



Monthly Report

March 2026

County hosts Government Day for Leadership programs

By **Hector Flores**
Charlotte County Administrator

Charlotte County hosted the Junior Leadership Charlotte and Leadership Charlotte classes of 2026 for two sessions of Government Day. Leadership Charlotte is a program supported by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce that runs one day a month for nine months. The program is designed to educate, connect, and inspire current and emerging leaders as they navigate the key issues shaping our community. The experience provides

participants with a deeper understanding of how Charlotte County functions—covering government, social services, business, healthcare, education, and more.

Junior Leadership Charlotte is an offshoot of the adult program for high school juniors. It started as a class project of the Leadership Charlotte Class of 1993.

Both classes got to witness the lighting of the Public Safety Department's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting prop, which was one of the most

popular stops on the itinerary. Both classes also got up close to many of the Public Works Department's equipment used for mosquito control spraying, stormwater pipe and swale maintenance, road repairs, debris collection, aquatic weed control and limb and brush cutting.

We appreciate the participants' curiosity to learn more about their local government. We wish them both well with their class projects and encourage them to use the program insights to become leaders in the community.

Celebrating County Government Month

April is National County Government Month. A series of events and outreach material will highlight the range of services, facilities and programs we provide to help our community be strong, safe and healthy.

The County Commission on March 25 passed a proclamation emphasizing the county's role serving its constituents and working with our governmental partners to enact programs to address the needs of our residents. Join us in celebrating National County Government Month and sharing your views at the many events we have throughout the year to solicit public input.



The County Commission commemorated the completion of the Sheriff's Office's headquarters and Supervisor of Elections' warehouse in a pair of ribbon-cutting programs at the Loveland Boulevard facilities on March 25.

Commission ends burn ban

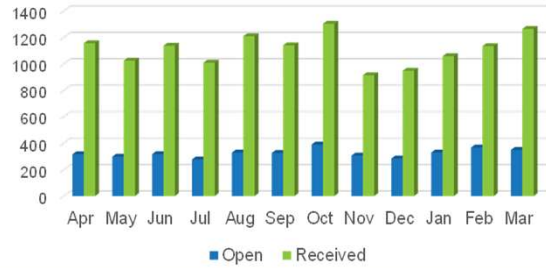
The Charlotte County Commission has voted to rescind the countywide burn ban enacted on Dec. 9, 2025, following recent rainfall that has reduced the risk of wildfire throughout the county.

Charlotte County Fire & EMS Chief Matthew McElroy recommended lifting the ban after reviewing local and regional fire weather data, fuel conditions, operational readiness, and in consultation with the Florida Forest Service.

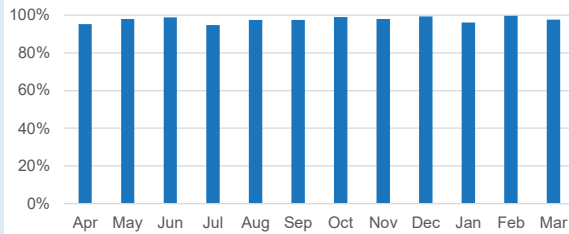
Residents may now resume outdoor burning activities, including recreational fires and yard waste burning, in accordance with applicable county ordinances and state regulations. Controlled agricultural and prescribed burns continue to be regulated by the Florida Forest Service.

Information Technology

Service Tickets by Month

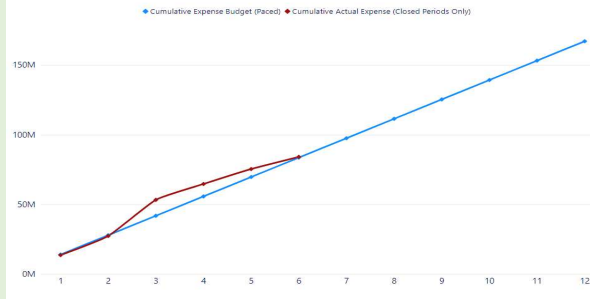


Customer Satisfaction % Positive

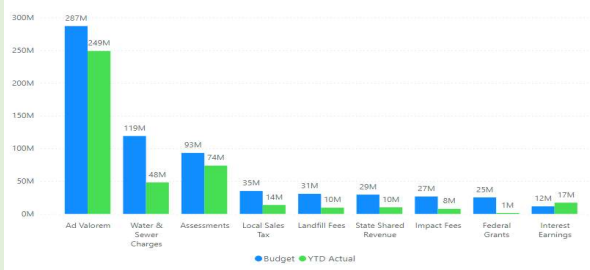


Fiscal

FY26 General Fund Cumulative Expenses



Major Revenue Sources



Director Highlights

Fleet Management

As part of ongoing discussions related to property tax reform, the Board is continuing its long-standing commitment to Performance-Based Budgeting (PBB). Rather than across-the-board reductions, the Board can adjust levels of service to align resources with community priorities.

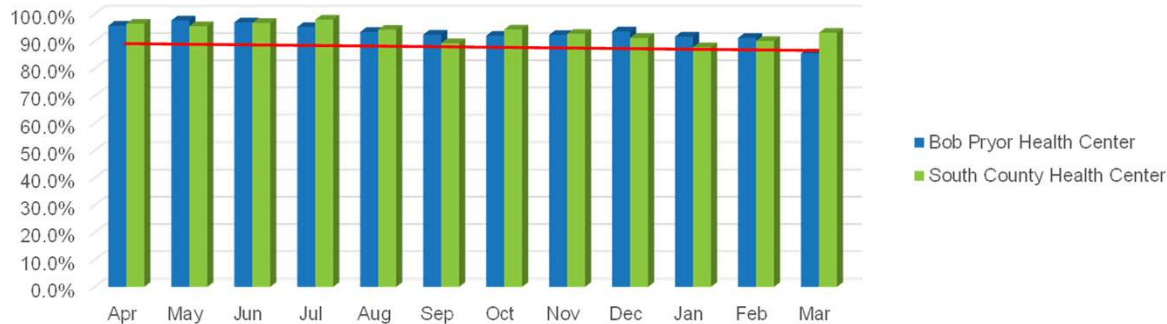
The next step is reviewing our department classifications—Mandated, Critical, and Discretionary services—to ensure they remain accurate. These conversations are taking place during Quarterly Business Meetings as we prepare for discussions with Administration in April and May.

