



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

IST QTR 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we step into a brand-new year, all of us at the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce want to wish you and your team a very Happy New Year. A new year brings fresh opportunities, renewed energy, and the chance to build on the momentum we've created together as a business community.

Our organization exists for one reason: to support, connect, and advocate for our members. Whether you're a long-established business or a new entrepreneur just finding your footing, you are an essential part of what makes our local economy strong. Your ideas, your involvement, and your willingness to engage are what transform a group of businesses into a thriving, collaborative network.

In the year ahead, we encourage you to get involved and stay engaged. Attend our networking events, participate in committees, take advantage of our professional development opportunities, and share your voice. The more you engage, the more value you'll find, and the more impact we can create together. Some of the strongest partnerships and best ideas begin with a simple conversation at one of our Chamber events.

We are excited about what lies ahead: new programs, significant connections, and continued advocacy on behalf of our business community. Together, we can champion growth, innovation, and a positive business environment for everyone.

Thank you for your continued membership, support, and commitment to the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to working alongside you in the coming year. Here's to a successful, prosperous, and connected New Year for us all.



Bob White
Chief Executive Officer

Bob

Coming Up

Networking at Noon

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
4400 Lister St., PC 33952
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost \$20.00

Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Ctr.
75 Taylor St., PG 33950
Sponsor: Girls on the Run of SW Florida
Program: New Member Showcase

Business Card Exchange

Thursday, January 22, 2026
Elevate
164 Eric St., PC 33954
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
If you like, please bring a small gift to promote your business.

Stages of Success: Social Media Power Series - 5 Classes Series

First Class, Friday, January 16, 2026
Facebook & Instagram for Small Businesses - facilitator Jackson Tarpley
Location: Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
18500 Veterans Blvd., Suite 1, PC 33954
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Cost \$100.00

Contact us by email:

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askus@charlottecountychamber.org
president@charlottecountychamber.org

YOUR 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

President Elect:

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Immediate Past President:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

VP Leadership Division:

Jessica Rhea, M.Ed., 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 Bengtht, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Directors:

Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson

Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Shawn Gilstad, Gilstad Literacy Foundation

Craig Holt, Four Points by Sheraton

Dori Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Stacey Meyer, F.M. Don's

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Katharine Payne, Katharine Panye Law, P.A.

Natalie Proctor, Lake Michigan Credit Union

Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Administration

Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development Office

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

Chief Executive Officer:

Bob White, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



President's Note

Second A.C.T.

Welcome to 2026 and to another edition of our quarterly chamber newsletter!

Before we dive into what is ahead, let's celebrate the incredible holiday events and festive holiday spirit our community showcased! It is heartwarming to see so many well attended events and themed contests. Congrats to all on a job well done!

As we head into 2026, please keep an eye out for poll questions arriving weekly over a three week period via email and social media releases from the chamber. These are very short and very intentionally targeted questions, if it takes you more than 2-3 minutes, you're doing it wrong 😊 All joking aside...It is very important to us that you take the time to read and answer these questions, as it helps us continue to be your indispensable business partner! Remember ADVOCATE - Speak Up!

As you may recall, the second letter in the A.C.T. theme, is CONNECT – Show Up. One of the duties of the CCCoC Board of Directors and especially its sitting board president is to attend as many chamber and related community events as possible. Sounds a little daunting, doesn't it??? Surprisingly it is much easier than anticipated and honestly quite refreshing/invigorating to meet so many new people displaying their passion for their business. One could say, it is excellent reminder that business is still based upon human relationships and simple put, relationships are your competitive advantage in business.

Our community is growing fast and so is the chamber membership. What better way to stay on the cutting edge of growth and changes in our community, than attending at least one (or more!) of the many upcoming chamber events?! Check them out on the Chamber's website or email releases and sign up!

DID YOU KNOW that in addition to a chamber calendar of events, we also provide a community calendar of events that you can display your own events on???

Again, please consider joining us at any of the upcoming events – your presence makes a difference - and as always, thank you for your support!

*James M. Coalwell is the 2025/2026 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. (AKA #100) Leadership Class of 2009 - GO GREEN! He is with Crews Bank & Trust - Punta Gorda Branch
Email: president@charlottecountychamber.org*

Charlotte County Chamber Corner

2025-2026 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM PLUS:

AADisaster Restoration24/7, Inc.
Buffalo Graffix *
Charlotte County Economic
Development Partnership
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference
Center
Elite Hurricane Protection
Jarrett Ford of Charlotte County
The Daily Sun
Wayne Wiles Floor Coverings

PLATINUM:

AdventHealth Port Charlotte
Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, P.A.
Elite Inspections & Pest Solutions, LLC
GJC Window & Door
Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.
Life Care Center of Punta Gorda
McCrory Law Firm
Peace River Team at Morgan Stanley
Port Charlotte Rehabilitation Center
Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.
Waste Management of Charlotte County
WhitCo Insurance - Alexia Martin Agency

DIAMOND:

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC
Birch's Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.
Crews Bank & Trust
Dubz BBQ, LLC
Farr Law Firm
Fedora's Cigar & Wine Bar
Florida Gulf Coast University
Floridacentral Credit Union
Hessler Floor Covering
Military Heritage Museum, Inc.
The Firm Advertising Agency
The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar
Realty
Tommy's Express Carwash

EMERALD:

Achieva Credit Union
Chapman Insurance Group
Charlotte Community Foundation
Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home, Cemetery
and Crematory
Charlotte Players, Inc.
Elite DNA Behavioral Health
Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside
Friendly Floors
Gilstad Literacy Foundation, Inc.
J & J One Stop Gun Shop, Inc.
Marcia Cullinan, Realtor
Pool Boy, Inc.
Port Charlotte Florist
REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port Charlotte
North Port DeSoto Inc.
Southwest Florida Honor Flight
St. Andrews South Golf Club
State Farm- Mike Martin Agency
Sunseeker Resort Florida Gulf Coast – Curio
by Hilton
Wotitzky, Wotitzky & Young PA



Jami Joannes
Director of Programs
and Events

Social Media - Power Series

Now is the Time to Market Your Business!!

Learn how with the Chamber!

The Charlotte County Chamber is committed to helping businesses strengthen their visibility, whether they are brand new or long established. Many owners struggle to find the time, budget, and strategy needed to market effectively, which is why our Stages of Success Social Media Power Series is designed to remove that barrier. Beginning January 16 and continuing January 30, February 13, February 27, and March 13, members will learn practical, immediately usable skills from working marketing professionals. Each session focuses on a different platform or tactic including Facebook and Instagram, Canva content creation, LinkedIn optimization, Google Business Profile, and finishing with Facebook and Instagram ads. Every class provides step by step guidance so attendees walk away ready to post, promote, and grow.

This five class series is hands on, interactive, and built for busy business owners who need clear direction and real results. Participants will learn how to design eye catching posts and videos, build a stronger visual brand, understand keywords and visibility on Google, and reach the right audience with paid ads. Each session includes specific takeaways such as content plans, templates, optimization checklists, and proven techniques for increasing engagement. For only \$100 including breakfast at all five sessions, this is one of the most cost effective marketing investments a business can make. Space is limited, and members are encouraged to register now so they can begin implementing new marketing skills immediately.

Chamber Community Connections



Pamela Smith
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Make Safety a Habit for the New Year

As we begin 2026, January is an ideal time to reassess and adopt better habits, especially when it comes to crime safety. Whether you want to improve your personal security or safeguard your home and loved ones, starting the year with proactive crime-prevention steps can offer peace of mind. Here are some simple yet effective tips from the Punta Gorda Police Department that you can add to your routine.

1. Strengthen Home Security

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

2. Be Careful with Personal Information

Protecting your personal information is crucial in today's world of rising cybercrime. Start by being aware of what you share on social media. Avoid posting your real-time location and limit the sharing of sensitive details. Also, make sure your passwords are strong and unique, and enable two-factor authentication whenever possible.

3. Develop Situational Awareness Stay alert to your surroundings, especially in public. Watch for people and vehicles nearby and trust your instincts if something feels wrong. Avoid distractions, such as looking at your phone while walking alone, and always choose well-lit, populated areas at night.

4. Update Emergency Contacts and Plans

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

5. Secure Your Vehicle

Vehicle break-ins are common but often preventable with simple habits. Always lock your car, even if you're just running a quick errand. Don't leave valuables in plain sight, and consider installing steering wheel locks or a car alarm for extra protection.

7. Keep Your Online Safety in Check

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

By making these small but impactful changes, you can greatly lower your risk of becoming a crime victim in 2026. Focus on safety in your daily routine, and you'll enjoy a safer and more confident year ahead. For more tips or help, feel free to contact the Punta Gorda Police Department at (941) 639-4111.

