



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

3RD QTR 2024

Congratulations Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024

On Friday, June 21, the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024 celebrated their graduation, wrapping up a phenomenal year. The LC'24 class signature event was Demin & Diamonds, held at the Twisted Fork. With nearly 400 people in attendance, fun was had by all plus an exceptional amount of funds were raised. When it was all said and done, Sixty-Five Thousand dollars were raised through multiple creative initiatives. The LC'24 class had selected two beneficiaries, the Loveland Center and the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.).

Please help me congratulate the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024: Ryan Barber, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Brea Benevenga, Charlotte County Community Services, Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson, Janice Chupka, Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic, Josh Deyarmin, Charlotte County Airport Authority, Jennifer Dubbaneh-Cirella, Calista Kitchen & Bath, Alaina Dumas, Charlotte-Desoto Building Industry Association, Lisa Gallucci, Visual Arts Center, Jill Gendreau, McCrory Law Firm, Dori, Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design, Betty Kendziora, Union Home Mortgage, Bobbie Leahey, EXP Realty, Amberly Leverich, Homeless Coalition, Francine Lisby, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Kristen Manomat, Girls on the Run, SWFL, Kylee McGloin, City of Punta Gorda, Angie Misne, Crews Bank & Trust, Maureen Morgenthien, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitors & Convention Bureau, Tony Pribble, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Dan Revallo, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University, Stephanie Rusch, Charlotte Technical College, Ricky Terrazas, Achieva Credit Union, and Jen Wolfe, United Way of Charlotte County.

Special thanks go to our Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024 Class Chair, Wendy Atkinson, Nolan Family Insurance and Class Vice-Chair, TJ Thornberry, Thornberry Custom Builders. We greatly appreciated their time, commitment, leadership, and guidance.

Since the inaugural Leadership Charlotte Class of 1989, over Nine Hundred Thousand dollars have been given back directly back to our community, with each class leaving a legacy impact to the needs of Charlotte County,

Application are now available for the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025.



Bob

Bob White
Executive Director



Coming Up

Networking at Noon

Wednesday, July 10th at Noon
Zoe's Sweet Kitchen
1101 El Jobean Rd. Port Charlotte
RESERVATION REQUIRED - Cost is \$20pp.

Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, July 17th 7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Ctr.
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
Program: Candidates Forum

Charlotte County Chamber Social

Club: Coffee & Chat

Topic: Business Credit
Presenter: Drew Smith, J. Galt
Thursday, July 11 at the Realtors Association,
3320 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. No Cost.

Business Card Exchange

Thursday, July 25, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference
Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
Program: Candidate Forum

New Teacher Breakfast

Wednesday, July 31, 2024
at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference
Center. \$45 sponsorship covers breakfast for
you and a teacher.

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

Contact us by email:

bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org
jjoannes@charlottecountychamber.org
askus@charlottecountychamber.org
president@charlottecountychamber.org

Visit us on the web:

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

Shop local keeps our business community thriving

As President of the Board of Directors for the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to address the vital role that local businesses play in our community, especially during the off season. While the bustling tourist months bring a surge of visitors and revenue, it is during the quieter periods that our local economy truly relies on the support of year-round residents.

Shopping local is not merely a slogan; it is a cornerstone of our community's economic health and resilience. During the off season, when the influx of tourists diminishes, our local businesses depend heavily on the patronage of residents to stay afloat. These businesses are the backbone of Charlotte County.

One of the primary reasons shopping local is crucial in the off season is the economic multiplier effect. When we spend money at local businesses, those dollars are more likely to be recirculated within our community. Local business owners are more likely to purchase goods and services from other local suppliers, pay local taxes, and employ local workers.

Shopping local also fosters a sense of community and personal connection. Local business owners are our neighbors and friends. They invest in our community, support local charities, and contribute to the well-being of our neighborhoods. When we choose to shop local, we strengthen these personal relationships and build a more cohesive, supportive community.

Furthermore, local businesses are often more responsive to the needs and preferences of the community. They have a vested interest in customer satisfaction and are more likely to offer personalized service and unique products that cater to local tastes. During the off season, these businesses have the opportunity to engage more closely with residents, receive valuable feedback, and adapt to better serve our community.

In conclusion, shopping local during the off season is not just a matter of convenience; it is a critical investment in the future of Charlotte County. By making a conscious effort to shop local, we contribute to a robust, resilient economy that benefits us all. Let us continue to champion our local businesses, recognizing their essential role in the fabric of our community and the prosperity of Charlotte County. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

#connectingbusinessesstogether

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

Charlotte County Chamber Corner



Jami Joannes
Director of Business
Development

Did You Know?

