

Monthly Report February 2026

Commission gets hurricane finance update at board meeting

At its Feb. 25 board meeting, the County Commission received an update on the fiscal impact of hurricanes Irma, Ian, Idalia, Debbie, Helene and Milton to county facilities. The total projected cost of recovery and repairs from the storms was nearly \$354 million. The county projects Federal Emergency Management Agency grants will cover more than \$222 million.

Insurance and other agency grants will account for more than \$94 million and the

county share will be about \$35.5 million. The most damaging storms were Ian and Milton which the county projects cost \$321 million and \$94 million, respectively.

FEMA is releasing an additional \$7.3 million to Charlotte County in response to Fla. Sen. Ashley Moody's meeting with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. This is in addition to the \$2.8 million announced on Monday and the \$37 million announced last month.

The new funds will go towards two hurricane safe rooms and generators. One will be built at the Public Safety Complex on Airport Road. The 39,720 sq. ft. safe room will be designed and constructed to provide protection against 200 mph winds.

The facility will accommodate 1,655 essential staff during a disaster. The other will be 48,000 sq. ft. and accommodate 2,000 vulnerable residents and will be built at Bissett Park south of Punta Gorda.

School zone cameras put in operation Feb. 27

Charlotte County is implementing school zone speed enforcement cameras to enhance safety. The first phase of the program went live on Feb. 27. During a 30-day warning period, violators will receive a warning notice by mail if they are caught speeding.

Starting April 1, citations will be issued. If a vehicle is detected exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 mph, the registered owner will receive a notice of violation with a fine of \$100 approximately three days after the violation occurred. For example, if you are driving 31 mph in a 20-mph school zone, you will be cited.



Port Charlotte High School Principal James Vernon joined local officials to remind motorists about school zones speed limits.

Commission adopts ordinance regulating electric bicycles

At the Feb. 10 County Commission meeting, the board passed a new ordinance establishing safety regulations for electric bicycles, electric motorcycles, motorized scooters, and micro-mobility devices in the unincorporated area of Charlotte County.

Electric bikes and scooters may be used on sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, multi-use paths, designated bicycle paths. The maximum speed is 15 mph on sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, multi-use paths, and bike paths.

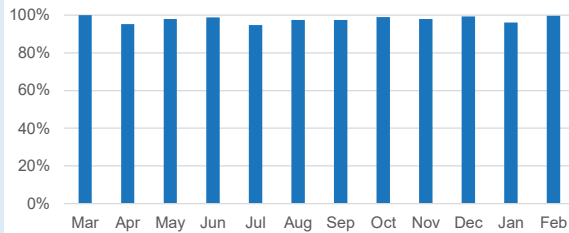
Read the full ordinance at the county website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov. Click on Government, then Commission Agendas.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

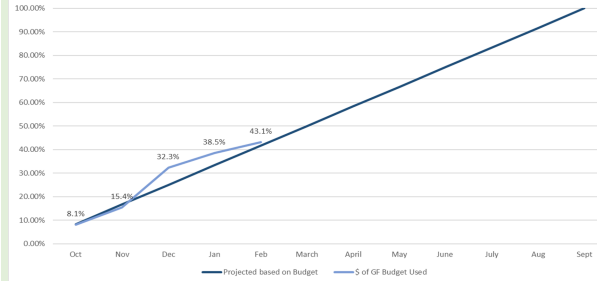


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

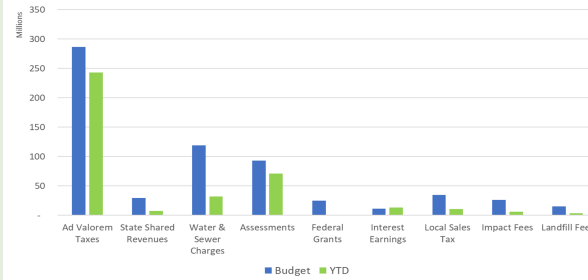


Fiscal

General Fund Expenditures Budget vs Actual



Major Revenue Sources - FY26 Budget vs. YTD



Director Highlights

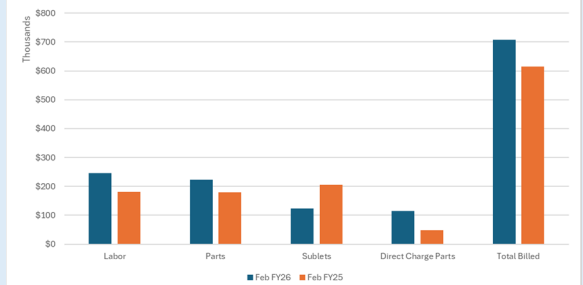
Fleet Management

Managing and maintaining the County's fleet has been greatly complicated by the events of the past several years. First COVID brought long-lasting supply chain shortages for the acquisition of vehicles and parts. As a result the average age of the fleet is 5 years older than it was prior to COVID. Then the excessive damage of Hurricane Ian closed many of our area vendors and highlighted the danger of depending on external parties after a disaster.

As a result we adapt a strategy to expand shop space, provide more services in the field, and bring more services back in-house (particularly tires and alignments). The graph below shows a comparative change for just the month of February 2025 to 2026 and highlights the shift away from sublets to internal service.

