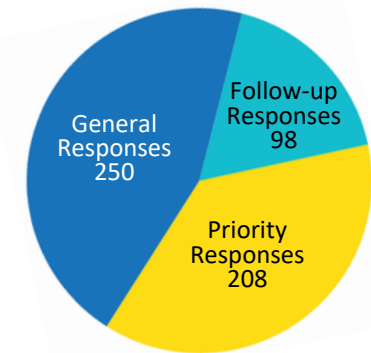
Charlotte County Fire & EMS

This month marked several meaningful milestones and moments of service for our Charlotte County Fire & EMS Chief McElroy was officially appointed Fire Chief and Public Safety Director, setting the tone for continued leadership and growth. Fire Inspector II Max Lopez delivered Hands-Only CPR, Stop the Bleed and AED classes across Charlotte County, expanding lifesaving skills in our community. Our teams also brought careers to life during the Charlotte County Public Schools 8th Grade Career Exploration Event, where Fire & EMS and Animal Control made it a truly hands-on experience that connected students with public safety in a memorable way. We stood shoulder to shoulder with our North Port Fire Rescue family to honor the life and service of Firefighter/Engineer Victor Cleveland, reflecting the strength of the fire service brotherhood. Fire Station 9 became the county's only fire station sharps drop-off location, offering residents a safe and convenient disposal option seven days a week and helping prevent injuries and environmental hazards. Finally, our Rapid Intervention Team competed in the 2026 Florida Rapid Intervention Operations Group RIT Competition in Orlando. Out of 26 teams statewide, only half completed the demanding course, and Charlotte County Fire & EMS was proud to be among those who finished, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and readiness to rescue one of our own.

Charlotte County Animal Control

Alongside Charlotte County Fire & EMS, Animal Control took part in the Charlotte County Public Schools 8th Grade Career Exploration Event, giving students a hands-on look at a career in animal control and public safety and showing that career day can truly be an experience. County Administration also recognized Animal Control Officer Matthew Mazzoni and Senior Animal Control Officer Emily Graham with Exceptional Service Awards for their compassionate service and dedication to the community. In the field, Animal Control demonstrated that same care when responding to a call about an injured Northern Yellow Bat, guiding the resident from the first phone call and safely transporting the animal to Peace River Wildlife Center, ensuring it received the specialized care it needed.

ANIMAL CONTROL



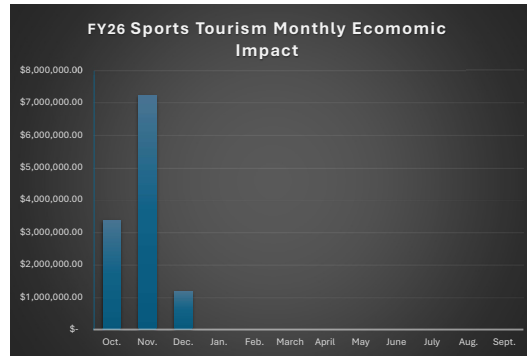
Total Calls: 556



SPORTS

Sales Update

December 2025	
Events:	6
Sports:	Pickleball
	Baseball
	NCAA Swim Training



December 2025 Sports Tourism Economic Impact	
\$	1,187,696.00



LEISURE - January 2026:

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau participated in the Washington, D.C. Travel & Adventure Show to promote our region and strengthen interest in our destination.

- Representatives included PGEB Staff, and a partner from Palm Island Resort.
- Connected with hundreds of travel advisors and secured 77 quality leads.
- Engaged with hundreds of consumers interested in planning trips to Florida.
- Strong interest in beach vacations, outdoor recreation, and Spring Training travel.
- Highlighted PGEB's convenient access to Spring Training venues in Charlotte, Lee, and Sarasota counties.
- Increased visibility for local accommodations and our community overall.

MEETINGS - January 2026:

In January, the US Sports Congress team conducted a site visit of our destination in preparation for hosting their Annual Conference here in December 2026. As a result, conference attendees will experience not only Sunseeker Resort, but also partner properties including Four Points by Sheraton, TT's Tiki Bar, The Wyvern, and Fishermen's Village. In addition, attendees will participate in organized afternoon excursions featuring local attractions such as the Visual Arts Center, Aileron Golf Club, SUP Englewood, and a downtown Punta Gorda dine-around experience.



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 100,509
Sessions: 122,264
Top Origin Markets:
FL, NY, IL, OH, PA, GA, TX, MI, NJ, VA

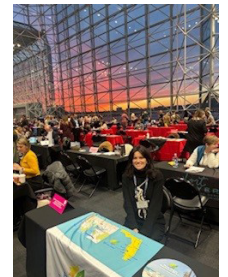
Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)			
Dec-24	\$666,407	↑	1.4%
Dec-25	\$675,928		

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)			
Dec-24	\$1,587,867	↑	1.2%
Dec-25	\$1,607,097		

Public Relations & Social Media

Public Relations Director from our Marketing and Public Relations firm, Aqua, attended the International Media Marketplace (IMM) in New York to showcase our destination to top national and international journalists.



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



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

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 5,616
- **Call Wait Time:** 29 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 50,542
(104 increase from December)
- **Water Connections:** 74,514
(121 increase from December)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 10 Misc.— Utilities Department
- 1 Utilities Billing
- 10 Utilities Department Service
- 21 Total

Utilities Department Facebook

4,627 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 January, the Customer Payment Center assisted 1,026 individuals. 41,137 payments were processed using Paymentus.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

January Stories

The Utilities Department had an impactful month delivering exceptional service to customers. Here's how we're making progress to enrich the community's quality of life through safe, reliable water services.

Meeting Wastewater Needs in Burnt Store



Over the years, the Burnt Store service area has grown exponentially. We're undergoing expansion projects to meet wastewater treatment needs now and for the future for this community.

Facility Tours Scheduled



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

Drop Savers Contest



Students in grades K-12 are invited to create a poster illustrating a water conservation idea for this year's Drop Savers Poster Contest. Local and state prizes are up for grabs.

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 82% complete.

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