



Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

# BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

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On the web:  
[charlottecountychamber.org](http://charlottecountychamber.org)

At our office:  
2702 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Or Call: 941-627-2222

2ND QTR 2024

## The power of helping each other

I would like to think the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce is more than just a business membership organization. As we continue to excel, strategically transform, and have a greater level of community collaboration, helping one another is a vital initiative that our entire community can be involved collectively. Helping each other has numerous benefits, both professionally and personally.

Having an active role in helping others provides a sense of fulfillment and purpose. It feels good to know that you've made a positive impact in someone's business or life. Helping others can strengthen relationships and foster a sense of community. It can create bonds based on trust, gratitude, and mutual support. Acts of kindness and helping others have been shown to improve mental well-being by reducing stress, enhancing mood, and increasing feelings of happiness.

Helping others can increase empathy and understanding towards different perspectives and experiences. It can help foster a more compassionate society. It's the creation of a cycle of kindness where others are more likely to help you when you need it. This sense of reciprocity can create a supportive network.

By providing or offering a helping collaboration, you contribute to making our community a better place to live, work, and play. Small acts of kindness can have ripple effects and inspire others to do the same.

Overall, helping each other not only benefits the individuals involved but also contributes to creating a more supportive, empathetic, and interconnected community.

*Bob*

Bob White  
Executive Director



Charlotte County Strong!

## Coming Up

### Networking at Noon

Wednesday, April 10th at Noon  
**Finnegan's Grille & Pub**  
1825 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte  
RESERVATION REQUIRED - Cost is \$20pp.

### Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, April 17th 7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.  
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Ctr.  
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda  
**Sponsor: Pool Boy, Inc.**

**Program: Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services - an Update on the Charlotte Sports park, Spring Training and a full review of Charlotte County Public Parks and Available Services.**

Please register in the Member Portal

### Coffee & Chat

Thursday, April 18th 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Simple AI, Social Media, Personal Branding  
FREE member event  
REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port Charlotte  
North Port DeSoto Inc.  
3320 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte  
Please register in the Member Portal

### Charlotte County Chamber Social Club

Tuesday, April 23rd 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Celebrate National Karaoke Week  
Gilded Grape Winery \$30pp  
Please register in the Member Portal

### Business Card Exchange

Thursday, April 25, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
**Parkside Assisted Living & Memory Care**  
2595 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte  
Please register in the Member Portal

### 13th Annual Integrity Golf Classic

Saturday, May 25 at 7:00 a.m. Check In  
**St. Andrews South Golf Club**  
Sponsorships available.  
Foursome \$300/Individual \$75  
Register in the Member Portal

### Contact us by email:

[bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org)  
[jjoannes@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:jjoannes@charlottecountychamber.org)  
[askus@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:askus@charlottecountychamber.org)  
[president@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:president@charlottecountychamber.org)

### Visit us on the web:

[charlottecountychamber.org](http://charlottecountychamber.org)

## YOUR 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President:

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

### President Elect:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

### VP Leadership Charlotte:

Kelsey J. Veitengruber, Farr Law Firm

### VP Membership Services:

Cristin Beverley, Realtors of Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port-DeSoto, Inc.

### Treasurer:

Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs

### Secretary:

Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University

### Directors:

Rosa Bengtth, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Shawn Gilstad, The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Dave Gammon, Charlotte County Economic Dev. Office

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance

Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun

Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

## 2023-2024 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

### PLATINUM+

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center  
ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte & Punta Gorda  
Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

### PLATINUM

Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, PA

Buffalo Graffix\*

Chapman Insurance Group

Crews Bank & Trust

GJC Window & Door

Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.

McCrory Law Firm

The Daily Sun

Waste Management Charlotte County

### DIAMOND

Adjuster Groups, LLC

Elite Inspections & Pest Solutions, LLC

Farr Law Firm

Florida Gulf Coast University

Matthew Patterson, Patterson Group Keller Williams

The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty

The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Tommy's Express Car Wash

WhitCo Insurance - Alexia Martin Agency

### EMERALD

Achieva Credit Union

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC

Centennial Bank

Charlotte Players, Inc.

Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside

Friendly Floors

Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Panther Hollow Dental Lodge

Port Charlotte Florist

St. Andrews South Golf Club

Sandhill Healing Center, Inc.