March 2026



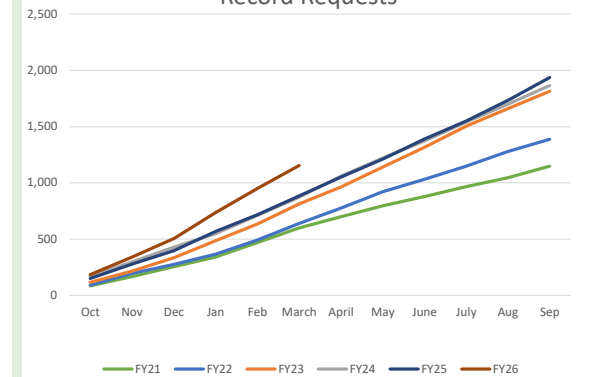
Health Center

Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



Records Management

Record Requests



Communications

March 2026

CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Most Visited Pages

Utilities Billing
34,597 views

Utilities Dept
13,372 views

Building Construction Permits
10,711 views

Most Downloads
Utilities Payment Options
2,171 downloads

March 25 Regular & Land Use meeting
1,370 downloads

Park Hours
1,183 downloads

Top Searched Terms

Jobs
129 searches

Permit Search
112 searches

Summer Camp
78 searches

2025 Digital Communications Report

The 2025 Digital Communications Report has been published and posted to our website. In addition to our social media accounts, communications via the website, county app, CC-TV, and CharCoCares are included. The report provides metrics, year over year comparisons, and context for the trends observed across each platform. Each section highlights where audiences focused their attention and the content that resonated most clearly with audiences. Overall, the report serves as a grounded look at what influenced results and how those insights can shape each department's next steps.

Connection, the Employee Newsletter

1,579 Emails		Email Engagement	
778 (49%) Opened	141 (9%) Clicked	21% Mobile	79% Desktop

Social Media

(Analytics Across all Departments)

632 Posts

1,776,022 Total Impressions

20,029 Engagements

308,841 Video Views

286,347 Total Followers

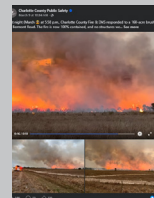
Post of the Month



Animal Control: Red Shouldered Hawk

3.8K Engagement

Most Impressions



160-acre brush fire

121.4K Impressions

Weekly Update By the Numbers

4 Email Campaigns

94,867
Emails Delivered

45,7618
Emails Opened

3,457
Clicked

Most Clicked Link

New Watering Restrictions
April 3



Latest Updates

82
Streaming Views

231
YouTube Live Stream

1,256
Website Views

21,630
Facebook Meeting Live

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



McDonald's

5950 Duncan Road,
Punta Gorda
3,859 sq. ft. restaurant with dual drive-thru lanes and shared offsite retention



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

222 single-family permits issued
226 single-family COs issued
2,910 permits taken
2,946 permits issued (March 2026)
14,037 permits issued FY26 YTD
19,103 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

68 single-family permits issued in March 2026
4,013 single-family COs issued since March 2017

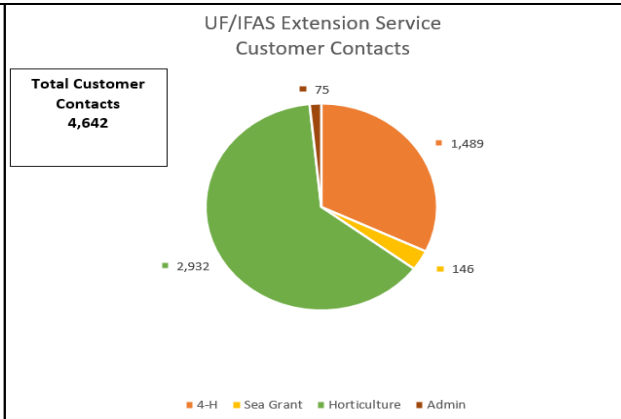
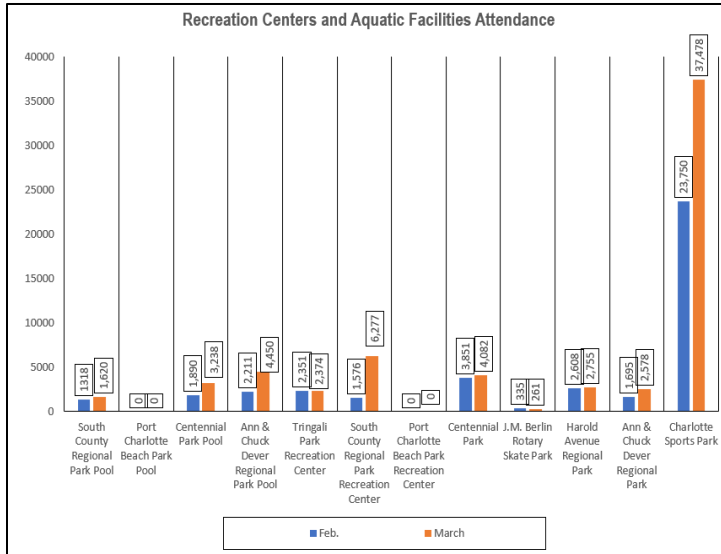
West Port

7 single-family permits issued in March 2026
904 COs issued since April 2017

Current Plat Applications in Review

FPC-26-04 Tarpon Grove, LLC, is requesting a Preliminary and Final Plat approval for a subdivision named Cabana Bay RV Resort that consist of 170 lots, and 11 Tracts. They have submitted a Certification of Construction Completion indicating that the infrastructure has been completed. This project site is 38.49± acres and is generally located North of Redwood Road, South and East of Rotonda Boulevard. East, and West of Gasparilla Road. The proposed subdivision is in the Rotonda West area and in Commission District II.