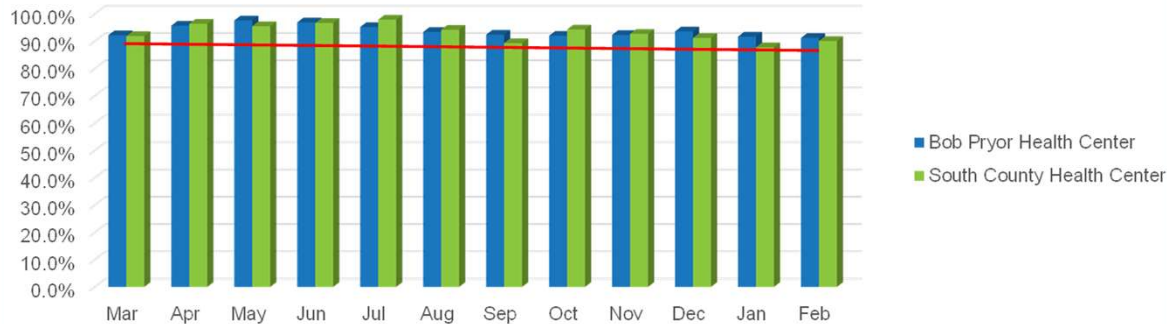
February 2026

Fleet Billing



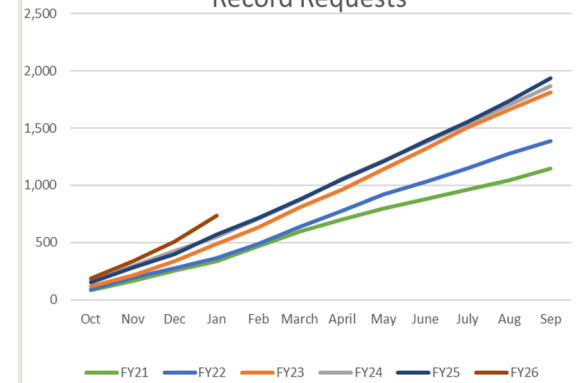
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



Communications

February 2026

CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Most Visited Pages

Utilities Billing
32,719 views

**People Operations
Employment**
9,191 views

**Building Construction
Permits**
8,572 views

Most Downloads

Utilities Payment Options
2,274 downloads

**Feb. 25 Regular &
Land Use Meeting Agenda**
1,370 downloads

**Feb. 10 Regular Meeting
Agenda**
1,221 downloads

Top Searched Terms

Water Restrictions
158 searches

Permits
79 searches

DMV/Jobs/Property Search
67 searches

Kindness Grams

Random Acts of Kindness Week, held February 14-20, gave our employees the opportunity to write positive, encouraging messages to their colleagues through Kindness Grams. The response was inspiring, with over 375 Kindness Gram submissions received during the week. It was amazing to see so much gratitude and appreciation flowing throughout the office. Each Kindness Gram was delivered in person, creating meaningful moments of recognition, encouragement, and support among team members. While the week may have ended, the spirit behind it continues. Small gestures of appreciation can make a big impact, and together we can keep kindness at the heart of our workplace culture.

Employee Newsletter

1,607 Emails		Email Engagement	
756 (47%)	114 (7.1%)	22%	78%
Opened	Clicked	Mobile	Desktop

Social Media

(Analytics Across all Departments)

**564
Posts**

**2.23 million
Total Impressions**

**22,631
Engagements**

**498,000
Video Views**

**284,566
Total Followers**

Post of the Month



**School
zone speed
enforcement**

**1,400
Engagement**

Most Impressions



**School
zone speed
enforcement**

**196,300
Impressions**

Weekly Update By the Numbers

4 Email Campaigns

104,891
Emails Delivered

37,320
Emails Opened

4,426
Clicked

Most Clicked Link
New Watering Schedule



Latest Updates

105
Streaming Views

258
YouTube
Live Stream

1,193
Website Views

Under Review

Arby's

1725 S. McCall Road, Englewood
Parcel # 412006426009
Demolition of existing utilities, pavement and abandoned building and reconstruction of approximately 1,932 sq. ft. fast-food restaurant with drive-thru lanes

Chick-fil-A

100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
Parcel # 402103126008
5,033 sq. ft. fast food restaurant with dual drive-thru facilities, associated parking, internal circulation, stormwater facilities and landscaping

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

219 single-family permits issued
125 single-family COs issued
2,583 permits taken
2,469 permits issued (Feb. 2026)
11,091 permits issued FY26 YTD
15,758 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

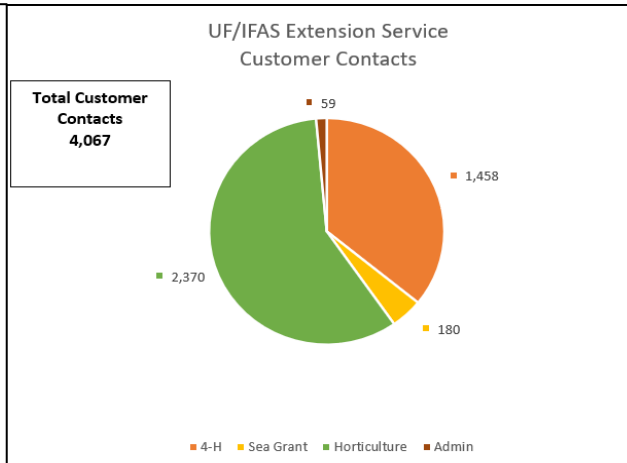
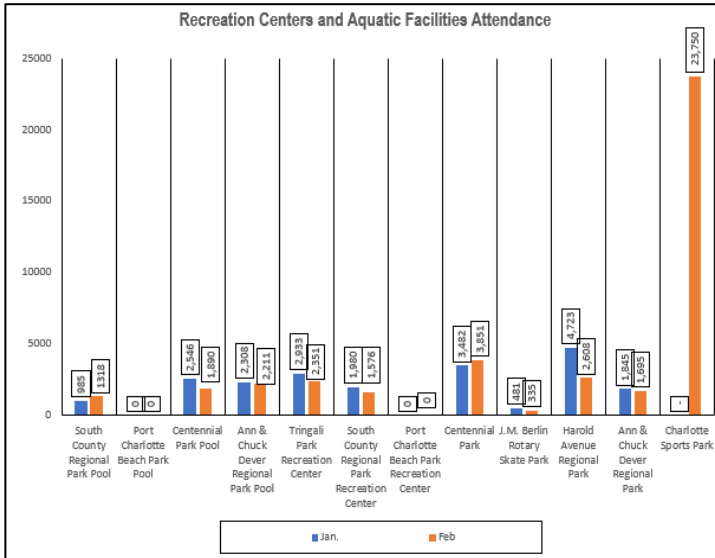
51 single-family permits issued in Feb. 2026
3,966 single-family COs issued since March 2017

