



Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

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On the web:
charlottecountychamber.org

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

Or Call: 941-627-2222

1ST QTR 2025

Happy New Year

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared over the past year and to express my heartfelt wishes for a prosperous and fulfilling 2025.

The past year has been one of resilience and growth for our community. Together, we have navigated challenges, embraced opportunities, and celebrated numerous achievements. Each of you has played a vital role in the success of our local economy, contributing your unique talents and perspectives to create a vibrant business environment. Your dedication to your businesses, your employees, and your customers not only bolsters our local economy but also strengthens the fabric of our amazing community.

In this coming year, I encourage each of you to set ambitious goals and to look beyond what you believe is possible. Let us harness our creativity, embrace new technologies, and explore uncharted territories. The world is evolving rapidly, and by staying adaptable, relevant, and open-minded, we can seize the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can cultivate an environment where businesses flourish, employees thrive, and our community grows stronger.

I also want to emphasize the importance of connection. The Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce is not just a network of businesses; it is a community of like-minded individuals who share a common goal: to enhance the economic vitality of our community. In 2025, let's prioritize building and strengthening our relationships. Engage with your fellow members, attend events, share your experiences, and collaborate on projects. Our collective knowledge and resources can lead to innovative solutions that benefit us all.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to each of you. Your commitment to excellence, your passion for your work, and your unwavering support of our chamber makes all the difference. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated professionals who are deeply invested in our community's success.

As we celebrate the arrival of 2025, let us do so with hope and enthusiasm. May this new year bring you opportunities, personal growth, and professional success. May your endeavors be fruitful, your challenges manageable, and your triumphs celebrated.



Happy New Year to you and your families! Here's to a year filled with health, happiness, and prosperity. Together, let's make 2025 a remarkable year!

Bob White
Executive Director

Bob

Coming Up

Networking at Noon
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Sunseeker's Aileron
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost \$20pp

Third Wednesday Coffee
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Ctr.
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
Sponsor: Florida Blue
Program: New Member Showcase

Business Card Exchange
Thursday, January 23, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Lake Michigan Credit Union
2120 Kings Hwy.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Birthday Theme

Stages of Success
Friday, February 7, 2025 9:00-10:00a.m.
Simple AI, Social Media & Personal
Branding
Steve Black Presenting

*Please register in the MIC
(Member Portal) for all events so
we may properly plan.*

Contact us by email:
bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org
jjoannes@charlottecountychamber.org
tdains@charlottecountychamber.org
askus@charlottecountychamber.org
president@charlottecountychamber.org

Visit us on the web:
charlottecountychamber.org

Recovery resources are
listed on our website.

Make your plan to attend Expo2025 on February 13th at the
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center 10:00-3:00p.m.

YOUR 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

President Elect:

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

Immediate Past President:

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

VP Leadership Division:

Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University

VP Membership Services Division:

Cristin Beverley, REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port

Charlotte North Port DeSoto Inc.

Treasurer:

Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs

Secretary:

Rosa Benghttt, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Directors:

Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson

Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Shawn Gilstad, The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Craig Holt, Four Points by Sheraton

Dori Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance

Angie Mattheissen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun

Natalie Proctor, Lake Michigan Credit Union

Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Dev. Office

2024-2025 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM+

Charlotte County Ford

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

Elite Hurricane Home Protection

HyperFiber

PLATINUM

Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, PA

Buffalo Graffix*

Farr Law Firm

GJC Window & Door

Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.

Life Care Center of Punta Gorda

McCrory Law Firm

Pool Boy, Inc.

ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte & Punta Gorda

Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

The Daily Sun

Waste Management Charlotte County

DIAMOND

AADisaster Restoration27/7, Inc.

Birch's Air Conditioning & Heating

Chapman Insurance Group

Crews Bank & Trust

Elite Inspections & Pest Control

Fedora's Cigar & Wine Bar

Florida Gulf Coast University

The Firm Advertisig Agency

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

Achieve Credit Union

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC

Charlotte Players, Inc.

Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside

Friendly Floors

J & J One Stop Gun Shop, Inc.

Port Charlotte Florist

Premier Photographic Events, LLC

REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port Charlotte North Port DeSoto Inc.

South Port Square

St. Andrews South Golf Club.

State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency

Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor

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

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



President's Note

Kevin Graham

We Mean Business – A Resilient Community in Action

As we usher in a new year, it's important to reflect on the challenges and triumphs that have shaped our community. Over the past months, Charlotte County endured multiple hurricanes, leaving many families, businesses, and neighborhoods in the painstaking process of recovery. While the stormy skies tested our resolve, they could never diminish the strength of our spirit.

