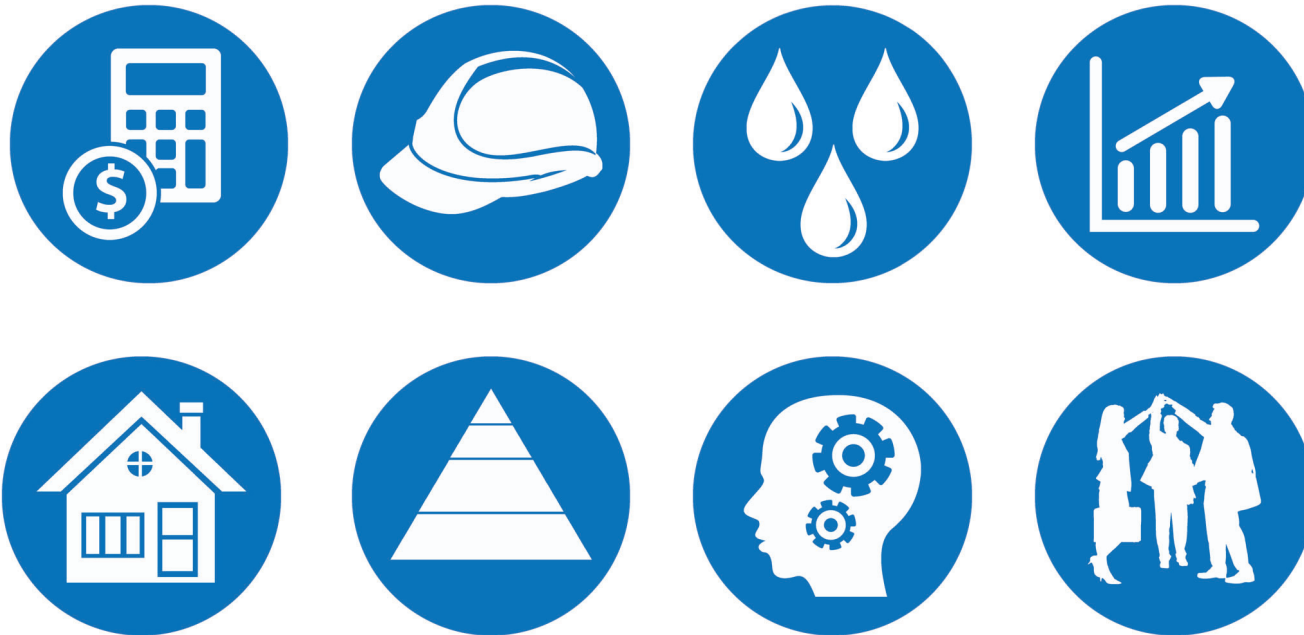




Monthly Report

Sept. 2025



Final county public budget hearing held Sept. 23

The final public budget hearing was held Sept. 23 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. The board voted to adopt the proposed budget.

The vote marked the end of our two-year budget process that included numerous workshops and meetings where the County Commission revisited its strategic plan, reviewed its capital projects list and timetable, added staff in critical areas and placed an emphasis on resiliency.

The board added a new bold goal to strength-

en the resiliency and recovery capacity of the county. The county created three working groups to address environmental, infrastructure and financial resiliency and recovery. Two additional working groups are addressing human and economic and business resiliency and recovery in the community.

The board also added two bold goals in its economic and community development focus area. The first one is to increase opportunities for industrial development in Charlotte County while balancing open space. The second one is

to position Charlotte County as a hub for skilled professionals by expanding high-wage jobs in target industries, increasing workforce housing, and leveraging economic incentives for growth.

Two more new bold goals are to manage and communicate the complexities of a changing organization and the provision of public services. The Communications Department is creating an information-sharing project to better inform property owners in taxing units around the county using an email distribution product people can opt into to receive messages.



Construction has begun on the new recreation center and pool at Port Charlotte Beach Park. The County Commission will commemorate the occasion with a groundbreaking ceremony at 2:30 p.m., Oct. 16. The park is located at 4500 Harbor Blvd., in Port Charlotte.

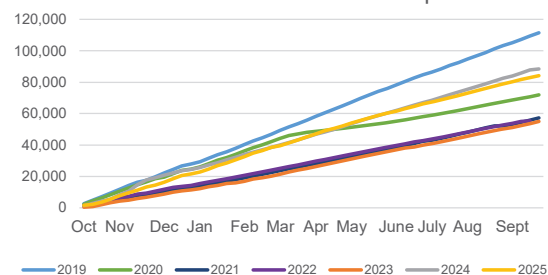
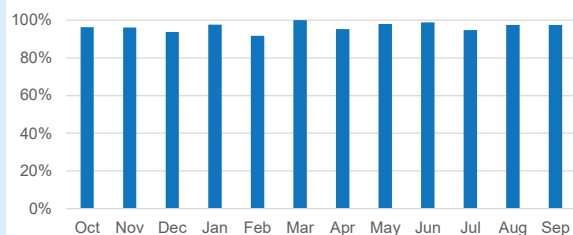
County continues to reopen storm-damaged facilities

Portions of Bayshore Live Oak Park located at 23157 Bayshore Road in Charlotte Harbor have reopened. Open amenities include parking, greenspace, and the fireplace pavilion. Other portions of the park remain closed due to damage and safety hazards.

