



# Monthly Report

## March 2022

## County Projects Finishing this Spring

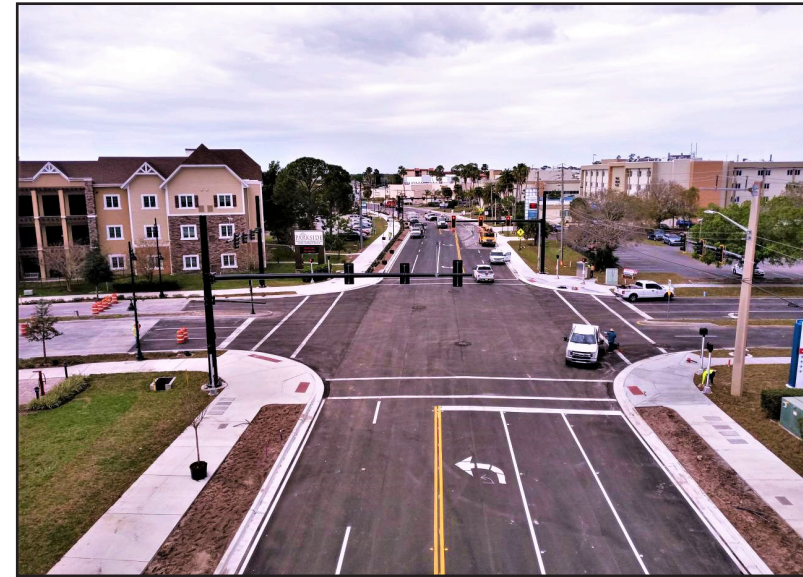
With the first quarter of 2022 already in the books, the calendar is filling up with many ribbon-cuttings for county projects, including two projects funded by the 2014 and 2020 1% percent local option sales tax extensions approved by voters.

A ribbon-cutting is upcoming for Olean Boulevard in Parkside. The Olean widening is one of the final two projects to be completed with 2014 sales tax funding. The project improves public safety and traffic flow in one of the busiest commercial areas in the county.

The finishing touches are being put on the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training facility at the Public Safety Complex west of the

Punta Gorda Airport. Funded with 2020 sales taxes and a state grant, the facility will allow Fire & EMS to meet Federal Aviation Administration certification for specialized training for commercial aircraft accident response. The training is in high demand across the country, with few facilities capable of providing it. Fire departments around the country are scheduling training at our new facility.

Three new fire stations will be opening in the coming months, including Fire Station 10 on Don Pedro Island, Fire Station 2 in Murdock and Fire Station 5 on Burnt Store Road. Location and design of fire stations are critical to both response times and continuity of operations in the event of severe weather.



**Olean Boulevard was widened to five lanes between U.S. 41 and Easy Street. The project was funded with 1% local option sales tax money approved by voters in 2014.**

## Now is the time to get prepared for emergencies

The price we pay for living in paradise is the occasional tropical storm or hurricane. The same things that prepare you for our tropical weather can help you through other events as well.

There are great resources at the Office of Emergency Management [webpage](#), the [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) and the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#).

By preparing to both “survive” and “recover,” you can put yourselves in position to thrive.



**New sentinel chicks have arrived. They will be placed with volunteer families and tested for mosquito-borne viruses.**

## April is National County Government Month

Charlotte County will be celebrating National County Government Month in April to showcase how the county delivers exceptional service to fulfill the County Commission’s vision to preserve and enrich our community’s quality of life for those who live, work and play in our paradise.

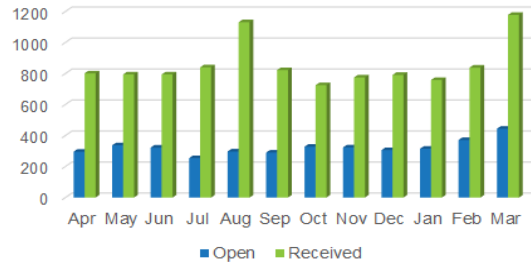


On March 24, the commission adopted a proclamation designating April as National County Government Month to raise awareness of Charlotte County’s responsibilities, programs and services. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Counties THRIVE,” demonstrating how counties help to improve people’s lives.

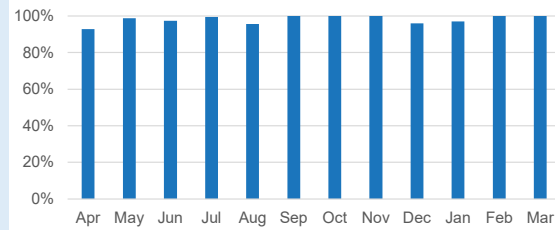
Check out our [social media channels](#) in April to see examples of county staff providing essential services, delivering on promises and operating facilities that enhance the quality of life for our community.

