



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

4TH QTR 2023

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 98th year

Words cannot describe the incredible atmosphere we had at our 98th Annual awards luncheon on Thursday at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center.

The energy, excitement, camaraderie, support and love from our chamber family was phenomenal! We had a packed house of 250 attendees, all celebrating a very successful year. Special thanks to the overwhelming presence and support from our elected officials and community leaders.

Congratulations to our 2023 Businesses of the Year: Nonprofit Business of the Year: C.A.R.E., the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies. Small Business of the Year: Thornberry Custom Builders. Medium Business of the Year: Lake Michigan Credit Union. Large Business of the Year (we had a tie): Chapman Insurance Group and Suncoast One Title & Closings.

Our prestigious Pacesetter Award honoree was presented to Mark Martella, Martella Law Firm.

Kudos to our outgoing president, Steve Lineberry, Premier Photographic Events, for the tremendous job he has done over the past two years. We are excited about our strategic growth as we excel forward under the leadership of our incoming president, Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust. I know we'll have the full support of our 1,000-plus members to remain engaged in aligning with Nick's vision of #Connecting Businesses Together!

Like any successful organization, it take a village to plan, implement and thrive in meeting goals and objectives. The Charlotte County Chamber is no different. I want to extend my appreciation and gratefulness to our staff: Ruth Uzonyi, director of finance, Jami Joannes, director of business development, and Janet Caffee, information and customer service manager. The tremendous day-to-day work that goes on behind the scenes is absolutely incredible!



Bob

Bob White
Executive Director

Our organization is positioned to be an indispensable partner for the business community of Charlotte County through advocacy, community partnerships and proving value to our membership.

Coming Up

Networking at Noon

Wednesday, October 11 at Noon
Dubz BBQ
4391 Adain Lane, North Port.
RESERVATION REQUIRED - Cost is \$20pp.
Sold out.

Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, **October 18**, 7:45 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.
Sponsor: Soul Dental
Program: New Member Showcase
Kindly RSVP in the MIC.

Business Card Exchange

Thursday, October 26, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ActivAge Daytime Care
3626 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
Fun Halloween Themed Event.
Kindly RSVP in the MIC

45th Annual Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 9, 2023
Steps off at Noon-Downtown
Register your entry in the MIC

Resources:

cleared4takeoff.com
Charlotte Cnty. Economic Development Office
<https://frrla.org/covid-19/>
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
<http://www.frf.org/index.php/news/covid-19>
Florida Retail Federation
<http://www.floridajobs.org>
Reemployment Assistance

Contact us by email:

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

Visit us on the web:

charlottecountychamber.org

YOUR 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

President Elect:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

VP Leadership Charlotte:

Kelsey J. Veitengruber, Farr Law Firm

VP Membership Services:

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

Treasurer:

Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs

Secretary:

Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University

Directors:

Rosa Benght, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Dave Gammon, Charlotte County Economic Dev. Office

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance

Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun

Kris Proudfoot, Centennial Bank

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

2023-2024 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM+

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte & Punta Gorda

Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

PLATINUM

Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, PA

Buffalo Graffix*

Chapman Insurance Group

Crews Bank & Trust

GJC Window & Door

Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.

McCrory Law Firm

The Daily Sun

Waste Management Charlotte County

DIAMOND

Adjuster Groups, LLC

Elite Inspections & Pest Solutions, LLC

Farr Law Firm

Florida Gulf Coast University

Matthew Patterson, Patterson Group Keller Williams

The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty

The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Tommy's Express Car Wash

WhitCo Insurance - Alexia Martin Agency

EMERALD

Achieva Credit Union

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC

Centennial Bank

Charlotte Players, Inc.

Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside

Friendly Floors

Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Panther Hollow Dental Lodge

Port Charlotte Florist

St. Andrews South Golf Club

Sandhill Healing Center, Inc.

State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency

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

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



President's Note

Nick Worden

Honored to serve

Dear Members of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce,

I am deeply honored to serve as your President, and I want to express my gratitude for this incredible opportunity. The Chamber has long been a driving force for economic growth and community development in Charlotte County.

Before I dive into my theme, "Connecting Businesses Together," I want to acknowledge my predecessors and the dedicated chamber members. Your dedication to our community's prosperity is commendable.

I also owe gratitude to Leadership Charlotte for its transformative experience. This program instilled civic responsibility and an appreciation for our diverse community. I thank my Leadership Charlotte classmates for their support during my tenure as Class President in 2016 and their continued support.

My vision for this term is "Connecting Businesses Together." We'll bridge gaps, encourage collaboration, and create a rising tide that lifts all our member businesses. We'll introduce programs for cross-industry networking and work with government agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions to nurture innovation.

Moreover, we'll seek regional alliances, extending beyond our county borders, to amplify our impact.

I invite you all to get involved, share your ideas, and actively participate in this vision of connectivity. Your contributions are vital.

In conclusion, I'm excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities we'll create together. Let's embrace the spirit of "Connecting Businesses Together" to build a brighter, prosperous future for Charlotte County.

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. Together, we'll pave the way for a thriving business community benefiting us all.

Sincerely,

Nick Worden

President, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

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

Charlotte County Chamber Corner



Jami Joannes
Director of Business
Development



Join Us in Bringing Holiday Joy to Local Families

This holiday season, the Charlotte County Chamber is teaming with the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County to spread the spirit of giving in our community. Every year, they host a heartwarming holiday party for the children and their families from both clubs in Port Charlotte and Englewood. In these challenging times, many families are facing difficulties, and your support can make a significant difference. Here is the amazon wish list for items needed to be purchased. <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/34A3OHYV8EGOB>

Items can be delivered to the chamber during business hours of M-F 8am – 4pm otherwise please have them delivered to your home. The chamber is a drop off location. All gifts must be delivered by December 11, 2023.