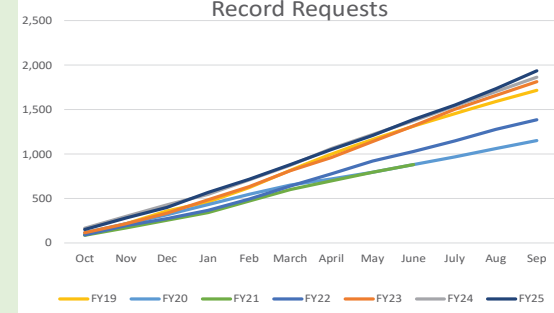
Repairs to the pirate ship playground at Englewood Beach have been completed and the playground has reopened.

Work continues on Mid-County Regional Library. Construction is projected to be completed in early 2026, which will allow library staff to start restocking books, videos and equipment and reopen the library to the public.

Director Highlights



The Florida State University Certified Public Manager program is a nationally recognized leadership development initiative for public sector managers and supervisors. It focuses on practical skills, ethical decision-making, and strategic thinking to improve effectiveness in government and nonprofit organizations. Completed over the course of two years, the program is structured across eight levels, blending classroom instruction, projects, and applied learning to strengthen professional and organizational performance. Graduates leave with advanced management capabilities that enhance public service and leadership impact. This October in Fort Myers, FL, ten county employees completed Level 8 of the program and graduated. Among them were Rick Arthur and Stephen Kipa from Budget and Administrative Services.



Communications

September 2025

CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Most Visited Pages

Utilities Billing
75,626 views

Employment Opportunities
10,990 views

Building Construction Online Services
9,349 views

Most Downloads

Utilities Payment Options
1,567 downloads

Sept. 9 Regular & Land Use Meeting
848 downloads

How To Research Permit Information
672 downloads

Top Searched Terms

Permit
232 searches

Jobs
82 searches

Pay My Bill
71 searches

Spouse Insurance Communication Program Launch

Internal Communications launched a new Spouse Insurance Communication Program to extend important health benefit and wellness updates directly to spouses covered under the County's insurance plan. The initiative ensures spouses receive the same timely information as employees, such as open enrollment reminders and wellness program details, delivered to their inboxes.

To support the rollout, a new Constant Contact distribution list was created specifically for spouses. The sign-up campaign was promoted through flyers, employee channels, and a dedicated QR code linking to a short registration form. As of Oct. 10, 176 spouses have signed up to receive updates.

Two campaigns have been distributed so far: the initial invitation on Sept. 30, and an Open Enrollment + Flu Shot reminder on October 6. Engagement has been strong, with both campaigns achieving open rates above 60%. These early results indicate a successful connection with this new audience and validate the value of expanding direct communication beyond the employee network.

This effort marks another step toward strengthening Countywide communication by keeping all members of the County family, employees and their households, informed and engaged on important health and wellness initiatives.

Social Media

(Analytics Across all Departments)

548 Posts

2.193 million Total Impressions

67,201 Engagements

858,600 Video Views

259,300 Total Followers

Post of the Month



Don't Let the Shine Fool You
(Public Safety)

34,600 Engagement

Most Impressions



Don't Let the Shine Fool You
(Public Safety)

369,100 Impressions

Weekly Update By the Numbers

Average Performance

4 Email Campaigns

25,760 Emails

11,941 Opens

Most Clicked Link

Job Fair and Expo Sept. 29



Latest Updates

9 Board Meetings

372 YouTube Views

4 Original Videos

1,679 Website Views

131

Streaming 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

Fire Station #3

4322 El Jobean Road,
Port Charlotte
Demolition and construction of
a new two-story fire station

Midtown Market Place

45005 Cypress Parkway,
Punta Gorda
Design and construction twelve
(12) buildings consisting of a
bank, daycare, multiple retail
and restaurant buildings, gas
station, grocery store, and a
liquor store to also include
associated attached parking,
landscaping, and necessary
infrastructure

Sherwin-Williams

13450 S. McCall Road,
Port Charlotte
4,081 sq. ft. commercial paint
retail building, parking,
stormwater, and loading area