## Information Technology

### Service Tickets by Month

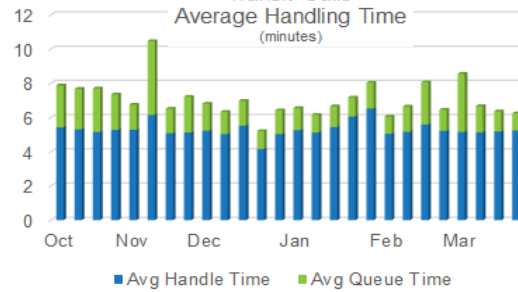


### Customer Satisfaction % Positive

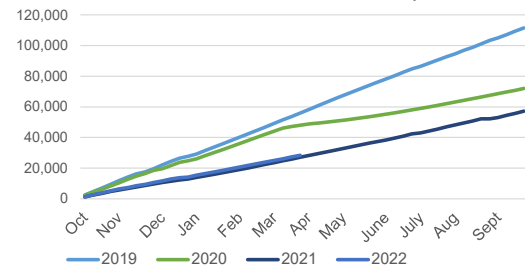


## Transit

### Transit Calls Average Handling Time (minutes)



### Annual Cumulative Ridership



## Director Highlights

### Transit Facility

As we begin to adjust to a post-COVID world, staff and drivers will be heading back to the new Transit Operations Center located at 545 Treasa Blvd. Transit is now minutes away from Murdock Circle, has access to all the main arteries of the County and is adjacent to the JB fuel site which will save our drivers time to provide more trips here in the County.

The facility was designed by Darling Company and the project managers were Gary Burdahl and Wharton Smith. Together they exceeded all expectations in design and functionality. The building and the bus yard design and construction were paid for with 5307 Federal Transit Grants and State Toll Credits, no Local funds have been used.

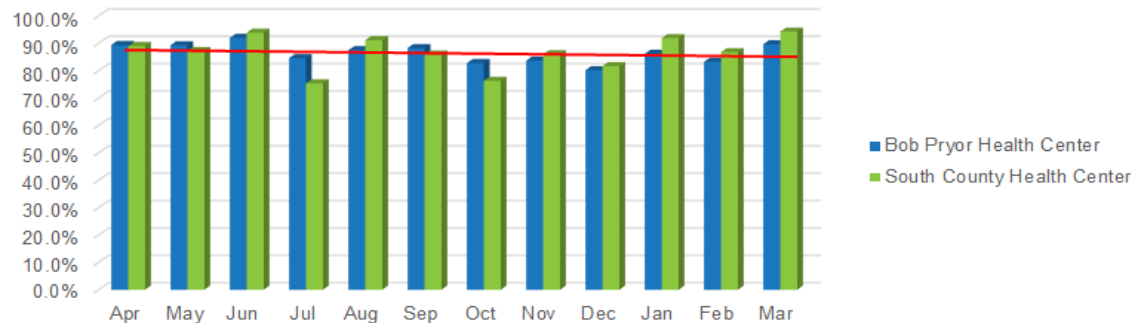
### March 2022

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY TRANSIT FACILITY



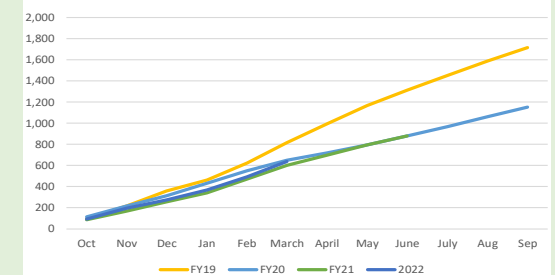
## Health Center

### Employee Health Center Monthly Appointment Utilization Summary



## Records Management

### Record Requests



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?



PLANNING STAGE



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED!!



## Mazda Auto Dealership

798 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte  
7.4 acre auto dealership with car wash.

## North Port Plaza

14520 Chancellor Boulevard, Port Charlotte  
A one-story 15,300 sq. ft. shopping plaza.

## Dunkin' Donuts

19220 Veterans Boulevard, Port Charlotte  
1,737 sq. ft. donut store with drive-thru.

## FPL Solar Plant

8500 Babcock Ranch Rd., Punta Gorda  
1,476 sq. ft. education facility.

## Starbucks

18501 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte  
2,500 sq. ft. Starbucks with double drive-thru lanes.

## Crescent B Commons

14750 Babcock Ranch Rd., Punta Gorda  
2,500 sq. ft. Starbucks and 6,052 sq. ft. Pet Supermarkets with associated infrastructure.

## Culver's Restaurant

26440 Jones Loop Road, Punta Gorda  
4,190 sq. ft. restaurant with an outdoor patio and a drive thru.

## O'Reilly Auto Parts

24000 Beatrix Blvd., Port Charlotte  
7,453 sq. ft. auto parts store.



## Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen

18600 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte  
7,974 sq. ft. restaurant with associated infrastructure.



## Loveland Development

1200 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte  
88-unit multifamily development for people with disabilities.



## Village Marketplace

1799 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte  
2,495 sq. ft restaurant with a drive thru and three 1,286 sq. ft. units of retail space.



## Sunseeker

4949 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte  
Mixed-use development consisting of 783 hotel units, restaurants, bars, and retail, located in the Charlotte Harbor CRA.



## Starbucks

2901 S. McCall Road, Englewood  
2,500 sq. ft. building with associated parking and drive thru lane.



## Tommy's Express Car Wash

19010 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte  
Automated car wash.

