Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

VISIT US

On the web:
charlottecountychamber.org

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

Or Call: 941-627-2222

4TH QTR 2026

Celebrating 101 Years — Our Legacy, Our Leadership, Our Future

There are moments in the life of an organization when you stop, look back at how far you have traveled, celebrate those who helped you get there, and then turn your attention toward the opportunities waiting on the road ahead.

For the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, our 101st Annual Awards "Open Road" Gala is one of those moments. This is more than an annual event. It is more than dinner, awards, music, and celebration. It was an evening that represents 101 years of leadership, vision, relationships, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to our business community. Think about that for a moment; 101 years.

During our 101st Annual Awards Gala, we recognized our outstanding 2026 Businesses of the Year in the Large, Medium, Small, and Nonprofit categories, along with our Ambassador of the Year, and our prestigious Pacesetter Award recipient. These award winners represent the very best of our business community. They create jobs, invest in people, support local organizations, take risks, overcome challenges, and help make Charlotte County stronger every single day.

Please help congratulate all of our 2026 award winners: Nonprofit Business of the Year, Military Heritage Museum – Small Business of the Year, Elite Hurricane Protection – Medium Business of the Year, Buffalo Graffix – Large Business of the Year, Fishermen's Village – Ambassador of the Year, Jenny Underhill, Funky Palm Productions – and our prestigious Pacesetter Award recipient, TJ Thornberry, Thornberry Custom Builders.

We also celebrated our Chamber leadership and welcomed our 2026-2027 Board of Directors that will help guide us into another year of opportunity and progress. On a personal note, I would like to convey my utmost respect, appreciation, and gratitude to our outgoing Board President, James Coalwell, for your leadership, guidance, support and most importantly, your friendship. But while we proudly celebrate our accomplishments, we are not an organization that is satisfied looking in the rearview mirror.

Our theme, "Open Road Gala Riding into the Next Century," says everything about where we are headed. The road ahead requires us to be bold. It requires us to remain relevant, innovative, collaborative, and willing to evolve. It means strengthening our advocacy, developing tomorrow's leaders, creating meaningful connections, supporting businesses of every size, and continuing to demonstrate the value of belonging to something larger than ourselves. I am looking forward to collaborating with our incoming Board President, Peri Bluemer, with her extensive leadership, strategic vision, and her relatable approach.

Our Mission says it simply and powerfully: We empower businesses to thrive! And that is exactly what we intend to continue doing. I could not be prouder to serve as CEO of this organization, but even more importantly, I am proud of the people who make up our Chamber family. Our members, Sustaining Partners, volunteers, Board members, Ambassadors, staff, and community partners are the heartbeat of everything we accomplish.

The best chapters of our story are still ahead.



Bob White
Chief Executive Officer

Bob

Coming Up

Networking at Noon
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
F.M. Don's
201 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost $20.00pp

Charlotte County Town Hall
Engage with your Regional Partners
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conf. Ctr.
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
RSVP to engage@fgcu.edu

Third Wednesday Coffee
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conf. Ctr.
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
Sponsor: TBA
Program: Vote Yes for Success School Referendum, presented by John LeClair, and 1% Local Option Sales Tax, presented by Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator

Halloween Bash Business Card Exchange
Thursday, October 22, 2026
Frohlich, Gordon & Beason Law
18401 Murdock Circle, Suite C
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
If you like, please bring a small gift to promote your business.

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

CharlotteCountyChamber.org

YOUR 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson
President Elect:
Katharine Payne, Katharine Panye Law, P.A.
Immediate Past President & VP Government Affairs:
James Coalwell, Pinnacle Financial Partners/Synovus Bank
VP Leadership Division:
Jessica Rhea, M.Ed., Florida Gulf Coast University
VP Member Services Division:
Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust
Treasurer:
Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs
Secretary: Cristin Beverley, REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port Charlotte North Port DeSoto Inc.

Directors:
Rosa Benghtt, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency
Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.
Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration
Shawn Gilstad, Gilstad Literacy Foundation
Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.
Craig Holt, Four Points by Sheraton
Dori Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design
John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools
Phil Marchesini, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital
Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County
Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm
Stacey Meyer, F.M. Don's
Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport
Natalie Proctor, Lake Michigan Credit Union
Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Administration
Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development Office
Jenny Underhill, Funky Palm Productions
Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

Chief Executive Officer:
Bob White, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



President's Note

Peri A. Bluemer

When I heard I was being considered for the role of President, I felt a rush of emotions, not the least of which was, "Is this a wrong-number situation?" Being known as a rather candid member of the Board, I was surprised, humbled, and deeply honored. So, when I was offered the role, it was a wholehearted YES! The Chamber has given me so much, and I wanted the opportunity to give something back.