Under Construction



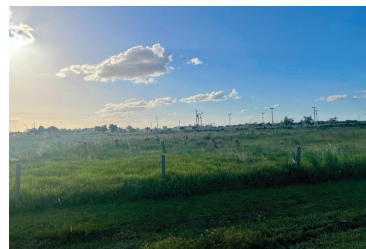
Auto Shop Charlotte

524 Tamiami Trail,
Port Charlotte
2,600 sq. ft. auto repair building
and associated infrastructure



My Place Hotel

24490 Sandhill Blvd.,
Punta Gorda
63-room hotel



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



Choice Veterinary Services

27570 Disston Ave., Punta Gorda
6,000 sq. ft. animal clinic

Current Plat Applications in Review

PFP-25-10 Quasi-Judicial

Lennar Homes, LLC is requesting
Preliminary and Final Plat approval for
proposed replat to be named, Heritage
Landing Phase III, consisting of 57 tracts.
The proposed subdivision is a replat of
Tracts D, E, R, and a portion of Tract A,
Tern Bay Golf and Country Club Resort;
Tracts AA, A-1, CC and portions of
Tracts A-1, G, A, and H of Heritage
Landing Tracts A-1, F, G, H, I, AA, and
CC; Tract A and Tract P-3, Heritage
Landing Phase II-A; and Tracts A-1 and
P-1, Heritage Landing Phase II-B. This
site contains 890.74± acres and is
generally located northwest of Burnt
Store Road, south of the City of Punta
Gorda and east of Charlotte Harbor,
within the boundary of the Burnt Store
Area Plan area and the Heritage Landing
Development of Regional Impact, in
Commission District II.

Permit Stats

148 single-family permits issued
247 single-family COs issued
2,456 permits taken
2,362 permits issued (Sept. 2025)
45,136 permits issued (FY23-24)
36,626 permits issued (FY24-25)

FY23-24: Oct. 2023 through Sept. 2024
FY24-25: Oct. 2024 through Sept. 2025

Project Spotlight

Babcock Ranch

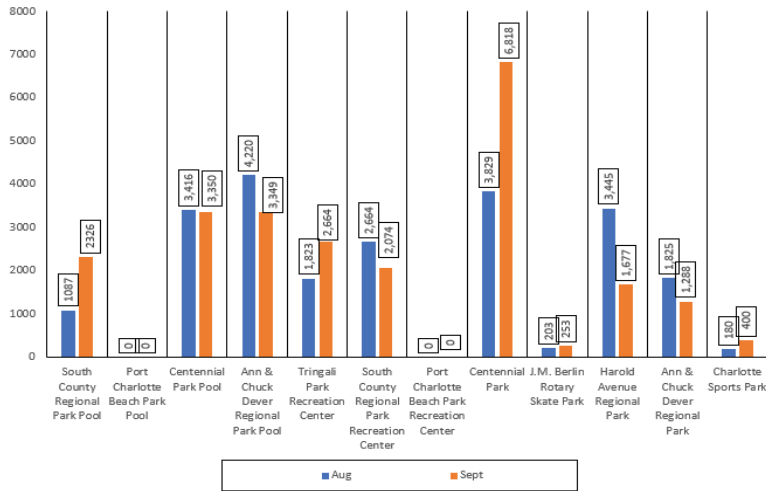
31 single-family permits issued in
Sept. 2025
3,724 single-family COs issued
since March 2017

West Port

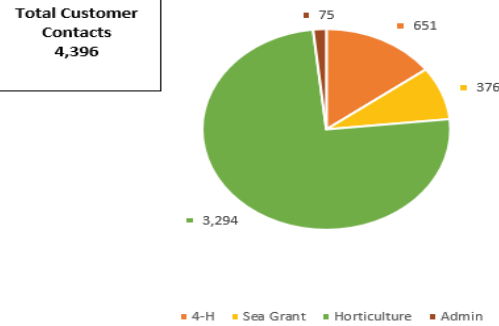
7 single-family permits issued in
Sept. 2025
854 COs issued since April 2017

Community Services

Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities Attendance



UF/IFAS Extension Service Customer Contacts



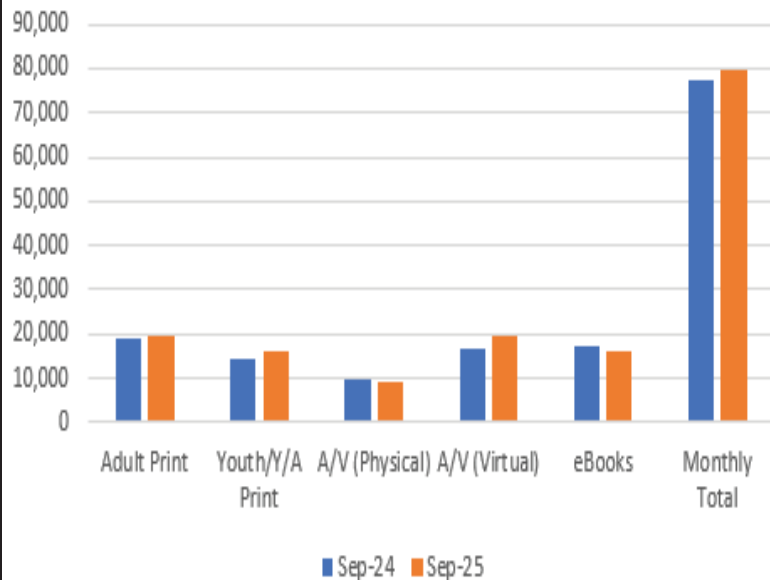
Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 465 fields prepped for practices and games
- 205 recycling bags collected
- 2,815 trash bags collected