Chamber Community Connection



Sean Doherty
Tourism Director

Despite various challenges this past fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2024-Sept. 30, 2025), which included hurricane aftermath issues, global economic uncertainties, the cancellation of over 15 events including the 2024 Englewood Beach Waterfest and the 2024 Florida International Air Show, along with other headwinds, tourism in Charlotte County held its own only seeing a 4.4% drop in Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections compared to the previous year. These taxes, which are paid for by visitors staying in paid accommodations, are the funding source for all of our destination marketing efforts, which generate a significant return on investment. In addition, these dollars are utilized for the debt service on the Charlotte Sports Park and also help pay for other needs such as beach renourishment and the periodic dredging of Stump Pass. Other important year-end metrics to note are that Charlotte County welcomed over 1.13 million visitors representing a small decrease of only 1.2% versus the previous year, and these visitors generated over \$1.26 billion in economic impact which was only 0.1% lower than FY 2024's output. For more information on our quarterly and annual visitor tracking research results, visit this link: [Research](https://www.pureflorida.com/about-us/research/) (https://www.pureflorida.com/about-us/research/) Looking ahead we are optimistic that FY 2026 will see a rebound in tourism and, so far, early returns are supporting that sentiment as our TDT collections for October 2025 were 23% higher than the same time last year, partially aided by the return of Englewood Beach Waterfest which attracted over 5,500 attendees from outside Charlotte County who generated over \$5.5 million in economic impact and 4,650 room nights for our area accommodations.

Speaking of returning, American Cruise Lines is back for its third season utilizing Punta Gorda as a port of call on over 60 of their Florida gulf coast cruises this year. This represents a significant expansion over the 27 cruises from a year ago. As a result, one of their ships, typically with over 100 passengers onboard, will be in our harbor approximately 3 times per week up through the month of April providing the opportunity for their clientele to experience the various sites and attractions the greater Punta Gorda area has to offer. For those passengers who opt to go ashore, they can stroll through Fishermen's Village and other sites within walking distance or sign up for excursions whereby American Cruise Lines transports them by motorcoach to a variety of locations within Charlotte County such as Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens, Iguanaland, Artisan Village at History Park, Peace River Wildlife Center and Sunseeker Resort.

Throughout the year, the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) recruits, sponsors and incentivizes a variety of sporting events, tournaments, meetings and conferences which generate significant economic impact for Charlotte County while also supporting thousands of jobs and saving the average household hundreds of dollars in taxes. The VCB also helps seed homegrown events that have the potential to attract visitors from outside the county through its Event Development Program. This program is designed to assist locally produced events in their 1st and/or 2nd years to help them get up and running. The application process for this year is currently open with a deadline of Monday, February 23. The application and program guidelines can be found on the VCB's website at this link: [Charlotte County Event Development Program | Application & Information](#).

On behalf of the entire VCB staff, I hope everyone had a rejuvenating holiday season and best wishes for a prosperous 2026!

Chamber Community Connections



Kay Tracy, Director
Charlotte County
Economic Development
Office

Economic Development Office Highlights Workforce & Business Initiatives

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office continues to focus on initiatives that strengthen the local workforce, support existing businesses, and position the community for long-term economic success.

Current efforts include workforce attraction and retention programs, including the upcoming “Careers on the Coast “ a 3 year initiative launching in January 2026. This program will highlight local career opportunities, quality-of-life amenities, and clear pathways for young professionals and families considering Charlotte County as a place to live and work. The goal is to help employers connect with talent while supporting a balanced and competitive local economy.

In addition, the Economic Development Office works closely with education, workforce, and regional partners to promote career awareness, skills development, and employer engagement, while maintaining ongoing outreach and support for local businesses.

Together, these efforts are designed to encourage sustainable growth, diversify the economy, and ensure Charlotte County remains a place where businesses can thrive and residents can build meaningful careers.

Chamber Community Connection

A Commitment to Excellence That Strengthens Our Community



Michael Ehrat, CEO
HCA Florida Fawcett
Hospital

As a healthcare leader and community partner, our hospital is honored to share exciting news that reflects both clinical excellence and our unwavering commitment to those we serve. We are proud to announce that HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Surgical Care™ for the fourth consecutive year (2023-2026) and received its fourth straight designation as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Vascular Surgery, placing it among the top 5% of hospitals nationwide for both specialties.

These distinctions place our hospital among the top-performing hospitals in the nation for specialty care, an achievement that carries profound meaning for our patients, our physicians and colleagues, and the broader business community we are privileged to serve.

Healthgrades awards are based on rigorous, outcomes-driven analysis of patient data, including mortality and complication rates. Recognition at this level signals that patients receiving vascular and surgical care at our hospital consistently experience better-than-expected outcomes. Simply put, it means our community has access to nationally recognized care close to home, care that meets the highest standards of quality and safety.

For our region, this recognition represents more than an award. It reinforces confidence in our local healthcare infrastructure and underscores our role as a cornerstone of community well-being. When businesses consider relocation or expansion, access to high-quality healthcare is a critical factor. These honors demonstrate that our community is supported by a hospital capable of delivering advanced, reliable care for employees and their families.

This achievement would not be possible without the dedication of our physicians, nurses, and healthcare professionals who bring skill, compassion, and excellence to their work every day. Their commitment ensures that patients do not have to travel far to receive complex care, they can receive it right here, surrounded by family and support.