If you become a member of The Charlotte County Chamber right now, we have our membership campaign running. With it you will receive \$1695 worth of FREE Marketing Opportunities for your business.

This is a Limited Time Offer!

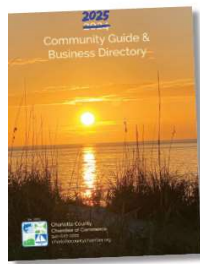
- One-week FREE social media boosting on our Facebook page, targeting Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota counties reaching between 1.5k-4.5k accounts!
- Get one-week FREE AD on our brand-new digital sign at the Chamber office, reaching 44,500 passersby daily.
- Special feature on our Facebook page header for 2 days, reaching an average of 1000 daily
- Receive a complimentary :30 video featuring you discussing your business
- Buy One Get One Ad with The Daily Sun Newspaper

New Member must join the chamber during the 2024 Membership Campaign. Contact Jami Joannes JJoannes@charlottecountychamber.org for more information.

Marketing Opportunities:

2024 - 2025 Sustaining Partner Benefits					
EXCLUSIVES:	PLATINUM (\$5,000)	PLATINUM (\$3,000)	DIAMOND (\$2,000)	EMERALD (\$1,000)	
2024 Community Guide and Business Directory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced Website Listing with 100+ photos of views	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
"Business Online"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
"The Business Perspective"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2024 Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2024 Annual Meeting Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2024 Wednesday Office	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Office Banner Display	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2025 BENEFITS:					
2025 Community Guide and Business Directory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced Website Listing with 100+ photos of views	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
"Business Online"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
"The Business Perspective"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2025 Social Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2025 Annual Meeting Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2025 Wednesday Office	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Office Banner Display	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
2025 Community Guide and Business Directory



YOUR PLACE TO BE!

The Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Community Guide and Business Directory remains the "one-book-look" for all information about our wonderful community. Distributed both in a large 8 1/2 x 11 glossy color print version and as a digital downloadable version with live links, this publication is used as a resource by tens of thousands each year to research and learn about our businesses and amenities.

With more people than ever now looking for warm fresh air, open spaces away from the hustle and bustle, and a wide variety of natural outdoor activities, Charlotte County is projected to be one of the most popular, safest, visitor destinations.

Charlotte County and the 2025 Community Guide and Business Directory IS
YOUR PLACE TO BE!

Port Charlotte | Punta Gorda | Englewood Beach | Mardock | Charlotte Harbor | El Jobson | Babcock Ranch | Deep Creek

Drawing for "Premium Paid" page positions* on May 16, 2024.
Complete and return the contract on the reverse TODAY!

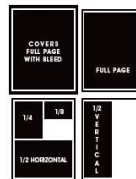
Contact Janet Caffee at 941-627-2222 or jcaffee@charlottecountychamber.org

ADVERTISING RATES

Back Cover*	\$2,310
Inside Front Cover*	\$1,290
Inside Back Cover*	\$1,290
Facing Inside Back Cover*	\$1,290
Center Spread*	\$2,385
Full Page Guaranteed Position*	\$1,145
Full Page	\$885
Half Page	\$540
Quarter Page	\$440
Double Page	\$885
1/4 Page	\$270
1/2 Page	\$540
3/4 Page	\$810
Full Page	\$1,080

SPECIFICATIONS

	W	X	H
Covers / Full Page With Bleed*	8.375"	11.25"	
Full Page (No Bleed)	7.75"	10.25"	
Half Page Horizontal	7.75"	5"	
Half Page Vertical	3.75"	10.25"	
Quarter Page	3.75"	5"	
Eightth Page	3.75"	2.375"	



CHARLOTTE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ENHANCED BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTING

Have your business stand out with an Enhanced Business Directory Listing in the 2025 Community Guide for the low cost of \$50 per category.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.
2702 TAMiami TRAIL
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 627-2222 Fax: (941) 627-9730
Bob White
askus@charlottecountychamber.org
CharlotteCountyChamber.org

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Bob White
askus@charlottecountychamber.org
CharlotteCountyChamber.org

Contact Person (please print): _____

Business Name: _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Card # _____ Exp _____ CVV _____

My Category is: _____ Amount: \$50.00

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

****Remember to view your member profile for accuracy at CharlotteCountyChamber.org****

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc., 2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

941-627-2222. **Deadline is August 9, 2024.** Return Agreement with your payment to

jcaffee@CharlotteCountyChamber.org

Is your business description still accurate? Have you moved or added services and products? We recommend that you review your business listing in the MIC (member portal) to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information available.