West Port

23 single-family permits issued in Feb. 2026
898 COs issued since April 2017

Current Plat Applications in Review

PFP-25-14: Pulte Home Company, LLC is requesting a Preliminary and Final Plat approval for a subdivision named Cassia Bay (f/k/a Crosswinds) that consists of 122 single-family units, site landscaping and supporting utility, roadway and stormwater infrastructure. They also seek approval of a Construction and Maintenance Agreement and surety to cover the construction of the plat infrastructure. This project site is 68.43± acres and is generally located North of Duckweed Terr, South of Scham Rd., East of Burnt Store Rd. and West of Green Gulf Blvd. The proposed subdivision is in the Punta Gorda area, within the boundary of the Burnt Store Area Plan area, and in Commission District II.

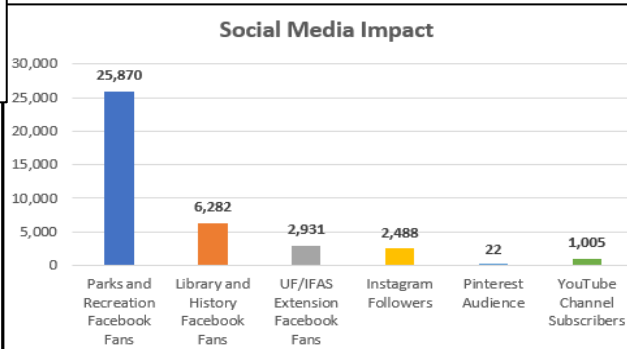
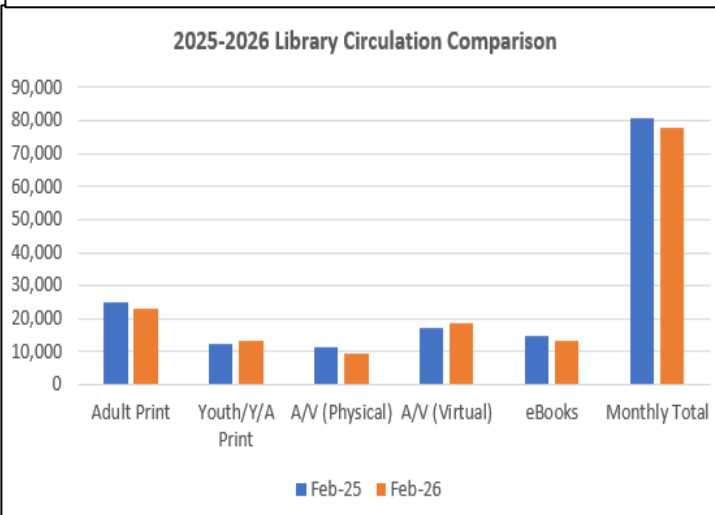


Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 434 fields prepped
- 3,417 trash bags collected
- 273 recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 38.4 miles maintained
- 34.6 exotics/invasives acres treated
- 241 acres overstory reduction.
- Staff conducted 3 educational outreach events this month. Educational outreach sessions focused on Unique Ecosystems of SWFL, Land Management and Exotic Fauna. 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 with eggs 3
 Eagle nests with chicks 25
 Coastal lighting permits in review 16
 Coastal lighting permit insp. 13
 Abandoned vessels removed 2

Project Management

- Projects completed 33
- Project not started 20
- Projects in progress 70
\$68,807,930.47

Economic Development Co-Hosted the Built to Last Restaurant Series Featuring Ed Renzi

Charlotte County Economic Development promoted and supported the “Built to Last” Restaurant Series featuring Ed Renzi, former President and CEO of McDonald’s USA and a SCORE mentor.

The event focused on operational systems, leadership structure, and long-term sustainability for independent restaurant owners and operators.

The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Score, and the Military Heritage Museum co-hosted the event.



February 40 Under 40 Honoree Michael Tarach

Charlotte County Economic Development recognized Michael Tarach as the February 40 Under 40 honoree. Tarach serves as Branch Manager at Blue Bell Creameries and was highlighted through the County’s leadership recognition initiative.



Economic Development Attended FPL PoweringFlorida Illumination

Charlotte County Economic Development attended the FPL PoweringFlorida Illumination event in Daytona Beach, engaging with industry leaders and companies evaluating expansion opportunities across Florida. Participation helps maintain Charlotte County’s visibility in aviation, advanced manufacturing, and logistics sectors while strengthening relationships with statewide partners.