It's made my business, that appeals to 3% of the population, a recognized name in our community. People know where we are, who we are, and what we are, not simply a retail outlet for tough biker types. They discovered us as a philanthropic mover and shaker, a terrific hangout for locals and tourists alike, a training academy and a venue for incredible events.

Personally, the Chamber gave someone who was new to this area a deeper understanding of what our county has to offer; from education and healthcare to philanthropy, nature, culture, and, most importantly, its people.

And then there are the friendships. It's given me people I will cherish for a lifetime: friends, confidantes, and a few "co-conspirators" who enjoy living here as much as I do.

With all that has been given to me, I asked myself, "How do I give back?"
I'll bet many of you feel the same way about what you have gained from being a member. If you do, it's time to celebrate it, share it, and frankly, enjoy it! And for those who haven't yet felt that same level of return, the onus is on the rest of us to help you find it.

Our platform this year is NEXT!
Networking
Increasing meaningful relationships that strengthen businesses and our community.
Economic Development
Supporting growth, innovation, and opportunity for all.
Xpanding Influence
Elevating the voice and impact of our business community throughout the region.
Tradition
Recognizing & celebrating the achievements that are our foundation

Most good chamber organizations focus, to some degree, on the first three. But we are adding the fourth one: Tradition. (Recognizing & celebrating the achievements that are our foundation.)

We've created something pretty special here. Let's talk about it, celebrate it and brag about it a little! By the tiny power invested in me, I hereby name each one of you a CHIEF COMMUNICATION OFFICER of the Chamber.

Not only do you now outrank me, but you have permission to tell everyone you know why this Chamber matters and how it makes YOU feel to belong. What is YOUR WHY? What does the Chamber mean to you? What's it given you? I'll be asking you that question when I see you and I can't wait to hear your stories.

When we share our stories they will help us grow, retain members, welcome new ones, and celebrate why OUR Chamber is different and what it truly offers.
Let's celebrate the year 101 ways while building The NEXT Century Ahead!

Thank you very much!

Peri Bluemer is the 2026/2027 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. She is with Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson
Email: president@charlottecountychamber.org

Charlotte County Chamber Corner

2026-2027 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM PLUS
Aurora Medical Spa
Buffalo Graffix*
Charlotte County Economic Development Partnership
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
Elite Hurricane Protection
Jarrett Ford of Charlotte County
Matt's Custom Golf Carts of Punta Gorda, Inc
Port Charlotte Rehabilitation Center
Sun Coast Media/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
Heart Dental
Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.
McCrory Law Firm
Nix Commercial Group, LLC - KW Peace River Partners
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.
Charlotte Community Foundation
Charlotte Players, Inc.
Crews Bank & Trust Murdock
Farr Law Firm
Florida Gulf Coast University
Hessler Floor Covering
Katharine Payne Law, P.A.
Military Heritage Museum, Inc.
The Firm Advertising Agency
The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
WrightWay Emergency Services

EMERALD
AADisaster Restoration24/7, Inc.
Acer Granite Corp.
Achieva Credit Union
Chapman Insurance Group
Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home, Cemetery and Crematory
Fedora's Cigar & Wine Bar
Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside
Friendly Floors
Funky Palm Productions
Gilstad Literacy Foundation, Inc.
J & J One Stop Gun Shop, Inc.
Lexington Manor, LLC
Marcia Cullinan - Michael Saunders & Co.
PicklePlex of Punta Gorda
Pool Boy, Inc.
Port Charlotte Florist
Premier Photographic Events of SW FL
Ripple Fiber
Southwest Florida Honor Flight
St. Andrews South Golf Club
Stamp Yacht Sales - Daryl Hall
State Farm Insurance Co. Mike Martin Agency
Stefko Consulting LLC
Sunseeker Resort Florida Gulf Coast – Curio by Hilton
Surefire Fire Protection LLC
TLC Marketing & Creative Services, Inc.
Turning Point Home Solutions, LLC.
UBER ISP
Wotitzky, Wotitzky & Young PA

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



Jami Joannes
Director of Programs and Events

Investing in the Leaders Who Shape Our Community

Two of the Charlotte County Chamber's premier programs are kicking off this month, and we could not be more excited. Leadership Charlotte begins its 38th year as we welcome 25 local professionals who are ready to connect, learn and become even more engaged in the community they serve. Throughout the program, class members get an inside look at the industries, organizations and people that keep Charlotte County moving forward, while building relationships that often continue long after graduation.

Leadership Charlotte is also about giving back. Since the program began, classes have contributed more than $1 million to local organizations and community projects, creating an incredible legacy of service. From supporting nonprofits and youth programs to improving community resources, each class has the opportunity to leave its own mark on Charlotte County.