FPC-26-03 Pulte is requesting Final Plat approval for a subdivision to be named, Phase 1A Single Family Alley, consisting of 15 single-family residential lots and the associated infrastructure. The project received preliminary plat approval under PP-25-03. This site contains 3.92± acres and is generally located north of Lake Babcock Drive, east of Pine Lily Lane, south of Saddleback Trail, and west of Curry Preserve Drive, in the boundary of the Babcock Ranch Community Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Increment 1, within the East County area, and in Commission District I.

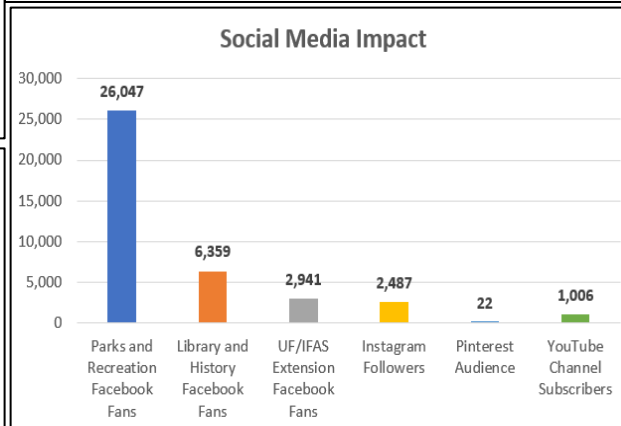
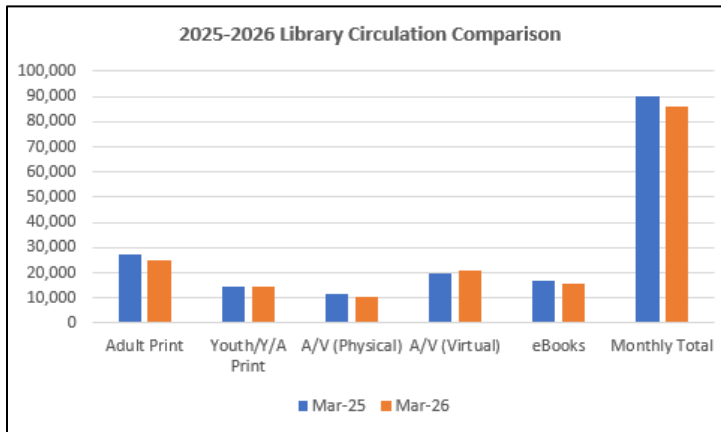


Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance

- 590 fields prepped
- 3,884 trash bags collected
- 430 recycling bags collected

Land Management

- 38.4 miles maintained
- 63 acres exotics/invasives acres treated
- 27 acres overstory reduction
- Staff conducted no educational outreach events this month. Staff conducted multiple additional surveys including gopher tortoise surveys at Amberjack Environmental and Shell Creek Preserve and vegetative plot monitoring at multiple properties



Project Management

- Projects completed 44
- Project not started 9
- Projects in progress 78
\$69,789,281.91

Natural Resources

Eagle nests with eggs 1
 Eagle nests with chicks 14
 Coastal lighting permits in review 45
 Coastal lighting permit insp. 7
 Abandoned vessels removed 0

State-Level Engagement Strengthened Economic Development Relationships

Charlotte County Economic Development connected directly with state leadership to share the community's story, strengths, and future opportunities. These conversations reflect the importance of relationship-driven economic development and ensure Charlotte County remains visible in discussions that influence business investment and workforce expansion. Engagement at this level supports continued positioning of the county as a competitive location for growth while strengthening connections with key decision-makers across Florida.



SelectFlorida Engagement Strengthened Statewide Economic Development Connections

Charlotte County Economic Development Director Kay Tracy engaged with statewide partners through SelectFlorida, reinforcing relationships that support business recruitment, expansion, and broader economic positioning. Participation in these conversations helps ensure Charlotte County remains visible in statewide economic development efforts and aligned with opportunities tied to targeted industry growth. Continued engagement at this level strengthens the county's profile as a competitive location for investment, workforce development, and long-term business success.



Upcoming Events

- New Business Card Networking Event
June 16, 2026
- Entrepreneur Support Organization Q1 Meeting
June 16, 2026
- Exploring Artificial Intelligence with SBDC
June 11, 2026

March 40 Under 40 Honoree Cole Kelly

Charlotte County Economic Development recognized Cole Kelly as the March 40 Under 40 honoree. Recognition like this also supports workforce attraction and retention by elevating the people helping move the community forward.

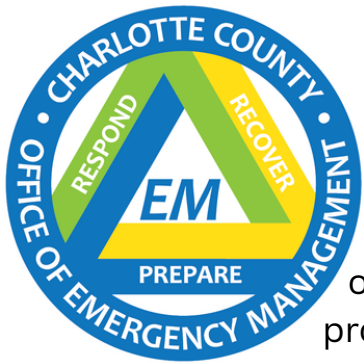


[READ MORE](#)

Charlotte County EDO New Business Card Exchange

Charlotte County EDO highlighted feedback from businesses following the 3-17 event, reinforcing the importance of networking. Direct input from participants emphasized the value of connection, collaboration, and access to local resources. Business survey results are available on the EDO website.

[READ MORE.](#)



Emergency Management

This month, Emergency Management reached over 530 individuals through training and outreach, strengthened partnerships with community groups and stakeholders, and maintained progress on several major planning initiatives and preparedness projects.

Training & Exercise Activities

Emergency Management conducted multiple trainings and exercises this month, including CERT Basic and Advanced courses, a Tabletop Exercise, a POD Exercise with over 80 participants, five COOP workshops, and a THIRA workshop with 40 stakeholders. These efforts continue to strengthen countywide preparedness, coordination, and capability development.