For More information: Contact Jami Joannes (941) 627-2222 JJoannes@CharlotteCountyChamber.org

Welcome Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024



Ryan Barber, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office; Breanna Benevenga, Charlotte County Community Services; Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson; Lauren Bracken, Four Points by Sheraton; Janice Chupka, Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic; Josh Deyarmin, Charlotte County Airport Authority; Jennifer Dubbaneh, Calista Kitchen & Bath; Alaina Dumas, Charlotte-Desoto Building Industry Association; Lisa Gallucci, Visual Arts Center; Jill Gendreau, McCrory Law Firm; Dori Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design; Betty Kedziora, Union Home Mortgage; Bobbie Leahey, Realtor, Keller Willams Peace River Partners; Amberly Leverich, The Daily Sun; Francine Lisby, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners; Kristen Manomat, Girls on the Run of SWFL; Kylee McGloin, City of Punta Gorda; Angie Misner, Charlotte State Bank & Trust; Maureen Morgenthien, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitors & Convention Bureau; Tony Pribble, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners; Dan Revallo, Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court & County Comptroller's Office; Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University; Stephanie Rusch, Charlotte Technical College; Ricky Terrazas, Achieva Credit Union; Jen Wolfe, United Way of Charlotte County. Also in this photo, Nick Worden, Board President, Wendy Atkinson, class chair, and TJ Thornberry, class vice-chair.

Charlotte County Chamber Corner

Have you created a login yet to your member portal?

It's easy. Go to CharlotteCountyChamber.org. At the top of the page click on the login symbol. Use your email address as your user name, above the Sign In button, click on *No login created? Sign up now*. That will prompt you to create a password.

The member portal (MIC) allows you to update your business description and keywords, post jobs, hot deals, member to member deals and post events at no cost to you. You may register for events, make payments, memorize credit card information, update staff and more!

View your member profile to ensure it is still accurate, as staff, services & products may change over time.

The 2023-2024 Junior Leadership Charlotte Class, sponsored by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce



1st Row (L-R) Caitlin Barrett, Quin Briggs, Joseph Briscoe, Sandy Bruce, Kylie Caparo, Nin Castelo, Makayla Chupka, Braelynn Clement, Stevie Ethier, Nate Fisk, Keri Goodspeed, Tayna Hall, Jack Ham, Cristin Beverley, Junior Leadership Charlotte Class Chair, and Jami Joannes, Chamber Class Advisor.

2nd Row (L-R) Bob White, Chamber Executive Director, Junior Leadership Charlotte Co-Chair Jessica Rhea, Aidan Hardy, Claire Hegarty, Alex Legried, Leah Matthiessen, Abby Moore, Christine Morris, Diana Oliver, Madison Planer, Maddie Stamm, Logan Stchur, Marissa Szeker, Kat Wedeking and Quentin Young.



Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Fiscal Year of Accomplishments and Looking Forward

The County's fiscal year begins every October 1st.

I'll start by looking back on our FY22/23 efforts that began on October 1, 2022. This was 3 days after September 28, 2022, when Hurricane Ian's landfall and impact to our community forced "response and recovery" onto our top priorities. As far as response, I am so proud of our employees and their selfless dedication to these efforts. They strive every day to meet our mission to Deliver Exceptional Services, especially through these most challenging times. Also thankful for our community businesses and partners that once again proved how resilient we are together.

There are many stories and examples that come to mind. We have made incredible progress on the immediate recovery in this past fiscal year, some of which are highlighted in the attached report. This annual report document highlights the progress of initiatives, projects, and the many accomplishments by our departments. Our focus on long term recovery is now an integral part of our priorities. We take on these challenges as areas of opportunity to build back stronger and strengthen our resiliency.

Moving forward, the top priority of our team is always to advance our Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) vision, goals & initiatives under their four Strategic Focus Areas - Public Services, Economic & Community Development, Infrastructure, and Efficient & Effective Government. The BCC's strategic planning and conservative fiscal approaches have continued to position us well, as our organization is overall fiscally sound. Our recently adopted budget for FY23/24 includes much needed resources & staffing to meet current demands and growth , especially in areas of public safety, Fire/EMS, permitting, zoning.

We have many projects underway that are in various stages. A few to mention that I consider to be "legacy projects" which are vital to our residents, business, and visitors are the Port Charlotte Beach Complex, William R. Gaines Jr. Memorial Park, Cultural Center, Mid-County Regional Library, Charlotte Sports Park, Edgewater Drive and Harborview Road widening, and three fire station locations. These facilities and amenities bring economic impact to the community and improve our quality of life. We value the input from all stakeholders to ensure success in delivering these projects. Stay tuned as we'll provide continual updates on these projects. You can also find information on our Project Status Update webpage at the link below.

[Project Status Updates | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](#)

Chamber Community Connection



Annette Bales
Sunseeker Resort
Charlotte Harbor

At Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor, guests can escape to an endlessly entertaining, totally relaxing waterfront destination. Our premier resort will feature a signature list of 785 coastal-inspired guestrooms including 189 luxurious Sunsuites™. With some of the finest amenities on the gulf coast including a state-of-the-art fitness center, full-service spa and salon, and two breathtaking pool experiences and a culinary journey offering everything from casual eats on the water to elegant fine dining. Our 20 one-of-a-kind food & beverages concepts offer something for everyone, including seven signature restaurants, eleven bars and lounges, and the unforgettable Harbor Yards Food Hall.

Sunseeker Resort is great for individual travel and perfect for group travel of all sizes. Whether you are organizing a family reunion, a couples' getaway, or planning an offsite business event, Sunseeker Resort can accommodate your needs. A multitude of rooms, dedicated banquet kitchen, best-in-class service and amenities combined with 60,000 square feet of event space in a waterfront setting make for a beautiful backdrop that will impress all your guests. Social and corporate events alike can take advantage of everything Sunseeker Resort has to offer.