Chamber Community Connections



Pamela Davis
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Boat and boat equipment thefts are commonplace in Southwest Florida. In Punta Gorda, we are fortunate to have a full-time Marine Patrol Officer, a dedicated group of Police Department Marine Patrol volunteers, and the PGI Marine Watch. The Police Department is also putting the finishing touches on an additional 19' Carolina Skiff intended to be operated by the police marine patrol volunteers in the canal systems of the city. Even with these watchdog efforts in place, boat owners must remain vigilant to avoid falling victim to thieves. The Punta Gorda Police Department recommends the following practices to make your vessel a hard target for criminals.

- First, record your boat's important information such as serial numbers, ID codes, and HIN. Take photos, and mark your property with a unique code, such as your house number.
- Install an alarm system designed for the marine environment – criminals don't like to make noise or attract attention. Dock lights triggered by motion are an inexpensive means to deter theft. If you have home cameras like Ring, or Wyse consider adding a camera on your dock.
- Secure your vessel. Lock the boat and ignition system, and keep your key in your residence.
- Don't forget to check your security measures to ensure they are working, and also consider taking the time to double-check your insurance policies and confirm your coverage is adequate.

As always, we encourage our residents to be vigilant and report any unusual activities they observe at the time they occur. Vessels running without lights, carrying multiple large containers on deck, or loitering around residential docks and public marinas are of interest to the department, especially in the late night and early morning hours.

Contact 941-639-4111 to report suspicious activity immediately.



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ronald Cohowcz as the new Chief Building Official. Ronald brings with him over 28 years of extensive experience in the building construction industry, making him a valuable addition to our community. Ronald joins us from Cape Coral, Florida. His career spans various roles of increasing responsibility, most recently at Jacobs, a prominent company offering engineering, technical, professional, and construction services to diverse clientele. During his tenure at Jacobs, Ronald served in pivotal positions within the Building Departments of Bonita Springs and the Town of Fort Myers Beach. His roles included plans reviewer, building inspector, and Deputy Building Official, where he consistently demonstrated strong leadership and technical expertise.

Kathleen Croteau, who has served as our Chief Building Official as a contracted employee from CAP Florida, will assist with the transition. The City expresses deep gratitude for Kathy's leadership, skills, and dedication over the past two and a half years. Her contributions, including pivotal roles in hurricane recovery efforts, the launch of an appointment scheduling tool, and the recent introduction of automated inspection scheduling, have greatly benefited our residents and builders alike.

The City has launched a new streamlined approach to building inspection scheduling. Effective June 26, 2024, contractors and relevant parties can now manage inspection requests directly through a dedicated phone line, eliminating the need for voicemail messages and enhancing efficiency. The new system allows contractors to call (941) 575-3327 to schedule, reschedule, or cancel inspections in real time. Moreover, users can conveniently check inspection results at any time, providing greater flexibility and responsiveness to project needs. It's a significant step towards enhancing customer service and improving communication between the City and its community contractors.

Chamber Community Connection



Sean Doherty
Punta Gorda/Englewood
Beach Visitors &
Convention Bureau

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau is thrilled to report that Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections, a key barometer by which to measure the state of the local tourism economy, continued on its upward trajectory this past quarter. Year to date collections are up 14.6% compared to FY 2023, which puts us on track to reach our budgeted revenues likely by the time we receive the report for June TDT collections. In addition, by the end of the fiscal year we fully expect to eclipse our highest annual collections, which will be beneficial as our plans for next year call for an expansion of sales and marketing efforts particularly in the meetings, conventions and sports markets as well as in domestic and international leisure sales.

Sports continue to be a force that helps diversify the sources of our visitation. Not only do sporting events such as youth baseball, softball and basketball tournaments draw athletes and family members from all over the state and country to stay in our destination for multiple days, these events often serve as an individual's first exposure to our destination, which frequently lead to future visitation. From the Destination Athletes swim meet that netted just over \$1 million in total economic impact to the Muddy Princess Challenge that generated nearly \$500K in impact to the USSSA ProStyle Baseball tournaments that contributed over \$1.2 million in economic activity, these type of events bring thousands of people to our destination to help support our local hospitality industry. These expenditures also contribute significantly to our sales tax collections which benefit all residents of Charlotte County. Most recently, we served as the host destination for the American Cornhole Organization (ACO) Gulf Coast Classic June 13-15, which last year generated over \$1 million in economic impact and an estimated 986 hotel room nights while also providing significant media exposure for our destination through its live stream broadcast.