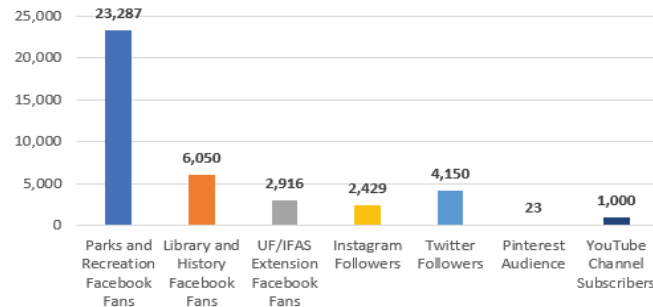
Land Management

- 76.8 miles trails maintained
- 33.75 acres exotics/invasives treated
- 18 miles of habitat managed
- Overstory reduction – 603
- Staff conducted multiple additional surveys include gopher tortoise survey at GC Herring, Amberjack Environmental and Shell Creek Preserve and vegetative plot monitoring at multiple properties.

2024-2025 Library Circulation Comparison



Social Media Impact



Project Management

- Projects Completed – 26
- Projects not started - 7
- Projects - In progress –71
- Total projects - 104
- Total – \$ 70,464,570.63

Natural Resources

Sea Turtle Nests

1,509 Loggerhead
282 Green

Coastal Lighting

12 permits in review

Eagle Nests

35 nests monitored

Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

Open-7
Removed – 2
Relocated- 2
Ready for removal – 4

September 2025 Business Support Events



Charlotte County Economic Development hosted Patti Guerzo from the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at FGCU for “Strategies to Elevate Your Brand”, a workshop to discuss ways for supporting local business growth and entrepreneurship.

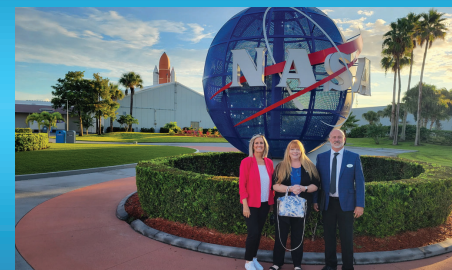
September’s “Behind the Business”

The debut episode of Elevate Charlotte – Behind the Business features Jordan Aquila, President of the Charlotte County Jazz Society and leader at Buffalo Graffix. The discussion highlights how arts, education, and entrepreneurship intersect to strengthen community growth. Through scholarships, local concerts, and partnerships, the Jazz Society continues to inspire connection, creativity, and economic vitality in Charlotte County.



Charlotte County EDO Explores Aerospace Opportunities at NASA

Charlotte County Economic Development representatives visited NASA to explore potential partnerships in aerospace innovation, research, and workforce development. The visit provided valuable insight into emerging technologies that align with Charlotte County’s growing aviation and advanced manufacturing sectors. These connections support the county’s long-term strategy to attract high-tech industries and strengthen its competitive position in Florida’s evolving space economy.



Charlotte County Workforce Roundtable Set for October 15

Charlotte County Workforce Roundtable Challenges and Opportunities for Local Businesses

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time: 6 - 7:30 PM

Location: Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

For Charlotte County Business Owners & Employers

Why attend?

Join business, education, and community leaders to explore Charlotte County’s workforce challenges and opportunities



Moderator & Panelists:

- Kay Tracy - Director, Charlotte County EDO (Moderator)
- Eileen DeLuca - VP of Strategic Initiatives & Chief of Staff, FGCU
- Peg Elmore - President and CEO, CareerSource SWFL
- Mark Vianello - Superintendent, CCPS
- Michael Ehrat - CEO, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital
- Dr. Chris Westley, Dean, Lutgert College of Business, FGCU

Light Refreshments and Cash Bar Available

RSVP HERE



Charlotte County Economic Development will host the Charlotte County Workforce Roundtable: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Businesses on Wednesday, October 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. The event will bring together leaders from business, education, and healthcare to discuss strategies for addressing workforce needs and strengthening local talent pipelines. Moderated by EDO Director Kay Tracy, the panel includes representatives from FGCU, CareerSource SWFL, Charlotte County Public Schools, and HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital.