Meticulously planned and developed, Sunseeker Resort was designed to be a true destination for those seeking a luxury experience in the quiet refuge of the Gulf Coast. The project has been the culmination of years of brainstorming, planning, and designing a property that will undoubtedly elevate Floridian hospitality. With dynamic culinary offerings, well-curated guest activities, and a world-class golf course, Sunseeker Resort is slated to become the next biggest destination resort in all of Florida.



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

The City of Punta Gorda is delighted to promote "Light up the Night: A Magical Christmas Event" in Downtown Punta Gorda, a cherished tradition led by Carlene Zeches and Jackie Mays, set to come alive on December 1. "Light up the Night" is one of Downtown Punta Gorda's most beloved Christmas spectacles. Brace yourselves for a dazzling experience as the committee illuminates the heart of our city with the annual lighting of a magnificent Christmas tree. This enchanting celebration unites our community in a joyous display of holiday spirit, featuring delectable food, captivating Christmas-themed activities, and a warm, inviting ambiance for families.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., step into a world of enchantment on W. Marion Avenue, where many activities and attractions will fill your heart with delight. Witness the sheer excitement on the faces of our little ones as they partake in a variety of fun-filled activities, including face painting, games, and crafts. From bounce houses to a mesmerizing fire truck display, and the presence of beloved masked characters such as Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Elsa from Frozen, Frosty the Snowman, and even Santa's reindeer, there's an adventure waiting for every child to enjoy. While soaking in the festive atmosphere, savor a wide selection of culinary delights from food trucks like The Maine Line, Browns Food Factory, Say Cheese Curd Company, Grace's Taste of Poland, Harbor Walk Scoops & Bites, and The Dawg Pound. The event will also feature live music performances.

Gather around the majestic Christmas tree as anticipation fills the air. At 7:00 p.m., join in a collective countdown. Watch as the tree comes to life in this enchanting moment, illuminating the park with a stunning array of colors. To enhance the magic, gentle snowflakes will fall from above, creating a whimsical winter scene. The event will continue with live music performances and holiday cheer until 9:30 p.m. For complete event details, please visit <https://www.lightupthenightpg.com/>.

Furthermore, the City of Punta Gorda is honored to provide the venue for the 45th Annual Christmas Parade hosted by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce on December 9. The parade will kick off at noon from the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, proceed up Taylor Street, and disband at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Judging will take place in front of Centennial Bank. We eagerly anticipate seeing all the Tropical Christmas entries filling our streets.

Chamber Community Connection



Sean Doherty
Charlotte County Tourism

Tourism Updates:

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) is happy to report that tourism continues to show signs of resilience despite the fact that we are still operating with a significant deficit of available lodging units as compared to the pre-hurricane inventory. For example, our most recent STR report from August 2023, which tracks a variety of metrics in the hotel sector, showed significant increases in Average Daily Rate (+21%), Room Revenue (+36.4%), and Rooms Sold (+12.8%) as compared to August 2022. In addition, we far outpaced our in-state comp set in these metrics with most of them being down compared to last August. Also, while our Tourist Development Tax (TDT) is down 5% for this fiscal year compared to FY 2022, we have already surpassed the 2nd highest TDT collections ever with still two months left as of this writing.

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau recently secured the services of international representation firms in both the United Kingdom and German markets. Sommer Touristik Marketing, our German representation firm, visited

Charlotte County in August to experience the highlights of our destination, meet our staff and learn as much as possible about our attractions, accommodations, restaurants and other activities and amenities. On our behalf, they will be participating in a road show in November visiting several German cities to educate tour operators and German media as to what we have to offer their clientele and audience. Also in November, our German rep has coordinated a press trip for one of their travel media to visit Charlotte County and we'll be partnering with Tampa on a TV production where Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach will be featured in a travel program hosted by famed German chef, Johann Lafer. Meanwhile, our UK representation firm, Cellet Marketing & PR, visited our destination in late September for their discovery tour and has already sent two distinguished members from their travel media to conduct press trips in the County. In addition, VCB staff will join our representation firms at World Travel Market in London this November whereby we'll have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with dozens of UK-based tour operators and travel media.

In preparation of embarking on Fiscal Year 2024, the VCB hosted its annual informational session on our co-op marketing program in late September. Any tourism or hospitality related business interested in learning more about how we can help expand their reach and marketing dollars can contact Maureen Morgenthien at the VCB or visit our co-op webpage at YourAdBuy.com.

Lastly, after several weeks of not having our popular beach cam online, we were able to have it replaced with a 4K camera providing even better resolution of our beautiful beach. Speaking of the beach, don't forget the 8th Annual Englewood Beach Waterfest, which won an award from the Southeast Tourism Society as a Signature Event of the Southeast for 2023, will take place November 16-19. And while I'm on events, you won't want to miss the Florida International Air Show taking place November 4-5 at the Punta Gorda Airport. Tickets for both events are on sale now!

Chamber Community Connection



Kaley Miller
Dir. of Marketing
& Communications
Punta Gorda Airport

New Mascot

Punta Gorda Airport revealed its new mascot, Curtiss the Hawk, this week at the Welcome Home Celebration for Veterans returning on the Honor Flight. PGD staff, volunteers, family and friends came together to honor Veterans and guardians that went on a day trip to visit our nation's memorials on Oct. 10, 2023.

If you missed Curtiss the Hawk this week, you can see him make special appearances at the Florida International Air Show coming up November 4-5. He'll also be in the Veterans Day Parade in Port Charlotte on November 11, and the Chamber's Annual Christmas Parade on December 9. You will also be able to purchase a limited-edition Curtiss collectible plush toys, expected to be on sale before the holidays.

PGD is inviting local businesses to participate in our 2nd annual "Aviation Gives Back" campaign to support the United Way of Charlotte County. Businesses donating at least \$100 (gift cards/services/items for chance auction fundraiser) will be honored in our "PGD's Local Favorites" list. The more you donate, the higher you will be on the list! Donations will be heavily promoted on social media and our [BUZZ e-news](#), so be sure to email KMiller@FlyPGD.com asap for details.