Amidst the trials, our community demonstrated unparalleled resilience and a commitment to moving forward. Nowhere was this more evident than in the Chamber's annual Christmas Parade and the City of Punta Gorda Christmas Tree Lighting. Despite the odds, these events shone brightly, bringing joy, unity, and a sense of normalcy to our residents. They served as a testament to what we can achieve when we work together. A special thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who made these cherished traditions possible. Your dedication brought light to the season, reminding us that even in tough times, Charlotte County's spirit shines brightly.

As we step into 2025, the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce is more committed than ever to our mission: "To be an integral part of the business community." This year, our theme, "We Mean Business," will guide everything we do. We are working tirelessly to solidify the Chamber as the primary hub of information and resources for businesses, government entities, and the community at large. Whether you're seeking data to grow your business, looking for opportunities to connect with local leaders, or simply exploring ways to engage with your neighbors, the Chamber is here to serve you.

Our focus extends beyond recovery to resilience and growth. By enhancing our programs, improving communication, and fostering collaboration, we aim to support every member of our vibrant business community. Together, we'll continue building a stronger, more connected Charlotte County—one that thrives no matter the challenges.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Chamber and the businesses that make our community exceptional. Let's embrace this year with the same determination and unity that carried us through the storms. Here's to a year of progress, partnership, and prosperity—because in Charlotte County, **We Mean Business.**

Kevin Graham is the 2024/2025 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. He is the owner of Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.
Email: president@charlottecountychamber.org

Charlotte County Chamber Corner



Traci Dains
Director of Business
Development

Welcome Traci Dains to the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce!

We are thrilled to announce that Traci Dains has joined the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce as our new Business Development Director. With over 30 years of experience in sales, marketing, business development and administration, Traci brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our organization.

Please join us in welcoming Traci to the team! We look forward to the positive impact she will have on our Chamber and community.

Traci's email address is TDains@charlottecountychamber.org



Jami Joannes
Director of Programs and
Events

The Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce is committed to providing unparalleled value and exceptional opportunities for its members in 2025, fostering an environment where businesses can grow and thrive within our community. As the hub for networking and relationship-building, the Chamber offers a range of programs designed to help members achieve exponential growth. From workshops that deliver actionable strategies for personal and professional development to summer sessions addressing key business topics, members can expect targeted resources that drive success. Our monthly networking events further support these goals, creating spaces where meaningful connections lead to new opportunities and strengthened business relationships.

Beyond professional development, the Chamber enhances member value through engaging social and community-focused initiatives. Our Social Club events and special outings provide unique opportunities to connect with fellow members in dynamic and enjoyable settings., promoting camaraderie and collaboration. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we look forward to celebrating a century of service, innovation, and leadership with events that honor our legacy while looking toward the future. Through these diverse offerings, the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce continues to be the premier partner for businesses seeking growth, success, and a deeper connection to our vibrant community.

Save time - set up AutoPay for your membership.

In the MIC select Company, select Billing, then select Autopay & Billing to display your renewal details. Select Add/Manage Payment Profiles to view or change you card or bank/ACH information. Selecting Autopay will also open the payment profiles to allow for editing.

Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Charlotte County government is in the process of developing upcoming budgets for the next two-year budget cycle.

In mid-February, our Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will review their current strategic plan, where they will confirm and/or revise bold goals aimed at making progress in the focus areas they've identified.

The strategic plan organizes a range of government policies, programs, infrastructure and services into four broad categories or focus areas: public services, economic and community development, infrastructure and efficient and effective government. Staff will propose strategic initiatives aligned and aimed at achieving results toward meeting the bold goals. This process allows the BCC to make funding decisions based on community wants and needs, and also supporting businesses and economic developments initiatives.

In past strategic plans, the BCC set goals to identify levels of desired service in our community and levels of optimum maintenance of infrastructure and facilities. They directed staff to create a 20-year capital needs assessment to enable the board to allocate limited resources effectively, prioritize needs and manage projects efficiently. One of the goals was to create conditions and allocate resources to increase the availability of affordable housing. This is still an area of concern locally and regionally, so I anticipate we'll continue to focus on this issue. Another bold goal was to increase the resiliency of county facilities, our employees and the community. We've made progress on that front that was borne out by how quickly we have been able to resume operations after two historic hurricanes. I want to express my appreciation of residents' patience as we restore access to facilities still closed for repairs.