State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency

Wotitzky, Wotitzky, Ross & Young PA, Attorneys at Law

\*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



## President's Note

*Nick Worden*

### Strengthening the Bond of Our Members: Connecting Businesses Together

As the President of the Board of Directors for the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, I am thrilled to address our members on the importance of connecting businesses together to strengthen our collective bond. In today's fast-paced and interconnected world, building strong relationships among businesses is crucial for fostering growth, innovation, and resilience within our community.

At the heart of our Chamber of Commerce lies a network of diverse businesses, each contributing its unique strengths and expertise to the economic landscape of Charlotte County. Yet, it is through intentional connections and collaborations that we can truly harness the full potential of our membership base.

First and foremost, connecting businesses together fosters a sense of camaraderie and support. By engaging with one another, our members can share insights, best practices, and resources, ultimately helping each other navigate challenges and seize opportunities. We understand that we do business with people we know and trust, and these connections are the bedrock of successful partnerships.

Moreover, connecting businesses creates a ripple effect of economic prosperity. When companies collaborate, they open doors to new markets, customers, and partnerships. By leveraging each other's networks and expertise, businesses can expand their reach and drive innovation, leading to increased competitiveness and growth. In essence, the success of one member becomes a catalyst for the success of others, propelling our entire business community forward.

Additionally, fostering connections among businesses enhances our Chamber's relevance and impact. By serving as a hub for networking and collaboration, we become not just a resource for individual enterprises, but a dynamic ecosystem that drives economic development and community vitality. Through strategic partnerships with local organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies, we can amplify our advocacy efforts and address collective challenges more effectively.

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Nick Worden is the 2023/2024 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. He is the Vice President, Commercial Banker at Crews Bank & Trust  
Email: [president@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:president@charlottecountychamber.org)

# Charlotte County Chamber Corner

## Social Media & AI Marketing Class with your Chamber



Jami Joannes  
Director of Business  
Development

Get Ready to elevate your social media game with an upcoming class featuring renowned expert Steve Black. With nationwide recognition for his expertise, Stephen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. In this member only class, participants can expect to delve deep into the intricacies of social media marketing, gaining insights into the latest trends, strategies, and best practices for building a strong online presence.

Additionally, Steve's expertise extends beyond traditional marketing methods as he also imparts valuable lessons on harnessing the power of AI to enhance marketing efforts. Attendees will leave empowered with practical skills and a clear understanding of how AI can revolutionize their approach to social media marketing, propelling their businesses to new heights in the digital landscape. April 18, 2024 9-11am [Sign up Today](#)

## Leadership Charlotte 2020 - Press Box Update

Progress update for the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2020 project. The slab was poured March 11th and they will be laying block over the next few weeks. Trusses and lumber will be arriving in roughly 4 weeks. They should be able to continue making good progress on it now that permitting is all approved and construction is finally underway.

The class wishes to thank DM Construction who provided the site prep and fill dirt, and did so at no charge. Peace River fencing provided the 6' fence for security / safety, and Beckman Concrete who has done the work on the slab, will also be laying the block up soon.

For the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2020, Garrett Kizer



# Chamber Community Connections



A colorful flyer for a Karaoke Party. At the top left, it features the 'Gilded Grape' logo with a bunch of grapes and a microphone. The text reads 'CHARLOTTE COUNTY Chamber of Commerce Social Club KARAOKE PARTY'. The date and time are 'April 23, 2024 ~ 5:30 - 7:30' at 'Gilded Grape Winery, 3796 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte'. An illustration shows a man and a woman singing into microphones. At the bottom right, it says 'Join us for Karaoke, Crackers, Cheese & Wine! \$30 pp. Bragging rights for best costume resembling your favorite singer, most memorable performance and best group choreography!'.



Pamela Davis  
Chief of Police  
Punta Gorda

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## Away from Home Program

The Away from Home Program is an invaluable courtesy service offered by the Punta Gorda Police Department to its residents. The primary purpose of the Away from Home Program is to offer vacationing, seasonal, and year-round residents the reassurance that if a problem exists at their property such as suspicious activity, utility emergencies, or other emergency conditions, the resident or their designated key holder can be contacted expeditiously.