Upcoming Events

- New Business Card Networking Event
March 17, 2026
- Entrepreneur Support Organization Q1 Meeting
March 17, 2026
- The Changing Trends in Digital Marketing
March 12, 2026

Rays Spring Training Opened at Charlotte Sports Park

Charlotte County Economic Development attended the opening of the Tampa Bay Rays’ 2026 Spring Training season, engaging with local businesses, partners, and visitors throughout the event. Spring Training provides an opportunity to connect with the business community, promote local resources, and invite regional businesses to participate in Charlotte County’s economic development initiatives.





Emergency Management

February emphasized coordination, planning, and continued progress on key preparedness initiatives. Staff supported operational readiness efforts while advancing projects and future exercises. Engagement with partners and the community remained an important focus.

Exercise Development & Operational Readiness

Planning progressed for the March 3 Points of Distribution (POD) exercise, including development of the Exercise Plan, staffing structure, and operational timelines to support realistic mobilization and field operations. Updates to the county's Debris Management Plan also continued, focusing on improving operational guidance and safety procedures.

Training, Outreach & Engagement

Staff participated in Emergency Management Day at the Capitol and continued community outreach efforts. The team engaged residents during the Heritage Oak Park Disaster Readiness event and met with students through Junior Leadership Charlotte to promote emergency preparedness.

Planning & Preparedness Initiatives

Emergency Management continued advancing preparedness initiatives during February. The team held a reunification coordination meeting with partner agencies to review procedures and clarify response roles. Initial planning for HURREX 26 was also conducted, establishing the framework for scenario development and participating agencies, while mass casualty planning efforts were formally initiated.

Program Development & Projects

Work continued on the Storm Surge Visualization Project, including securing funding, coordinating with the vendor, and initiating the purchase order process. The first round of bi-annual Continuity of Operations (COOP) workshops was also held, with thirteen county departments participating.



Facilities Management

February 2026

Emergency Operations Center

To support Charlotte County's continued growth and ability to have an effective disaster response capability, additional space at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has become essential. The county is currently nearing the completion of the design development phase for the EOC expansion project, which will increase the size of the existing facility by approximately 17,000 square feet. The expansion will include a larger, upgraded command room designed to serve as the central hub for coordinating response efforts during natural disasters and other emergency events. In addition to the enhanced command room, the project will add several breakout rooms, dedicated training spaces, and other supporting work areas that are critical for effective emergency management operations during activations.

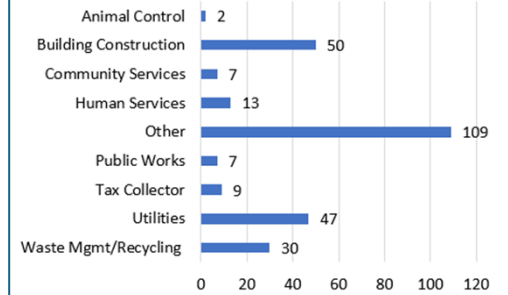


Following Board approval of the top-ranked firm, negotiations have been finalized to begin design of the South County Annex. This project will begin with programming of county annex space and site selection.

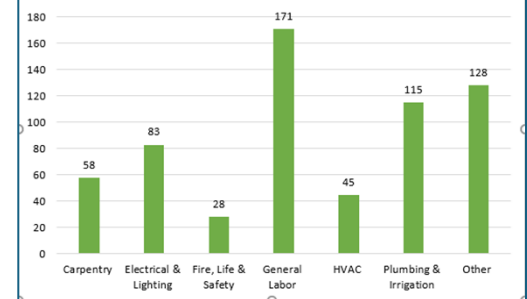
The Board of County Commissioners approved the construction amendment outlining the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for Phase II of the William R. Gaines Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park during their meeting held on February 10, 2026.

Plans for the replacement boat ramp at Ainger Creek Park are being finalized for bid. Improvements will include better water resources environmental protection, smoother traffic flow, increase boat launch and loading efficiency, ADA compliance, and new restroom facilities.

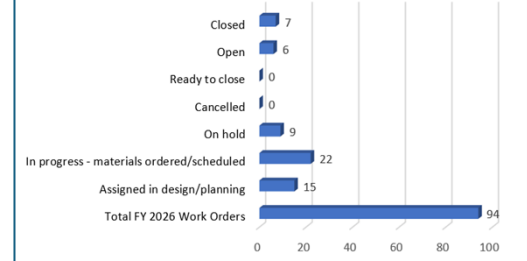
FY26 Switchboard Calls
February 2026 Total Calls - 350