Meetings and convention leads continue to pick up which bodes well for a strong 2025 and beyond for that market. Not to be overlooked, 2024 has already seen several medium to large conferences take place at Sunseeker Resort, most recently the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Florida Planning and Zoning Association and Leadership Florida held their annual conferences here over the past couple months. Collectively, these three events attracted over 900 attendees and generated over 2,500 room nights.

Also, our international sales and public relations staff were extremely busy this past quarter. In addition to hosting three separate groups of German tour operators as well as groups of travel journalists from Canada and Brazil, we also partnered with Visit Kissimmee to host a German production company, Blue Planet, who produced a program highlighting our attractions, aquatic activities and dining scene which will be aired over various platforms to over 2 million viewers in Germany.

Lastly, the VCB offices are finally back up and running following repairs and upgrades necessitated by Hurricane Ian. In addition to housing our staff, the offices also serve as a Visitor Center where tourists can come find a wide range of information on the destination. While we hosted an open house on June 12 for all our industry partners, all are welcome to stop by and check us out at any time.

Chamber Community Connection



Bill Prummell
Charlotte County Sheriff

Summer is upon us here in Charlotte County! Traffic is lighter. Getting a table at your favorite restaurant is a little easier and the beaches are just wonderful. All of this is great, but rest assured, your Sheriff's Office is still on the job making our community safe, secure and a wonderful place to live.

The Sheriff's Office is now using a new platform called FUSUS. This platform is the most widely used in U.S. Law Enforcement. It's owned by Axon, the same company that we use for our body worn cameras. FUSUS is a database that allows homeowners the ability to register their home cameras. This will present us the opportunity to ask you to review footage from your cameras to see if you have captured a crime or a suspect committing a crime during a specific time period.

Let me be clear. The platform would not grant us access to your cameras but it would simply provide us with the knowledge of where cameras exist in a specific area where a crime may have occurred. We would ask you to view your footage for potential video that we could use to solve crime quicker.

So if you go to ccso.org and click the "camera registry" tab on the bottom left of the homepage you can register either your business cameras or home cameras.



Dave Gammon
Economic
Development Office

I have mentioned several times the activity happening in the industrial park surrounding the Punta Gorda Airport, referred to as ECAP – Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park. There are several encouraging factors about this growth but perhaps top on the list is the Ad Valorem Property Tax Revenue these new developments are bringing to the county. Over the past two years, 33 separate real estate parcels have either traded hands or have an active project being developed on the site. These parcels total 320 acres and represent a potential capital investment of well over \$300 million.

From a property tax perspective the growth is exponential. For the tax year 2021, these 33 parcels were collectively assessed at a value of only \$635,377. This resulted in Ad Valorem property taxes of \$10,462 with the county portion being \$4,003. By tax year 2023, the assessed value had increased to almost \$50 million with the county's portion of Ad Valorem taxes exceeding \$300,000 – an amazing increase, but we are just getting started. By tax year 2026, we project assessed values will be approaching \$300 million with the county's portion of Ad Valorem taxes hitting \$1.8 million. Tax revenue in 6 years increasing from \$4,000 to \$1,800,000, that's exciting news.

Staying at the airport, the Airport Board recently approved a ground lease for a new airside MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) aviation maintenance facility. NAS MRO Services out of the Miami area executed a long-term lease with the airport and will begin design on a new airside MRO capable of servicing narrow-body commercial aircraft like the A-320's flown by Allegiant and others. Mr. Nester Camacho, the COO of NAS, cited both the airport and its ability to grow and CTC's A&P mechanics training school located at the airport as main reasons for locating at our airport. We are glad they are here.

Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello
Superintendent
Charlotte County
Public Schools

Investing in Our Future: Summer Revamp Projects and Community Initiatives

As the saying goes, "What you do in the off-season determines how you perform in the regular season." With this in mind, Charlotte County Public Schools is making significant strides this summer with a variety of projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing our facilities and giving back to our community. With a focus on infrastructure, safety, and student engagement, these efforts demonstrate our commitment to providing top-tier educational facilities and programs for our students and families.

Our summer revamp projects, prioritized under Priority 4 in our Strategic Plan, include extensive upgrades to our school facilities. We are replacing 17 roofs and repairing an additional 64, ensuring our buildings remain safe and well-maintained. Port Charlotte High School has been rejuvenated with a fresh coat of paint and a comprehensive deep cleaning, while new carpet is being installed at Charlotte High, Baker Center, and Punta Gorda Middle School. Additionally, Punta Gorda Middle School is enhancing its school pride with new wall graphics and more.