## PROJECTS' SPOTLIGHT

### Babcock Update

- Certificates of Occupancy issued since August 2016: 1,332
- Single Family Permits Issued March: 47

### West Port Update

- Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued since April 2021: 54
- Single Family Permits Issued March: 25



### February Permitting:

Total Single Family Permits Issued: 341

Single Family Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 124

Total Permits Issued for the month: 4,156

Total Permits Issued FY20-21: 35,240  
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2020—Sept. 2021)

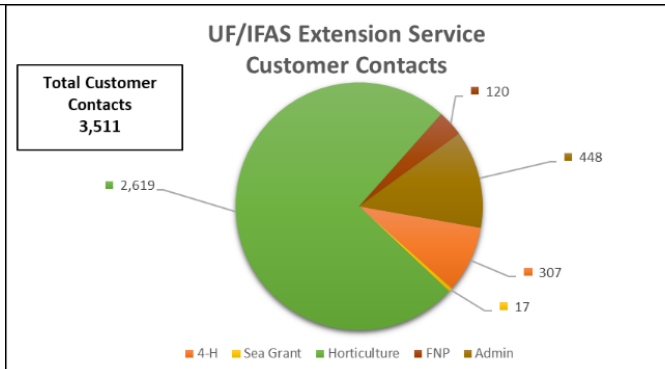
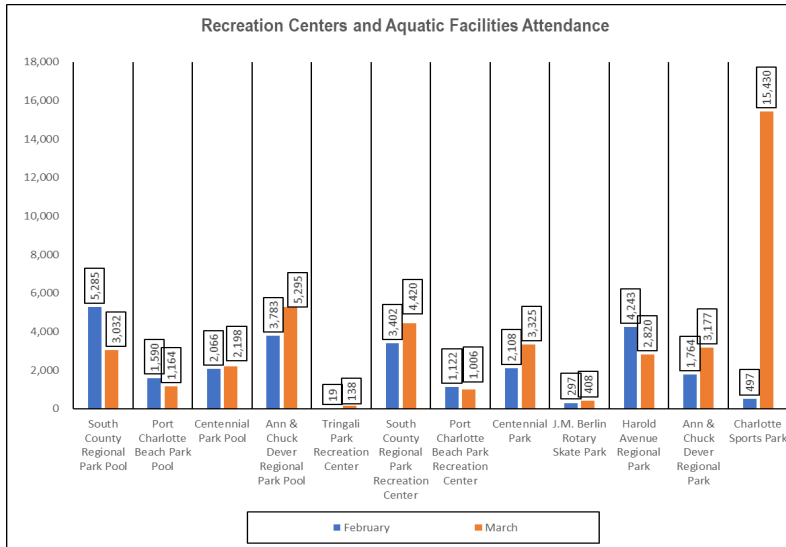
Total Permits Issued FY21-22: 19,403  
(Fiscal Year Oct. 2021—Sept. 2022)

PERMITTING SNAPSHOT



CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
Community Development

March 2022



**Parks and Athletic Field Maintenance**

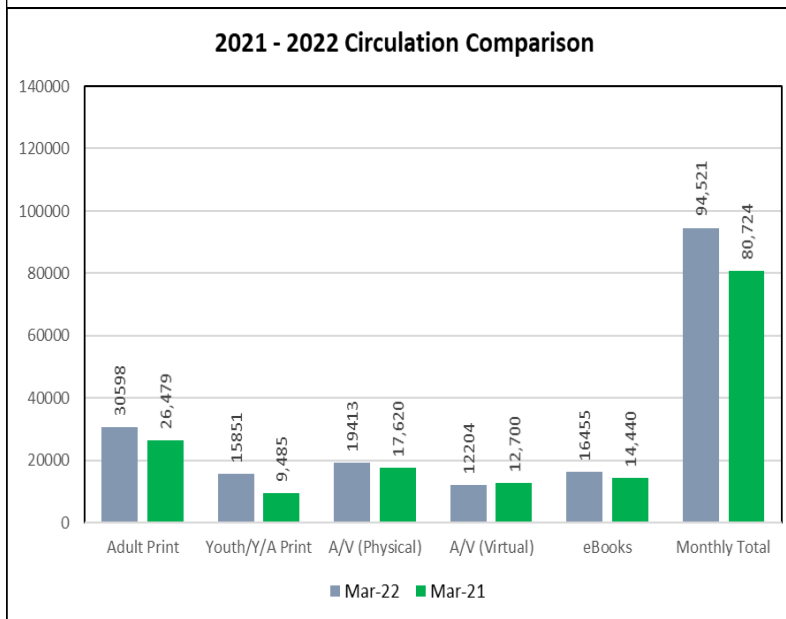
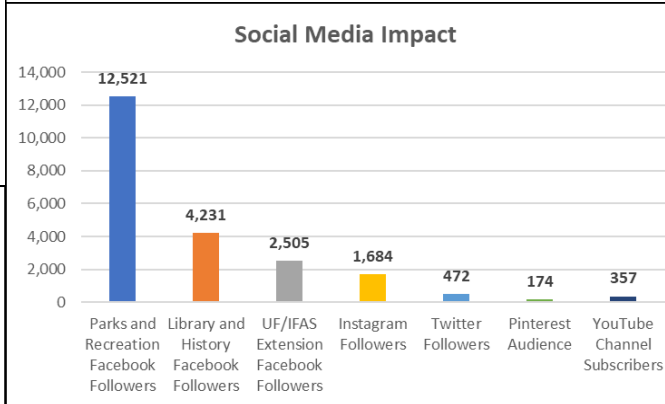
- 402 youth leagues and adult softball practices
- 67 Snowbird games/practice
- 6,411 trash bags collected
- 1,033 recycling bags collected

**Land Management**

Staff mulched @22 acres of palmetto understory.

**Project Management**

- 33 projects, \$3.6 MM



**Coastal Management**

**Abandoned/Derelict Vessels**

- 3 Cited
- 10 Open Cases
- 2 removed by owner
- 8 ready to be removed
- 1 removed by County
- 2 relocated

**Coastal Lighting**

- 10 Permit Reviews
- 5 Inspections
- 11 Eagles Nests monitored, 6 active with 6 eaglets observed
- Expanded 3 acres on Stump Pass Beach State Park pre-posted bird nesting historic area.