FY26 Work Orders - February 2026
Total Opened - 665 Total Closed - 578



Small Projects - February 2026



Human Services

February 2026

Aging and Adult Services

138
Total Clients

31K
Total Service Hours

1566
Homemaking Hours

0
Grandchild Care Hours

332
Companionship Hours

660
Personal Care Hours

\$195K
Total Spending

2
Wellness Checks

2652
Respite Care Hours

25,536
Emergency Response Systems Hours

Veteran Services

\$409.0K

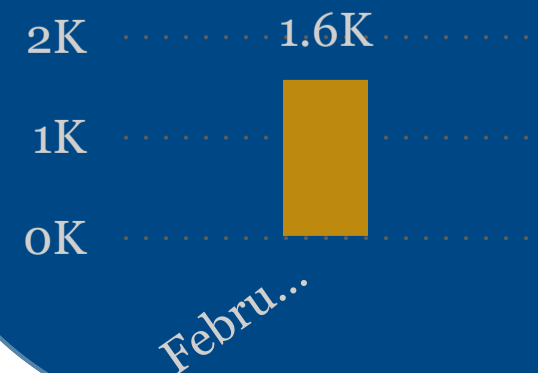
Retroactive Payments

\$177.7K

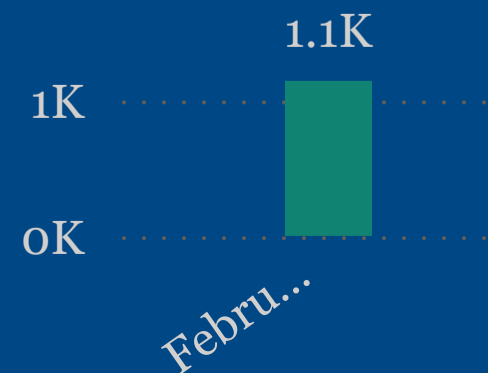
Reoccurring Payments

Our Veteran Services team led a county-wide outreach to promote the upcoming Veteran Services Resource Fair 3/27 at the Family Services Center, featuring 30+ vendors and veteran organizations. The team secured auction donations and food contributions to support attendees.