As we celebrate this milestone, we remain focused on continuous improvement and innovation. Our mission is to not only meet national benchmarks, but to raise them, ensuring that our community continues to thrive with access to exceptional healthcare.

As I shared in my last article, programs like the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (EPTC) play a vital role in helping working families and small business owners maintain health coverage and have access to high-quality healthcare. While bipartisan talks continue over extending the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits, (EPTCs) the credits are expected to expire at the end of 2025.

However, that doesn't mean the door is closed on an extension. A path forward still exists in January. When the House returns, lawmakers are expected to take up a [discharge petition](#) that has already secured enough signatures to force a floor vote on extending the EPTCs, and the Senate is expected to unveil its own plan. These steps could still lead to an extension, even if it happens after a short lapse. As business leaders, your voice is powerful. Please visit <https://americanscovered.org/> for more information.

Chamber Community Connection



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

The City of Punta Gorda is pleased to introduce Michael Bonasera as our new Assistant City Manager. Michael brings more than a decade of dedicated public service experience, along with a strong background in leadership, strategic communications, marketing, and community relations—skills that align well with the values of our Harborside Hometown.

Michael began his career in law enforcement, serving for more than ten years. That experience shaped his commitment to public safety, accountability, and building trust between government and the community it serves. Working directly with residents and businesses gave him firsthand insight into how government decisions affect daily life and reinforced the importance of clear, consistent, and responsive communication.

Following his service in law enforcement, Michael transitioned into public relations as a Public Information Officer in Arizona. In that role, he led comprehensive marketing and communications initiatives to inform the public, strengthen community relationships, and build confidence in government operations. He worked closely with internal departments, community partners, and large global corporations to ensure messaging was accurate, timely, and aligned with organizational goals. His experience in brand management, media relations, and public engagement will be a valuable asset as Punta Gorda continues to tell its story and connect with residents, visitors, and the business community.

Throughout his career, Michael has received multiple city awards recognizing his leadership, communication excellence, and commitment to public service. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Public Administration, along with numerous national law enforcement certifications.

As Assistant City Manager, Michael will support day-to-day operations while helping advance strategic initiatives related to marketing, community relations, and organizational alignment. His work will strengthen coordinated messaging across departments and enhance engagement with residents and business partners.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys fishing, boating, and weightlifting. He is married to his wife, Tricia, and is a proud father of three young boys. We are excited to have Michael join the City of Punta Gorda leadership team and look forward to the positive impact his experience will bring to our community.

Chamber Community Connection



James Parish
Punta Gorda Airport

Service from Allegiant and Sun Country brought PGD record-breaking passenger numbers nearing 2.3 million in 2025. Allegiant also announced new routes to both Trenton and Atlantic City, NJ starting in February 2026, and Sun Country returned with seasonal flights to Minneapolis, MN through April. Allegiant launched a new seasonal route to New Orleans, and brought back seasonal routes to Chattanooga, TN, St. Cloud, MN, Sioux Falls, SD, Plattsburgh and Elmira, NY.

In the midst of the busiest year yet, we began an expansion project to provide passengers with more space and modern upgrades. While the one-story 50,000 square foot expansion does not include passenger boarding bridges (aka jetways), it will bring a Wolfgang Puck and Dunkin Donuts to the post security departures area. Stay updated on construction progress by visiting FlyPGD.com and click on “Terminal Upgrades” under the Community & News section.

We continue to seek 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 the new CTC facility’s students and instructors, visiting military pilots, airport employees, tenants and local neighbors. The Airport Authority is offering \$200K reimbursement once the buildout is complete. Visit FlyPGD.com and scroll to the bottom of the homepage for more details.

Finally, we want to remind passengers to arrive at least two hours early, especially during those morning hours when 8 to 10 Allegiant flights are departing during a two-hour period. If you’re at PGD in the afternoon, don’t forget to check out the Food Trucks at the new location just north of the Bailey Terminal near the Rental Car Center.

Chamber Community Connection



Bill Prummell
Charlotte County Sheriff

Happy New Year, Charlotte County! I am excited for 2026 and all of the newness it brings. One of the things I am really looking forward to is the opening of the new Sheriffs Administration Building on Loveland Blvd. in Port Charlotte, right behind our District 3 office. This new facility will include several upgrades that will enable us to serve our community even more efficiently. The Real-Time Intelligence Center is certainly one of the biggest upgrades, strengthening the hub for our analysts and improving our intelligence-led policing efforts. The facility also provides a hardened Communications Center, making sure that our systems stay operational when you need us most. We anticipate beginning the move to this new building late in the first quarter.