# Charlotte County Economic Development

## March 2022

### SRD Takes the Hill

After some pitching practice with Economic Development Director Dave Gammon it's good to see MLB allowed the reinstatement of "Tieless" Stevie R. Deutsch to throw the opening day pitch at the Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training game. After all, 1919 was a long time ago. :)

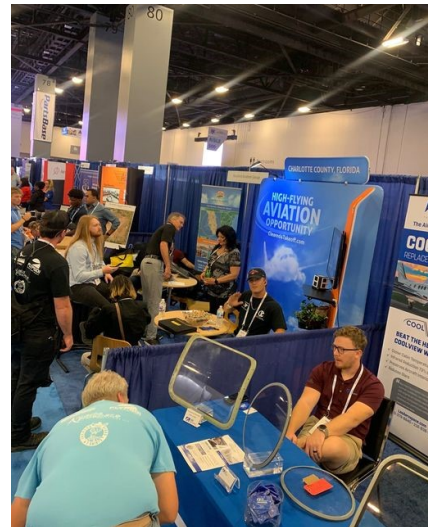


### PartsBase Expo

Economic Development Director Dave Gammon and Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy attended the PartsBase Expo in March. Kay was invited to sit on a workforce panel at the expo and discuss the different challenges employers are facing right now.

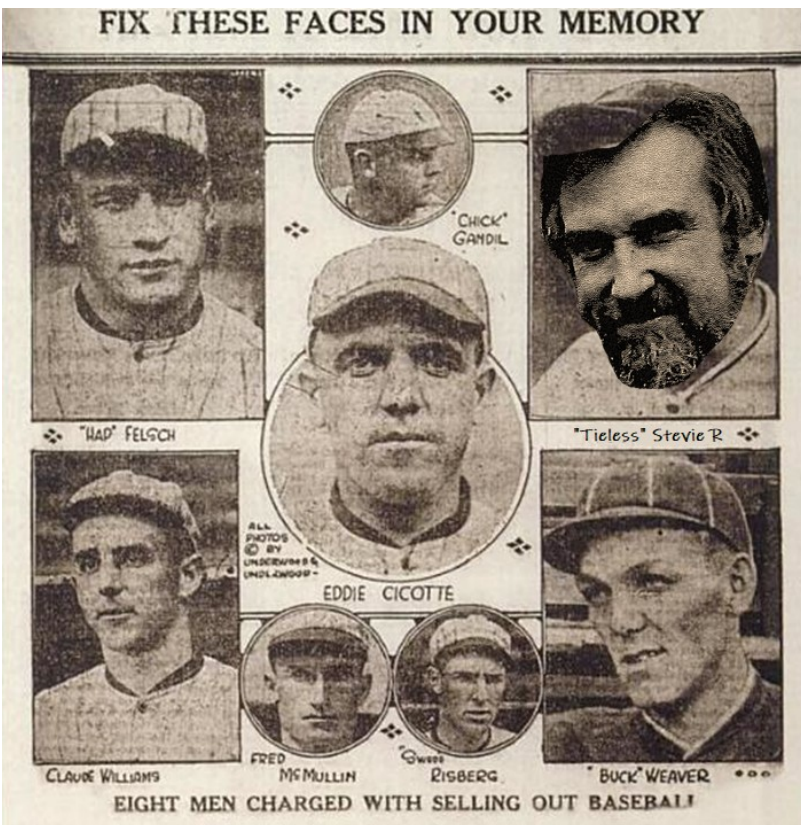
Several students from Charlotte Technical College's Aviation School were in attendance. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to meet potential employers and make connections in the aviation industry.

Dave and Kay had the opportunity to talk to aviation companies that may be interested in expanding to Charlotte County.



### Play Ball! Spring Training with the Tampa Bay Rays

Spring Training is back at Charlotte Sports Park with the Tampa Bay Rays. The Economic Development Office hosted several area businesses and organizations at the Commissioner's Suite this year. The games are a great opportunity to network with local businesses and make connections.



## Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center



The new center is approximately 20,000 square feet in size and features three ball rooms (250, 150, and 50 square feet), a large commercial kitchen for community functions, and plenty of office and storage space. If Tier 2 funding becomes available and approved, a new pool project will be added to the park.

With the Board approval and negotiations complete with the design consultant and Construction Manager (CM) at Risk, the March 29th kickoff meeting initiated design of the new recreation center.

- ◆ Weiler Engineering started the design of Riverside Boat Ramp including a ramp, one ADA space, and five parking spaces for the community.

- ◆ The Live Oak Point Boardwalk Repair Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) was submitted to Purchasing for repairs to the boardwalk located in Charlotte Harbor. Negotiations are in progress with the engineering firm, DMK Associates, Inc.

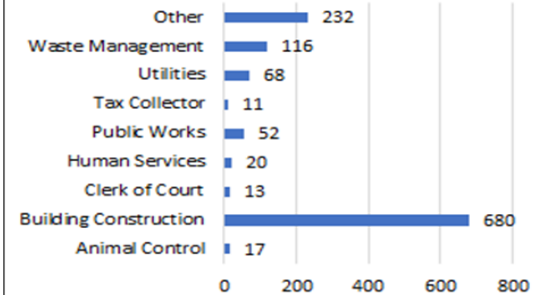


- ◆ CCSO District 4 Office/Training- Selection of the architectural firm Schenkel & Shultz was approved by the Board and finalizing through Legal. Construction Manager at Risk selection of Wharton-Smith, Inc. was approved by the Board and pending legal review.