Calls/Requests for Assistance

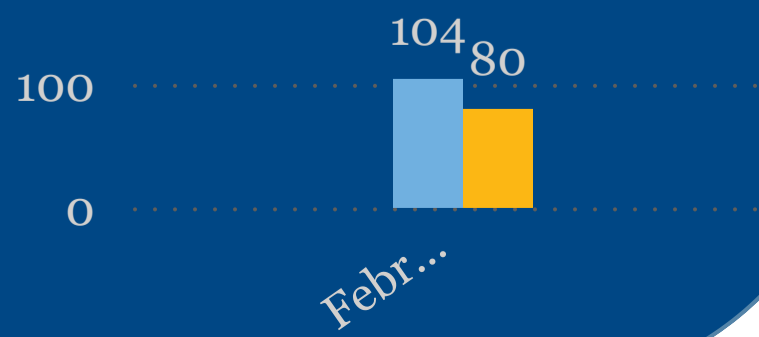


Total Clients Served



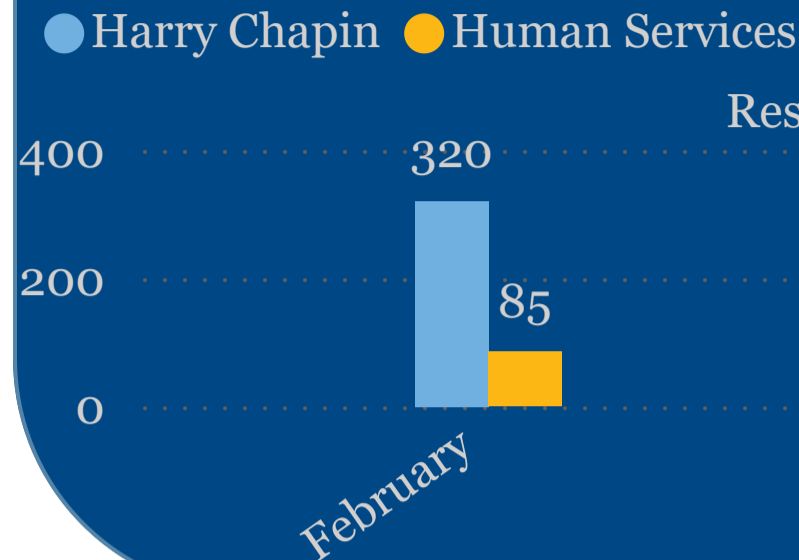
Veteran Claims

● New Claims ● Claims Awarded

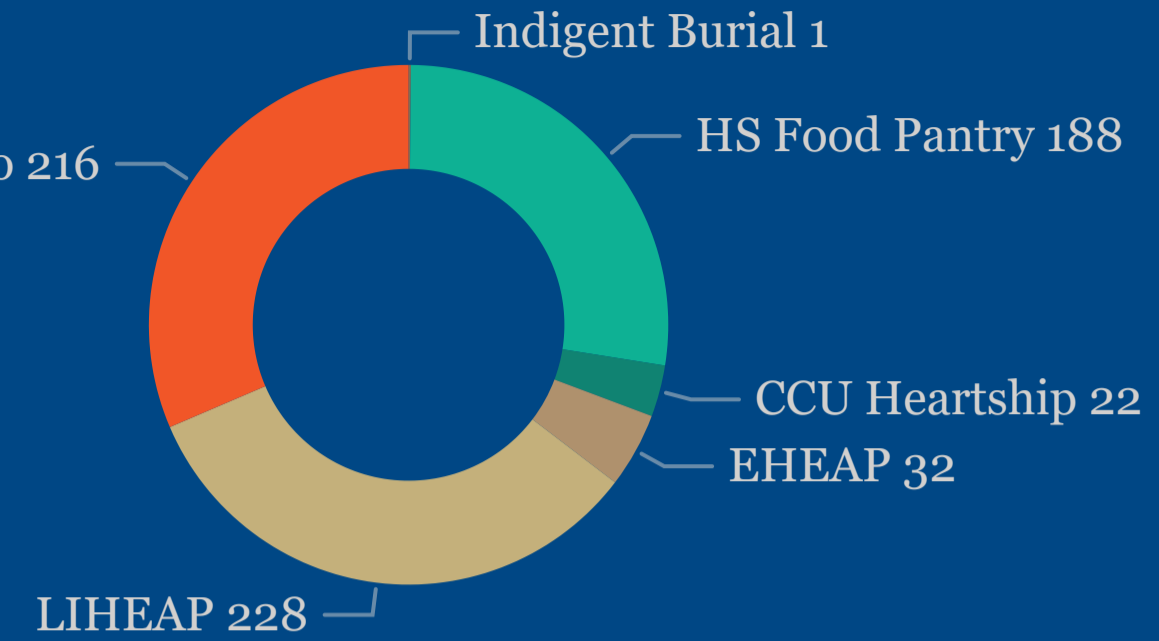


Intake Services

Food Pantry Households



Intake Services - Service Mix



4
Outreach Events

2
Season of Sharing Application

169
Fastrack Applications

Family Stability Services

152

Total households In Progress

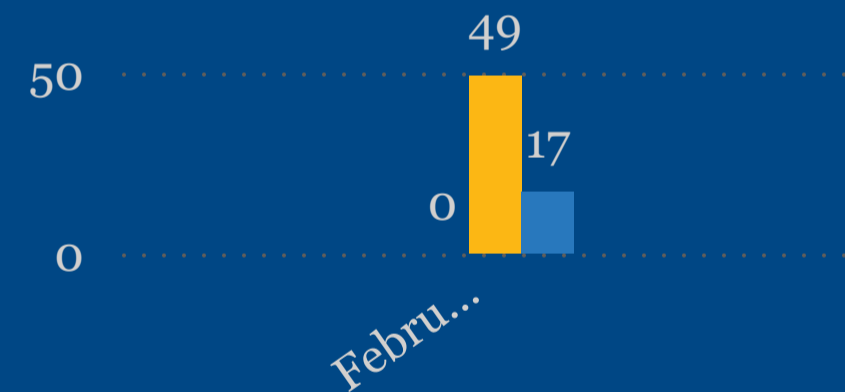
280

Sum of Total Clients Served

5
Braided Funding Households Served

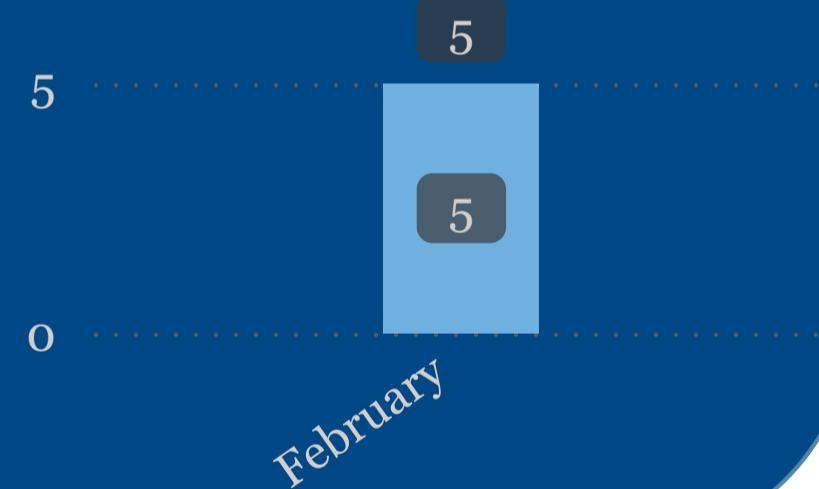
Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program

● New Cases ● In Progress ● Closed



COAD & Disaster Cases

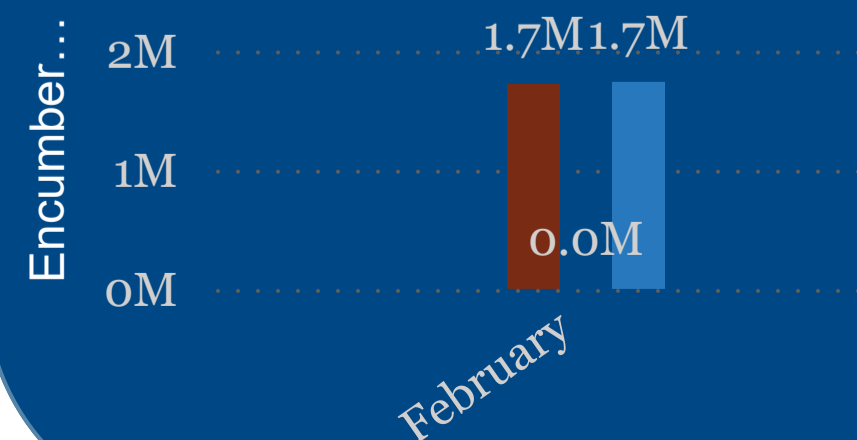
● Assigned ● Denied



Neighborhood Services

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

● Encumbered ● Spent ● Budget



2/17 Lenders' Consortium meeting; increased participating loan officers to 25

2 new homeowners through the Purchase Assistance Program

Charlotte HOME Applications

11
Single-Family

2
Multi-Family

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

0
New Projects

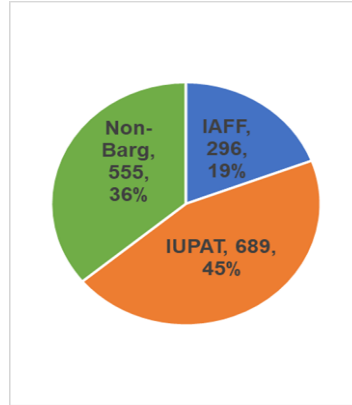
29
In Progress Projects

0
Completed Projects

People Operations

Workforce

Employee Count 1,526
 Avg Age 45
 Avg Hourly Rate \$29.99
 Avg Years of Service 8