In summary, our team is committed to the long-term recovery efforts and we also look forward to the challenges 2025 will bring. We'll continue to partner with all stakeholders in the business and overall community.



James Parish
Punta Gorda Airport

Punta Gorda Airport closed out 2024 with strong performance, and we're setting the stage for new opportunities in 2025. About 1.9 million passengers traveled through PGD in 2024, approximately the same as 2023.

While Allegiant added just a few NEW destinations in 2024 (Bangor, ME; Washington D.C., Savannah, GA and Chattanooga, TN), the airline is increasing frequency of flights to Knoxville, TN; Cedar Rapids, IA; Flint, MI and Columbus, OH. During some months in 2025, Allegiant has scheduled DAILY service to Cincinnati, OH; Lexington, KY; Asheville, NC; Indianapolis, IN; Belleville, IL; Allentown, PA and Portsmouth, NH.

As the number of projected passengers increases, it's even more important to arrive at least two hours ahead of your scheduled departure. Wondering how busy it will be? Visit [FlyPGD.com](https://www.flypgd.com)'s departures page the day before you fly out to see how many other flights are leaving during the same 2-hour timeframe.

While improvements continue at the Bailey Terminal, we're also seeking a Restaurateur for the PGD Air Center. Located off Challenger Blvd., the Air Center is fantastic place to open a runway-front public restaurant that will also serve visiting military pilots, airport employees, tenants and local neighbors. The Airport Authority is offering \$200K reimbursement once the buildout is complete. Proposals are due January 29, so check [PGDAirCenter.com](https://www.pgdaircenter.com) for more details.

Chamber Community Connection



Bill Prummell
Charlotte County Sheriff

Hello 2025! The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office wishes all a healthy and prosperous new year. Compared to the year 2023, 2024 saw just a 1% increase in crime. This statistic is tremendous given the significant population increase we have seen throughout the County. One of our major concerns and focus is traffic enforcement, specifically speed enforcement. We are hitting it hard and are working to keep our roadways safe.

Our annual Shop with a Cop Program in December was once again a wonderful success. We were able to make Christmas very memorable for over 135 children and their families. Each child was allowed to spend \$200 on gifts for themselves and/or someone else of their choosing. This was possible because of the outstanding support and donations received from our community businesses and partnerships. Thank you.

Some upcoming events of note are the Public Safety Appreciation Night at the Charlotte County Convention Center on March 22nd at 5pm. We will honor members of our State and Local Law Enforcement and Firefighters/EMS. Tickets are \$35 pp and can be obtained by contacting the CCSO Community Affairs Unit at 941-575-5252. We also have our annual FantaSea Fishing Tournament in partnership the Englewood Sunrise Rotary on April 12th at TT's Tiki Bar at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Punta Gorda. Proceeds raised above event costs are donated to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. Tickets are \$30 pp, which includes dinner, dancing and a chance to win up to \$1500. Those tickets can also be obtained by calling 941-575-5252.

If you wish to sponsor any of these events, please contact the Community Affairs Unit of the Sheriff's Office at 941-575-5252.

Be strong. Be safe. And never quit!
-Sheriff Bill Prummell



Kay Tracy, Director
Charlotte County
Economic Development
Office

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office (EDO) is dedicated to driving sustainable economic growth, assistance in creating high-wage job opportunities for the community's residents, and expanding the local tax base. Guided by Director Kay Tracy, the EDO focuses on empowering businesses, fostering workforce development, and building strategic partnerships to position Charlotte County as a hub for innovation and long-term economic resilience.

Under new leadership, the EDO emphasizes building strong stakeholder relationships, advocating for supportive policies, addressing the critical needs of the business community and ensuring alignment with strategic goals that contribute to the county's growth.

Looking ahead for 2025, the EDO remains committed to facilitating in the creation of a prosperous future by collaborating with community leaders and advancing efforts in business retention, new business development, marketing, data analysis, and administration. With clear goals, defined responsibilities, and a strong emphasis on community teamwork, the EDO is prepared to propel Charlotte County forward—delivering high-wage jobs, fostering innovation, and building a resilient local economy.