Community Outreach & Presentations

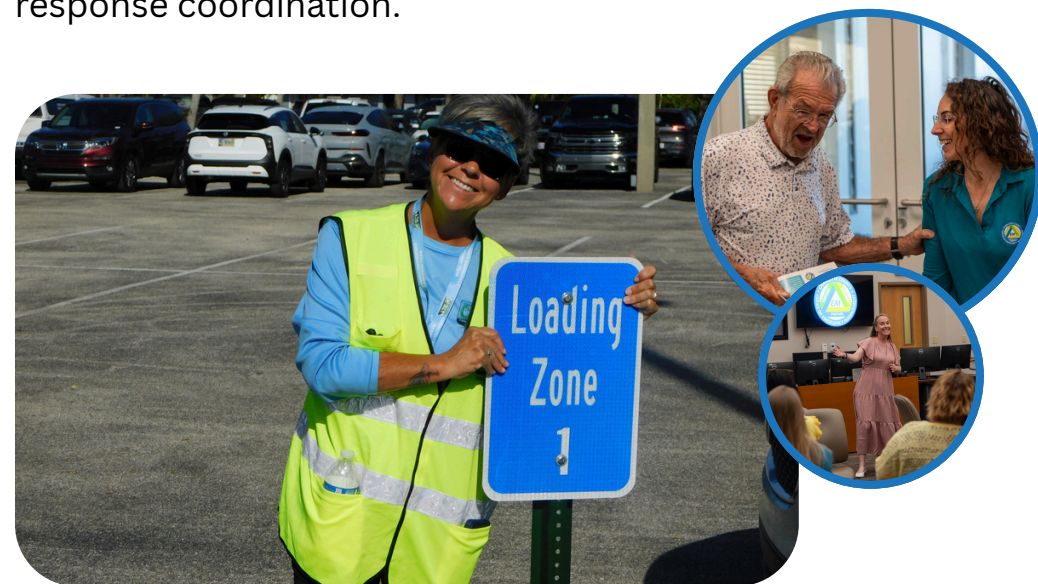
Staff delivered preparedness presentations and outreach programs at Myakka Elementary, Leadership Charlotte, Oyster Creek, Riverwood, and a Small Animal Shelter class, reaching approximately 335 residents and students. These outreach efforts help build a more informed and resilient community.

Planning & Program Development

Work continued on updates to the Mass Care and Family Reunification Center Plan, along with ongoing hurricane season preparedness initiatives. The team also aligned training and exercises with FEMA/HSEEP standards, received 90% of Healthcare CEMPs ahead of hurricane season, and transitioned HMGP compliance documentation to a virtual platform.

Operational Coordination & Internal Efforts

Emergency Management continued coordination efforts across departments, developed future exercise materials and scenario injects, and participated in planning meetings supporting hurricane season readiness and response coordination.



Sheriff Admin Headquarters & 911 Facility

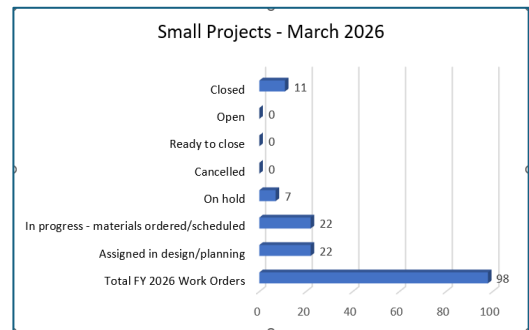
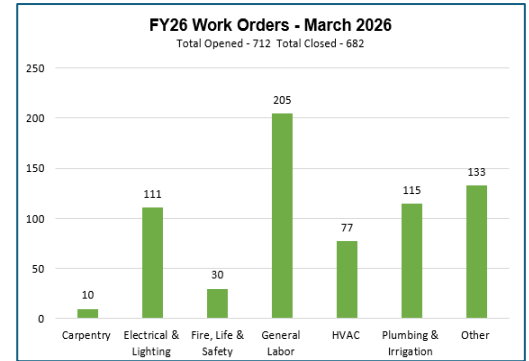
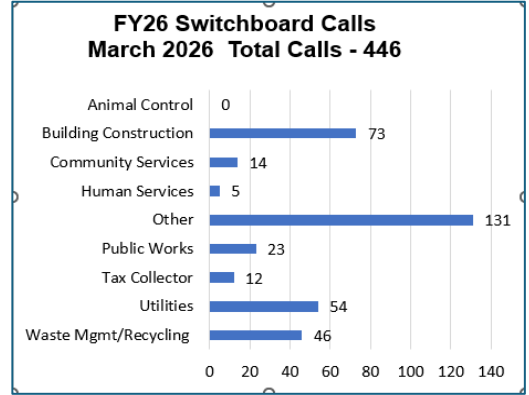
Charlotte County celebrated a major milestone with the ribbon cutting of the new Sheriff's Administration Headquarters and 911 facility on March 26. The state-of-the-art facility is now entering a phased move-in, with staff relocating in stages to ensure uninterrupted public safety services. Once fully operational, the campus will centralize key Sheriff's office functions and enhance emergency response capabilities for the community. Key components of the facility include the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) and RTIC (Real Time Information Center), which will support coordinated emergency response and real-time operations. This new facility strengthens the County's commitment to providing resilient, modern infrastructure in support of public safety operations.



On March 11, community leaders, county staff and residents came together to celebrate the groundbreaking and official launch of Phase I of the sales tax-funded improvements at GC Herring Park. This exciting first phase will bring a variety of new amenities to the community, including 2 playgrounds, a fitness hub, a walking and exercise trail, as well as new tennis and basketball courts that will enhance recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

A ribbon cutting was held on March 26. The new warehouse supports secure equipment storage, election logistics, and operational readiness for future election cycles across Charlotte County.

The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Fire Station 3 was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on March 25. Groundbreaking for Fire Station 6 is scheduled Thursday, May 7 at 3:00 PM. Groundbreaking for Fire Station 17, is scheduled Tuesday, May 5 at 2:00 PM.