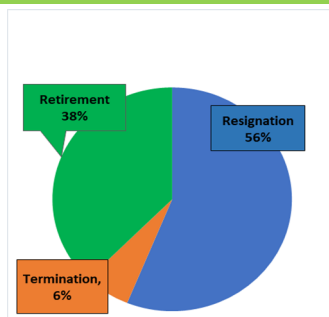
Retention of New Hires February
 % completing probation 90%

Succession Planning

EE's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 3.3%
 % of Workforce Retired this FY 2.0%

Separations

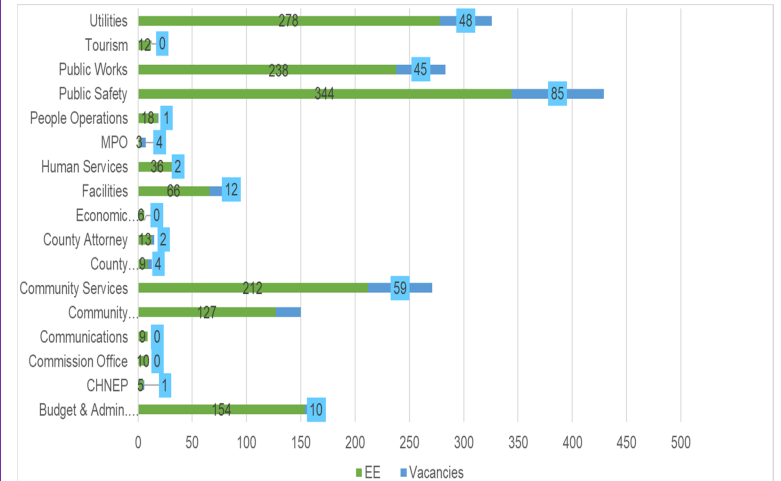
February
 Turnover 1.0%
 Separations 16



Training & Development

Training 40.27 195 EEs 7,853 contact hrs
 % using Tuition Reimbursement 0.75%

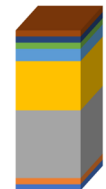
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 297

Recruitment

Applications Taken 871
 Job Posting Hits 8,109
 New Hires 11
 Recruited Pos FT 21
 Posted PT/STARR 4



Category	Total
STATUS CHANGE	1
REHIRE - FULL-TIME	1
RECLASS PROMOTION	1
PROMOTION - AUTO PROGRESSION	2
PROMOTION	8
NEW HIRE - FULL TIME	11
LATERAL TRANSFER	1
DEMOTION	1

Charlotte County Fire & EMS

Charlotte County Fire & EMS recognized significant milestones in February, welcoming 15 new Firefighter/EMTs and Firemedics during a pinning ceremony while also celebrating the promotions of three Lieutenants, two Battalion Chiefs, a Deputy Chief, and the department's new Fire Chief. For some, the ceremony marked the first badge pinned and the beginning of a career in public safety, while for others it represented the next step in their leadership journey.

Crews also responded to the first large brush fire of the season on Feb. 27 after being dispatched to Pilgrim St. and Gisinger Blvd. for a reported roadside fire. What began as a 1-acre fire quickly expanded into two separate brush fires off Gilot Blvd., burning approximately 50 acres combined. Through aggressive initial attack and strong coordination, firefighters protected multiple homes and stopped the forward spread before it could impact nearby residences. The incident involved more than 20 apparatus, seven dozers, two helicopters, and a fixed-wing aircraft, and resulted in no injuries and only minor damage to a shed.

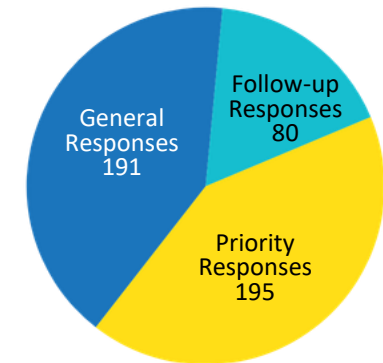
A countywide burn ban remains in effect as dry conditions and heavy fuels continue to increase wildfire risk. Residents are encouraged to create defensible space around their homes by clearing dead vegetation, trimming trees away from structures, and removing debris from roofs and gutters.

Charlotte County Animal Control

Charlotte County Animal Control recently assisted with the safe rescue of a Red-Shouldered Hawk that had flown through a screened patio and was unable to find its way back out. The hawk was carefully collected and released without injury, where its mate had been calling nearby the entire time. Once released, the hawk quickly flew to a nearby palm tree to reunite with its partner. The species mates for life, and with breeding season underway, the reunion was a successful outcome for both birds.

Animal Control also participated in the Heritage Oak Park Disaster Readiness Day, joining nearly 100 residents for a community preparedness event focused on safety before severe weather strikes. Staff shared information on storm preparedness, and pet safety during emergencies, including the importance of pet go-kits, proper identification, and planning for sheltering options.