Chamber Community Connections



Pamela Smith
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Crime Safety Suggestions for the New Year from PGPD

As the new year unfolds, it's the perfect time to reassess and adopt better habits, especially regarding crime safety. Whether you want to enhance your personal security or protect your home and family, starting the year with proactive crime safety measures can bring peace of mind. Here are some simple yet effective suggestions from the Punta Gorda Police Department you can incorporate into your routine:

1. Strengthen Home Security

One of the most important steps in preventing crime is securing your home. Consider installing an intelligent security system, adding motion-sensor lights, and regularly checking that doors and windows lock correctly. If you haven't already, start using a peephole or security camera when answering the door, and avoid opening the door to strangers.

2. Be Cautious with Personal Information

Safeguarding your personal information is essential in an era of increasing cybercrime. Start by being mindful of what you share on social media. Avoid posting your whereabouts in real-time, and limit sharing sensitive details. Additionally, ensure your passwords are strong and unique and enable two-factor authentication where possible.

3. Develop Situational Awareness

Stay aware of your surroundings, especially when out in public. Pay attention to people and vehicles around you, and trust your instincts if something feels off. Avoid distractions like looking at your phone when walking alone, and always walk in well-lit, populated areas at night.

4. Update Emergency Contacts and Plans

Take time to review and update emergency contact lists and establish clear plans for your family in case of an emergency. Ensure everyone knows what to do during a break-in, fire, or natural disaster.

5. Secure Your Vehicle

Vehicle break-ins are a common crime but can often be prevented with simple habits. Always lock your car, even if you're running a quick errand. Don't leave valuables in plain sight, and consider using steering wheel locks or car alarms for added protection.

7. Keep Your Online Safety in Check

As we spend more time online, staying vigilant about cybersecurity is crucial. Update your software regularly, avoid suspicious emails and websites, and back up your important data.

By making these small but impactful changes, you can significantly reduce your risk of becoming a crime victim in the new year. Prioritize safety in your daily life, and you'll enjoy a more secure and confident year ahead. For additional tips or assistance, don't hesitate to contact the Punta Gorda Police Department at (941) 639-4111.

Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello
Superintendent
Charlotte County
Public Schools

Exciting Events Ahead for Charlotte County Public Schools

Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) is kicking off 2025 with three extraordinary events providing exploration opportunities, workforce engagement, and staff appreciation! Mark your calendars for these milestone occasions!

On January 11, 2025, the highly anticipated Golden Apple Gala will shine a spotlight on our district's brightest educators and staff. Tickets can be purchased through our website. This elegant evening honors the exceptional dedication, innovation, and passion of the staff who go above and beyond for students. Join us at Sunseeker Resort as we celebrate these education heroes and the transformative impact they have on our community.

On January 16, CCPS will host the annual Magnet Expo, where families can explore the unique and specialized programs offered by our magnet schools. From Cybersecurity and Aviation to Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing, and drones, this event provides valuable insights to help families make informed decisions about their child's educational journey and will be held at Centennial Park from 5:30-7:00 pm. Please come check out the amazing educational offerings right here in Charlotte County!

Wrapping up this series of events is the JA Inspire Career Expo on January 21 at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. This interactive expo, designed for all CCPS 8th graders, introduces students to the workforce demands of Southwest Florida's fast-growing industries. With hands-on exhibits, inspiring speakers, and opportunities to connect with local employers, JA Inspire empowers students to envision their future careers and understand the pathways to success.

These events exemplify our dedication to empowering students, celebrating educators, and engaging the community. We invite you to join us for these exciting opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate the bright future of Charlotte County Public Schools.



Chamber Community Connection



Derek P. Rooney, President
Economic Development
Partnership

As we close out another year, the Charlotte County Economic Development Partnership reflects on the significant strides our community has made in driving economic growth despite the setbacks mother nature sent our way. This past year has been marked by remarkable collaborative efforts and a shared vision for a prosperous future. In 2024 we focused on learning and workforce development. To that end, the EDP partnered with the Charlotte County School Board and other local agencies to support the expansion of K-12 and Charlotte Technical College training for the aerospace industry, with an emphasis on creating opportunities at our growing Punta Gorda Airport. The EDP and its consultants have lobbied for state and federal money to support local initiatives and have hosted state officials and corporate leaders in Florida's aerospace and manufacturing industries to showcase what Charlotte County has to offer. These efforts culminated in the School Board winning grant support for a new hanger at Charlotte High School and designation of the District as one of Florida's new Space Academies. The School District's focus on aerospace and growth at the Punta Gorda airport was on display this December with the breaking ground of the expanded airframe and powerplant training facility which was a multi-year effort between the District, Charlotte County, and the Airport Authority, the EDP was excited to participate in a small way in that achievement for our community.