Members of the Punta Gorda Police Department's Volunteers on Patrol may also conduct periodic House Checks on your home while you are away and immediately notify you or your designee of any problems or concerns at your residence. Participants can provide contact information for themselves or a key holder enabling the Police Department to more quickly remedy emergencies.

It is important to note that the Away from Home Program is not intended, or designed, to replace home security systems or other security services. Rather, it is a courtesy service designed to further protect your home and enhance the Police Department's ability to rapidly respond to, and remedy, an emergency at the homes of our residents. Residents can sign up for the Away from Home Program by visiting [www.PuntaGordaPolice.com](http://www.PuntaGordaPolice.com).

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# Chamber Community Connection



Sean Doherty  
Charlotte County Tourism

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) is happy to announce that Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections have improved over the past couple months and the opening of Sunseeker Resort has certainly played a significant role in that increase and has more than mitigated the loss of approximately 250 hotel rooms that we lost to Hurricane Ian. The latest collections, which are for January 2024, indicated a 13.9% increase over January 2023 and a year-to-date increase of 2.4% for this fiscal year. While some reports are showing some softening in terms of visitation to Florida, we believe this to be temporary and a result of “Florida Fatigue” after so many people opted to visit Florida post-pandemic as our state was the market leader in re-opening to visitors after COVID. For example, many U.S. residents have been taking international trips that they had to put off. Conversely, we’re starting to see an uptick in international visitation, although we’re not yet back to pre-pandemic levels.

Speaking of international visitation, the VCB is now eight months into our partnership with our international representation firms—Cellet Marketing & Communications (UK) and Sommer Touristik Marketing (Germany). Both firms have done an exceptional job for us in helping to raise awareness of our destination overseas. From attending trades shows on our behalf to generating contacts with tour operators to coordinating familiarization tours of our destination for travel journalists, tour operators and travel agents, they have been very proactive in guiding our efforts to most efficiently and effectively get the word out about what Charlotte County has to offer. Building visitation from these markets is very important as European visitors tend to come during the summer and other shoulder season months when our hospitality industry really needs the business.

The past three months, our destination has served as host to a number of sporting events that have generated millions of dollars in economic impact and thousands of hotel room nights for our destination. Just a few key events on this list include the APP Pickleball Punta Gorda Open, the USA BMX Citrus Nationals, the U.S. Amateur Basketball Southwest Florida Hoops Showcase and the Snowbird Baseball Classic. In addition, with Sunseeker Resort added to our area’s inventory, we have placed a stronger focus on attracting meetings and conferences to the destination. Over the past couple months, the resort has hosted several conferences including the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Leadership Symposium which took place March 4-7. Not only did the attendees of the conference enjoy the amenities of Sunseeker but also had the opportunity to tour the ARFF prop which is stationed in Punta Gorda and will continue to serve as a training tool for many firefighters throughout the state and country.

From a legislative standpoint, we are happy to announce that the House tax package proposal that would’ve required the TDT to be renewed by referendum every six years was removed from the package so did not pass. Passage of this measure would’ve made it very difficult to operate particularly when it comes to any long-term planning, not to mention the difficulty it would’ve created to hire or retain quality staff. Thank you to all our hospitality industry partners who contacted their representatives to express your opposition to this proposal. We greatly appreciate your support, which will allow us to keep supporting you.

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# Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello  
Superintendent  
Charlotte County  
Public Schools

We are excited to introduce a groundbreaking initiative at Charlotte County Public Schools that promises to shape the futures of our students and enhance our community's talent pipeline – the Career Planning Guide. Developed in alignment with our strategic plan and the 3E initiative – Employment, Enlistment, and Enrollment – this comprehensive tool is designed to guide students through critical decisions surrounding their career paths, aligning with our commitment to fostering success for all.

At the heart of our strategic plan lies a commitment to preparing students for lifelong success. The Career Planning Guide plays a pivotal role in achieving this goal by providing students, teachers, and parents with the resources and support necessary to make informed decisions about post-secondary education, employment opportunities, and enlistment in the armed forces. By empowering students to explore their interests, set goals, and pursue pathways that align with their strengths and aspirations, we are cultivating a skilled and motivated workforce that will drive economic growth and innovation within our community.