AAs always, the Charlotte County Sheriffs Office is planning several events for the year, providing opportunities to engage with you, our community. We love sharing these times with you and connecting in ways outside of "law enforcement". Make sure you are following our social media so you can learn about FantaSea Fishing, Public Safety Appreciation Night, the First Responders Dive Team Challenge, Back to School Shop With A Cop, Coffee With A Cop, Cops and Goblins, and Christmas Shop With A Cop... to name a few! There are sponsorship opportunities for nearly all of those as well if you are looking to get involved and help support these great events and the causes they benefit.

Of course, there is also the very popular Citizens Police Academy as well. This program has been a staple for us to show you how we do what we do, and my Community Affairs team has been revamping the format for this year. I am eager for you to see it! Email communityaffairs@ccsofl.net or call (941) 575-5260 to learn more about any of the programs/events I mentioned or to find out how to become a sponsor.

Thank you all for your continued support of this agency, my deputies and staff, and myself. Whether you are a community partner business, civic organization, or simply a resident who cares, you are what makes Charlotte County the best place to live, work, and play – and we will continue to keep it that way.

God bless you all. Be strong. Be safe. And never quit!

Chamber Community Connection



Shan Swellan
President, CDBIA

Have you ever used someone else's phone charger to get a little more juice for your phone? Sometimes it gives you a super charge and, within minutes, your battery is full—while other times it actually drains the battery. That pretty much sums up 2025 in our community's building industry.

This year, we have heard from people within our industry who are worried another recession is coming, while others are still booked out at least a full year. To understand what is going on, we have to look back at history.

In 2020, the building industry took a turn as lumber prices increased by nearly 600%. At the same time, much of the world was locked down due to the COVID pandemic, and many people began migrating to Florida. This migration led to as many as 1,200 people a day moving to the state through 2022. Homes were selling faster, and new homes were being built for residents who wanted to enjoy the same benefits that drew many of us to move to—or grow up in—Southwest Florida.

Then, in 2022, Hurricane Ian left its mark on our community, followed by Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton in 2024. In just three years, we were hit by five major hurricanes. Many builders set aside current projects to help people in need. More than 110,000 hurricane-related permits were pulled in Charlotte County.

For the first time this year, things are beginning to return to normal. When comparing single-family permits for 2025 to those in 2019, the numbers are very close. Many of our neighbors are back in their homes after devastation, and many businesses that came to town to assist after the storms are now heading back home.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 900 to 1,000 people are still moving to our Sunshine State every day. Our building industry will be ready to welcome them and assist with their needs as well as anyone who is ready to remodel their home or office. Here's to looking forward to a great year in 2026!

Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Happy New Year from all of us at Charlotte County Government!

There is so much daily work and progress that occurs at our local government level, and we use a variety of methods to communicate that to you and also get input from you.

Visit our county website at [Charlotte County, FL](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/) (<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/>) and use the various links and search feature for easy access to info about our community, doing business here, and government departments & services.

Below are a few other key website features to stay informed, provide feedback, and report issues to us.

For updates on county projects related to growth, replacement, recovery, check this link to our Project Status page where you can filter the list by category and use the interactive map feature. [Project Status Updates | Charlotte County, FL](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/) <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/>

To report and track issues or ask questions about Charlotte County, use our Charlotte County, FL app, which provides residents & visitors a simple way for residents and visitors to communicate with us. Through the app, you can make several different requests across a variety of county departments. You can also view the status of submitted reports to see if something similar has already been filed, or to learn more about reports that have been reported near your location.

You can download the app on your smartphone through this link: [The Charlotte County FL App | Charlotte County, FL](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/apps/) <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/apps/>

Lastly, you can also stay connected through social media, as we frequently post updates and photos Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteCountyFlorida/) <https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteCountyFlorida/>

[X](https://x.com/CharlotteCoFL) <https://x.com/CharlotteCoFL>

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeVnwoSbNbuZJbpSkL5eU2w) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeVnwoSbNbuZJbpSkL5eU2w>

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CharlotteCountyFlorida/) <https://www.instagram.com/CharlotteCountyFlorida/>

Stay informed and stay connected!