Human Services

March 2026

Aging and Adult Services



Veteran Services

\$269.2K

Retroactive Payments

\$127.2K

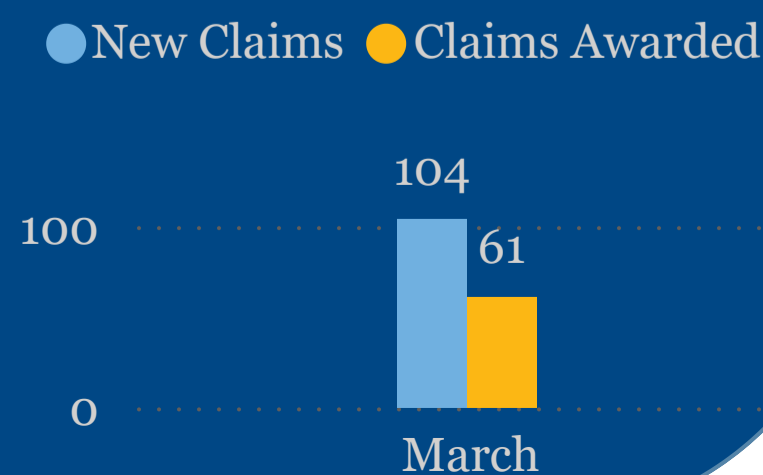
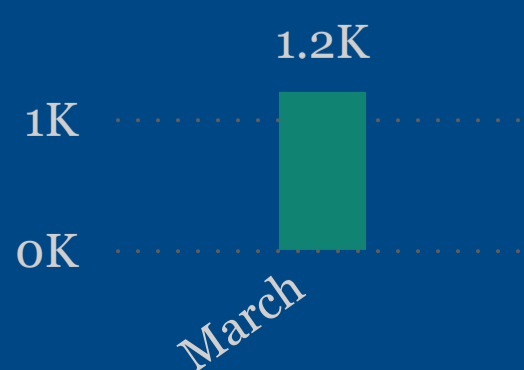
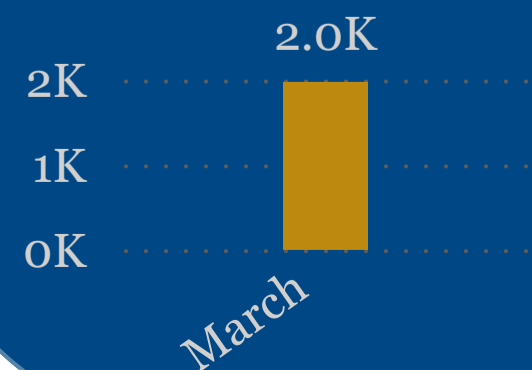
Reoccurring Payments

Hosted a Veterans Resource Fair with over 125 attendees and 30+ vendors. Conducted outreach in partnership with the Tampa Bay Rays at Charlotte Sports Park, as well as at Veteran Village in Punta Gorda and two countywide outreach blitzes.