- ◆ The clinic's pharmacy at Grace Street Annex and the Supervisor of Elections Warehouse projects are both in the design phase and moving toward construction costs for each.

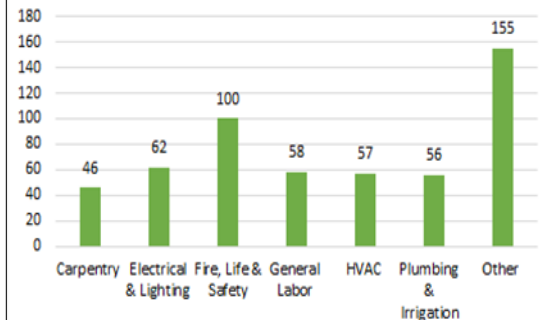
- ◆ The Board approved ranking of Construction Manager at Risk for the Capital Maintenance Repair (CMP) contract and negotiations began.

## FY22 Switchboard Calls- March

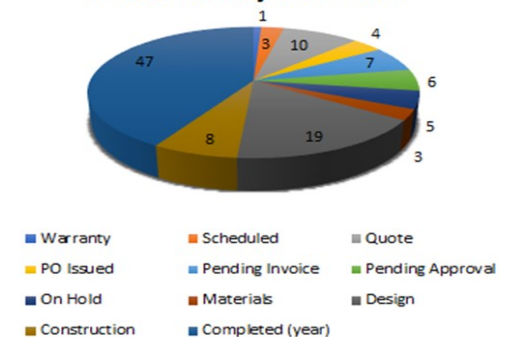


## FY22 Work Orders Created- March

(excluding Jail)



## FY22 Small Projects- March





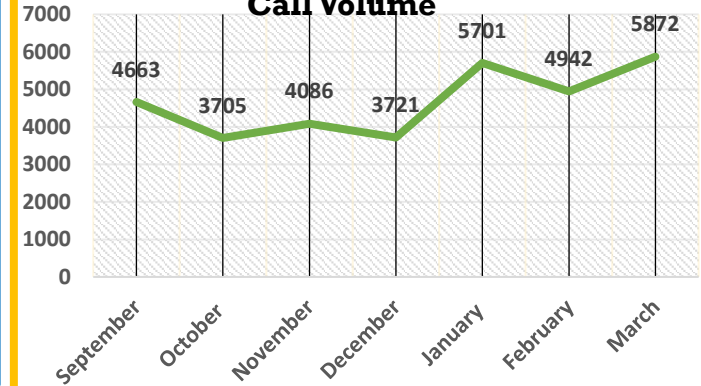
## Appointments and Certifications



Congratulations to Trisha Rodriguez who was recently appointed as a national delegate for the County Veteran's Service Officers Association. She will now attend all national meeting, trainings and conferences and provide briefings to the executive committee and general membership on the agenda and action items discussed. Also, congratulations Matt McGee and Ezequiel Oquendo-Tirado for completing the Veteran Service Officer Training program. This 28 hour accreditation process earns them the recognition and approval from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to assist Veterans with their benefits.

## September 2021 to March 2022

### Call Volume



## MARCH 2022 - AT THE CENTER



### Harry Chapin Mobile Food Bank

After two years of conducting a drive through pantry operations from Harold Park, the Harry Chapin Mobile Food Pantry was moved to the Family Services Center on Gibraltar Drive. Residents now have the opportunity to visit the pantry on the first and third Thursdays of each month at from 10:00 am – 11:30am. Each month this pantry serves approximately 450+ families and distributes between 8-9,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, frozen meats, milk and dry goods.

### VITA Program in Last Few Weeks



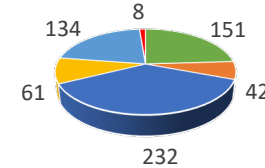
For the past month, the skilled volunteer from the VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program through the United Way have been preparing income taxes for low income residents. This year they estimate that they will have completed 6-700 income tax forms.



### Remake Learning Days - Cinco De Mayo

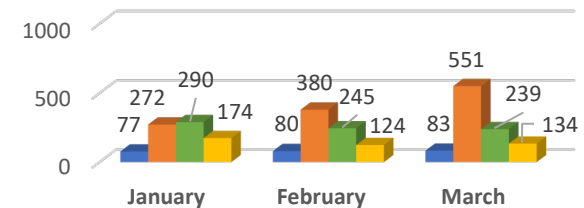
Several of the Community Partners at the Family Services Center will be taking part in Remaking Learning on Cinco DeMayo. This fun filled event will help parents be more engaged in their children's learning while learning about Mexican culture. Come join us after work on May 5, 2022 from 5pm – 8pm for tasty treats like taco's and sombrero cookies, hands on crafts and learning activities including sign language, ocean life and the use of the alphabet to discover Mexican agriculture.