These investments are a testament to the strategic planning and partnerships that make Charlotte County a desirable destination for business development. In 2025, we plan to build on this momentum by supporting the School Board's newly announced advanced manufacturing program at Port Charlotte High and Lemon Bay High School's cybersecurity program. Additionally, we will work to highlight Southwest Florida College's workforce training programs, ensuring our community is equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy. The EDP also recognizes the importance of community support and input for critical initiatives, including the upcoming County's one-cent sales tax and School Board's additional ad valorem tax, both of which will be on the ballot in 2026. These measures are vital for sustaining growth and addressing the needs of our community. Our focus remains on creating a resilient and sustainable economy by diversifying our industries, enhancing workforce development programs, and investing in critical infrastructure. By prioritizing collaboration between public and private sectors, we aim to ensure that Charlotte County remains a leader in economic growth and an example of community-driven success.

As we embark on this next chapter, the Charlotte County EDP extends its gratitude to our partners at the Charlotte County Chamber who contribute to our shared vision.

Chamber Community Connection



Jaha Cummings,
President CDBIA

Don't get scammed hiring construction companies.

There are thousands of legitimate, ethical contractors in business in Florida. Unfortunately, there are also scam artists looking to cheat you out of your money who pose as legitimate contractors or storm chasers. These “fly-by-night” operators often show up in communities impacted by natural disasters to try to scam distressed home owners into paying for shoddy repairs or work that they will never show up to perform.

Here are some warning signs to look out for:

- Doesn't have license and insurance. All Florida contractors should be insured and able to show their certificate proving such insurance. A contractor will be proud to show you their license from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. It is also recommended to make sure you meet with the contractor. After recent storms, there were reports of scammers writing down any license number to get a down payment. Make sure you get to meet with the actual licensed contractor.
- Asks you to sign anything before you've hired them. If they want you to sign an “estimate” or “authorization” before you've made the decision to hire the contractor, look out. They may be trying to get you to sign what is an actual binding contract.
- Doesn't write contracts. Licensed professionals have clear contracts that outline the job, process, the cost, and helps clarify how problems will be managed. If you don't have a contract, you are not protected when something goes wrong. Don't hire anyone who tells you a contract “won't be necessary.”
- Requires cash or payment in full before starting the job. Shady businesses demand cash and then run with the money. Many home owners have been stranded by paying in full up front. A deposit towards materials is common, but only pay it once you have a contract signed by both you and the contractor. It's also suspect if you're asked to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check or money order to a company. If a business states that if you pay more than 10% we will get your project started earlier, that is a red flag.
- Vastly underbids all other contractors. They may have the best price, but that doesn't guarantee the best work. Such contractors may cut costs on quality, which can end up costing you more when you have to have the substandard work redone. After Hurricane Ian, many people accepted lower bids, paid a deposit and the businesses left town. Protect yourself.
- Cannot provide customer references of local homeowners or business owners. Contractors should have current references they can provide from current and past clients — and you should be able to reach those references, not just an answering machine.
- Difficulty contacting the contractor. Professionals have a physical office, mailing address, phone, and email. They should respond to your queries in a timely manner. Make sure you can verify the contractor's business address.
- Tells you to obtain the building or remodeling permits. Professional contractors go to the county or state offices and get permits for their work themselves. Asking the home owner to do it is a sign they may not have the license to pull the permit.

Your best bet is to take your time, do your research and choose someone you feel completely comfortable with. The Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association offers a free service to verify if a company has the license to do the work you want to hire the company for. To verify online, or for many other tips that can be helpful after a storm, please visit [NEED](#). You can also call us at the office at 941-625-0804.

Chamber Community Connection



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

Happy New Year! We are grateful for the platform provided by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce to share valuable information with the business community. In addition, the City of Punta Gorda offers several resources to keep residents informed.

The city's website is a one-stop hub filled with detailed information on all departments. Simply visit www.cityofpuntagordafl.com and use the search feature at the top for easy access. You can also pick up a printed guide titled *Welcome to Punta Gorda Life*, which highlights city services. This brochure is available at local businesses, City Hall, the Punta Gorda Airport, or by calling (941) 575-3394.

For updates on commercial and multifamily developments, the Punta Gorda Developments quarterly newsletter is an excellent resource. To subscribe, contact the City Manager's Office and share your email with a staff member.

Each Friday, the City Manager's Office publishes a Weekly Highlights Report, which outlines key projects and activities across city departments. To receive this report, sign up for e-notifications at <https://bit.ly/3gZnDHB>. Additionally, the Action Register is updated every Thursday on the city website, tracking ongoing tasks and their progress.