Through the implementation of the Career Planning Guide, we aim to maximize the return on investment for every student who has been a part of the Charlotte County Public Schools community. By equipping our students with the tools and knowledge to navigate their future paths, we are not only shaping their individual trajectories but also contributing to the overall prosperity and vitality of our community. We invite our students, parents, and community members to learn more about the Career Planning Guide online at [yourcharlotteschools.net](http://yourcharlotteschools.net) or by contacting our Director of Career and Technical Education Dr. Brian Granstra at [Brian.Granstra@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Brian.Granstra@yourcharlotteschools.net).



Leanne Walker  
President, Realtors of  
Punta Gorda Port  
Charlotte North Port  
DeSoto

The Charlotte County real estate market reflects a dynamic landscape characterized by several key trends. Charlotte County boasts a diverse range of residential properties, from waterfront homes to inland suburban developments. Over the past few years, the market has experienced steady growth fueled by factors such as a burgeoning population, favorable climate, and strong demand from retirees seeking to settle in Southwest Florida.

One notable aspect of the Charlotte County real estate market is its appeal to both residents and out-of-state buyers. With its relatively affordable housing options compared to other parts of Florida, the county attracts retirees looking for a more affordable yet comfortable lifestyle. Additionally, investors are drawn to Charlotte County due to its potential for long-term appreciation and rental income, particularly in areas near beaches, golf courses, and other recreational amenities.

However, like many real estate markets, Charlotte County has not been immune to the impacts of broader economic shifts and market forces. Fluctuations in interest rates, changes in employment patterns, and environmental factors such as hurricanes influence market dynamics and buyer behavior. Nevertheless, the overall trajectory of the Charlotte County real estate market appears positive. In February of 2024 the number of current active single-family residence (SFR) listed for sale increased 124% from 2023 equating to 7.5 months of inventory, up from 3.5 months last year. Even with the increased market time the number of closed sales has increased 46% from last year with 391 closed transactions with a median sales price of \$389,900, an increase of 5.4% from this time last year. So, in closing we see a resilient real estate market that with a diverse range of opportunities for buyers, sellers, and investors alike. Keeping an eye on local economic indicators and staying informed about market trends can help stakeholders navigate this dynamic and promising real estate landscape.

# Chamber Community Connection



Charlotte County Sheriff  
Bill Prummell

The Holidays are behind us and we all look forward to warm breezes and sunny skies. With the nice weather comes our seasonal residents and visiting friends to enjoy our piece of paradise with us. This however, does not come without challenges.

The roadways are a bit more crowded. This season, more than recent memory, I have witnessed an increase in traffic. This may be due to our rapid growth in population and the fact that the secret is out. We live in heaven! Speaking of traffic, because of the increase in motor vehicle traffic on our roadways, we all need to exercise patience and extend courtesy to each other on the roadways. Let's all slow down a bit and enjoy the ride.

While we all enjoy the weather, many of us like to experience our beaches and parks. Who wouldn't! When you go to these beaches and parks, please make sure that you remove or hide your valuables from your cars and **LOCK THOSE DOORS**. Thieves look for easy targets. Don't make your vehicles and valuables an easy target for them.

Yes, it's been nearly two years since Hurricane Ian left it's mark, and many of our area businesses are still recovering. For all our business owners, most notably construction supply businesses and marine sales businesses, we encourage you to inspect your security fences and lighting around your properties. Inspect your security cameras to ensure you have adequate coverage. These security measures highly deter the bad guys from taking advantage of you and your property.

We all know that this county is growing very rapidly. The Westport area along El Jobean Rd and Babcock Ranch in east county are seeing unprecedented new home construction. There are also many new homes being constructed throughout many other sections of the county. New home construction thefts of building materials and household appliances are occurring. We patrol these targets frequently, but we can't be everywhere all the time. Therefore, we rely on our citizens to be our eyes out there. Please report suspicious activity.

Our annual FantaSea Fishing event is scheduled for May 4th, 2024 at the Four Points Sheraton TT's Tiki Bar. This is a fun-filled charity event that benefits the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. We ask that you consider sponsorship of this cause. More information can be learned by calling 941-575-5252.

If you see something that just doesn't seem right, trust your intuition and make that call to the Sheriff's Office. Call our non-emergency line at 941-639-2101 or 911 if it's urgent. We all love this community. Let's all continue to do our part to make this the best place to live, work and play.