Junior Leadership Charlotte is also beginning this month, introducing a new class of local high school juniors to the community they call home. Created as a project of the Leadership Charlotte Class of 1993, JLC brings together today's community leaders and tomorrow's leaders through hands-on experiences focused on careers, local business, government, healthcare, community services, the environment, arts and more. Students learn about the needs of Charlotte County, the many opportunities available right here at home and, most importantly, how they can make a difference. We want our students to see that Charlotte County is not only a wonderful place to grow up, but also a place where they can build a career, become involved and one day bring their talents back home. These two programs represent leadership at every stage, and we are proud to continue investing in the people who will shape the future of our community.



Leadershiphip Charlotte Class of 2027

Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Our County 2026/27 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027) is underway as the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the county budget in late September.

The planning process, which began early in the year, incorporates input and engagement from residents, businesses, and community stakeholders to determine community needs and demands. I'm pleased to report that the budget is fiscally sound, balanced, and provides the organization the resources to continue to advance the BCC's vision, goals & initiatives under their four Strategic Focus Areas - Public Services, Economic & Community Development, Infrastructure, and Efficient & Effective Government.

In early 2027, we'll look to the BCC to confirm their vision and strategic goals to guide the community and our organization into the future years. Between now and then, we are monitoring and are prepared to respond to the outcome of the Property Tax Referendum - Amendment 3 initiative that is on the November 3, 2026 Election ballot. We'll begin to address that as needed when as we start our 2-year budget process in January 2027. We've always taken an approach to be Efficient & Effective in how we operate – and will continue to do so. We are communicating to the community important information to inform voters about the potential impacts to tax-payers and local services we provide. We'll look to keep leveraging our community and business partnerships, and maintain the strong relationships with inter-governmental agencies such as the Sheriff's Office, School Board, City of Punta Gorda, PG Airport Authority, and Clerk of the Court, to name a few.

We have projects underway will that bring economic impact to the community and improve safety & quality of life. Some of these projects that are important to our residents, business, and visitors are Port Charlotte Beach Complex, Placida Boat Ramp, Edgewater Drive widening, Harborview Road widening, William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park, and three fire station locations.

On behalf of our team at the county, we look forward to fulfilling our Mission to keep Delivering Exceptional Services.

Chamber Community Connection



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

What Punta Gorda Residents Should Know About the Property Tax Proposal

Florida voters will decide in November whether to approve Amendment 3, a proposed change to the state constitution affecting homestead property taxes. The measure would increase the exemption for qualifying homeowners on property taxes levied for purposes other than schools: up to $150,000 of assessed value beginning in 2027 and up to $250,000 beginning in 2028. It would not eliminate a homeowner's entire property tax bill. The amendment requires approval from at least 60% of voters to take effect.

Property taxes are one source of revenue for the City of Punta Gorda's General Fund, which pays for services including police and fire protection, parks, planning, code enforcement and maintenance of City facilities. For fiscal year 2027, the City has budgeted $19.4 million in property tax revenue, representing 34.6% of General Fund revenue. Public safety expenditures are budgeted at $23 million, or 40.9% of General Fund expenditures. Other City revenues have different uses: utility fees fund utility needs, while developer impact fees are restricted to eligible improvements related to growth.

The City estimates that approval of the amendment would create an initial General Fund funding gap of approximately $1.3 million, growing to $3.7 million by fiscal year 2029. These are projections, and the City would have to address any shortfall through future budget decisions. City Council, staff and residents will work together to address the gap. Some of the options identified include reducing expenditures, adjusting service levels, establishing assessments where permitted by law, or charging fees for certain services. Understanding the proposal and its potential effects will help residents stay informed about the future of City services.

Chamber Community Connections



Pamela Smith
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Boat and boat equipment thefts are common in Southwest Florida. In Punta Gorda, we have two full-time Marine Patrol Officers, a dedicated group of Police Department Marine Patrol volunteers, and the PGI Marine Watch. The Police Department recently added a 2026 Caymas HB26 as the primary patrol boat and transferred the previous primary patrol boat to the Police Department Marine Patrol volunteers. Even with these watchdog efforts in place, boat owners must remain vigilant to avoid becoming victims of theft. The Punta Gorda Police Department recommends the following practices to make your vessel a challenging target for criminals.

- First, record your boat's vital information such as serial numbers, ID codes, and HIN. Take photos and mark your property with a unique code, such as your house number. These simple steps can significantly deter theft.

- Install an alarm system designed for the marine environment – criminals don't like to make noise or attract attention. Motion-activated dock lights are an inexpensive way to deter theft. Consider adding a camera on your dock if you have home cameras like Ring or Wyse.

- Secure your vessel. Lock the boat and ignition system, and keep your key at home.

- Remember to check your security measures to ensure they are working, and also consider double-checking your insurance policies and confirming that your coverage is adequate.

As always, we encourage our residents to be vigilant and report any unusual activity as soon as it occurs. 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 during the late-night and early-morning hours. Your prompt reporting can make a significant difference in preventing theft.