## March Department Activities



- Fast Track - Energy Assistance
- Information Referrals
- Case Management
- County Mandated Services
- Veteran Benefits Assistance
- Outreach Events

## 3 Month - Number of Clients Served

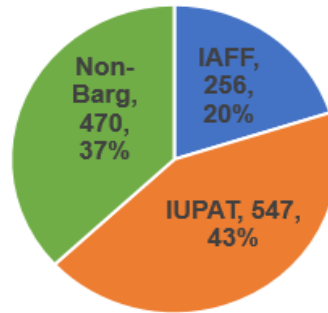


- Aging & Adults
- Intake Services
- Neighborhoods
- Veterans



## Workforce

Employee Count 1,273  
Avg Age 46  
Avg Hourly Rate \$24.02  
Avg Years of Service 8.4



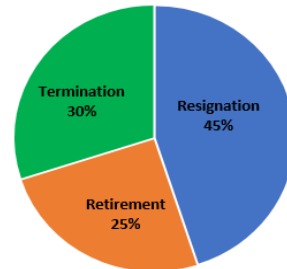
Retention of New Hires	March	YTD
% completing probation	86%	87.6%

## Succession Planning

Ee's in FRS DROP the next 5 years	2.8%
% of Workforce Retired this FY	2.4%

## Separations

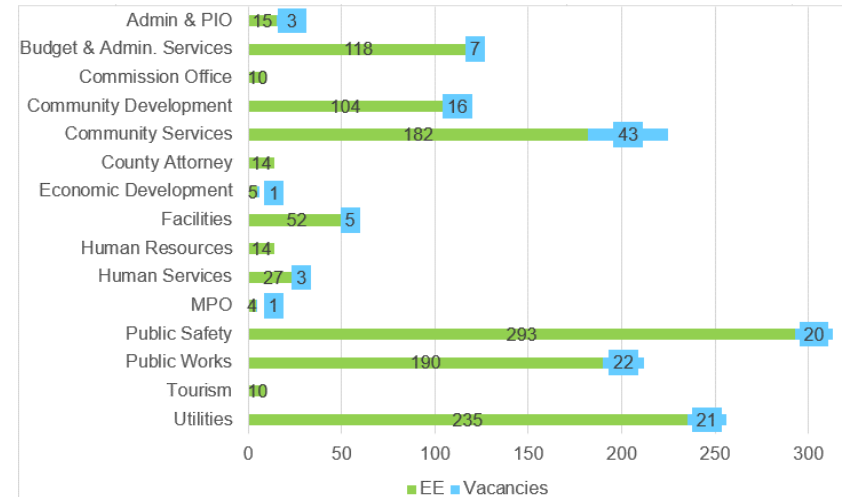
	March	YTD
Turnover	1.6%	6.5%
Separations	20	103



## Training & Development

Training	92 EE's	25 hrs	2,300 contact hrs
% using Tuition Reimbursement		1%	

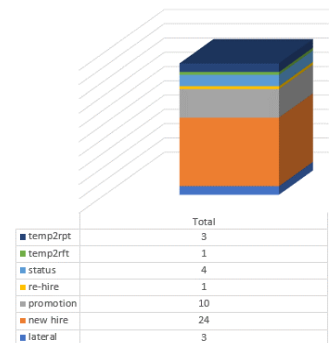
## Employees vs Vacancies



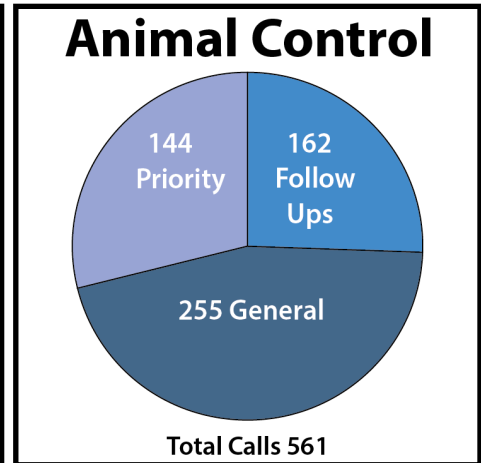
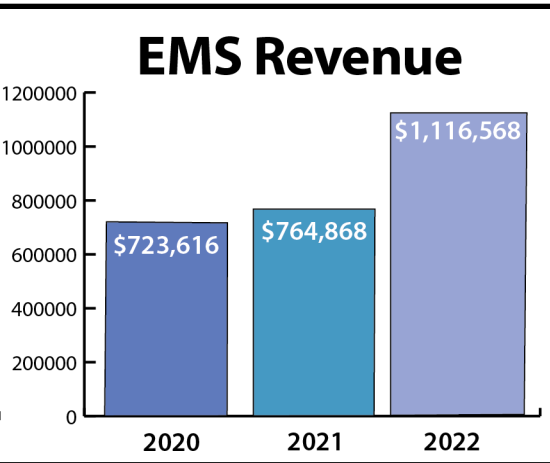
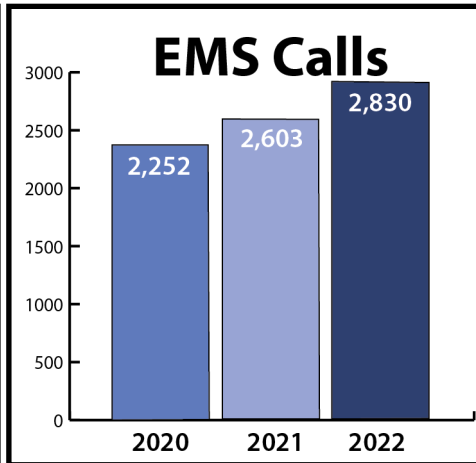
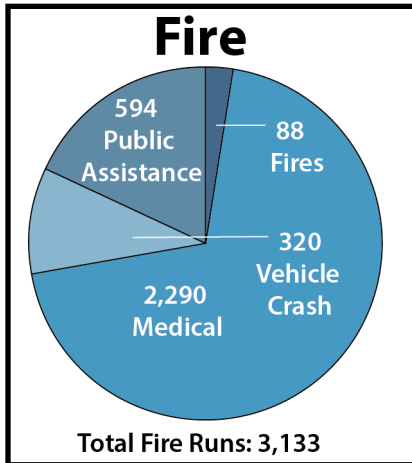
Total Vacancies: 149

## Recruitment

Applications Taken	536
Job Posting Hits	40,524
New Hires	7
Recruited Pos FT	49
Posted PT/Sea	14



# Public Safety



## Wildfire Prevention

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, nine out of ten wildfires are caused by humans. That means the majority of fires that threaten lives and property are preventable and we all play an important role in preventing brushfires and protecting property.