Be strong. Be safe and never quit!

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# Chamber Community Connection



**Dave Gammon**  
Economic  
Development Office

The International Economic Development Council has created an acknowledgment for those dedicated to the economic development field called a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). The dedication, commitment and brutal series of exams to obtain this designation is daunting. I am proud to announce that Amanda Benton in our office, recently become the first person ever in Charlotte County to earn her CEcD designation. Please join me in congratulating Amanda.

Our office lost a valuable team member as Joshua Hudson unfortunately gave notice so he could take a position closer to home in Lee County. Fortunately, Amanda stepped up and will now be taking over the Programs Manager position. We are also taking this opportunity to hire for two new positions to help with our community outreach and research functions.

On March 27th, our office along with a few county Commissioners, City Council members, Airport Board members and other dignitaries welcomed Capital Partners, a development entity out of Minnesota. Capital Partners broke ground on a 139,200 sq ft, speculative distribution facility on Piper Road, just north of the new FedEx building. Lee & Associates is handling the lease up of the property. As part of the ground breaking ceremony, Capital Partners and Lee & Associates donated \$10,000 to the fine folks at C.A.R.E.

Lastly, I was honored to be part of a dynamic group of speakers pulled together for the annual Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference presented by the Florida CCIM Chapter. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase our community to commercial real estate professionals that will bring their clients to our county.

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The first quarter of 2024 at PGD kicked off with continued progress on capital improvement projects and passenger growth. We recently released our annual pictorial summary titled "Nonstop Destination to Progress," which is available online at [www.flyPGD.com/Buzz](http://www.flyPGD.com/Buzz). It provides highlights of 2023's events, projects, operational milestones and financial results.

We'll be sharing more about the Bailey Terminal expansion in the months ahead. The one-story \$45 million project is anticipated to provide at least 50,000 additional square feet and renovation of at least 20,000 square feet of the existing Bailey Terminal. Concurrent projects include a new In-Line Baggage Screening system at the south end (under construction), and a new Rental Car Center that will be constructed at a more convenient location just north of the Terminal.

Finally, the public is invited to join the Southwest Honor Flight on April 16 for a "Welcome Home" celebration on April 16 at 9 p.m. at the north end of the Bailey Terminal. Family and friends are encouraged to wear red, white and blue to show their patriotic spirit and appreciation for our U.S. Veterans.

As always, we appreciate the public's continued support of our airport, and patience as we make progress on future improvements.

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**James Parish**  
Punta Gorda Airport



# Chamber Community Connection



Melissa Reichert  
City of Punta Gorda

Each year, in conjunction with budget formulation, the City of Punta crafts a strategic blueprint to steer municipal resources toward our vision of preserving our small-town allure while nurturing diversity, economic vitality, and sustainability. Shaped by input from residents, the City Council has delineated five strategic focal points: financial and economic sustainability, infrastructure maintenance, fostering partnerships, effective communication, and enhancing quality of life.

Ensuring enduring financial and economic sustainability is a cornerstone of our community's prosperity. This involves efficiently delivering valued public services to bolster residents' economic welfare, achievable only when ongoing revenue and expenditures are harmonious. The city adopts sustainable spending policies and integrates appropriate technologies to bolster operational efficacy, evidenced through operational audits and investments in cutting-edge technology that bridge the city with its populace. Initiatives such as digital plans review, public records request software, paperless automated invoice processing, and technological advancements in ordinance codification all serve to enhance the user experience of city services.

Infrastructure sustainability encompasses the upkeep and improvement of the city's physical assets and public amenities. With an extensive array of assets, including public buildings, streets, streetlights, bridges, seawalls, water mains, sewer systems, parks, pathways, equipment, and technological infrastructure, maintenance and enhancement are paramount. Projects in this domain range from investments in enhancing quality of life to essential initiatives ensuring public health and safety.

Partnerships and collaboration opportunities have long been central to the city's strategic objectives, epitomizing how services are delivered to the community. While the city government need not exclusively provide all services, it serves as a catalyst for action. Consequently, the city collaborates with public, private, and non-profit entities, offering diverse services to the community, spanning recreational, cultural, educational, administrative, and operational domains. These partnerships encompass initiatives such as housing projects, beautification efforts, state agency interactions, and the Citizen's Academy.