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

Chamber Community Connections



Kay Tracy, Director
Charlotte County
Economic
Development Office

Growing Together in Charlotte County

Charlotte County's growth is creating an exciting new chapter for our business community. Since 2020, more than 50,000 permanent residents and 26,000 housing units have been added across the county, including 7,545 housing units since January 2025. For our small and midsize businesses, every new household represents new customers, new employees, and new demand for the products and services that keep a community thriving, from restaurants, retail, and healthcare to construction, professional services, technology, recreation, and transportation.

Opportunities are taking shape throughout the county. The Mid County area continues to lead residential development, while Babcock Ranch's population is forecast to double by 2035 and the Burnt Store Road corridor is projected to nearly double over the next decade. As these communities grow, they will support new neighborhood shopping centers, services, and gathering places. Local businesses are well positioned to reach these expanding markets, grow alongside new neighborhoods, and build lasting relationships with residents from the moment they arrive.

Charlotte County's expanding industrial and aviation economy offers even more reasons for optimism. Our location along Interstate 75, Punta Gorda Airport, and available industrial land near the airport provide a strong foundation for new investment and employment. The Charlotte Interactive Growth Model indicates that the county could support approximately one million additional square feet of industrial development by 2030. Each new manufacturer, aviation company, or distributor can create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers, accountants, insurers, technology providers, staffing firms, restaurants, and other businesses. When one company grows, the benefits can extend throughout our entire business community.

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office is working with our public, private, educational, and community partners to turn this growth into meaningful opportunities for residents and businesses. By supporting existing companies, encouraging new investment, strengthening workforce pathways, and helping align infrastructure with future needs, we are building an economy that benefits the entire community. Economic development is ultimately about more than jobs and buildings, it is about expanding opportunity, supporting local prosperity, and enhancing the quality of life that makes Charlotte County such a special place to live, work, and grow a business.

Chamber Community Connection



Sean Doherty
Tourism Director

After a somewhat challenging year for tourism last year as we continued to recover from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, tourist development tax collections (TDT) have been on a roll in FY 2026, particularly over the past few months. April, May, June and July all broke records including April seeing a 39.8% increase over FY 2025's April and exceeding $1 million dollars in collections for the first time. Our August collections are due to be reported in early October and we're hopeful the upward trend continues. These funds are critically important to our efforts to market Charlotte County to potential visitors in the increasingly competitive realm of destination marketing. Some other important metrics from FY 2026's 3rd quarter include a 6.7% increase in volume of visitors, a 7.9% increase in economic impact, and a 6.1% increase in lodging room nights.

Part of this boom can be attributed to the increase in meetings and convention activity this summer.For example, the Florida Fire Chiefs Executive Leadership Conference was held at Sunseeker Resort in July which generated 1,550 room nights and an estimated $2.3 million in economic impact. Also in July, our destination hosted the Florida Agritourism Association Annual Conference at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center which produced approximately $214, 000 in economic impact and provided over 150 room nights for the downtown Punta Gorda hotels. These are just two examples of many other meetings and conventions that have taken place here over the past several months that bring many first-time visitors to our destination.

In addition to our sales and marketing activities, our public relations efforts have continued to ramp up as we are on track to host a record number of travel media and social influencers in market this year. These efforts are important as they typically result in media exposure for our destination with a very modest investment. As an example, a great article in Islands Magazine that featured our destination had a media value of over $26,000. Also, two of our barrier islands (Knight/Palm Island #4 and Manasota Key #8) made Travel & Leisure's list of the "11 Best Barrier Islands in the U.S. for Your Next Vacation. This exposure carried a media value of over $90,000.

Lastly, I'd like to recognize my staff for their efforts which recently garnered two recent awards.The first is the Silver Circle Award we received from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association for the production of our County's official Visitors Guide. We distribute approximately 30,000 of these printed guides annually and have many more downloaded from our website. Secondly, we nominated Englewood Beach Waterfest for the Florida Sports Foundation Best Hosted Event for 2025 which won the award for the Small Market category. We are pleased and grateful to have had a successful year and look forward to building on that success in FY 2027.

Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello
Superintendent
Charlotte County
Public Schools

For Charlotte County's business community, one of the most important questions about our future is simple: Who will make up our workforce tomorrow?

The answer is sitting in our classrooms today.

The students learning in Charlotte County Public Schools will become our future employees, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, first responders, skilled tradespeople and community leaders. Preparing them for that future requires strong schools, great employees and opportunities that connect what students learn today with where they want to go tomorrow.

The referendum has been an important part of that work. It has helped CCPS recruit and retain quality employees, expand workforce education, provide additional instructional time, strengthen school safety and student support, and maintain opportunities in the arts and athletics.