March is the time of year when brush fires begin to pick up. We've responded to several brush fires which required a big department response and the assistance of the Department of Forestry. A fire in the west county South Gulf Cove neighborhood burned 42 acres before we were able to contain it. That fire threatened many homes but thankfully we were able to protect them. Unfortunately, one homeowner lost a shed, had pool screen damage, and a window that cracked from the heat of the fire. At least two other homes had melted vinyl fences.

The South Gulf Cove fire required a lot of resources to bring under control. We requested and received help from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office helicopters, Sarasota County Fire Department, North Port Fire, Englewood Fire, Forestry and Lee County sent an engine strike team which consisted of five fire engines and an officer.

During the dry season be careful with anything that can cause a spark or open flame. In the right condition a small fire will quickly grow out of control. Keep vehicles off dry grass because an exhaust can reach temperatures of 1000+ degrees. Create a defensible space around your home by clearing and maintaining vegetation up to 25 feet around your home. Remove leaves and debris from gutters regularly so blowing embers can't land in a fuel source and catch your home on fire.





## In the Works

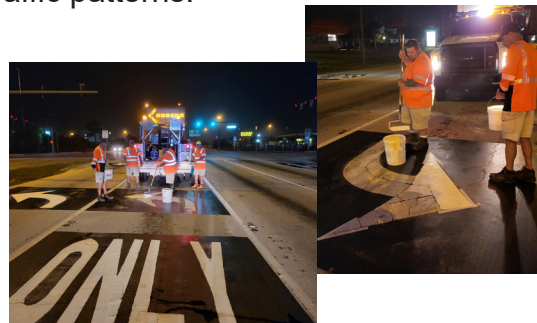
Our crews have replaced a road crossing pipe as well as two driveway pipes to improve the drainage on Fern Dr. These photos show the locations of the pipe replacements before repavement.



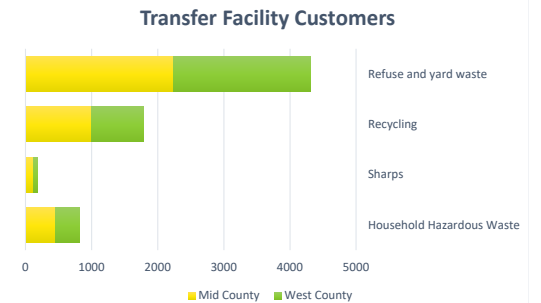
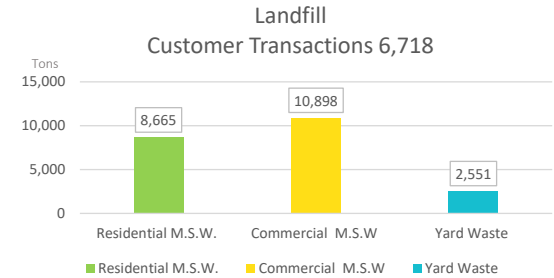
## Did You Know

Our Traffic Signs and Markings crew was recently working overnight to touch up all the legends along Peachland Blvd., Veterans Blvd., and Kings Highway intersections.

Traffic Legends (or hand liners) are symbols and/or wordings on the pavement surface to promote proper traffic patterns.



## Solid Waste



Landing rate counts performed	271
Number of CDC traps distributed and collected	2
Total number of mosquitos Identified to species	120
App Complaints resolved	3
Telephone complaint resolved	0
Aquatics invoiced	<b>\$65,815.34</b>

## Charlotte County Application Requests

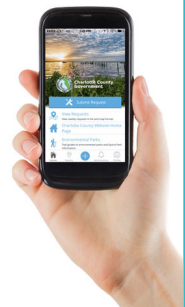
March 2022

Requests Received

**129**

Requests Completed

**134**



## Key Performance Indicators

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT  
(Current Month)

Feb-21	\$632,650	↑	55.4%
Feb-22	\$983,015		

Tourist Development Tax Collections TDT  
(Prev Month)

Jan-21	\$636,834	↑	51.2%
Jan-22	\$962,615		

## PureFlorida.com

### Website Traffic

Users: 54,914

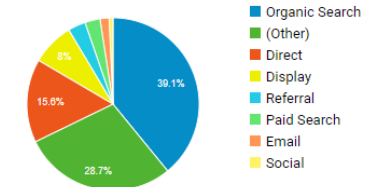
Pageviews: 123,380

Top Origin Markets:  
FL, OH, MI, IL, GA, PA, VA, IN, MA, NY

New vs. Returning Visitors: 84.7% vs 15.3%

### Digital Channel Breakdown

Digital Channel Breakdown: March 1 - 31, 2022



## Sales March 2022

### SPORTS

#### PicklePlex of Punta Gorda

March 1-2, 2022

Over 70 professional and amateur athletes took to the courts to learn from professionals during this three-day camp. This official USA Pickleball camp provides amateurs the opportunity to have their current level of play evaluated by a professional mapping out strategies to work on. By supporting these camps, the VCB was able to negotiate a full page ad in their Pickleball Magazine, which is considered the official magazine of USA Pickleball.