Stay connected through social media, as we frequently share updates and photos showcasing Punta Gorda's beauty on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

For those who prefer text communication, the City of Punta Gorda offers a service called Text My Gov. This allows residents to quickly find information, report issues, or submit photos through regular text messaging—no app required. Simply text “hi” to (941) 347-0747 to access this service anytime, 24/7.

Lastly, remember to sign up for Alert Punta Gorda if you haven't already. This free service provides timely emergency alerts and weather information. To enroll, visit <https://bit.ly/2U9HYOm>.

Stay informed, stay connected, and here's to a wonderful year ahead!

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS



Elianos Coffee - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 3, 2024



Little World Academy - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 21, 2024



The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 29, 2024



Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 30, 2024

Comcast Business
12600 Westlinks Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33913
786-405-6888
Zachary D'Errico
<https://business.comcast.com/>

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<http://planetfitness.com>

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3916 Gibraltar Dr.
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(239) 686-0220
JR Helfrich
jr@corporatevaluation.com
<http://www.corporatevaluationadvisors.com>

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Referral: Staff

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239-600-0850
Olivia Damron
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<http://DivineRadianceSkinworks.com>

Collaborative Resources
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL/Winchester, VA
540-247-1874
Jeffrey D. Hester
JeffreyDelHester@gmail.com

Savior Solutions Group
Call or Email for Information
Englewood, FL 34224
941-315-1374
John Howard
john_howard@saviorsolutionsgroup.com
<https://www.saviorsolutionsgroup.com/>

Merry Maids of Charlotte & DeSoto County
3271 B Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-255-5656
Mary Sue Covington
info@merrymaidsswfl.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS

Convenient Tax Service
3271 B Tamami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-236-0005
Mary Sue Covington
sue@weloveyourtaxes.com

Pelican Patrol Home Watch Service
Email or Call for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 239-221-0526
Lisa Gallucci
lisa@pelicanpatrolhomewatch.com
<http://www.pelicanpatrolhomewatch.com>

Hughes Exterminators
2496 Caring Way, Suite B
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-467-1224
Kaylee McGinnis
portcharlottecommercial@hughes-
exterminators.com
<http://www.arrowexterminators.com>

Florida Comfort Air Conditioning
17194 Toledo Blade Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 258-7585
Amanda Larson
amanda@floridacomfortac.com
<http://www.floridacomfortac.com>

Community Lending
2115 Via Esplande
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
239-699-2411
Stormy Wilder
swilder@communitylendingfl.com

PaySafe
Email or Call for Information.
North Port, FL 34238
(941) 549-7803
Stan Teplitsky
stanley.teplitsky@paysafe.com
<http://www.paysafe.com>

Grain & Berry
2000 Tamiami Trail, Unit 223
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 236-0333
helen@thehallergroup.com
<http://www.grainandberry.com>

My Apex Marketing
Email or Call for Information.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 500-2461
Shane Donofrio
shane@myapexmarketing.com
<http://myapexmarketing.com>

Sherwin-Williams Paint Company
3341 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-626-6230
Caitlin Barnett
caitlin.barnett@sherwin.com
<http://www.sherwin-Williams.com>

Ideal Retirement Solutions
1620 Tamiami Trail, Suite 100
Port Charlotte, FL 33946
(941) 888-0864
Wendi Nicholson
wendi@idealretirementsolutions.com
<http://www.idealretirementsolutions.com>

Farm Bureau Insurance
1278 SE Highway 31
Arcadia, FL 34266
(941) 624-3981
Paul Jorgensen
paul.jorgensen@ffbic.com
<http://www.ffbic.com>

Photographic Museum of Vintage Americans
PO Box 494601
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4601
(941) 380-1748
Antonio A. Suares
a.a.suares.images@gmail.com
<http://antoniosuares.com/index.htm>

Rita Capello-Clark, Coldwell Banker Sunstar
Realty
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 264-4841
Rita R. Capello-Clark
rita.capello@cbsunstar.com

Your Movement Solutions
4140 Whidden Blvd., Unit E
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 627-1256
Julie Anne McGready
yourmovementsolutions@gmail.com
<http://CallYMS.com>



Life Celebration Center - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 8, 2024



Smash It - Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 13, 2024



Bacon's Furniture Galleries - Grand Reopening & Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 14, 2024



Live Your Strength - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
December 17, 2024

EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS



PBJ Unique Creations, LLC
1435 Collingswood Blvd. Unit E
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 413-8131
Jennifer Smart
info@pbjuniquecreations.net
<http://www.pbjuniquecreations.net>

Meridian Moving & Storage
1720 El Jobean Rd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 661-3631
Morgan Neal
Morgan@MeridianMoving.com
<http://MeridianMoving.com>

Custom Pools by Precision
929 Tamiami Trail, Unit A
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 206-2650
Richard Casa, Trena Casa
custompoolsbyprecision2960@gmail.com
<https://www.custompoolsbyprecision.org/>

Cottage Crafts
Online Store Open 24/7
Punta Gorda, FL 33980
(814) 494-4312
Terri Hopkins
cottagecraftsstore@gmail.com
<http://cottagecraftsonline.shop>

Narrow Gate Closets
Please Call or email for information.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(239) 414-9777
Jason Guth
narrowgateclosets@gmail.com
<https://www.narrowgateclosets.com/>

Tri Star Fence of SWFL
Please Call or email for information.
North Port, FL 34286
941-412-5175
Cory Swearingen
cory@tristarfenceofswfl.com
<http://www.tristarfenceofswfl.com>

Fine Design Lawn Care Inc.
767 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
941-979-1989
Brett Martin
Finedesignlawncare@gmail.com
<http://Finedesignlawncare.com>

In our book everyone was a winner on parade day! Here are the official results from our Judges:

BEST DECORATED FLOAT:
3RD Place – EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2nd Place – CHARLOTTE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
1st Place – CHARLOTTE HARBOR PARROT HEAD CLUB

BEST DECORATED CAR / TRUCK:
3RD Place – CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2nd Place – VISUAL ARTS CENTER
1st Place – VIRGINIA B. ANDES VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY CLINIC

BEST PERFORMING GROUP:
3RD Place – THE CALENDAR GIRLS
2nd Place – FLORIDA DANCE WORKSHOP
1st Place – STUDIO SEVEN

PRESIDENTS AWARD:
STUDIO SEVEN

GRAND MARSHALL AWARD:
CHARLOTTE HARBOR PARROT HEAD CLUB





Renewing Members November 16 – December 15, 2024

The following members have renewed their membership in the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce this month. We congratulate them on their anniversary and thank them for their continued support.

55+ Years

Summers, Westby & Schiller, CPAs

45+ Years

Roberson Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
The Daily Sun

40+ Years

Zobel Real Estate, Inc.
Fulton Pools, Inc.
Masada Homes, Inc.

35+ Years

Webb, Lora & McMillan, PLLC
Ambitrans Ambulance

25+ Years

Sam's Club
SCORE Port Charlotte

20+ Years

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
Byrski Estate and Elder Law
Flex-Path, Inc. dba Pool Deck Lady LLC

15+ Years

Marianne L. Lilly - RE/MAX Harbor Realty
Forcefield Hurricane Protection Systems
Sleep Inn & Suites
Tampa Bay Rays
Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens
State Attorneys Office
Tri County Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.
Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office

15+ Years continued

Quality Control Air, Inc.

10+ Years

Charlotte County Republican Club
Gulf Coast Chiropractic Center, PA
Suncoast Blood Centers
Certain Services, Inc.

9 Years

Peace River Airboat Tours
Venture Management International

8 Years

MomCEO.com/SueHowell
The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
Dancing Moon Travel

7 Years

Absolute Window & Shutter Inc.

6 Years

Children's Network of SWFL, LLC

5 Years

The Celtic Ray Public House

4 Years

Brandon's Pressure Washing
Isabel and Annabel's Mexican Restaurant
Howard's Hershey's Ice Cream

3 Years

Chenango Supply Co., Inc.
Armed Women of America
The Punta Gorgeous Store
EcoSun Homes, LLC
Bricks & Minifigs Port Charlotte
Neuro Challenge Foundation

2 Years

Marine Corps League Detachment 756
Charlotte County
Stellar Public Adjusting
Charlotte County Clerk of Courts Englewood Annex

1 Year

Merrill Lynch - Travis Mann, Financial Solutions Advisor
Punta Gorda Car Consulting LLC
Maloney Homes
GFWC Port Charlotte Woman's Club
Elite Hurricane Home Protection
HR Butler
Metropolitan Solution Fencing LLC
David Sussman Photography



HOME | AUTO | FLOOD | BUSINESS

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15+ YEARS OF SERVING SWFL

YOUR INSURANCE MATTERS TO US:

AT CIG, YOUR NEEDS ARE OUR TOP PRIORITY.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS:
SCAN FOR A PERSONALIZED
QUOTE TODAY!