We are seeing the results of that investment. Charlotte County Public Schools is now an A-rated district, ranks 21st among Florida's 67 school districts and is among the state's 16 fastest-improving districts.

For our business community, that progress matters. A strong local economy depends on having skilled people ready to enter the workforce. It also depends on our ability to attract and retain families and employees who see Charlotte County as a place where they can build a career and a life.

As the referendum returns to voters this November, continuing the investment means continuing the work already underway in our schools.

Our students are Charlotte County's future workforce. The stronger we prepare them today, the stronger our businesses, our economy and our community can be tomorrow.

Chamber Community Connection



James Parish
Punta Gorda Airport

The first phase of Punta Gorda Airport's Bailey Terminal Expansion opened in mid-August 2026. The north wing expansion of Gates 7–12 includes more seating, additional charging stations, wide open hallways and large windows providing plenty of natural light. The expansion allows aircraft to be parked even closer to the departure gates, making ground boarding up gently-sloping ramps more convenient.

Spacious new restrooms feature baby changing stations, purse and luggage hooks, and convenient in-sink hand dryers. New family-friendly amenities include a mother's room, family restrooms and an adult changing station.

Since the project is still underway, passengers will continue to see construction throughout the terminal as the airport works to complete this exciting transformation. The one-story expansion will provide 50,700 additional square feet and renovation of 28,250 square feet of the existing Bailey Terminal.

When the expansion is complete in early 2027, new concessions will include a Wolfgang Puck, The Junction, The Market @ PGD and Dunkin' Donuts.

The Airport Authority also received funding to extend Challenger Blvd all the way to Piper Rd, which will provide quicker access to aviation schools and businesses on the north side of the airport. This extension should be completed by the end of 2027.

Stay updated on all the latest destinations and news at FlyPGD.com.

Chamber Community Connection



Shan Swellan
President, CDBIA

Why the Building Industry Stays Involved in Government

The building industry and government may seem worlds apart — homes, contractors, permits, and construction sites on one side; ordinances, zoning, and state law on the other. In reality, they are closely connected, and that connection matters most to one person: the homeowner.
Local ordinances, zoning rules, permitting requirements, the Florida Building Code, and state laws all shape what a homeowner can build, remodel, or repair — and how much it will cost. That is why organizations like the Charlotte-DeSoto Building Industry Association and our members stay engaged with local, state, and federal government.

The goal is not simply to represent builders and developers. It is to bring real-world construction experience to the table and help ensure that regulations are practical, understandable, and focused on protecting the homeowner.

Licensed contractors and industry professionals work with these rules every day. They understand how local ordinances interact with state law and the Florida Building Code. They also know that navigating government programs can open doors homeowners may not realize exist — including opportunities through FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, particularly when communities are addressing flooding, storm resilience, infrastructure, and disaster recovery.

For homeowners, a knowledgeable building industry involved in government can mean better information, fewer surprises, and a stronger voice when policies affecting property and construction are considered.
At its heart, building industry advocacy is not just about building homes. It is about helping homeowners understand the rules, protect their property, make informed decisions, and take advantage of opportunities that can make their homes and communities safer and stronger.

Because when government, homeowners, and the building industry understand one another, everyone has a better foundation to build on.

Chamber Community Connection



Phil Marchesini
Chief Executive Officer
HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital, caring for our community has never stopped at the doors of our hospital

Every day, our colleagues, nurses and physicians have the privilege of caring for our neighbors during some of life's most important moments. But being a true community partner means recognizing that the health and strength of Charlotte County are shaped by much more than what happens within a hospital. They are shaped in our schools, our neighborhoods, our nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and by the opportunities we create for the next generation.

That is why we believe so strongly in going beyond our walls. Throughout the year, our colleagues give their time, talents and resources to organizations and initiatives making a difference across our community. Our partnership with the United Way of Charlotte County for example, helps support programs addressing important needs of local families. Through Back Pack Kidz, we help provide backpacks filled with food for students who might otherwise face weekends without enough to eat. And through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sun Coast, members of our team have the opportunity to mentor young people and provide encouragement, guidance and a positive example as they plan for their futures.

We are equally passionate about introducing students to the possibilities ahead of them. Our colleagues participate in career days at local schools, sharing the wide variety of opportunities available in healthcare, from clinical careers to technology, administration, rehabilitation and many others. We support scholarships for students pursuing healthcare professions and participate in the Chamber's Junior Leadership Charlotte program, helping high school students learn about healthcare in their community.

Each of these efforts may look different, but they share a common purpose: investing in people. As Charlotte County continues to grow, businesses have an important role to play in shaping what that growth looks like. Economic success is certainly measured by jobs created, businesses opened and investments made. Long-term success of a community is also reflected in whether its children have opportunities to thrive, whether families have support when they need it, and whether the next generation sees a future for themselves right here at home.