Calls/Requests for Assistance

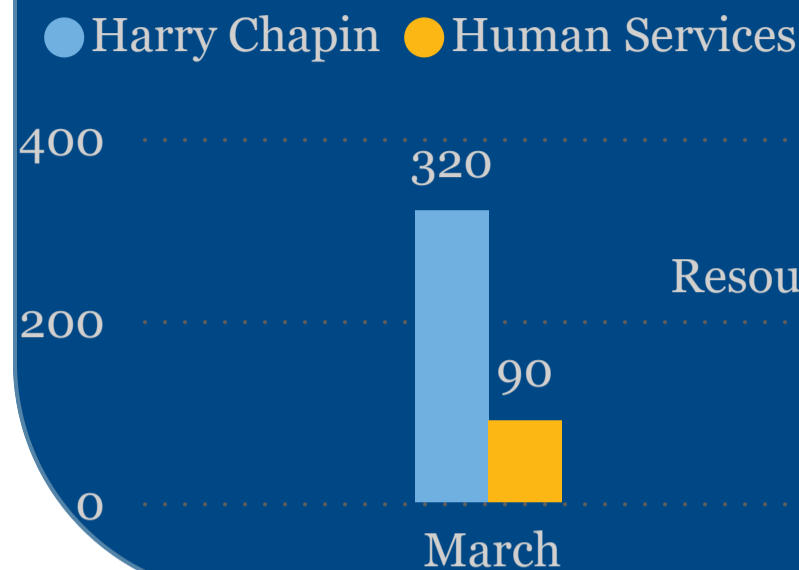
Total Clients Served

Veteran Claims

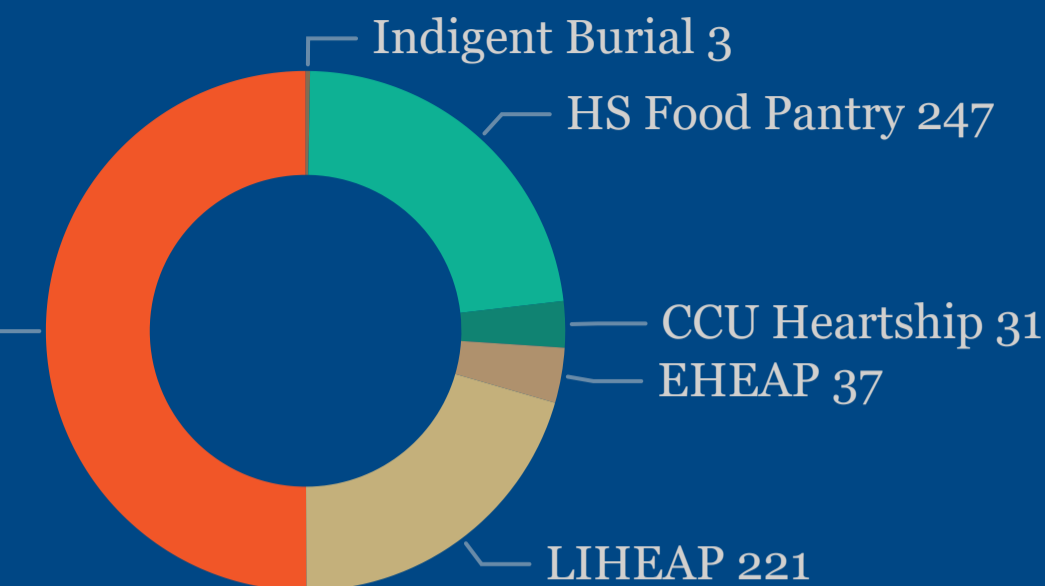


Intake Services

Food Pantry Households



Intake Services - Service Mix

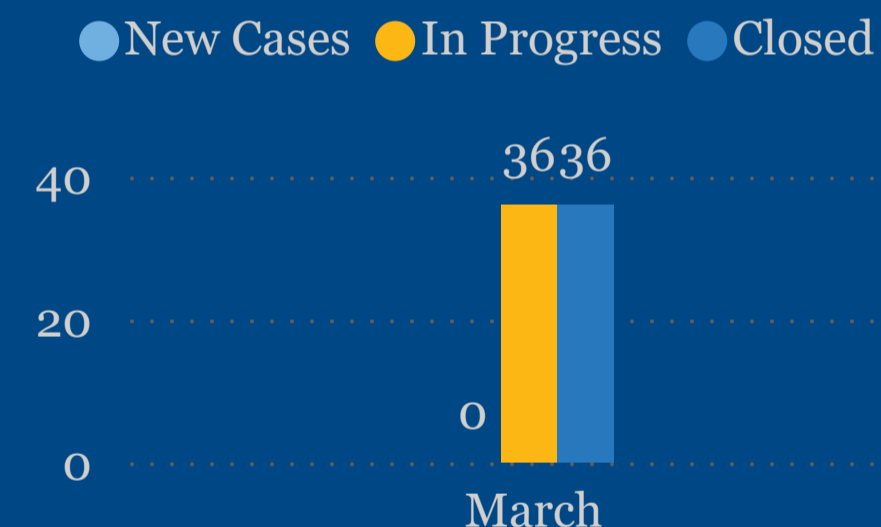


4 Outreach Events
2 Season of Sharing Application
158 Fastrack Applications

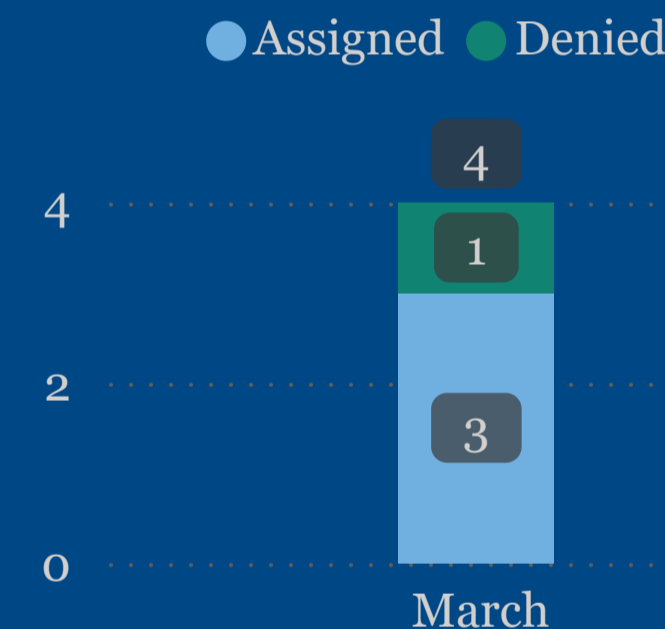
Family Stability Services

55 Total households In Progress
204 Sum of Total Clients Served
6 Braided Funding Households Served

Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program

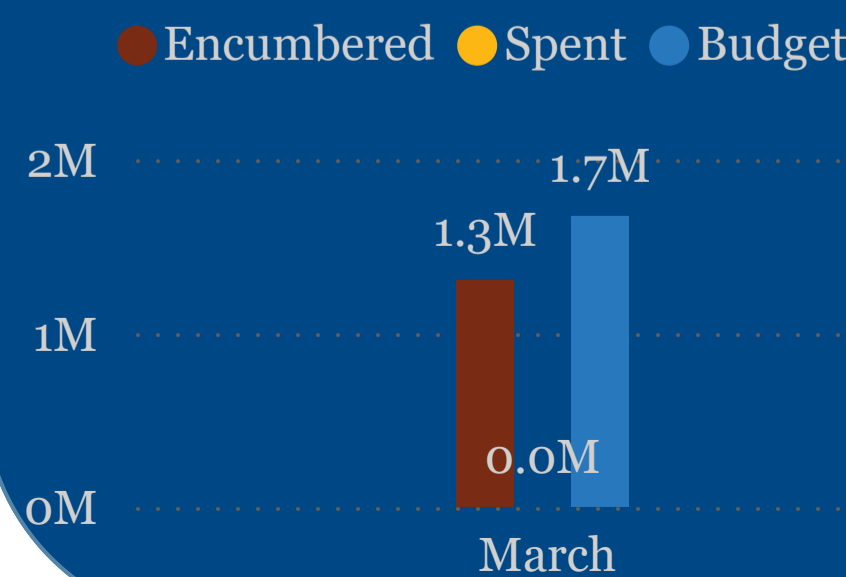


COAD & Disaster Cases



Neighborhood Services

Affordable Housing Trust Fund



A total of \$4.9 million in HHR funds was awarded to support three affordable rental housing developments, resulting in 215 units, including 119 replacement units and 96 new units.