Finally, PGD is pursuing two State legislative appropriations: one for CTC's New Aviation Maintenance Facility and one for Infrastructure for Aviation Jobs. These projects are essential for growing the aviation workforce and readying PGD's sites (utilities, roads, parking) for tenants to fill the pipeline of essential pilots, aircraft mechanics and aviation workers. We sincerely thank our legislators, community partners, and business organizations like the Chamber for their letters of support.



Dave Gammon
Economic
Development Office

Economic Development Office – Brief Out

On July 27th, the owner of The King of Vape retail locations broke ground on their new 130,000 square foot distribution center in the Punta Gorda Airpark. They are so optimistic on the area, they elected to also move forward on a twin 130,000 square foot building on a spec basis. The Economic Development Office is working with them to attract tenants on the spec space.

On August 24th, Balentine Builders, a manufacturer of cabinets and countertops, broke ground on a new 65,000 square foot manufacturing facility also in the Punta Gorda Airpark. Ballentine will be moving from Fort Myers as they outgrew their existing space.

With these two businesses, plus several others, the Punta Gorda Airpark has grown from approximately 1.2 million square feet of industrial space to over 2 million square feet. In addition, plans are in place for approximately 1.5 million more square feet over the next three years. I think it's safe to say, Charlotte County has been discovered.

Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello
Superintendent
Charlotte County
Public Schools

Strategic Plan

At Charlotte County Public Schools, we believe in providing high-quality, relevant education, ensuring every student's success. To assist us in accomplishing this mission, we have embarked on a journey outlined in our strategic plan. A crucial aspect of this endeavor has been the active involvement of focus groups, ensuring that our planning reflects the diverse voices and perspectives within our community.

Our strategic plan serves as our roadmap for the future, guiding us toward educational excellence and innovation. It is a dynamic blueprint that outlines our goals, priorities, and initiatives for the years to come. At the heart of this plan is a commitment to the success of every student, without exception.

Our focus groups have played an instrumental role in shaping this plan. These gatherings have provided a platform for open dialogue, where students, parents, teachers, leadership staff, and community members have shared their thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Their input has been invaluable in refining our strategies and ensuring that our educational initiatives align with the needs and aspirations of our community. Together, we're building a future where every student's potential is realized, and our community thrives as a result.

We invite you to learn more about our strategic plan by visiting our website at [\[yourcharlotteschools.net\]](http://yourcharlotteschools.net).



Peter Rivera
Broker Owner REMAX
Palm Realty
2020 RE/MAX Broker
Owner of the Year
2017 President PG-
PCNP Association of
Realtors

Charlotte County's Real Estate Landscape One Year After Hurricane Ian

A year has passed since Hurricane Ian hit, and its repercussions on Charlotte County's real estate market remain evident. Homes affected by the calamity are still undergoing repairs, which has significantly impacted inventory levels, now sitting at 5.6 months. At the beginning of the year, the county faced a notable 40% dip in units sold. Thankfully, we've seen a steady rebound, as the deficit has shrunk to just under 10% compared to last year's figures. While the subsequent storm, Idalia, had a less significant impact, its presence did momentarily halt buyers in their tracks during and a few weeks post-storm.

A silver lining in the real estate cloud is the rising anticipation over new additions to Charlotte County. The much-awaited Sunseeker resort is gearing up for its grand opening. Its presence has already brought an influx of workers in the market looking to buy, and there's palpable excitement over potential visitors to the resort who might consider settling in Charlotte County. This influx, coupled with the positive local job growth, paints an optimistic future for our local market.

Interestingly, even with the challenges of interest rate hikes and potential insurance cost concerns, housing prices have remained fairly stable. Although there's a slight uptick in inventory and days on the market, it's not alarming. Builders, sensing the market sentiment, have proactively started offering incentives to potential buyers to balance out the effects of rising interest rates. Additionally, as homes continue to recover from Hurricane Ian's damage and new multifamily rentals emerge, we're witnessing a stabilization in rent prices, offering some solace to residents and investors alike.

Chamber Community Connection



Sheriff Bill Prummell
Charlotte County Sheriff's Department

Patrolling in Paradise

Continuing our "Patrolling in Paradise" theme from the last newsletter, there are a few things I would like to discuss with the Chamber members and citizens of Charlotte County. Before I begin, I would like to welcome all the new members of the Chamber to our county. Charlotte County is the best place to live and work, and our secret is out. Historically, the Sheriff's Office works very well with our local businesses as we all strive to have the lowest crime rate in Florida, and we continue to work together to keep our county safe.

Fall is here and we are hoping for cooler weather to end this very hot summer. During this time, our winter month visitors move back to our area, school is back in session, and traffic becomes more hectic. The cooler weather also brings kids riding bikes and playing outside after school through the evening hours. We must continue to be alert and drive safely in our neighborhoods.

We also encourage our community to come celebrate the fall and winter seasons with our two flagship events – Cops and Goblins on Halloween and Shop with a Cop during December. These two events have a profound impact on our youth, and the businesses of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce show their support during these times! If you wish to help with these events by donating to Cops and Goblins, or supporting the Shop with a Cop events, please reach out to Skip Conroy in the Community Affairs Unit. Either way, we hope to see you and your families at Cops and Goblins, this year being held at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall (near the food court – both inside and out) on October 31, 2023, between 5-8pm. It's a great time, and you never know who's going to challenge a Deputy to a donut eating contest or who is going to get a pie in the face!

It's been over a year since Hurricane Ian! As we continue rebuilding our community, we want to remind our business owners to review your security cameras to make sure they are pointed in the right direction and keep a look out for each other. There are still some bad actors who come to and through our Charlotte County community, but when we work together, the word gets out and those bad actors pass us by. If you need some help, don't forget our Community Police Officers can also perform a security check for your business to assist you in identifying potential security risk areas (and it's free!).