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Jay's Smokin' BBQ - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 1, 2025



Dion Development - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 7, 2025



The Bookdragon's Lair - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 9, 2025



MediCert Pro Lab - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 16, 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Aveanna Home Health – Port Charlotte
1504 Kings Highway, Unit 100
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 235-1202
Shannon Evans
amieonti@aveanna.com
<http://www.aveanna.com>

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Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 548-1003
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<http://www.mcalistersdeli.com>

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the_team@poseidon-hydrotech.com
<https://www.poseidon-hydrotech.com/>

Burg'r Bar
317 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 655-8050
Walt Fortney
bobby@burgrbar.com
<http://www.burgrbarpg.com>

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Ideal Retirement Solutions - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
October 28, 2025



Play Harbor, LLC - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 4, 2025



The Sunshine Carts - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 6, 2025



Dream Salon & Spa, LLC - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 18, 2025

California Closets
8961 Alico Trade Center Road
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239) 694-8100
Heather Woods
hwoods@calclosets.com
<https://www.locations.californiaclosets.com/fl/southwest-florida>

KK Kraft Design
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(239) 365-6079
Kelly Kutka
kls22006@hotmail.com

The Bay Kava Cafe
318 Tamiami Trail, Unit 111
Punta Gorda, FL 33966
(941) 347-7147
Lindsay Cook
yachtclubkava@gmail.com

Curbside Crepes
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(218) 780-6202
Kati Orso
katiscurbsidecrepes@gmail.com

Chad McCrory, Realtor
2815 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 628-6197
Chad McCrory
mccrorychad@gmail.com
<http://www.remaxchad.com>

BRJ Restoration
332 San Casa Drive
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(607) 760-2350
Rob Warholc
rob@brjrestoration.com
<https://brjrestoration.com/>

Bryan Hammond Solar Source
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
(239) 565-1911
Bryan Hammond
bryan.hammond@solarsource.com
<http://www.solarsource.com>

Eternity Heating and Cooling
3789 Acline Road, Unit C7
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 780-6661
Kyle Gilliano
eternityaircondition@gmail.com
<http://eternityaircondition.com>

mas ACCESS
2592 South Tamiami Trail, Suite B
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 335-7562
Carlos Pacheco
sede19@masaccessusa.com
<http://www.masaccessusa.com>

The Florida Philharmonic
130 E. Marion Ave., Unit 511056
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
(941) 529-6094
Alexis Rodriguez
Execdirector@thefloridaphilharmonic.org
<https://thefloridaphilharmonic.org/>

Property Management Consulting LLC
18987 Inwood Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(954) 889-4969
Gina Chevannes
info@mypmcre.com
<http://www.mypmcre.com>

Franklin Water Treatment
9295 Piper Rd., Suite 101
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(239) 574-3443
Dave Leathers
sales@actionmfg.com
<http://franklinwatertreatment.com>

Holistic Health Institute of Port Charlotte
2792 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(239) 994-8734
Debra Marlowe
debra.marlowe@holistichealthinstitute.us
<http://www.holistichealthinstitute.us>

Xuma Rental and Supply - Port Charlotte
1129 S. Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 567-6137
Tara Tucak
office@xumarentalandsupply.com
<https://www.xumarentalandsupply.com/>

MD Pressure Cleaning and Softwash
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 268-8676
Mark Dumser
mdpressurewashingandsoftwash@gmail.com
<http://mdpressurecleaning.com>

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Tires Plus
3543 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-8128
(941) 629-7561
Justin Rosa
mypctiresplus@gmail.com
<https://www.tiresplus.com/florida/port-charlotte/>

Rhythm Of Learning Montessori, Inc.
425 W Helen Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(847) 878-9249
Margarita Shvets
puntagorda@rhythmoflearning.com
<http://puntagordamontessori.com>

Ace Drums Inc.
590 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953-2190
(941) 979-5457
Kenneth Giunta
acedrums11@yahoo.com
<http://www.acedrums.com>

Red, White & Renew, LLC
153 Hutchins Street
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 322-7345
Daniel Martinez
rwr@redwhiterenew.com
<https://redwhiterenew.com/>

Charlotte County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Port Charlotte, FL 33949
(941) 625-6443
Joanne D Ryder
president@ccgsi.org
<https://www.ccgisi.org/>

Tidewell Hospice/Empath Health
1144 Veronica St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 979-4300
Nick Hooks
nickhooks@empathhealth.org
<https://tidewellhospice.org/>

Del Toro Insurance
3769 Tamiami Trail, Suite A
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 203-0582
Elias Parrales
Nick Rodriguez
EliasParrales@deltoroinurance.com
<https://www.deltoroinurance.com/del-toro-insurance-s-tamiami-trail-port-charlotte/>

Babe's Plumbing Inc.
4585 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 488-2402
Lyndsay Conley
lconley@babesplumbing.com
<http://www.babesplumbing.com>

GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club
PO Box 511783
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
(401) 580-3758
Leslie Ryan - President
info@puntagordawomensclub.com
<http://Puntagordawomensclub.com>

Good News Pest Solutions
1080 Enterprise Ct., Suite A
North Venice, FL 34275
(941) 412-9610
Shawn Sampiere
Shawn@goodnewspest.com
<http://www.goodnewspest.com>

The Back Nine Golf
1700 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 456-5433
Tom Parker
Tparker@fca.org
<https://thebackninegolf.com/port-charlotte-fl/>