Vineland Elementary will soon feature a new playground, providing a modern and fun space for children to stay active. Port Charlotte Middle School is getting all new student desks and chairs, and Deep Creek Elementary is expanding with 12 new portables to accommodate our growing student population. To further enhance security, we are installing new window shades across all our school campuses.

In addition to these infrastructure improvements, we are excited to introduce our new Champs on Wheels (COW) bus. This mobile unit is part of our summer feeding initiative, ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals even when school is not in session. The COW program assists with student well-being, extending support beyond the classroom.

We are also proud to launch our inaugural summer camp, Elevate Charlotte, which provided a variety of engaging activities for students in June at no cost to families. This program included hands-on experiences in areas such as fishing, culinary arts, music, drama, and visual arts. Elevate Charlotte helped keep kids engaged and learning during the summer break, fostering creativity and providing a platform for exploring new interests. This initiative provided essential childcare support for families throughout the summer while also offering significant cost savings.

These projects and initiatives highlight our ongoing efforts to enhance the educational environment and support our community. By investing in infrastructure, safety, and student programs, Charlotte County Public Schools is committed to building a successful future for all. We appreciate the continued support of the business community as we work together to bring relevant and enriching educational experiences to our students.

Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Hurricane season is here. Please ensure your home and business disaster plans are in place. SHOP LOCAL - If you are adding to or still finalizing your supplies kit. You can find a supply checklist in our Disaster Guide at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/disasterguide.

Recently, our County Commissioners, Aging and Adults Division case managers in our Human Services Department, and community partners joined together to pack and deliver hurricane preparedness kits to over 150 seniors in Charlotte County.

I hope you took advantage of the sales tax holiday that was in the first few weeks of June. There will be another Disaster Preparedness Holiday that begins on Saturday, August 24, 2024, and ends on Friday, September 6, 2024. During these sales tax holiday periods, tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness. Here's the link to the FL Department of Revenue website with more info on what related items that qualify for the tax exemption: [Florida Dept. of Revenue - Home \(floridarevenue.com\)](http://FloridaDept.ofRevenue.com).

Lastly, remember that preparing for hurricane season is more than having plans, supplies kits, and knowing where you will evacuate. It's important to have all your insurance and identification documents ready and prepared before a storm in case you may need to make a claim after. Make sure to store all important documents in a secure, waterproof container or on a cloud-based system. If you have questions about your insurance coverage or policy reach out to your insurance agency or agent.

From personal, business and overall community perspectives, the more prepared and resilient we are, the quicker we can bounce back from any disaster impacts and begin to implement any recovery plans.

Stay safe and enjoy the summer.



James Parish
Punta Gorda Airport

Punta Gorda Airport (PGD) is bustling with passenger activity this summer, along with construction projects, marketing kudos and great news from the Florida legislative session. We were excited to hear that \$2.75 million in State funds was approved to fund the Charlotte County Airport Aviation Technician Facility Project, an expanded home for CTC's training program, along with \$3.75 million to fund adjacent roads and utilities in the PGD AviEx on the north side of airport property.

On the south side, active construction is visible at the end of the Bailey Terminal, which will house a new in-line baggage screening system to improve operational efficiency, while design for the new passenger concourse will continue throughout this year. We're planning ahead to make more space and modern upgrades so we can continue to grow our air service and increase support from customers.

This summer, PGD was named the Best Local Airport in Florida by [Midwestern Traveler Magazine](#), further evidence that customer loyalty is growing nationwide. This incredible honor would not have been possible without your unwavering support and votes, especially from our Midwestern friends. In addition, we're pleased to share that Sun Country will return to PGD this December through April 2025 with service to Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Low-cost, nonstop flights to and from MSP twice weekly can be booked online at SunCountry.com.

We're also working closely with the Visitor & Convention Bureau on co-op advertising in selected national markets, as well as implementing our own Google Ads and search engine optimization, to further increase awareness of Punta Gorda beyond Florida borders. We're continually working to recruit new airlines to PGD, and we are now offering an Air Service Incentive Program that includes Marketing Support to enhance our low-cost structure. To better understand our air service marketing efforts, visit www.CatchPGD.com.

Finally, save the dates for the next Southwest Honor Flight on October 15, 2024 and the Florida International Air Show on November 2-3, 2024.

Chamber Community Connection



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

The data for Charlotte County's single-family home market in April 2024 provides a comprehensive snapshot of the current real estate trends and economic health of the region. Analyzing this data locally, we can draw several important conclusions about the market dynamics and what they mean for residents, prospective buyers, and sellers in Charlotte County.