Finally, I want to remind everyone that if you see something that you think is suspicious, it probably is! Call CCSO and report it – 941-639-2101.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

Be strong. Be safe. And never quit!

Chamber Community Connection



Pamela Davis
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Holiday Safety Tips from Your Police Department

The holidays are a time for joy and giving, but unfortunately can create ideal circumstances for criminals. Shoppers rushing around stressing to find the perfect gifts, purchased left in vehicles, and people traveling or away from home for holiday events can fill criminals with holiday joy as well. In addition, holiday parties tend to lead to an increase of drinking and driving.

To help ensure that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season the Punta Gorda Police Department will be providing increased holiday patrols throughout the month of December. This will include increased police presence downtown and in our commercial shopping districts, as well as dedicated DUI patrols. Here are some of the things you can do to keep safe and avoid becoming a victim this holiday season:

When You Are Shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings;
- Park in well-lit areas making sure that gifts and valuables are out of sight and your vehicle doors are locked;

- If shopping with children make sure they have been taught to seek out a store clerk, security guard, or police officer should they become separated from you;
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash when shopping. Pay with credit or debit cards when possible.

When You Are Away From Home:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights;
- Have mail and newspaper delivery stopped while you will be away;
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye out for unexpected packages, flyers, etc. Having items sitting outside your home for an extended period of time is a sure indicator to criminals that your home is vacant;
- Be very careful about what you post on social media and who can see it. Criminals have become very savvy using social media. Posting information or photos about your travel plans can inform criminals that your home is unoccupied. If you really want to post about your vacation, wait until you return.

When You Are Out for the Evening:

- Make sure that doors and windows are closed and locked;
- Leave lights and a TV turned on so it appears that someone is still home;
- Keep gifts and valuables where they cannot be seen through windows or make sure that window coverings are closed;
- If you may be drinking alcohol while you are out, designate a sober driver, plan on calling a taxi, or utilize a ride share service. Never drive when you are intoxicated. Remember even buzzed driving is drunk driving.

Other Safety Tips:

- The holidays are the ideal time for package thefts. Have packages delivered where someone will be able to receive them such as your workplace or a neighbor or family member's house. You can also ask the post office to hold your packages until you are able to pick them up yourself;
- After the gifts have been open avoid advertising the valuables inside your home by putting out packages for televisions, computers, or other expensive items. Instead break down boxes and packaging and put them in garbage bags or cans;
- Criminals often prey on people's generosity during the holiday season by soliciting for "charitable donations" either door-to-door, by phone, or online. Only do your holiday giving directly to legitimate charitable organizations that you know and trust.

We hope that everyone has a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

Chamber Community Connection

Home Quest model home event at Babcock Ranch



Lucienne Pears
Babcock Ranch/Kitson

Babcock Ranch celebrates the grand opening of MidTown Saturday, Oct. 28 with outdoor exploration, nature, new homes and an all-expenses-paid travel adventure grand prize, valued at \$10,000. Home Quest: Discover Your New Home, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., showcases the town's exciting next phase of development immersed in expansive green spaces, nature trails and six inaugural neighborhoods featuring the town's newest collection of fully furnished model homes.

A travel-themed experience, Home Quest is free and open to the public, and includes nature presentations, live entertainment, children's activities, and food trucks serving international cuisine and beverages in Explorers Park. Guests will also discover single-family homes, twin villas and one-story townhomes illustrating the latest architecture, unique design and homebuying adventures in Southwest Florida, and neighborhoods coming soon to Babcock Ranch, the nation's fifth fastest-selling community in 2022.

"MidTown is a special place, designed around outdoor recreation and Florida's unique environment with parks and greenways inviting residents to connect with nature and their neighbors," said Syd Kitson, chairman and CEO of developer Kitson & Partners. "It celebrates Babcock Ranch's pioneering and adventurous spirit, its authentic sense of community and emphasizes the simple joy of spending time outside."



Derek P. Rooney
Economic
Development
Partnership

Over the past few years our community has been blessed by the well-managed growth of the Punta Gorda Airport and while many families enjoy the easy travel PGD provides the airport's growth has benefited Charlotte County in other ways. Sunseeker has fulfilled the promises of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency's revitalization plans, increased tourism has resulted in higher sales and tourist tax dollars which fund projects throughout the county, and more flights have led to additional local industry and jobs to support airport operations. To that end, the Charlotte County Airport Authority and the Charlotte County School Board have partnered establish an airframe and aircraft powerplant training program operated by the Charlotte Technical College at PGD.

Expanding on this partnership, the Charlotte County Economic Development Partnership (EDP) is spearheading efforts on behalf of the Charlotte County Public Schools to identify and further develop the aerospace industry in Charlotte County. Piggybacking on existing workforce initiatives by Space Florida, the state agency tasked with promoting Florida's aerospace industry, the EDP is helping to fund a review and expansion of K-12 and Charlotte Technical College's programming relating and certification in line with the needs of the aerospace industry. By aligning educational programs with the needs of the aerospace industry, we're ensuring that there's a skilled workforce ready to support both existing operations at PGD and potential future growth. This not only benefits the airport and the aerospace industry but also contributes to the overall economic prosperity of the Charlotte County.

The EDP is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that partners with community partners to educate, advocate, and promote a healthy environment for Charlotte County. The EDP serves as a think tank and networking resource whose members are drawn from local government and companies representing tens of thousands of employees. Regular meetings with guest speakers and symposia are held throughout the year.

Chamber Community Connections



Adam Riley is the President of the Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association and President of LTD Contracting adam@ltdcontracting.com

We will rebuild

This month will mark one year since Hurricane Ian's eye came over Charlotte County. This year has been filled with a lot of emotions. Thankfulness, frustration, heartache, gratitude, and the most important emotion- patience.