Allphase Insurance Services, Inc.
2541 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 235-2474
Dawn Cash
dawn@allphaseinsfl.com
<http://www.allphaseinsurance.com>

AIS Tax and Financial, LLC
2541 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 249-3043
Charles Cash
charles@aistaxandfinancial.com
<http://aistaxandfinancial.com>

Motor City Mini Acres
6418 Austrian Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(248) 561-7605
Beverly Ritchie
Motorcityminiaces@gmail.com
<https://mysite.vagaro.com/motorcityminiacres>



Southern Cross Campus, Inc. - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 19, 2025



Franklin Water Treatment - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 19, 2025



Eirene Ranch, Inc. - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 19, 2025



Charlotte Players, Inc. - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
November 25, 2025

RIBBON CUTTINGS



FJ's Furniture and More - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
December 2, 2025



PicklePlex of Punta Gorda - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
December 16, 2025



Love Your SELFie Studio - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
December 16, 2025



Leadership Charlotte Class of 2020 - Press Box Dedication
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
December 9, 2025



The Deck Man, Inc.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(508) 896-5333
Jeffrey Hennemuth
thedeckman@comcast.net
<http://thedeckman.net>

Ellie's World PPEC, LLC
4265 Laura Street
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(786) 352-2850
Lisbet Fundora
info@elliesworldppec.com
<http://www.elliesworldppec.com>

ANB Productions, Inc.
7253 Gasparilla Rd., Unit 1
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
(531) 248-7584
Beryle Herman
anbservicerepairs@gmail.com

Ex-Squids-It Eats
RP8H+389
Placida, FL 33946
(941) 468-4262
Amanda Herman
exsquidsiteats@gmail.com

B&G Italian Market
3805 Tamiami Trail, Unit C
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 624-5445
David Cooper
bgitaliandeli@gmail.com
<http://bgitalian.com>

PGI Safe & Locksmith
3815 S. Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 347-8012
Carlos Isaac
carlos@pgisafeandlock.com
<http://pgisafeandlock.com>

Straight2U HealthCare
17835 Murdock Circle, Unit A
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 340-3636
Justin Cruz
admin@straight2uhealth.com
<http://Straight2UHealth.com>

SOS Septic Inc
80 Harvard St.
Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 473-1767
Terry Jacobson
info@sosseptic.com
<http://www.sosseptic.com>

Truewood by Merrill at Charlotte Center
18400 Cochran Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 766-8900
Brian Baxter
brianb@merrillgardens.com
<https://www.merrillgardens.com/senior-living/fl/port-charlotte/cochran-blvd/>

Bobcat, LLC d/b/a Beach Bums Coastal
Gifts & Décor
150 Laishley Court, Suite 112
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 941-3463
Cathy Perry
beachbumfinds@gmail.com

Titan Residential & Commercial
5619 Eight Street West
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
(239) 497-0607
Wendy Amos
Wendy@TRC-Pros.com
<http://www.TRC-Pros.com>

Autocraft Studios
19201 Midway Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 420-6448
Laura Ooley
laura@autocraftstudios.com
<http://www.autocraftstudios.com>

Archwell Health
4265 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 266-7949
Wendy Nolan
wendy.nolan@archwellhealth.com
<http://www.archwellhealth.com>

EVENTS



NEW MEMBERS

Kapper Contracting Co.
4541 Ocala Terrace
North Port, FL 34288
(941) 323-2629
John Kapper
kappercontracting@gmail.com

Price 4 Charter Buses & Limos Fort Myers
3943 Fowler Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(866) 265-5479
Travis Salat
travis@price4limo.com
<https://www.price4limo.com/locations/florida/charter-bus-fort-myers/>

Jeff Masters Electric, Inc
620 Charlotte Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 575-8300
Brittany Stillwell
brittany@jeffmasterselectric.com
<http://jeffmasterselectric.com>

Calusa Security
4456 Tamiami Trail, Suite A9
Punta Gorda, FL 33980
(850) 359-4661
Sean Collins
SCollins@calusasecurity.com
<http://www.calusasecurity.com>

C Gehring Home Solutions
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(360) 460-4743
Chris Gehring
Cghomesolutions.info@gmail.com





Thursday, February 19, 2026
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

PLATINUM SPONSOR (EXCLUSIVE)

Platinum Sponsor Benefits Include:

- **INDUSTRY EXCLUSIVE**
- **Two premium booth spaces (prominent location)**
- Large logo on 3' x 8' Event Sponsor Banner
- One month FREE on Chamber digital sign
- Three months FREE full-page ad in Chamber First Thursday Advertiser
- Recognition as "Event Presented By [Your Company]" on all marketing
- Ad in the Event Guide/Map
- Dedicated Social Media Spotlight Post
- Featured spotlight in Chamber e-newsletter