In April 2024, the median sale price for single-family homes was \$390,000, showing a modest year-over-year increase of 1.8%. This suggests a relatively stable market, with prices maintaining an upward trajectory despite broader economic uncertainties. The average sale price also saw a significant rise of 8.2% to \$473,993, indicating that while the median prices reflect the middle range of the market, there has been increased activity in higher-end property transactions [3†source]. This can be attributed to factors such as a robust influx of investment or a growing demand for larger, more expensive homes within the area.

The number of closed sales increased by 8.7% compared to the previous year, totaling 498 sales in April 2024. This rise in closed sales reflects a healthy market with strong buyer activity, possibly spurred by favorable mortgage rates or increased buyer confidence [3†source]. Additionally, 37.3% of these sales were paid in cash, slightly down by 9.7% from the previous year. The high percentage of cash sales suggests significant involvement of investors or affluent buyers who can bypass traditional mortgage processes, highlighting a segment of the market less sensitive to interest rate fluctuations.

Another critical indicator is the median time to contract, which spiked to 57 days, a substantial increase of 137.5% from April 2023. Similarly, the median time to sale also increased by 45.6%, reaching 99 days [3†source]. These extended timeframes could signal a cooling effect where properties take longer to sell, possibly due to more discerning buyers or an oversupply of listings. For local sellers, this might imply the need for more strategic pricing and marketing to attract buyers more efficiently.

Overall, the data from April 2024 illustrates a robust yet evolving market in Charlotte County. While there are positive indicators such as rising sale prices and increased sales volume, the longer timeframes to sell properties suggest that both buyers and sellers must navigate the market thoughtfully. For stakeholders, including real estate agents, investors, and local government, these trends provide valuable insights for future planning and decision-making in the Charlotte County real estate market.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS

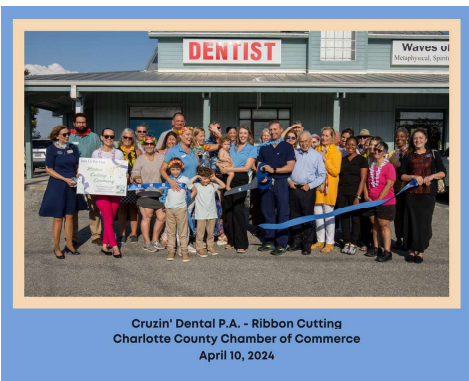


All Technology, Inc.
2200 Kings Hwy., Unit 3L16
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-623-9526
Frank Bachant
info@alltechnologyinc.com
<http://alltechnologyinc.com>

Framers Point, LLC
2395 Tamiami Trail, # 207
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Kara Long
941-369-1518
framerspointllc@gmail.com

Charlotte County Computer Group Corp
514 F. Grace St.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-585-0356
Debbie Krider
ccgcoffice@gmail.com
ccgc.info

Zoie Davis – Keller Williams, PRP
1675 W. Marion Ave., Suite 112
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Zoie Davis
740-818-8528
zoiedavis@kw.com



Fran Haasch Law Group-Accident & Injury
Lawyers
1275 Nabrasca Ave.
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
Phone: 727-784-8191
Aaron Melling
aaron@lawfran.com
<http://www.lawfran.com>

DG Advisors
333 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 279
Venice, FL 34285
Jonathan Marshall
941-584-3320
jonathan@mydgadvisors.com
<http://www.mydgadvisors.com>



Bill Truex Campaign
3797 S. Access Rd
Englewood, FL 34224
941-270-1733
Bill Truex
BillTruexCampaign@gmail.com

Monster Self Storage Port Charlotte
325 Glancy Lane
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Carol Paradise
941-787-3353
portcharlotte01@monsterstorage.com
monsterstorage.com/location/port-charlotte-fl-33952



Walter's Divine Home Care LLC
1323 Algiers St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Harriette Kamara
914-720-7437
Harriettekamara@gmail.com

Live Your Strength
22119 Elmira Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Sarah Rosas
941-203-6023
support@liveys.org
<http://www.liveys.org>

Joseph Tiseo for Charlotte County
Commissioner Dist. 5
23306 Duchess Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
941-628-4003
Joseph Tiseo
Joeforbocc@aol.com
<http://Joetiseo.org>

Reset With Vanessa
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Vanessa Donaldson
808-256-8672
info@resetwithvanessa.com
<https://resetwithvanessa.com/>

Lyons Title & Trust
20020 Veterans Blvd.
Suite 11
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Heather Satterfield
941-843-8485
hsatterfield@lyons-title.com
<http://www.lyons-title.com>