For those of us in the business community, that presents both an opportunity and a responsibility.

We can open our doors to students who are curious about their future careers. We can encourage our colleagues to volunteer. We can lend our expertise to nonprofit organizations. We can mentor an emerging leader, sponsor a scholarship or support a family facing a difficult season. No single organization can meet every need, but when businesses, schools, nonprofits, public agencies and community leaders work together, our collective impact can be extraordinary.

As business leaders, we all have something valuable to contribute beyond the walls of our organizations. When we share our time, our knowledge, our resources and our commitment, we do more than give back.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



SWFL Rotary Club - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 9, 2026



Mod Wash - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 10, 2026



Hand & Stone Massage & Facial Spa - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 14, 2026



Wild Orchid Gallery, Gift Shoppe and Tea House - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 22, 2026

NEW MEMBERS

Alert Plumbing
27457 Challenger Blvd., Unit B.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(863) 494-6794
Ray Hardy
info@alertplumbing.com
https://www.alertplumbing.com/

Don B. Construction
27457 Challenger Blvd., Unit A
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(941) 347-8594
(239) 471-6073
Kale Gourley
bidinfo@donb-construction.com
http://donbconstruction.com

Sir Thomas Automotive
19800 Veterans Blvd., Unit A1
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 743-7400
Tommy D'Aprile
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http://sirthomasperformance.com

Empire Air Services, Inc.
1489 Market Cir., Unit 303
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
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Shelley Garcia
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Persnickety
258 W. Marion Ave.
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(863) 205-8908
Angie Wilson
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http://www.persnicketyjewelryandgifts.com

Aroma Joe's
16400 Franklin Ave.
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Alyssa Wiswell
awiswell2305@gmail.com
http://aromajoes.com

Jasue Cleaning Service LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(845) 667-0693
Jamie Flores
jasuecleaningservices@yahoo.com
https://sites.google.com/view/jasuecleaningservices/home

Valvoline Instant Oil Change
2090 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 315-5050
Elizza Bagaindoc
ebagaindoc@vioc.net
https://store.vioc.com/fl/port-charlotte/2090-tamiami-trail

Swezey Travel
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 541-4769
Brad Swezey
brad@swezeytravel.com
http://www.swezeytravel.com

Forever Famous Photo
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
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Amber Bramble
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http://sarasota.pauldavis.com

ABBY PediatriCare
25097 Olympia Ave., Suite 205-207
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 347-7142
Dayli Taillacq
pediatricdc@abbyppec.com
http://www.abbyppec.com

Eta Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
PO Box 572
Fort Myers, FL 33902
(941) 286-9660
Jannelle Sparrow
etaalphazeta1967@gmail.com
http://etaalphazeta.org

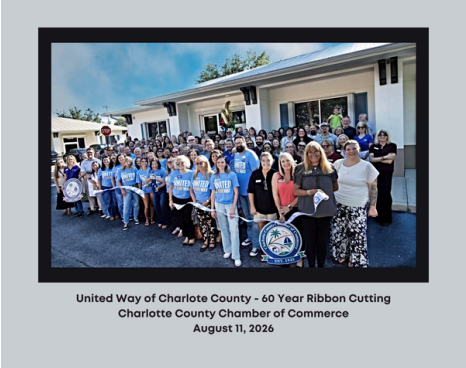
RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Traveling Vine FL - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 4, 2026



My Place Hotels - Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 6, 2026



United Way of Charlote County - 60 Year Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 11, 2026



Chapman Insurance Group - Ribbon Cutting & Grand Reopening
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 20, 2026

NEW MEMBERS

Butler Pavers Inc.
6862 Van Camp St.
North Port, FL 34291
(941) 423-3977
Lenee Butler
lenee@butlerpavers.com
http://Butlerpavers.com

The Patterson Group
1675 W Marion Ave., Suite 112
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 621-8600
Tara Oakes
tara@pattersongroupkw.com
http://pattersongrouprealestate.com

Air Heating & Cooling LLC
26407 Notre Dame Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
(239) 440-9996
Joanna Sosa
airheatingcooling24@gmail.com
http://www.airheatingcooling24.com

SW Beauty Supply
701 JC Center Ct.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(786) 301-5211
Deon Sugrim
BeautySW@yahoo.com
http://www.SW-BeautySupply.com

Dumpster Fire Junk Removal and Dumpsters
18245 Paulson Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(239) 412-3283
Tyler Heeb
support@dumpsterfire.rent
http://www.dumpsterfire.rent

Plummer Chiropractic & Auto Accident Center
2650 South McCall Road
Suite D
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 460-0287
Gary Plummer
chiropractorenglewood@gmail.com
https://www.doctorplummer.com/

The Putty Professors Rentals, LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-7021
(941) 740-2483
Lavosia Price
info@theputtyprofessors.com
http://theputtyprofessors.com