Charlotte HOME Applications

4 Single-Family
2 Multi-Family

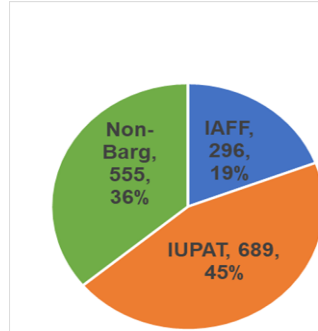
State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

1 New Projects
29 In Progress Projects
1 Completed Projects

People Operations

Workforce

Employee Count 1,548
Avg Age 45
Avg Hourly Rate \$29.74
Avg Years of Service 7



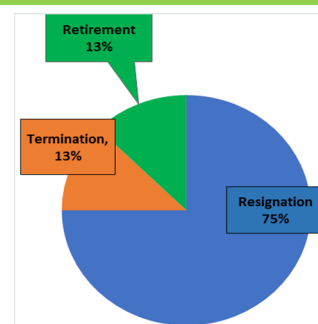
Retention of New Hires **March**
% completing probation 90%

Succession Planning

EE's in FRS DROP the next 8 years 3.4%
% of Workforce Retired this FY 2.0%

Separations

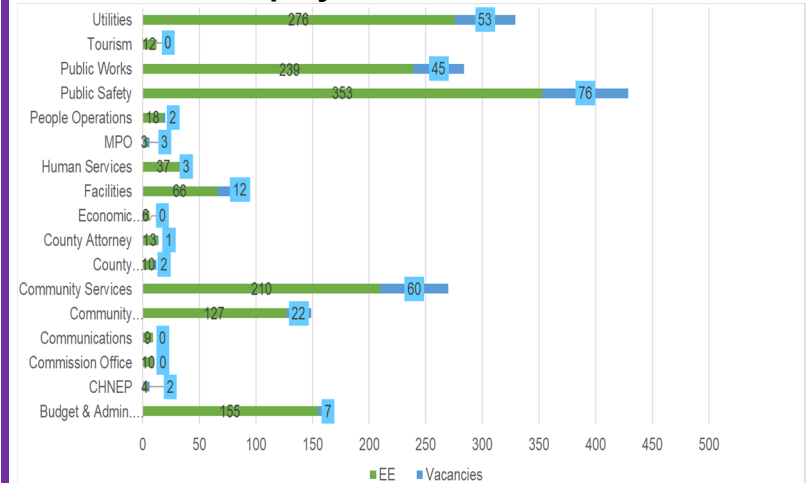
March
Turnover 0.5%
Separations 8



Training & Development

Training 15.3 320 EEs 4,892 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement 1%

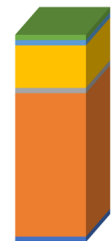
Employees vs Vacancies



Total Vacancies: 289

Recruitment

Applications Taken 763
Job Posting Hits 23,942
New Hires 28
Recruited Pos FT 19
Posted PT/STARR 6



Category	Total
TEMP TO REGULAR PART TIME	1
RECLASS PROMOTION	1
PROMOTION	8
NEW HIRE - PART TIME	1
NEW HIRE - FULL TIME	27
LATERAL TRANSFER	1

Charlotte County Fire & EMS

Following improved conditions and recent rainfall, the countywide burn ban was rescinded on March 25. Charlotte County Fire & EMS also had the honor of attending the Public Safety Appreciation Night, where several members of our team were recognized for their service. Firefighter-EMTs Jacob Franklin, Benjamin Hahn-Vazquez, and Gavin Morgan were named Rookies of the Year for their lifesaving actions during a structure fire, and Lieutenant Jefferson Mendel was recognized as Officer of the Year. Lt. Mendel was also named the 2025 Career Firefighter of the Year by the State Fire Marshal for his leadership and impact on multiple incidents.

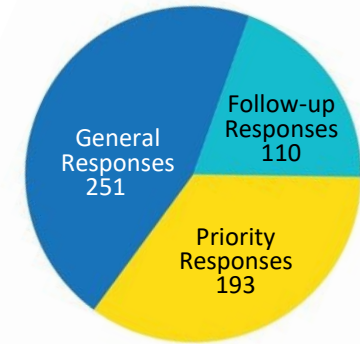
Beyond emergency response, our crews remained actively engaged in the community. Teams participated in career days at local schools, connected with residents at the Riverwood Hurricane & Safety Expo, and completed first aid coverage during spring training. Our members also raised over \$30,000 alongside the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department during the Fill the Boot campaign for MDA. Additionally, seven of our personnel competed in the Rally Round for Prevention Pickleball Tournament hosted by Drug Free Charlotte County, where our team earned top honors. We are proud to serve our community both on and off duty.

Charlotte County Animal Control

Senior Animal Control Officer Emily Graham was named the Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association Animal Control Officer of the Year, a statewide honor recognizing exceptional service, leadership, and dedication to animal welfare. With six years of service, Emily's impact extends far beyond daily operations, from leading complex cruelty investigations to advocating for animals like Bruce, who went from severe neglect to a safe and loving home. In addition to her field work, Emily has played a key role in rescuing multiple neglected animals through coordinated investigations while also helping strengthen training and operations within the department. This award is presented to just one officer across the state each year, and we are incredibly proud to have her representing Charlotte County.

Our Animal Control team also remained engaged in the community this month, participating in career days at local schools to educate students on animal safety and responsible pet ownership.

ANIMAL CONTROL



Total Calls: 554



MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

CDC Traps distributed

15

11

Total number of mosquitoes identified to species

33

Phone Complaints Resolved



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

1225

Work Orders Opened

1057

Work Orders Closed

207

Service Requests Opened

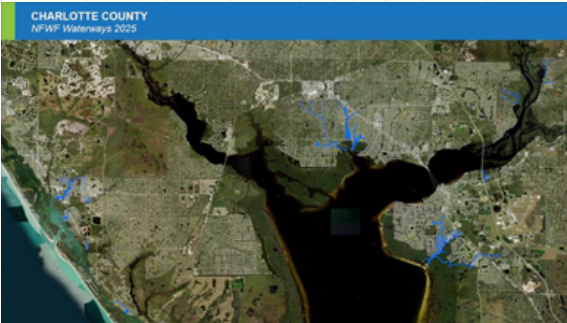
ENGINEERING

Public Works Engineering Stormwater

The County received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) to remove hurricane debris from the waterways. Work began on March 10, 2026 in Englewood.