Creator's Touch Gallery
150 Laishley Ct., Unit 112
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Rosa & Carlos Benght
941-575-0022
rbenghtpena@gmail.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS



Bert's Black Widow Harley Davidson
Water Tower Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
April 30, 2024



Charlie Foxtrot Brewing - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 2, 2024



Revive Jiu Jitsu - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 9, 2024



AFC Urgent Care - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 10, 2024

Tulips Flower Shop Inc.
2171 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Christina Bates
941-235-7777
christinabates110@gmail.com
tulipsflowershop.net

Karma 2 Hair Studio
4014 Tamiami Trail, Unit B
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Wendy Foster
941-626-0660
karma4859@gmail.com
<https://www.vagaro.com/karma2hairstudio>

FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers
17751 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Justen English
941-743-3420
portcharlotte@fyzical.com
<http://www.fyzical.com/port-charlotte-fl>

Promenades at Parkside
3280 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Amal Elbahnasawy
407-226-1027
yystana11@gmail.com

Pioneers Express
8686 Tamiami Trail, Unit A-6
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Alyssa Paponetti
941-979-5179
pioneersexpress@gmail.com

Vanessa Oliver, Candidate for State House
District 76
Call or email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 941-204-4507
Vanessa Oliver
voliver@ambitrans.com
<http://www.votevanessaoliver.com>

Scott Weinberg For County Court Judge
265 E. Marion Ave., Suite 114
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-286-1059
Scott Weinberg
scottweinberg1@gmail.com
<http://www.weinbergforjudge.com>

Southeastern Roofing
515 9th St. E., Suite 212
Bradenton, FL 34208
Phone: 941-310-4807
Brad House
brad@seroof.com
<http://www.seroof.com>

Helicon
5011 Lockett Rd., Suite 7
Fort Myers, FL 33905
Phone: 941-467-6001
Neil Finicum
neil.finicum@heliconusa.com
<https://www.heliconusa.com>

Truly Nolen of America
2715 Edison Ave.
Fort Myers, F: 33916
Phone: 941- 276-0655
Andrea Rottler
Andrea.rottler@trulynolen.com
<http://Trulynolen.com>

LeBel Plumbing and Gas, LLC
27194 Green Gulf Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Phone: 941- 677-2069
Amanda LeBel
lebelplumbing@gmail.com
<http://lebelplumbing.com>

Shark Pressure Washing
2237 Catherine Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-732-9274
TJ Cox
sharkpressurewashing1@gmail.com
<https://www.sharkpressure.com>

Rossini by Chef Rocco
18101 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-235-8652
Rocky Farace, David Budney
chef@rossinibychefrocco.com

Digital Transformation Consultants
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
Phone: 509-690-2144
Caneel Johnson
Caneel@dtcllc.xyz
<https://www.dtcllc.xyz>

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS



HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 13, 2024



Lyons Title & Trust - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 16, 2024



Sharp Development - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 29, 2024



Pioneer Pizza Express - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
May 31, 2024

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

Pinnacle Homecare
5280 Summerlin Commons Way, Suite 803
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Phone: 509-690-2144
Tracy Pijanowski
tpijanowski@pinnaclehomecare.net
<http://www.pinnaclehomecare.net>

SFC Pool Corp.
3616 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-249-9716
Christina Campos
info@sfcpoolcorp.com
<http://www.sfcpoolcorp.com>

Fedora's Cigar & Wine Bar
2117 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-621-8732
Michelle Lerario
fedorascigarbar@gmail.com
<http://fedorascigarbar.com>

Peace River Woodturners, Inc.
501 Shrive St.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-268-5548
Cheri Bauer
president@peacriverwoodturners.org
<http://peacriverwoodturners.org>

Dream Salon & Spa, LLC
117 Herald Court, Unit 115
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-621-8311
Wendy Tirado
dreamsalonofpg@gmail.com
<https://www.dreamsalonofpg.com/>

Dales Air Conditioning & Heating
18260 Paulson Dr., Unit A3
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 941-629-1712
Amir Mahmoud
dalesac74@gmail.com
<http://www.dalesac.com>

Bright Way Insurance – The Ward Agency
1720 El Jobean Rd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 207-671-7502
Steven Ward
steven.ward@brightway.com
<http://www.BrightwayWard.com>

Xtra Mile Restoration
30 S. Mango St.
Englewood, FL 34224
Phone: 941-236-6366
Kevin Grooms
xtramilerestoration@yahoo.com
<http://xtramilerestoration.com>