Within hours of the winds from Ian stopped shaking our homes and the rain clouds spat out their last drops, members in our building industry went to work trying to heal bruises. Some used their heavy machines to move trees from the roads. Some went to patch up windows and roofs and some went to help fix mastheads so homes can get power.

Our community has been nonstop trying to help in every way, trying to bring life back to the way it was. There would be some obstacles that some faced through this process. Ian devastated so many homes and businesses. Rebuilding has become a nonstop marathon, trying to take care of every person. Many of our contractors are small companies. Their number one priority after the storm was to take care of their employees, neighbors, and customers. Some had minimal to major damage to their business and homes and still helped others. More and more help wanted ads were posted trying to find employees so they could help more people.

Ian has also delayed new homes being built. The building supply chain has had issues since 2020 and Ian only made it worse. Our community has been in a state of emergency since September 28, 2022 and the focus has been on rebuilding those homes that have been damaged. Over 40,000 permits for hurricane damage has been submitted in Charlotte County.

But with patience, every bruise, every home and business will get back up running. If you are needing a licensed contractor to help with your home, please call the Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association at 941-625-0804 or visit our directory online at www.cdbia.com

Adam Riley is the CDBIA President and President of LTD Contracting and can be reached at adam@ltdcontracting.com.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS



The Landings Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 11, 2023



Go4Golf Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 13, 2023



Bricks & Minifigs Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 22, 2023



Habitat for Humanity Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
July 25, 2023

Gasparilla Boat Tours
779 West Wentworth St.
Englewood, FL 34223
Phone: 833-786-8687
Sue Nerud
info@gasparillaboattours.com
<https://gasparillaboattours.com/>

Senior Home Companions
2447 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239
Phone: 941-924-0494
Penny Pauliks
ppauliks@seniorhomecompanions.com
<http://seniorhomecompanions.com>

Waves of Light
2200 Kings Hwy., Unit 3 J / K
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-456-7643
Jennifer Rader, Jacqueline Williams
jenrader6555@gmail.com

Dr. Deborah Lux – Candidate for Punta
Gorda City Council
130 E. Marion Ave., 512484
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
Phone: 941-894-8800
Dr. Deborah Lux
DLuxCouncil@gmail.com

Ristow Roofing, LLC
4472 Rifkin Ave.
North Port, FL 34286
Phone: 239-295-9898
Melanie Hurd
bob@ristowbuilds.com
<http://www.ristowbuilds.com>
Harbor View Mobile Home Park
24325 Harborview Rd.
Office 1A
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-623-4242
Amy Mendez
harborview@newbymanagement.com
<https://www.harborviewmhc.com/>

Advanced Canine Development
2523 Broadpoint Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 941-941-451-5418
Mark Foreman
advancedcaninedevelopment@gmail.com
<https://www.advancedcaninedevelopment.com>

Precise Financial Solutions
22119 Elmira Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-203-6538
Sarah Rosas
info@precisefinancial.com

Union Home Mortgage
318 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 630-625-24345
Betty Kedziora
bkedziora@uhm.com
<http://www.bettykedziora.com>

BubbleUp Exterior Cleaning, LLC
Call or Email for information
North Port, FL 34291
Phone: 941-587-0654
Mac McNally & Lisa West
mac02703@gmail.com
<http://BubbleUpCleans.pro>

New Season Treatment Center Port Charlotte
2500 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 250
Maitland, FL 32751
Phone: 941-667-5660
Victoria Diaz
NewSeason@cmgjp.com
<https://www.newseason.com/>

Sunways Senior Living Concierge
5969 Cattleridge Blvd., suite 100
Sarasota, FL 34232
Phone: 215-499-3573
Sadie Krywicki
info@sunwaysseiorliving.com
<http://www.sunwaysseiorliving.com>

Tuck Construction, LLC
8512 Alan Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Phone: 941-628-5497
Megan Tuck
megan@tuckconstruct.com

SAFE Insurance Team
311 Taylor St., Rear Unit
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-380-7279
Airieana Hernandez Brown
a@safeinsuranceteam.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS

Metro Fence Sales Supply, Inc.
2554 Dora St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 239-955-1962
Raul Perez
genesisforall@gmail.com
<http://www.bestbuyfence.com>

Springs at West Port
1080 West Port Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Phone: 941-300-5450
Nicole Smith
westportleasing@cproperties.com
<http://www.springsatwestport.com>

Sun Classics, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 941-883-6760
Kara Olson
Sunclassicsllc@gmail.com
<http://WWW.SUNCLASSICSCONSTRUCTION.COM>

Sea Grape Artists Gallery
113 West Marion Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-575-1718
Bonnie Benande
seagrapegallery1988@gmail.com

Fairy Godmother Parties and Events
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 503-757-2976
Sonja Conboy
fairygodmotherpartiesandevents@gmail.com
<http://fgmparties.com>

Lymphology
1620 Tamiami Trail, Suite 216
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-888-4544
Amber Egerson
lymphology1@gmail.com

FloStop Restoration
6035 Taylor Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 239-284-4060
Sunnie Simpson
info@flostopro.com
<https://www.flostopro.com/>

Springs of Port Charlotte
24151 Beatrix Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 941-202-6322
Grant Hackeloer
portcharlotteleasing@cproperties.com
<http://www.springsatportcharlotte.com>

Gladrich Florist Shoppe
4678 Tamiami Tr., Unit 103
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-625-2436
Kerrie Tulett
GladrichFloristShoppe@mail.com
<http://www.gladrichflowers.com>

Aqua Sol Infusions, LLC
1620 Tamiami Trail, Suite 204
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-740-6100
Elena Hale
aquasolportcharlotte@gmail.com

Benitez and Benitez, Inc.
2554 Evens Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 786-626-3188
Raul Perez
egenesisforall@gmail.com

Burst of Colors Painting, LLC
941 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Phone: 941-223-6946
Kent Clark
burstofcolorspainting@yahoo.com