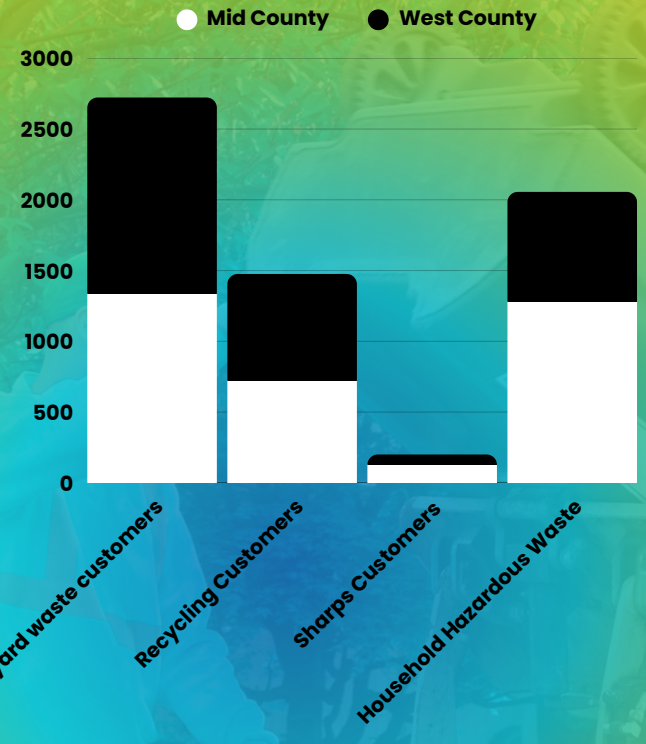
This is a 90 day contract, so work is anticipated to be completed by June 8, 2026. An inspection service was hired through the grant to ensure that only eligible debris was collected, document the work completed and ensure the grant requirements are met. To date 412 Cubic Yards of debris have been removed.

The waterways in blue are the canals that are part of this project.

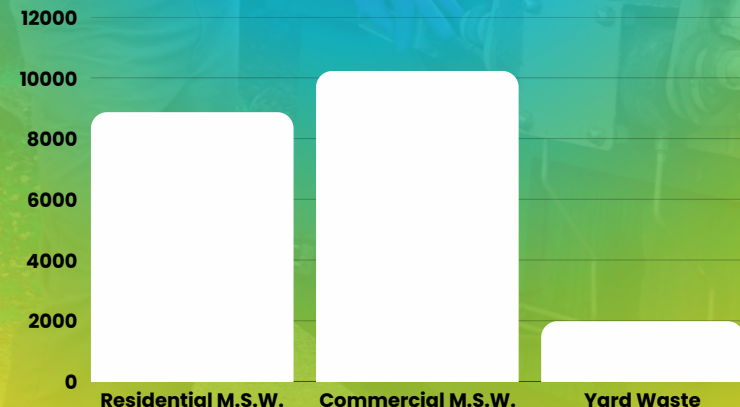


SOLID WASTE

Transfer Stations



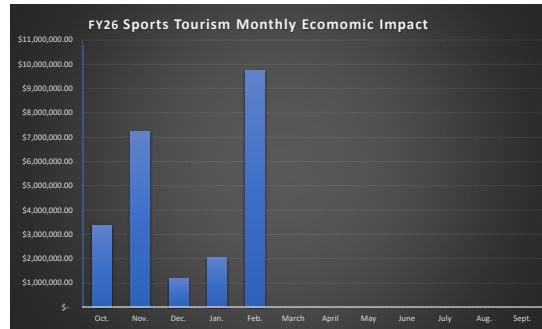
Landfill in Tons



SPORTS

Sales Update

February 2026	
Events:	9
Sports:	Pickleball
	Gymnastics
	Softball
	Baseball
	Basketball
	Soccer
	Swim Training



February 2026 Sports Tourism Economic Impact	
\$	9,725,156.00



LEISURE - March 2026:

The Leisure Sales team strengthened international market visibility and deepened key travel trade relationships across Europe through participation in major global media and trade events. Representation at IMM Berlin, ITB Berlin, IMM London, and UNITE London generated strong media engagement, solidified partnerships, and produced new leads and campaign opportunities. The team completed more than **65 combined meetings** with journalists, travel trade partners, and UK tour operators, while also hosting a **VIP industry lunch** and distributing hundreds of branded materials to amplify destination awareness.

MEETINGS - March 2026:

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau hosted an exclusive event at Charlotte Sports Park, bringing together meeting planners and hotel partners for a memorable Tampa Bay Spring Training game experience. For many attendees, this was their first time experiencing the ballpark, making the event a fantastic opportunity to showcase one of our region's key attractions. By hosting this gathering, we were able to collaborate, strengthen relationships, and highlight the unique offerings of our destination to our valued clients.



PureFlorida.com

Website Traffic

Website Users: 103,552

Sessions: 122,439

Top Origin Markets:

FL, NY, IL, VA, GA, OH, PA, TX NJ, CA

Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT (Current Month)			
Feb-25	\$1,160,787	↑	7.0%
Feb-26	\$1,242,130		

TDT YTD Collections (Pacing)			
Feb-25	\$3,817,101	↑	3.1%
Feb-26	\$3,935,111		

Public Relations & Social Media

Punta Gorda Englewood Beach welcomed 14 students with a group called "Students Leaving A Mark" (SLAM) from Michigan's Grand Valley State University who chose to spend their spring break giving back through a service-learning experience.



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 2025 saved local residents an average of **\$865** per household in taxes.

OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 8163
- **Call Wait Time:** 47 seconds
- **Sewer Connections:** 50,821
(157 increase from February)
- **Water Connections:** 74,810
(180 increase from February)

Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- 5 Misc. — Utilities Department
- 0 Utilities Billing
- 6 Utilities Department Service
- 11 Total

Utilities Department Facebook

4,763 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 Promenades Mall, 3280 S Tamiami Trl Unit 505, Port Charlotte, FL 33952.

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

In February, the Customer Payment Center assisted 1,096 individuals. 42,575 payments were processed using Paymentus.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Utilities

March 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.

Congratulations to our local Drop Savers winners!



April is Water Conservation Month, and we're proud to celebrate talented students from L.A. Ainger Middle School and Kingsway Elementary School who earned 1st place at the local level in this year's Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest! We are now waiting to see how they place at the state level—good luck!

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.