Facilities Management

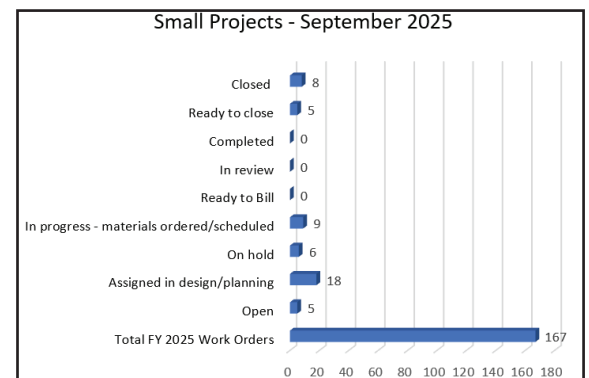
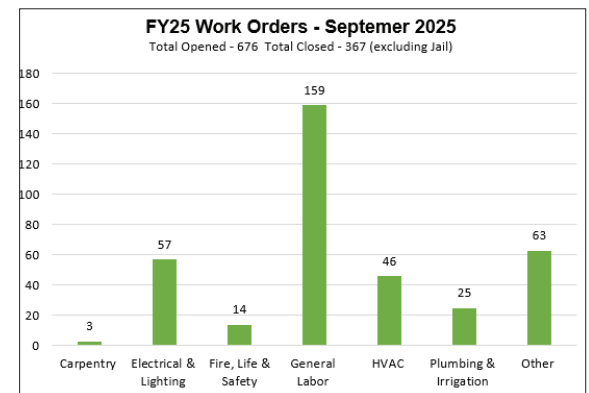
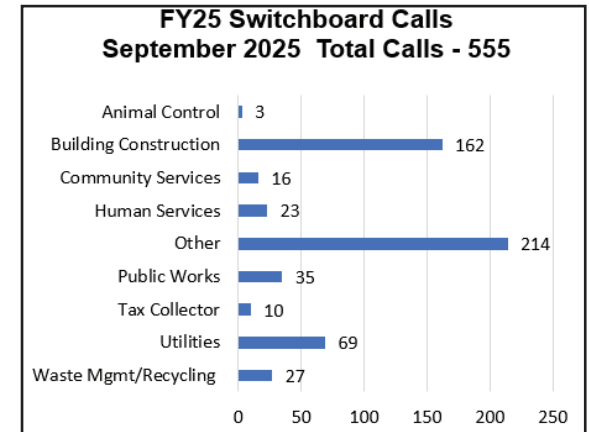
September 2025

Mid-County Regional Library Update

The recovery project for Hurricane Ian at the Mid-County Regional Library is making steady progress. The building's exterior has been sealed and painted. The replacement of the roof, including a new roofing system over the courtyard, has been completed, and all nine rooftop HVAC units have been installed and commissioned. Final painting and the installation of light fixtures are ongoing. Ceiling grids and tiles have been installed, luxury vinyl tile (LVT) has been placed in the staff area, and carpet installation is continuing throughout the building. The turnover of the building to Community Services is anticipated to occur in early 2026.



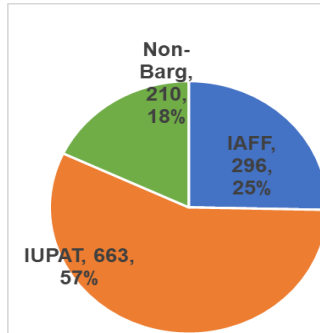
- ◆ Englewood Water District approved the permit for the Ainger Creek Boat Ramp Replacement. Coastal Engineering tested the soil and elevation where the seawall will be and the results will be incorporated into the design as it advances.
- ◆ Facilities Management has been meeting with stakeholders and preparing for the funded FY26 projects: • South County Annex • Special Needs Saferoom • Babcock Library and Annex Design • Cultural Center Demo • Loveland Building Renovation • Fire/EMS Vehicle Maintenance Warehouse Expansion • CCSO District 2 • Jail Administration Renovation • SW Landfill Operations Building
- ◆ The Board of County Commissioners has approved the design firm, PBK, for the design of two prototype restroom buildings for Community Services. Their proposal has been approved. The first two locations chosen for these prototypes will be Bill Coy Preserve and Lake Betty Park, with four more parks currently funded.



Human Resources

Workforce

Employee Count 1,503
Avg Age 45
Avg Hourly Rate \$28.98
Avg Years of Service 8



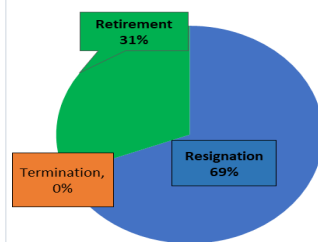
Retention of New Hires
% completing probation September 95%

Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 3.1%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 0.9%