#### USSSA Prostyle Baseball – Gold Bat Championship

Centennial Park, South County Regional Park, Harold Avenue Park

March 26 -27, 2022

Teams traveled from throughout the region and south Florida to participate in the Gold Bat Championship. Over 50 teams ages 6 through 14 took the fields to show off their talents on nine county fields.



### Fun Fact

Fans are excited to see the Tampa Bay Rays and Spring Training back, so why not some baseball fun facts!

- Babe Ruth acquired his 700th home run baseball by paying the fan who caught it \$20.00
- Major League Baseball was formed in 1903
- In 1944, Joe Nuxhall made his MLB debut at 15 years old and is still considered the youngest player to ever play in Major League Baseball.
- 95% of MLB players use maple wood bats

### MEETINGS



The national sales and marketing teams for Sunseeker held meetings in early March. During their visit, we took the opportunity to show the crew around the area to highlight all the county has to offer visitors. The team also met several local partners, building partnerships that will help the entire community once the resort opens in 2023. Sites included the Military Heritage Museum, the Punta Gorda Botanical and Sculpture Gardens and a sunset cruise with King Fisher Fleet.

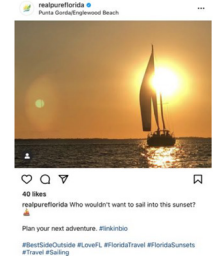
## Public Relations/Media March 2022

A total of 54 media placements were secured. These placements had a reach of approximately 52 million and a media ad value of approximately \$105K.

# #BestSideOutside



Follow and tag us  
@realpureflorida



### NOTABLE MEDIA MENTIONS

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach is proud to welcome the Tampa Bay Rays back for their 2022 Spring Training, which marks their 14th year at the Charlotte Sports Park in Port Charlotte. Once again, the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach VCB sponsored the opening press conference, which was attended by over 30 media from the Southwest Florida region. While the spring training schedule was abbreviated this year due to the MLB labor negotiations, visitation for the games is still expected to generate a significant economic impact for Charlotte County businesses. PureFlorida.com



Visitors to Charlotte County save local residents an average of **\$875** per household in taxes every year.



## 2021 Water Quality Reports:

<https://tinyurl.com/2021-CCR-Peace-River>

<https://tinyurl.com/2021-CCR-Burnt-Store>

## 2021 WATER QUALITY REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection requires water utilities to provide their customers a yearly Consumer Confidence Report. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please visit the links above to view these reports online.

To speak with someone about the report, please call 941.764.4300.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2021 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the above number or check the box on the front portion of your stub and return it to our office.



## IMPACTS



### • Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Replacement:

Please use caution while traveling along Rio De Janeiro Ave. from Rampart Blvd. north towards Sandhill Blvd. Crews will be working along the roadway. Intersection closures are expected this month.

### Additional Utility Impacts:

[Emergency Utility Notices](#)

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **EI Jobean Septic to Sewer Project:**  
Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 300 properties with sewer service. On-site sewer connections for all phases have started. Residents will receive a door hanger approximately one week before the connection to your home. The project is expected to be finalized this summer.

For project information:

[EJJobeanProject.com](http://EJJobeanProject.com)

- **Ackerman Septic to Sewer Project:**  
Construction of a wastewater system to service approximately 2,135 properties with sewer service. Zones 1, 2 and the vacuum station are currently underway. Crews are working on the water main replacement throughout the project area. Zone 1 sewer connections are expected to begin this fall.

For project information:

[AckermanProject.com](http://AckermanProject.com)

- **Sewer Lift Station Generator Project:**  
Installation of stationary and mobile generators at our major sewer lift stations throughout the county. This project will allow lift stations to continue operations during storms and events when power is lost. All stationary generators are being installed at the 500-year flood elevation.

- **Deep Creek Sewer Force Main Project:**  
Construction of a larger sewer force main to improve transmission capacity for the Deep Creek neighborhood. Crews are working on Phase 2 of the project. Work is occurring along Rio De Janeiro Ave. heading north towards Sandhill Blvd.

[Project Map](#)

### Additional Utilities Projects:

[Utilities Projects | Charlotte County, FL](#)

## OPERATIONS

- **Calls Presented:** 8,791
- **Call Wait Time:** 4 minutes 55 seconds
- **Total Customer Accounts:** 66,476
- **Sewer Connections:** 43,146
- **Water Connections:** 65,634

### Charlotte County, FL App Requests

- **5 Misc.—Utilities Department**
- **2 Utilities Billing**
- **7 Utilities Department Service**
- 14 Total**

### Charlotte County Utilities Facebook **1,494 Follows**

April is Water Conservation Month! 💧

Visit our Facebook page each week for useful information on saving water throughout your home, from your kitchen to your bathroom and even outdoors! Remember, every drop counts! 💧

### Important Information:

Charlotte County Utilities should be your first call for utility issues. Staff is available 24 hours, 7 days a week at 941.764.4300.

### **Do you have a simple question?**

Email us at:

[CCUSupport@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:CCUSupport@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

### Payment Options

*Providing safe, reliable drinking water and wastewater service since 1991.*