CV Screening
18245 Paulson Dr., Suite 130
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 941-539-6868
Mirta Espinoza
cvscreeningllc@gmail.com
<http://www.cvscreeningllc.com>

Merrill Lynch – Travis Mann, Financial Solutions
Advisor
Call or email for information
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Phone: 254-317-5369
Travis Mann
travismann64@gmail.com

Carlisa Family Medical & Aesthetics, LLC
525 E. Olympia Ave., # 8
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-347-8321
Lisa Motteler
LMottelerAPRN@carlisaesthetics.com



Suncoast Blood Centers - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce - July 20, 2023



NOVA Construction and Roofing
Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 1, 2023



Tropical Tile & Stone Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 16, 2023



New Season Treatment Center - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 22, 2023

RIBBON CUTTINGS

NEW MEMBERS



Tile & Carpet World Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 8, 2023

Ramon Homes and Remodeling
303 S. Tamiami Trail, Unit H
Nakomis, FL 34275
Phone: 941-877-2009
Eduardo Ramon
Ramonhomesr@gmail.com
<http://Ramonhomesandroofing.com>

Suncoast Skin Solutions
3443 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-799-3376
Kat Clayton
katharine.clayton@suncoastskin.com
<http://suncoastskin.com>

Florida Building Pro's
1316 SE 46th Ln., Suite B
Cape Coral, FL 33904
Phone: 239-763-0152
Andrew Carter
andrew@floridasfavoriteroofer.com

The Roofing Group
3056 Pam Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 239-530-8313
Paul Harris & Frank Rogan
harrisfp@floridarofs.com
www.floridarofs.com

Enagic
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Phone: 630-453-1719
Jinky Burns, Marc Burns
jybasteburns@yahoo.com
<http://jybasteburns.com>

TJ Cochran Law, PLLC
18245 Paulson Dr., Suite VP-48
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 941-599-4517
TJ Cochran
TJ@TJCochranLaw.com
<https://tjcochranlaw.com>

Charlotte Harbor Center School
22450 Hancock Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-255-7440
Hugh Quigley
hugh.quigley@yourcharlotteschools.net
<http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/chc>

Rothco Signs & Design, Inc.
4526 Gorgas St.
North Port, FL 34287
Phone: 941-706-6160
David Roth
Dave@rothcosigns.com
<http://www.Rothcosigns.com>

Cryotherapy of Charlotte County
2495 Caring Way, Unit A
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-979-7057
Nathan Billmaier
Cryotherapyportcharlotte@gmail.com
<http://Charlottetherapies.com>

The Environmental Conservancy of North Port
3465 Alfred Rd.
North Port, FL 34286
Phone: 941-218-9775
Barbara Lockhart
BML3220@gmail.com
<http://www.ecnorthport.com>

Starr Custom Tinting
3718 Tamiami Trail, Suite D
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-249-8108
Megan Starr
Info@starrtinting.com
<http://www.Starrtinting.com>

Revive Jiu Jitsu
24630 Sandhill Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 302-270-9185
Lance Morris
lance_morris27@yahoo.com
<http://www.revive-jiujitsu.com>

Cruise Planners – Julie Lang
Call or email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Phone: 941-280-5115
Julie Lang
julie.lang@cruiseplanners.com
<http://www.yournextlatitudetravel.com>

Tasty Caribbean F&B
21524 Voltair Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 941-875-6061
Rosita Senat
rositasenat@yahoo.com



Aqua Sol Infusions - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 31, 2023



Lymphology Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
August 31, 2023

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Deep End IV Hydration LLC Ribbon Cutting
September 20, 2023
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce



Right at Home Englewood - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
September 26, 2023



Peace River Wildlife Center - Ground Breaking
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce - July 11, 2023

New Teacher Breakfast



NEW MEMBERS

Zoe's Sweet Kitchen, LLC
1101 El Jobean Rd., Unit A
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-743-9637
Zoe Shasteen
zoessweetkitchen@gmail.com
<https://www.zoessweetkitchen.com/>

Heidi Choiniere, Realtor Coldwell Banker
Sunstar Realty
14972 Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34286
Phone: 941-876-3990
Heidi Choiniere
heidilovesflrealestate@gmail.com
<http://www.heidilovesflrealestate.com>

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Suncoast
Regional Office
8126 Lakewood Main St., Suite 202
Sarasota, FL 34202
Phone: 941-378-9474
Carrie Shaw
cshaw@sfla.wish.org
<http://www.wish.org/sfla>

Prevail Paintings
4350 Point Ct.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-699-6116
Tony Pickett
prevailpaintings@gmail.com
<http://www.prevailpaintings.com>

Dandelion Behavioral Health
1777 Tamiami Trail, Suite 500
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-780-4268
Tamara Tridle
ttridle@dandelionbehavioral.com
<http://www.dandelionbehavioral.com>

Nautical Tiki Cruises
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 866-775-8454
Marie Hamilton
info@nauticaltiki.com
<http://www.nauticaltiki.com>

Lily Lou's Specialty Foods
24150 Tiseo Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 941-249-9149
Debbie Maher
dmaher247@yahoo.com

Nutegra Mental Health and Nutrition, Inc.
252 W. Marion Ave., First Floor
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 914-740-0193
Chrisanna Wright
Support@nutegra.com
<http://www.nutritionpsychotherapy.com>

East Wind SEO
23195 McNames Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL 33980
Phone: 941-740-8238
Paul Cox
paul@eastwindseo.com
<http://www.eastwindseo.com>

I & S Health Insurance, Business Consulting &
More LLC.
1972 Kings Hwy.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Phone: 386-215-9708
Sullymar Alicea
sully@healthinsurancebusinessconsulting.com.mx

Steri-Clean of SW Florida
Email or Call for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Phone: 586-405-3298
Tony Reese
treesee05@outlook.com
<https://www.steri-clean.com/>

Greenscape Innovations, Inc.
11402 SW County Road
Arcadia, FL 34269
Phone: 941-628-0012
Ashley Utter
serviceteam@greenscapeinnovations.com
<https://greenscapeinnovations.com>

Janorm Beauty and Services
24075 Peachland Blvd., Suite 220
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 561-843-0464
Elta Nesmith
janormbeauty@gmail.com
<http://www.janormbeauty.com>

Cops & GOBLINS 2023

October 31st
5 pm - 8 pm

Port Charlotte Town
Center Mall
1441 Tamiami Tr.