Separations

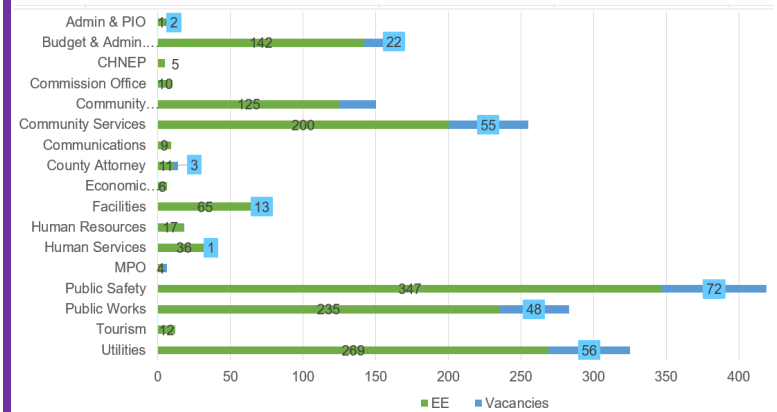
September
Turnover 0.9%
Separations 13



Training & Development

Training 19 82 Ees 1,558 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

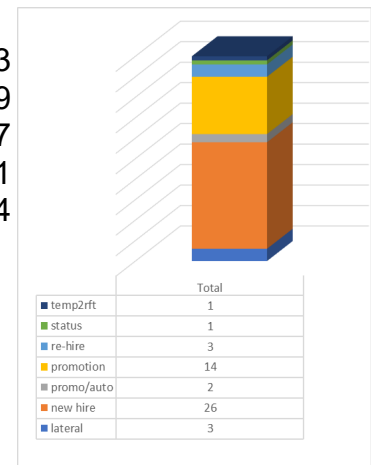
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 250

Recruitment

Applications Taken 2,863
Job Posting Hits 160,819
New Hires 27
Recruited Pos FT 51
Posted PT/STARR 14



Aging & Adult Services

Total Clients Served: 173 **New Cases:** 10 **In-process Cases:** 110 **Closed Cases:** 7

Community Garden

Throughout September, AAS have been cultivating sweet potatoes and herbs that will be shared with FSC staff. With cooler weather approaching, planning is already underway for the winter garden.



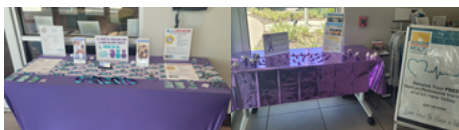
Food Pantry Assistance:

Because not all clients served by AAS have access to or transportation for local food pantries, our staff go above and beyond by collecting fresh vegetables, dairy, and meats from the Harry Chapin Mobile Food Bank in Punta Gorda and the Wintergarden Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte. These items are then delivered directly to some of our most vulnerable older adults.

Intake Services

Awareness Displays

Tables at the main entrance now feature awareness activities promoted by FSC partners. In September, these included Suicide Prevention and Narcan Training initiatives



Fastrack Applications: 152

Screening Tools Completed: 11

Referrals Made: 13

Clients/Caregivers Served: 345

EHEAP Households Served: 20

LIHEAP Households Served: 6

Mandatory services: 15 indiv. served

FSC Activity

SKEDDA (rooms): 416

Harry Chapin Food Bank: 361 HH

FSC Food Pantry: 71 HH

HeartShip/Water Assistance: 17 HH

Public's Emergency Assistance: 4 ind.

Neighborhood Services

Charlotte County SHIP Lender's Consortium - 9.17.2025

The first Lenders Consortium meeting was held at the FSC, with 23 loan officers representing 12 lending institutions who were trained on the SHIP Purchase Assistance program and how to access it on behalf of their buyers/ borrowers. Semi-annual in-person trainings are required for lenders to maintain their eligibility to submit applications.

[MORE INFO](#)



Nicole Fischler, Sr. Program Coordinator, who shares her skills and experience in marketing and social media coordination.

Family Stability Services

9/11 Emergency Bag Outreach

Staff from Family Stability teamed up with Intake Services and conducted outreach during the NHN Food Distribution events. Low-income individuals and families met with staff to complete applications and determine eligibility for emergency bags, to date 211 bags have been given to families in need.



New Cases: 18

In- Progress: 82

Completed: 14

SHIP Disaster: 2

CSBG: 7

HSFP: 0

New Civil Citation: 4

Cases in progress: 62

Closed: 16

Veterans Services

Benefits Review Appointments: 177

New Claims: 72

Veterans Retroactive Payments:

\$ 559,542.24

Monthly Reoccurring Payments:

\$158,539.98



Lindsey McGinnis, Veteran Services Officer, who has a background in administration, customer service, and operations with the US Marine Corps and private sector.

Building a Stronger, Safer, and More Prepared Community

Emergency Management:

Charlotte County Human Services hosted a hurricane food distribution event using donations collected through our Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive. In total, 120 bags of food were distributed to local families, helping them build a basic emergency food supply ahead of storm season.

At the same event, eligible residents were also able to complete an eligibility review to receive a disaster preparedness kit, adding another layer of readiness for the months ahead. Staff from Human Services and Emergency Management worked side by side to coordinate logistics, distribute food bags, assist with paperwork, and connect directly with residents. Our dedicated CERT volunteers played a vital role as well, helping with setup, check-in, and on-site support throughout the day.