ANIMAL CONTROL



Total Calls: 466



MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps distributed

10

6

Total number of mosquitos identified to species



1

Phone Complaints Resolved



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1076

Work Orders Opened

831

Work Orders Closed

150

Service Requests Opened

ENGINEERING

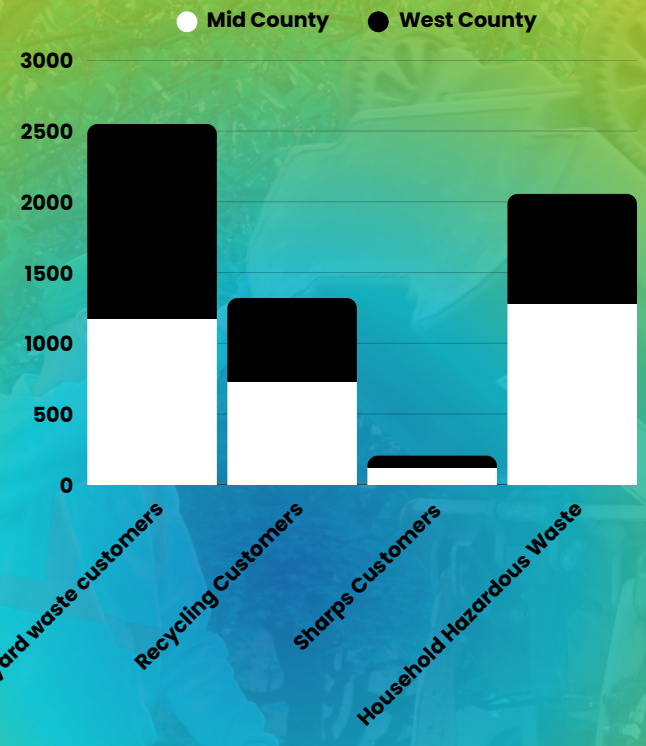
Nine school locations are currently operating speed detection systems, with a total of 22 cameras presently installed. Violation reviews are being conducted by Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Officers.

During the first six days of operation at the initial nine schools, 260 speed events were reviewed. Of these, 239 were confirmed as valid violations, and 21 were dismissed following review.



SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations



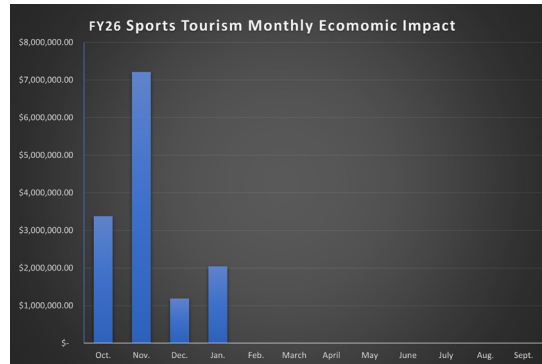
Landfill in Tons



SPORTS

Sales Update

January 2026	
Events:	5
Sports:	Pickleball
	Baseball
	PB Camp
	NCAA Swim Training



January 2026 Sports Tourism Economic Impact	
\$	2,044,998.00

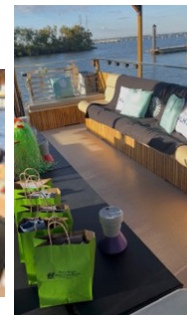


LEISURE - February 2026:

Florida Huddle (Feb 2-4) -Held 30 one-on-one meetings with U.S and international tour operators and cohosted a networking reception
TUI Germany FAMs (Feb 5-7 & Feb 11-13)- Hosted two familiarization trips with 18 German travel advisors and our overseas marketing team
Apple Leisure Group FAM (Feb 6)-Promoted the destination to 10 U.S. travel executives
IITA Summit (Feb 8-11)-Represented the destination at the international tourism summit
Travel & Adventure Show – Chicago (Feb 21-22)-Engaged with 100 travel agents and hundreds of consumers promoting the destination
Tampa Peninsula Show (Feb 23)-Presented to 90 domestic travel agents and attended a networking dinner
Go2Travel Event – Zurich (Feb 27)-Introduced the destination to 50 Swiss travel agents

MEETINGS - February 2026:

Punta Gorda Englewood Beach Meeting and Convention team had the opportunity to connect with 12 Hilton meeting planners from across the country, showcasing everything that makes our destination truly special. During their stay in our destination, they loved what they saw! These 12 high level Hilton planners are responsible for booking conferences, incentive trips, and corporate events, and Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach made a big impression. We look forward to turning these new connections into future conferences and welcoming even more groups to Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach!



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 98,800
 Sessions: 117,102
 Top Origin Markets:
 FL, NY, IL, GA, PA, OH, NJ, MI, NC, VA

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)			
Jan-25	\$1,068,448	↑	1.6%
Jan-26	\$1,085,883		

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)			
Jan-25	\$2,656,314	↑	1.4%
Jan-26	\$2,692,981		

Public Relations & Social Media

Punta Gorda Englewood Beach welcomed travel journalists and influencers who experienced our destination firsthand. **Wanda Haynes**, a journalist from Ohio, writes for the Cincinnati Herald, **Sarah Morgensen**, a Nebraska-based journalist contributing to SheBuysTravel, and **Cecilia Krause**, a Naples-based influencer. PGEB looks forward to the exposure their coverage will bring in the months ahead.

Tag your Charlotte County adventure photos with #BestSideOutside for a chance to be showcased on our website PureFlorida.com.



Follow us



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

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 6098
- **Call Wait Time:** 54 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 50,664
(122 increase from January)
- **Water Connections:** 74,630
(116 increase from January)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 13 Misc.— Utilities Department
- 2 Utilities Billing
- 13 Utilities Department Service
- 28 Total

Utilities Department Facebook

4,665 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 February, the Customer Payment Center assisted 942 individuals. 39,365 payments were processed using Paymentus.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

February 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.

Port Charlotte High School Field Trip



Cambridge AICE Marine Science students toured the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, learning how drinking water is treated and delivered to our community.

Thank you to Woodruff & Sons, Inc. for sponsoring transportation and to the Water Authority for hosting an incredible behind-the-scenes tour. Experiences like this help inspire the next generation of water professionals.

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.

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. Residential connections in Zone 2 are underway. 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 complete and restorations are underway.

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 85% complete.

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