Strategic communication positioning and marketing are integral to identifying, anticipating, and fulfilling stakeholder needs, thereby facilitating the organization's objectives. This involves collaborative endeavors with various non-profit organizations, civic associations, homeowners' associations, and promotional partners. Projects include city marketing initiatives, implementing communication tools for resident engagement, creating informative materials like maps and brochures, and disseminating crucial messages for public safety.

As we navigate the strategic planning process for the 2025 fiscal year, we eagerly invite input and ideas from residents and partners, which can be shared via email at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or during public comment sessions at City Council meetings held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.



# Chamber Community Connection



Jimi Smith Feliciano is the 2024 CDBIA President and President of AJF Construction and can be reached at [ajfconstruction16@gmail.com](mailto:ajfconstruction16@gmail.com)

Since Hurricane Ian, many if not all of the calls I have been getting have been on Hurricane Ian repairs. Like many contractors in our community, our number one focus was taking our talents and tools to help heal the bruises the storm left on our community.

Unfortunately for some, there have been more bruises that came after the storm. From dealing with unlicensed companies, companies taking payment and fighting insurance and finding the money to rebuild, it has been a heavy burden trying to get things back to the way they were before September 28th, 2022.

Here are some tips that can help for those who still need assistance:

## Hiring a contractor

Patience is helpful when calling a contractor. Many local contractors have smaller offices and do plan for a few hours to return calls. Be detailed when leaving a message, so it can be possible for the contractor to do research on the property. Building an estimate may be timely for some. Depending on the work needing to be done, it can take up to 2 weeks to build an estimate. This includes time to price out product, get estimates from subcontractors and getting engineer plans.

As the homeowner, you must make sure you hire the right type of company for the job you need. Even if a company states you do not need a permit, check to verify. You can call the building department in your community, or check with the CDBIA. At no charge, you can call the CDBIA and explain what type of job you are having done and we will let you know what type of company you should hire, if permits are needed and if a specific type of contractor is needed for the job.

If a company asks for a deposit, there is a law that states if you pay more than 10% of the total estimate of the job, a permit needs to be submitted to the building department within 30 days, and work needs to be started within 90 days. If you have paid a deposit higher than 10% you can review the section of “paying a deposit” on the CDBIA website to see how to go about getting your money back <https://cdbia.com/after-the-storm-assistance/>.

## Financial Assistance

If you are still trying to fight with your insurance, you can call the Department of Financial Services. Craig Trapani is the Southwest Regional Manager for Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and has been able to help many families get money from their insurance companies. You can email him at [Craig.Trapani@MyFloridaCFO.com](mailto:Craig.Trapani@MyFloridaCFO.com) or call his direct line at [239-641-0034](tel:239-641-0034).

If you live in Charlotte County and still need financial assistance, please make sure you go to the Community Organizations Active in Disaster to see what funding options are still available for you. Charlotte County does still have hurricane disaster funding to assist. [www.coadfl.org](http://www.coadfl.org)

This has been a hard time for many, trying to figure out how to get your home repaired. We are here to help provide resources.

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# RIBBON CUTTINGS

# NEW MEMBERS



SimpliFi Home Loans Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
January 11, 2024



Soul Dental - Grand Reopening & Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
January 18, 2024



Brighter Than Ever Salon Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
January 31, 2024



FINE LINE homes & construction Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
February 1, 2024

Chery Childcare Center  
3528 Depew Ave.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
Phone: 941-883-2964  
Ketsia Chery-Pierre  
[cherychildcarecenter@gmail.com](mailto:cherychildcarecenter@gmail.com)  
<http://www.cherychildcarecenter.com>

Phillip Wilson Auctioneer  
4485 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
Phone: 941-456-2930  
Phillip Wilson

Bella Napoli Pizzeria & Restaurant  
1938 Kings Hwy.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
Phone: 941-764-8000  
Vitangelo Recchi  
[bellanapoli1938@gmail.com](mailto:bellanapoli1938@gmail.com)  
<http://www.bellanapoli1938.com>