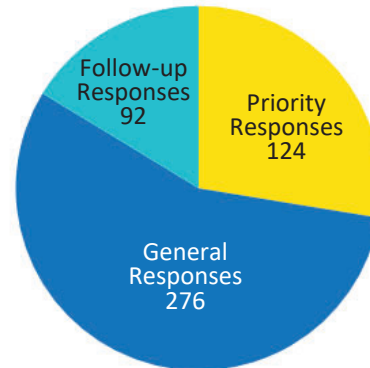
Fire & EMS:

Charlotte County Fire & EMS achieved the Florida PEDReady Gold Tier through the Florida Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program, becoming only the eighth agency in the state to earn this distinction. The department completed its final verification, answering questions on agency protocols while Rescue 6 demonstrated pediatric scenario skills. This recognition highlights the team's commitment to excellence in pediatric care and the strong partnerships built with Golisano Children's Hospital, the Southwest Florida Healthcare Coalition, and local hospitals to ensure children receive the highest level of care when it matters most.

Animal Control:

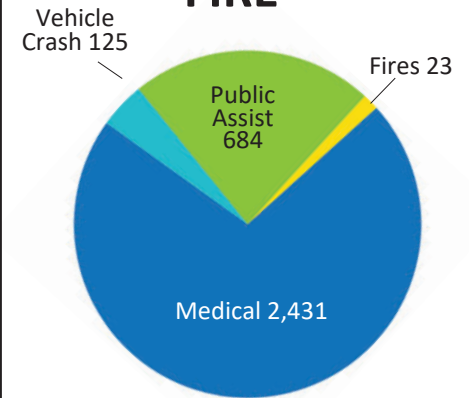
The tiniest tail you ever did see! Animal Control Officer Wingard came to the rescue of a sweet baby squirrel who had been pushed out of its nest. Thanks to a quick response and a careful rescue, this little one is now safe, warm, and receiving the care it needs to grow strong and healthy.

ANIMAL CONTROL

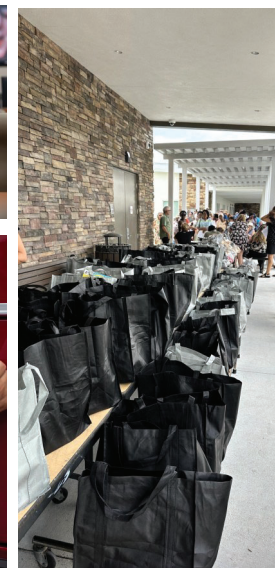
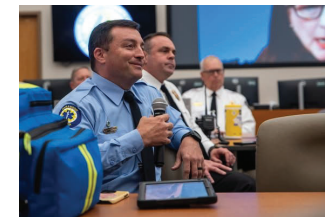
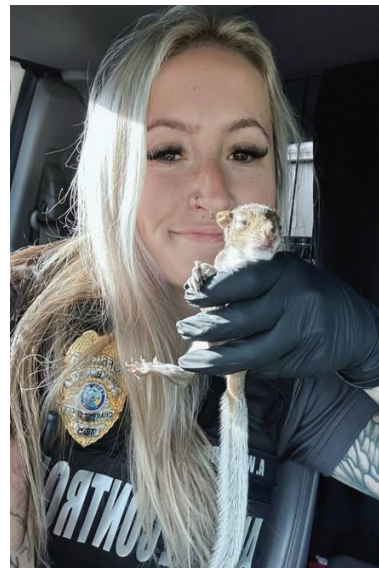


Total Calls: 492

FIRE



Total Calls: 3,172





CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

PUBLIC WORKS

September
2025

MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps
distributed

125

3200

Total number of
mosquitos identified
to species



39

Phone Complaints
Resolved



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1254

Work Orders
Opened

1041

Work Orders
Closed

344

Service
Requests
Opened

ENGINEERING

Kings Highway Harborview Road Intersection Improvements

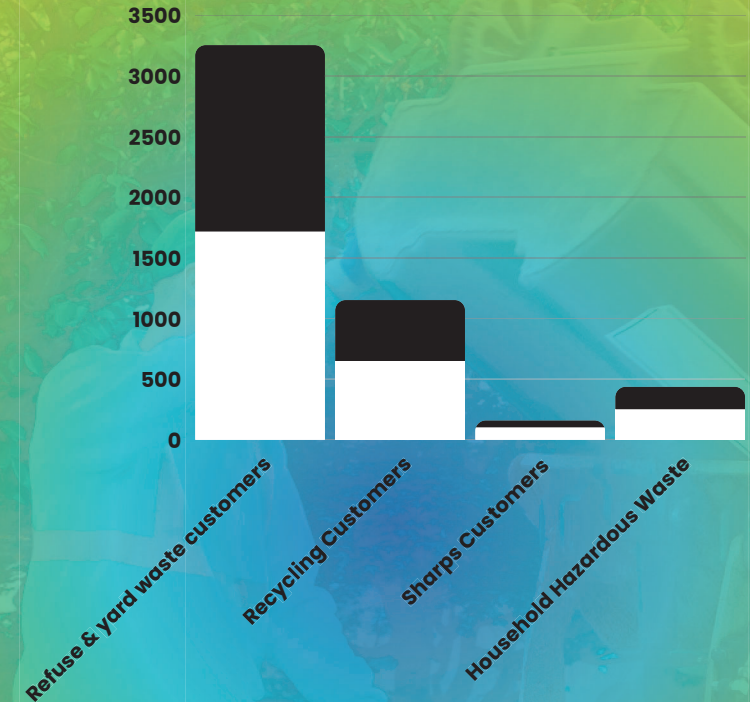
This project was initiated to harden the traffic signalization of this intersection against future storms and advance the signalization, lighting, and pedestrian features up to current standards. This project is funded by an FDOT grant. FTE (Florida Transportation Engineering INC.) designed the plans for this project. Andrew Site Works was awarded the construction contract which had a notice to proceed date of 8-25-25. This project is in the early stages of construction including maintenance of traffic and erosion control setup. This project is slated to be complete in spring of 2026.



SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations

● Mid County ● West County



Landfill in Tons



SPORTS

In August, the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau Sports Division attended Connect Sports Conference in Miami. This conference provided fifty one-on-one appointments with event organizers and sport's governing bodies looking for destinations to host their state, national, or international event. Having the conference close to our community provided the opportunity to extend the rights holders' stay traveling to visit various assets we offer to host a successful tournament. We also received three proposals for hosting a national sports conference at Sunseeker Resort. September was another strong month with six national and state tournaments and events.

LEISURE

In early September, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach was on display at BIKE THE BEST in Austria—one of Europe's biggest Harley-Davidson events with over 100,000 attendees. Vera Sommers, our representative in Germany, promoted the area alongside Mickey and Alex, who set up a fun and eye-catching booth using a retro U.S. school bus. Their efforts have already led to bookings for a Florida Harley group tour that includes PGEB.

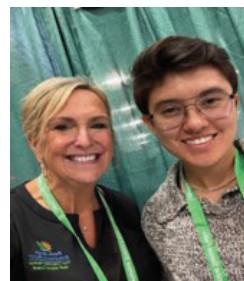
Also in September, two members of the Cellet PR & Marketing team visited PGEB for a Discovery Trip to explore the area firsthand helping them better promote our destination with genuine insight and enthusiasm in the UK market.

MEETINGS

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) participated in Connect Marketplace, a premier industry event bringing together meeting planners and destination professionals from across the country.

During the conference, the VCB conducted 40 one-on-one appointments, resulting in 7 confirmed Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for local hotel partners and the destination. These RFPs represent a strong pipeline of potential bookings, and we are confident they will translate into confirmed group business in the near future.

Sales Update



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 90,882

Sessions: 111,009

Top Origin Markets:

FL, NY, VI, CA, GA, IL, OH, NJ, MI, MA

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)			
Aug-24	\$465,341	↓ -12.7%	
Aug-25	\$406,117		

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)			
Aug-24	\$8,289,051	↓ -4.1%	
Aug-25	\$7,952,591		

Public Relations & Social Media

Director of Public Relations attended the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) Conference in Eau Claire, Wisconsin to connect with travel journalists from across the country and highlight our destination's "Best Side is Outside."

At this conference, Carrie Zylka, who visited our destination in February for a fishing excursion, won first place for her podcast with Captain Jay Withers and her fishing experience.

First Place
Carrie Zylka



AGLOW
Snook, Redfish & Trout:
My Florida Inshore Slam
with Capt. Jay Withers

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

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: 10,552
- Call Wait Time: 1 minutes, 05 seconds
- Sewer Connections: 50,112
(49 increase from August)
- Water Connections: 74,076
(133 increase from August)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 7 Misc.—Utilities Department
- 1 Utilities Billing
- 25 Utilities Department Service
33 Total

Charlotte County Utilities Facebook

4,200 Follows

2024 Water Quality Reports Now Available:

[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.

The Customer Payment Center assisted 1,037 individuals in September.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

September 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.

#WorldWaterMonitoringDay



On Sept. 18, the Utilities Department celebrated World Water Monitoring Day by highlighting our dedicated lab team. Staff process 10,000 samples and conduct 40,000 analyses each year to ensure water is safe to use.

Keeping Systems Running Smoothly



Our facility technician group is one of the talented crews behind the scenes making sure equipment runs smoothly. Staff have different backgrounds, skills and talents they use to get the job done and deliver exceptional service.

Safe Oil Disposal



Fats, oils and grease (FOG) can cause costly clogs in the pipes of homes and businesses. The Utilities Department reminds the community to drop off used cooking oils at the County's Solid Waste Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facilities.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Burnt Store Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

This project is currently in the engineering design phase and will increase wastewater treatment capacity from half a million gallons per day to one million gallons per day to meet the needs of this growing community. The design process is scheduled to be completed in October.

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. [AckermanProject.com](#).

August Connections: 0 Total Connections: 444

Hillsborough Boulevard Water Main Project:

This project is installing an eight inch water main along Hillsborough Boulevard from Yorkshire Street to US 41. Multiple lane shifts are in place at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Cranberry and Cornelius Boulevards for pipe installation.

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 enhance the removal of pollutants. Construction is currently 73% complete.

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