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Port Charlotte, FL
Adam Rose

Soc. of St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart Conference
25200 Airport Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 575-0767
(F) (941) 575-3587
Jerry Presseller
SVdPsh01@gmail.com
https://www.svdppg.org

Clear Coast Accounting
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 299-6090
Morgan Ozburn Camp
morgan@clearcoastaccounting.com
http://www.clearcoastaccounting.com

Palm Breeze of Punta Gorda Condominium Association, Inc.
4685 Duncan Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(941) 621-3717
Heather Hoyt
gm@palmbreezervresort.com
https://www.sunlight-resorts.com/

Lendmark Financial Services
2150 Tamiami Trail, Suite 1
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(304) 691-9522
Spencer White
swhite@lendmarkfinancial.com
http://lendmarkfinancial.com

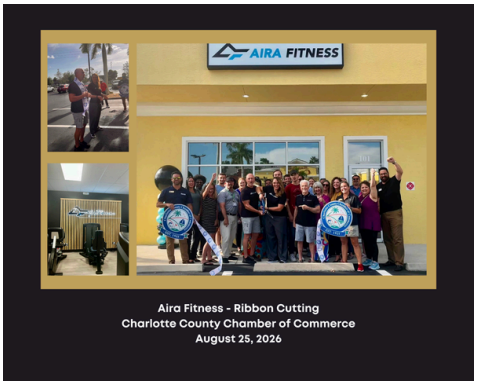
Groovy360photobooth
Rotonda West, FL 33947
(941) 800-2680
Jose Rojas
Joserojasgomez123@gmail.com
http://Groovy360Photobooth.com

Disconnected Piecers Quilt Guild
1365 Viscaya Dr.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(Meets at St. James Episcopal)
(239) 283-2037
Marge Gammon
dpqginc@gmail.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Valvoline Instant Oil Change - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 21, 2026



Aira Fitness - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 25, 2026



Rise Dispensary - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 3, 2026



Rossini by Chef Rocco - Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 8, 2026

NEW MEMBERS

KG Financial & Tax
North Port, FL 34291
(812) 525-1213
Kerri Gordon
kerri@kgfinancialtax.com
https://kgfinancialtax.com

PCV Hub LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 301-8995
Phil Carpenter
Service@PCVHub.com
https://PCVHub.com

Access Title Agency
1777 S Tamiami Trail, Suite 308
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(239) 610-0550
Isabelle Kleintop
ikleintop@accesstitlefl.com

Coral Vista Pools
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 626-7773
James Mutters
CoralVistaPools@gmail.com

Fifth Third Bank
1910 Kings Hwy
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 235-7960
georgette.jean-baptiste@53.com
http://www.53.com

Results Now Coaching
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Carine Colemonts
(817) 341-6364
carine@resultsnow.coach
http://www.resultsnow.coach

Charlotte Harbor Gastroenterology, LLC
2400 Harbor Blvd., Suite 9
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 246-2700
(F) (888) 714-0472
Javier Gomez
CharlotteHarbor@FDHS.com
http://FDHS.com

Simkins Home Services, LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 661-7393
Michael Simkins
m.simkins@hotmail.com
http://www.simkinshomeservices.com

Aurora Medical Spa
866 Tamiami Trail, Suite 6
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 979-9608
Natasha Zepeda
NatashaSigletary@AuroraMedicalSpa.org
http://www.auroramedicalspa.org/

UBER ISP
333 Tamiami Trail South, Suite 389
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 499-5399
Sergey Seleznev
sms@uberisp.com
http://Uberisp.com

DBS Office Services
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 276-1219
Arretta Heyse
arretta@dbsofficeservices.com
http://www.DBSofficeservices.com

The Paper Company Restaurant Supply & Equipment
1496 Woodstock Rd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 625-2601
Max Dedominic
Max@thepapercompanyfla.com
http://www.thepapercompanyfl.com

Makenzie Maxwell, Realtor - Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
18500 Veterans Blvd #1
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Makenzie Maxwell
(941) 661-7627
makenzie.maxwell@cbsunstar.com
http://makenzie-maxwell@cbsunstar.com

Tammy Cline - Cline-Kendrick Team Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
18500 Veterans Blvd, #1
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 232-9972
tammysellsfloridahomes@gmail.com
http://www.ClosewithCline.com

Light Of Life Landscaping LLC
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
(941) 661-7921
Phillip Beckford
pbeckford@lightoflifelandscaping.com
http://lightoflifelandscaping.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS



City of Punta Gorda City Council Chambers - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 9, 2026



Sunshine Senior Services - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 16, 2026



Charlotte Harbor Gastroenterology - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 22, 2026



Cathy's Place of Charlotte County - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 29, 2026

NEW MEMBERS

Fero Financial
17843 Murdock Cir 7B
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 625-5811
Rebekah Fero
rebekah.fero@lpl.com
https://ferofinancial.com/