Xtra Mile Restoration
30 S. Mango St.
Englewood, FL 34224
Phone: 941-236-6366
Kevin Grooms
xtramilerestoration@yahoo.com
<http://xtramilerestoration.com>

Clique Photo Booth Rental
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 941-5857658
Maribel Gutierrez
cliquephotoboothrental@gmail.com
<http://cliquephotoboothrental.com>

Endless Summer Tan and Spa
2300 Tamiami Trail, Unit 10
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-258-3035
Elizabeth Lombardo
endlesssumertanandspa@gmail.com
<http://endlesssummerfl.com>

Grumpy Gators Lawn Care
P. O. Box 203
Fort Ogden, FL 34267
Phone: 941-740-1820
Charles Kapudjija
Grumpygatorslawncare@gmail.com
<http://www.grumpygatorslawncare.com>

Major League Plumbing & Home Services
1077 Innovation Ave., Unit 103
North Port, FL 34289
Phone: 941-246-8283
Ryan Birdsey
get.with.majors@gmail.com
<http://mlpandservices.com>

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS

Suncoast Biplanes
12711 SW Kings Row
Lake Suzy, FL 34269
Phone: 941-246-8283
Gareth Williams
flyinghigh@suncoastbiplanes.com

Simply Practical, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-202-2319
Nicole Smith
info@simplypracticalsolutions.com

Bit Key Investigations, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 954-445-1888
Gorge Montenegro
bitkeyinvestigations@gmail.com
<https://bkinvestigations.com/>

Olean Dental Studio
21202 Lean Blvd., Suite E2
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-629-3200
Adan Lozano
studio@oleandental.com
<http://www.oleandental.com>

Butcosk/Youngblood Realty Team at Allison
James Estates & James
1850 Murdock Circle, Suite 102
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-380-3909
Sarah Youngblood
mbutcosk@gmail.com

TLC Marketing & Creative Services, Inc.
9418 Bonita each Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Phone: 239-405-8115
Trish Leonard
trish@trishleonard.com
<https://tlcmarketing-events.com>

The Flick Framework
Call or Email with Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 918-961-8555
Jordan Flick
jflick@theflickframework.com

Anderson Academy, LLC
1962 Cedarwood St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-391-5873
Sara Matos
info@andersonacademyllc.com
<http://andersonacademyllc.com>

Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change
of Port Charlotte
4141 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 813-504-2770
Damien Munnings
dp.munnings@sboilchange.com

Quality Lawn Care
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-288-0073
Robby White
Quality.Lawn77@gmail.com

Give Credit Holdings, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-310-0401
Sergio Izzo
sergio@givecreditholdings.com
<http://www.givecreditholdings.com>

Del Taco
19011 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-681-8226
Kenther Ramos
kramos@qualityrestgrp.com
<https://deltaco.com>

UAV Unleashed
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 863-215-6155
Amy Horta
uavunleashed@gmail.com
<http://www.uavunleashed.com>

RC Property Management, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 850-545-9264
Chad Hollifield
Rcpmg1@gmail.com

Green Coast Roofing & Solar
South West Florida
Fort Myers, FL 33913
(239) 776-8680
Nicole Robinson
info@greencoastexteriors.com
<http://www.gogreencoast.com>

Buffalo Wild Wings GO
19011 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-295-9464
Kenther Ramos
bww4078@bwwgofl.com
<https://www.buffalowings.com/>



Rossini by Chef Rocco - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
June 3, 2024



Mazda Port Charlotte - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
June 4, 2024



Insane Conex - One Year Anniversary Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
June 4, 2024



America's Boating Club Peace River - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
June 20, 2024

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WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!



TITLE SPONSOR

**Sponsor a new teacher for breakfast,
and welcome them to Charlotte County!
Wednesday, July 31, 2024,
7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. at Charlotte
Harbor Event and Conference Center.
\$45 per teacher sponsorship***



Attendee Name(s): _____

Business Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Yes I would like to provide 200 items for Teacher Goodie Bags – Gifts for inclusion must be delivered to the Port Charlotte Chamber office by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024. (Gifts/promo items only. No flyers, please.)

Please charge my credit card. Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CW _____

Name on Card _____

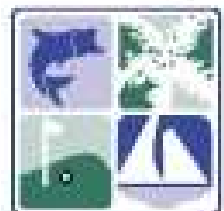
Billing Address _____

Signature _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JULY 19, 2024

Mail payment to: Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce,
2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

**For more information call 941-627-2222
or email jcaffee@charlottecountychamber.org**



* The pairing of sponsors with new teachers will be on a random first-come, first-matched basis.



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

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**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**