THREE Available **\$2,700**

SILVER SPONSOR

Silver Sponsor Benefits Include:

- One booth in high-traffic location
- Logo on 2' x 6' Banner with other Silver Sponsors
- Two weeks FREE on Chamber digital sign
- One months FREE half-page ad in Chamber First Thursday Advertiser
- Ad in the Event Guide/Map
- Dedicated Social Media Spotlight Post

Five Available **\$1,100**

SUPPORTING ADD-ONS - VENDORS ONLY

- **Main Stage Sponsor** - \$1,000: Banner and recognition to audience.
- **After-Hours Party Sponsor** - \$1,000: Exclusive signage & recognition. **SOLD**
- **Continental Breakfast Sponsor** - \$1,000: Host the pre-opening event. **SOLD**
- **Lanyard Sponsor** - \$750: Your Name or Logo on every Exhibitor Lanyard.
- **Event Map Sponsor** - \$650: Your Logo on 500 Event Maps. **SOLD**
- **SPEED Direct Networking Sponsor** - \$500: Your Logo on Banner 2 available.
- **Refreshment Sponsor** - \$500: Your name/business cards at Coffee/Water Station.
- **Bag Sponsor** - \$750: Your logo on attendee bags (if provided). **SOLD**



GOLD SPONSOR

Gold Sponsor Benefits Include:

- Two booths in premium location
- Large logo on 3' x 6' Event Sponsor Banner & Signage
- Two weeks FREE on Chamber digital sign
- Two months FREE half-page ad in Chamber First Thursday Advertiser
- Ad in the Event Guide/Map
- Dedicated Social Media Spotlight Post

Five Available **\$1,700**

BRONZE SPONSOR

Bronze Sponsor Benefits Include:

- One booth (priority placement over general exhibitors)
- Name on 2' x 4' Banner with other Bronze Sponsors
- One week FREE on Chamber digital sign
- Name listed in the Event Guide/Map
- Group Social Media & digital sign recognition post

Ten Available **\$700**

EXHIBITOR BENEFITS

Included for ALL Booths:

- Booth space at Charlotte County's largest business showcase
- Complimentary tickets to After-Hours Party & Kick-Off Workshop
- Listing in event Guide/Map
- Marketing exposure via Chamber website, social media and publications
- Logo on Chamber Event registration page
- Verbal recognition during event

BOOTH PRICING

- **Single Booth (Member): \$395 / Single Booth (Non-Member): \$745** - includes a one-year membership.



Stages of Success

Social Media Power Series



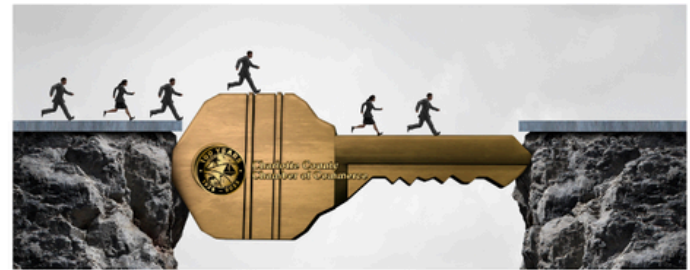
Class 1 - January 16, 2026

8:30 - 10:00am

Facilitator - Jackson Tarpley

Facebook and Instagram for Small Businesses

- Know exactly what to post to get more engagement and reach
- Learn how to use Stories and Reels in a simple, stress-free way
- Leave with a realistic content plan you can stick to every week



Class 2- January 30 , 2026

8:30 - 10:00am

Facilitator - Jami Joannes

Creating Posts and Videos with Canva

- Learn how to quickly design polished posts and videos
- Build a consistent visual brand that stands out
- Discover time-saving templates and tools that make content creation easy

Class 4- February 27 , 2026

8:30 - 10:00am

Facilitator - Joshua Boughton

Google and Your Business

- Understand how to fully optimize your Google Business Profile
- Learn how Google search and keywords affect your visibility
- Discover simple steps that help more customers find you online

Class 3- February 13 , 2026

8:30 - 10:00am

Facilitator - Derlune Saintvil

LinkedIn for Business Growth

- Upgrade your LinkedIn profile so it represents your business well
- Learn what to post to build credibility and stay visible
- Connect with the right people to expand your opportunities

Class 5- March 13 , 2026

8:30 - 10:00am

Facilitator - Jackson Tarpley

Facebook and Instagram Ads

- Learn how to set up ads that reach the right audience
- Understand budget, targeting, and campaign objectives
- Know how to read your results so you can improve performance



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**



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JJoannes@CharlotteCountyChamber.org



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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