FamilyPro Services, LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 626-7143
Christopher Forbes
familyproservice@gmail.com
http://www.familyproservice.com

Shan Swelland, Commissioner District 3 - Airport Authority
Englewood, FL 34224
(772) 370-6289
Shan Swelland
sswelland1120@gmail.com

B&C Detail and Ceramic
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(479) 871-6589
Blaine Wood
bwood@bcdetailandceramic.com
https://bcdetailandceramic.com/

Urban Prints & Tees
4186 Kings Highway, Unit 10
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 273-7873
Travis Kuykendall
Travis@UrbanPrints.org

Stuff a Bagel
3762 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 979-8801
Zeina Abboud
stuffabagelfl@gmail.com

Kuykendall Roofing
3000 Acline Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 639-4005
Travis Kuykendall
myroof@kuykendallroofing.com
http://www.kuykendallroofing.com

John M. Fleming
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
NYCDIA@gmail.com

Firemen Detailers
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 626-1161
Charles Cannata
Firedetailers@gmail.com
http://Firedetail.com

Ciasi's Closet
3527 S. Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(216) 217-1220
Lizzie Ciasi
lizzieCiasi@gmail.com
http://www.ciasiscloset.us

Harmony United Psychiatric Care
1504 Kings Highway #300
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(800) 457-4573
Adil Mohammed
marketing@hupcfl.com
http://www.hupcfl.com

West Coast Curbing LLC
3131 Foley Dr., 2B
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
(321) 888-7844
James Martinek
Contact@westcoastcurbing.com
https://westcoastcurbing.com/

Prodigal Son Painting South LLC
350 Altoona Street NW
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 769-1112
Frank Morrison
frank@prodigalsonpainting.com
www.prodigalsonpainting.com

Sosnin Builders
18374 Fremont Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 941-9558
Anatoliy Sosnin
tony@sosninbuilders.com
https://sosninbuilders.com/

White's Trash Dumpsters & Hauling
118 Concord Dr. NE
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 234-5014
Ryan White
ryanwhite@whitestrashdumpsters.com
https://whitestrashdumpsters.com/

EVENTS









NEW MEMBERS

Key Screening
206 Center Road Unit E
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 260-4432
Alec Bevan
sales@key-screening.com
https://key-screening.com/service-areas/port-charlotte-pool-enclosures/

Sunset Palm Candle Company
4 Medalist Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947
(941) 662-1937
Joseph Murray
sunsetpalmcandles@gmail.com
http://www.sunsetpalmcandles.com

PetCompanionAI LLC
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(850) 450-7020
Michel Scavuzzo
contact@petcompanionai.com
http://www.petcompanionai.com

Staples #421
1825 Tamiami Trail, Unit J
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 764-0555
Loren Putnam
gm0421@staples.com
http://www.staples.com

Red-Jay Cabinets, LLC
1109 Tamiami Trail, Unit 4
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 919-7335
Christopher Wallace
info@red-jaycabinets.com
http://www.red-jaycabinets.com

Light Up Your Life Plus LLC
4265 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 422-0528
Woodford Joseph
info@luyl-plus.com
http://www.luyl-plus.com

Horizon Advisors
209 Tabor St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 844-1467
Jackson Garner
jackson.garner@ampf.com
https://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/horizon-advisors/

Bruta Organics Inc. DBA Physicians Natural Choice
425 Commercial Court, Suite B
Venice, FL 34292
(941) 321-0804
Ruta Jouniari
ruta@physiciansnaturalchoice.com
http://www.physicianschoice.com

RYAN Healing Center
6900 Daniels Parkway, Suite 29 PMB 182
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(941) 249-2973
Jennifer Barth
Jenn@ryanhealingcenter.com
http://www.ryanhealingcenter.com

Elegance Redesigned
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 815-8865
Genifer Mastrella
Genifer.mastrella@comcast.net

Willis Smith Construction
5001 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Suite 100
Sarasota, FL 34240
(941) 366-3116
Bailee Lazcano Corona
bcorona@willissmith.com
http://willissmith.com

The Core Collective Systems
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 467-0075
Stacy Ingle
StacyIngle@thecorecollectivesystems.com
https://www.thecorecollectivesystems.com/





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Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

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Bob White - CEO, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

Kay Tracy - Director, Charlotte County Economic Development Office

Bill Prummell - Charlotte County Sheriff

Mark Vianello - Superintendent, Charlotte County Public Schools

JOIN US:

FGCU and the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce invite the community to an evening with local leaders shaping the future of Charlotte County — hear directly from panelists on higher education, economic development, public safety, and education, followed by community conversation.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

5:00 PM	Doors Open
5:00–6:00 PM	Cocktail Reception
6:00 PM	Program Begins

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