Left to right:
Brian Chapman
Janessa Welland
Caleb Chapman

NEW INVENTORY ARRIVING WEEKLY!



Stop By Or Shop Online: CharlotteCountyFord.com

SERVING CHARLOTTE COUNTY & BEYOND SINCE 2004



20 Years

ONE MISSION.

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Managing the “big books” of business means a hefty pile of paperwork that can slow down even the most adept business owner or entrepreneur.

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Comprehensive PEO Solutions

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- › Bookkeeping
- › HR Guidance
- › 401(k) Plan
- › Employee Benefits

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Business Services

- IRS Tax Preparation & Planning
- Audits, Reviews & Compilations
- Small Business Accounting

Audit & Assurance Services

- Financial Statement Audits
- Special Purpose Audits
- Government & Not-for-profit Audits
- Federal & State Single Audits

Tax Services

- Individual Tax Preparation & Planning
- IRS Tax Problems & Representation

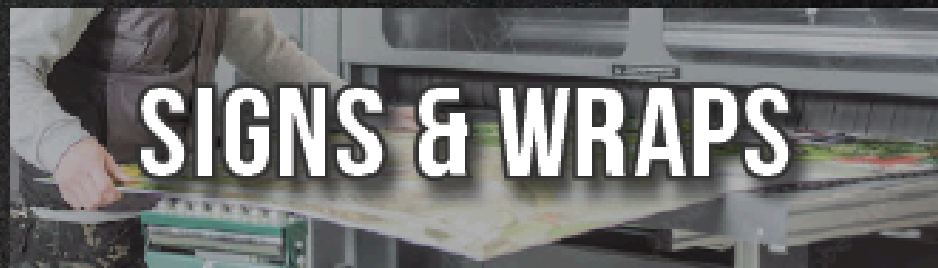
Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs is a full-service accounting firm serving clients throughout the area, dedicated to providing our clients with professional, personalized services and guidance in a wide range of financial and business needs. Whether you are an individual or business in or around Charlotte County, our firm has years of valuable experience assisting professionals with their accounting needs.

PHONE: 941.639.6600 | FAX: 941.639.6115
366 E OLYMPIA AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

AshleyBrownCPAS.com

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ORDERS@BUFFALOGRAFFIX.COM

SALES OFFICE:

17960 TOLEDO BLADE BLVD, UNIT H, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

PRODUCTION FACILITY:

18320 PAULSON DRIVE, UNIT A, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954



Thursday, February 13, 2025
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

DON'T MISS OUT!

**Opportunity
to showcase
your business to
1,000+ attendees,
all in one day!**

PLATINUM TITLE

Platinum Sponsor Benefits Include:

- **Exclusive - Only One Available Per Industry**
- **TWO Booths in a prominent location**
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- Special Lanyard
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 10 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 4 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 3' x 8' Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently on Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
 - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Three Available **\$2,700**

SILVER ASSOCIATE

Silver Sponsor Benefits Include:

- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 6 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 2' x 6' Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently on Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
 - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Five Available **\$1,100**

GOLD PRESENTING

Gold Sponsor Benefits Include:

- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 8 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 3' x 6' Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently on Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
 - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Five Available **\$1,700**

BRONZE PARTICIPATING

Bronze Sponsor Benefits Include:

- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- 4 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2' x 4' Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently on Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
 - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Ten Available **\$700**

UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL IN 2025

STAGES OF SUCCESS WORKSHOP SERIES

Stage 1 Stability: Stability is essential in both personal and business growth, serving as the foundation for long-term success.

Classes Include

- **January 3: Success Principles**
- **February 7: Simple AI, Social Media & Personal Branding**
- **March 7: Leveraging Your Chamber Membership**

Stage 2 Success: Prioritize and Delegate for a Proper Work-Life Balance

Classes Include

- **April 4: Finding Employees that Fit**
- **May 2: Service Learning for non/not-for Profit Organizations**
OR
- **June 6: Working with Interns for For-Profit Organizations**

Stage 3 Significance: Continue to Sharpen Your Tools and Prepare for Retirement.

**WE
MEAN
BUSINESS**

Classes Include

- **August 1: Utilize Business Credit to Sell Your Company**
- **September 5: Estate Planning**



941-627-2222



www.charlottecountychamber.org



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**