AAI - Security  
1121 W. Price Blvd.  
North Port, FL 34286  
Phone: 941-518-1346  
Sean Williams  
[Sean@AAIspy.com](mailto:Sean@AAIspy.com)  
<http://www.AAIspyFL.com>

Danny Nix for Florida  
State House District 75  
7458 Palm Island Dr., #3212  
Placida, FL 33946  
Phone: 941-724-0080  
Danny Nix  
[dannynnixcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:dannynnixcampaign@gmail.com)  
<http://www.dannynix.org>

Fine Line Custom Homes  
4516 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
Phone: 941-273-9097  
Matthew Moulton  
[Matt@finelinehomes.us](mailto:Matt@finelinehomes.us)

Bone Dry Roofing  
23371 Harbor View Rd., Suite 106  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
Phone: 941-343-5622  
Ernie Porter  
[ernie.porter@bonedry.com](mailto:ernie.porter@bonedry.com)  
<http://www.bonedryroofingflorida.com>

Village Place Health and Rehabilitation  
2370 Harbor Blvd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
Phone: 941-624-5966  
Josh Choate  
[admissions@villageplacehrc.com](mailto:admissions@villageplacehrc.com)  
<http://villageplacehrc.com>

WKDW Radio  
12737 Tamiami Trail  
North Port, FL 34287  
Phone: 941-564-8739  
R.J. Malloy  
[info@kdwradio.com](mailto:info@kdwradio.com)  
<http://www.kdwradio.com>

Mike Douglass Plumbing, Inc.  
517 Paul Morris Dr.  
Englewood, FL 34223  
Phone: 941-473-2344  
Kelly Curtis-Hood  
[kelly@mikedouglassplumbing.com](mailto:kelly@mikedouglassplumbing.com)  
<http://www.mikedouglassplumbing.com>

Insurance Professionals USA  
11402 NW 41st St., Suite 210  
Doral, FL 33178  
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Phone: 941-623-7661  
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Phone: 941-882-0851  
Kate Truong  
[katesnowaesthetics@gmail.com](mailto:katesnowaesthetics@gmail.com)

# RIBBON CUTTINGS



Chery Child Care Center Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
February 15, 2024



Byrd Haus Market Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
February 27, 2024



Valerie's House - Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
March 5, 2024



Gasparilla Boat Tours - Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
March 14, 2024

HR Butler  
Email or Call for Information  
Punta Gorda, FL 33955  
Phone: 614-923-2900  
Bruce Stevens X100  
[mhickey@hrbutler.com](mailto:mhickey@hrbutler.com)  
[www.hrbulter.com](http://www.hrbulter.com)

Above & Beyond SENIOR PLACEMENT  
AND CONSULTING, INC.  
Email or Call for Information  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
Phone: 941-258-6631  
Valerie Tiffany  
[Valerie@AandBSeniorPlacement.com](mailto:Valerie@AandBSeniorPlacement.com)  
<http://www.AandBSeniorPlacement.com>

Freebyrd Media, LLC  
Email or Call for Information  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
Phone: 941-979-7048  
Cameron & Virginia Byrd  
[cameron@freebyrdmedia.com](mailto:cameron@freebyrdmedia.com)  
<http://freebyrdmedia.com>

Pipedex Plumbing and Drains  
1544 Market Circle  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
Phone: 941-303-1739  
Sergey Ginch  
[contact@pipedexfl.com](mailto:contact@pipedexfl.com)  
<http://www.pipedexfl.com>

Charlotte Harbor LULAC 7276, Inc.  
10471 Aztec Rd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981  
Phone: 404-987-7401  
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<http://www.lulac.org>

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21202 Olean Blvd., B-4  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
Phone: 941-883-2885  
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Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
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<http://www.loudlifepro.com>

J Galt Finance Suites  
Email or Call for Information  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981  
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Drew Smith  
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<http://ocorp-fulfillment-services.com>

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Jon Gesicki, DDS & Kristen Gesicki  
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AFC Urgent Care  
19580 Cochran Blvd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
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Erin Sheerin  
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<https://www.afcurgentcare.com/>

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Bradenton, FL 34208  
Phone: 941-720-8956  
Jim Alberston  
[jalbertson@greenandco.biz](mailto:jalbertson@greenandco.biz)

# RIBBON CUTTINGS

# NEW MEMBERS

More Space Place  
4195 S. Tamiami Trail  
Venice, FL 34293  
Phone: 941-613-2797  
Scott Berger & Tracy Young  
[sberger@morespacebeds.com](mailto:sberger@morespacebeds.com)  
<http://www.closetsand.wallbeds.com>

Emery Auto & Diessel Repair, Inc.  
6436 San Casa Dr.  
Englewood, FL 34224  
Phone: 941-548-4070  
Shawn Emery  
[emeryauto@yahoo.com](mailto:emeryauto@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.emeryauto.com>

Sharp Development  
6035 Taylor Rd., Unit 105  
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Kristine Lewis  
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<http://builtbysharp.com>

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Michael Slauson  
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<http://www.towboatuscharlotteharbor.com>

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3280 Tamiami Trail, Suite 36-180  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
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Floridacentral Credit Union  
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<http://www.floridacentralcu.com>

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Kristine Lewis  
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<http://www.insuredbykristine.com>

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20510 Camino Torcido Loop  
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David Butler  
[portcharlotte@shineinfo.com](mailto:portcharlotte@shineinfo.com)

K&B Screen Pros, LLC  
Call or email for Information  
North Port, FL  
Phone: 941-286-0893  
Kyler Brown  
[Kbscreenpros@gmail.com](mailto:Kbscreenpros@gmail.com)  
<http://www.kbscreenpros.com>

Beacon Way Home Investment Solutions  
Call or Email for Information  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
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Thomas Dunn  
[BeaconWayHomeInvestments@gmail.com](mailto:BeaconWayHomeInvestments@gmail.com)

Florida Blue  
2203 N. Lois Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Phone: 719-210-8990  
Janet Pogar  
[janet.stoutpogar@bcbsfl.com](mailto:janet.stoutpogar@bcbsfl.com)  
<http://www.floridablue.com>



Crews Bank & Trust - Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
March 15, 2024



Metropolitan Solution, LLC - Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
March 19, 2024



Virginia B. Andes Mobile Medical Clinic - Ribbon Cutting  
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce  
March 28, 2024

# Networking @ Noons



(c) Premier Photographic Events 3/15/2024



# Simple AI, Social Media, and Personal Branding Strategies To Help You 3x Your Business

Charlotte County Chamber- Coffee & Chat

3320 Loveland Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33980

9:00 AM Thursday April 18th, 2024

## Simple AI, Social Media, and Personal Branding Strategies To Take Your Production To A New Level



**Make 2024 Your Best Year Ever! This Masterclass will take your business to a new level and give you the edge on the competition**

- Simple Facebook & Instagram Strategies To Get Referrals
- Generate Business In a Shifting Market
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- Learn How To Handle Objections And Close More Deals
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- Leveraging Video To Position Yourself As The Hyper-Local Expert
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# 13th Annual Integrity Golf Classic



Charlotte County  
Chamber of Commerce



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Hole in One Sponsor

## May 25, 2024 - St Andrews South Golf Club

### Scramble with a 7:00am check in & 8:30am Shotgun Start

**Bar Sponsor**  
**\$1000**

- foursome
- logo on banner
- popup tent
- hole sign

**Lunch Sponsor**  
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- foursome
- logo on banner
- hole sign

**Eagle Sponsor**  
**\$650**

- foursome
- logo on banner
- popup tent
- hole sign

**Birdie Sponsor**  
**\$450**

- foursome
- logo on banner

**Par Sponsor**  
**\$350**

- foursome
- business name on banner

**Hole Sponsor**  
**\$200**

- run a game
- popup tent
- hole sign

**Hole Sign**  
**\$100**

- hole sign





# 13th Annual Integrity Golf Classic

Benefiting Our Junior Leadership Charlotte Program

Cash Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

\$75.00 per player

Includes: one round with cart, breakfast, buffet lunch,  
2 beverage tickets, raffle entry & cash prizes

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsorships:

Bar  Lunch  Eagle

Birdie  Par  Hole  Hole Sign

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Payment due with entry

Checks Payable to:

Charlotte Chamber Community Foundation

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...and more!



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Forms  
...and more!



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We offer a wide variety of promotional products that are both practical and cool. Get your brand noticed with these useful marketing tools that are guaranteed to find their way into your customers' homes and offices.

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