SEE YOU THERE!





Charlotte County and the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Fund

BEIRUT PEACEKEEPERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY BOMBING REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM
William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park
20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte, FL



William R Gaines Jr.
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21

5:30 PM - VIP GATES

FUND RAISING CONCERT

ONLY \$10 Suggested Donation - VIP Tix: \$55-\$70



SUPPORT THE
BEIRUT
PEACEKEEPERS
TOWER



2208 EL JOBEAN RD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

Once an Outlaw

TICKETS &
HOTEL DISCOUNTS:



FEATURING: Chris Anderson of The Outlaws



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BAND



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November 4-5, 2023

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833-743-3427**

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SOCOM Para-Commandos

Patty Wagstaff

Scott Farnsworth

Racers Jet Team

Matt Jolley

Air Show Announcer

Kids Zone

Extreme Flight

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MAJOR SPONSORS:





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A COMPLETELY COMMUNITY-FUNDED EVENT

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS INCREDIBLE PROGRAM, EMAIL COMMUNITYAFFAIRS@CCSOFL.NET

Charlotte County Chamber 45th Annual Christmas Parade

Tropical Christmas

Saturday, December 9, 2023
12 noon



Please Print or Type

Name of Organization _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check the category in which you would like to be judged:

Float (Semi/Flatbed/Trailer)

Estimated length of entry

tow vehicle _____ ft. / trailer _____ ft.

Total feet _____ and _____ walkers

Marching/Performing

Number of Members in Unit

Decorated Car or Pick-Up

Estimated length of entry

_____ ft. and _____ walkers

Please provide a brief biography of your group / entry to be read during the parade by the Master of Ceremonies. (50 words or fewer)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS NOVEMBER 10, 2023

for profit \$50 non-profit \$35 (Add \$5.00 for each horse) Total \$ _____

Charge my card # _____ Exp _____ CVV _____

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Billing Address _____

Fax to 941-627-9730 or scan and email to JCaffee@charlottecountychamber.org

Or mail a check to: Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, 2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952
or register online at charlottecountychamber.org

Don't Forget, the only Santa permitted in the parade will be the official Santa Claus designated by the Chamber.

Charlotte County Chamber 45th Annual Christmas Parade

Tropical Christmas

Saturday, December 9, 2023
12 noon



Tropical Christmas is our theme this year.

Awards: First, Second and Third Place winners in each category:

- Best Float (flatbed or trailer)
- Best Decorated Car or Pick Up Truck
- Best Marching / Performing Unit

Awards will be announced and presented at the Third Wednesday Coffee on December 20, 2023.

Deadline and Fees: Please respond immediately to reserve your space. Complete the registration form and **send by November 10th** with your payment to:

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Janet Caffee
2702 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

For Profit organization: \$50.00

Nonprofit organization: \$35.00

Official School Band: no charge

Add \$5.00 for each horse

Staging Area: Charlotte Performing Arts Center
701 Carmalita Street, Punta Gorda

The staging area will be laid out in numerical order. Each position in the parade is marked. Prior to the parade you will receive your staging number. **Please be sure to inform all members of your group the assigned number in advance of the parade.** There will be volunteers who will have the parade staging order on a print out, should anyone need directions on December 9th.

Shuttle Service: For ease of traffic flow, a one-way shuttle service will be provided for parade participants from the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center disbanding area to the staging area at Charlotte Performing Arts Center. We encourage all participants to use this service, starting at 9:30 a.m. **BE ON TIME - THE SHUTTLE STOPS AT 11:30 a.m.**

Parade Day Schedule: To ensure your unit will participate in the parade, participants should plan to arrive at the staging area according to the following schedule:

Floats (flatbeds, semis or trailers): Arrive no later than 9:00 a.m.

Cars, Pick Up Trucks: Arrive no later than 10:30 a.m.

Band Members: Arrive no later than 11:00 a.m.

Dignitaries: Arrive no later than 11:00 a.m.

Marching/Performing Units and Horses: Arrive no later than 11:15 a.m.

Parade Route: The parade route will leave Charlotte Performing Arts Center on Carmalita Street, then head north on Taylor Road, and proceed to the Event Center parking lot for disbanding. The judging area is in front of Centennial Bank.

Disbanding Area: The Event Center parking lot will be the disbanding area. Arrangements for PICK UP should be made well in advance and are the responsibility of each entry's group leaders.

Rain Date / Cancellations: Due to the number of public safety personnel, volunteers, parents and children, road closures and more involved in the parade, it is not possible to have a rain date. Cancellations after November 20th will not be refunded.

Please Note: No candy, coins or souvenirs are to be thrown by or distributed from the parade participants to the crowd due to insurance regulations.

Insurance: Please provide us with proof of liability insurance and have your insurance company name the Chamber as an additional insured on your policy for this event.

For more information, call the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce at 941-627-2222.

Don't Forget, the only Santa permitted in the parade will be the official Santa Claus designated by the Chamber.



Thursday, February 8, 2024
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

DON'T MISS OUT!

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

PLATINUM TITLE

Platinum Sponsor Benefits Include:

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

Three Available **\$2,700**

SILVER ASSOCIATE

Silver Sponsor Benefits Include:

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

Five Available **\$1,100**

GOLD PRESENTING

Gold Sponsor Benefits Include:

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

Five Available **\$1,700**

BRONZE PARTICIPATING

Bronze Sponsor Benefits Include:

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

Ten Available **\$700**



Thursday, February 8, 2024
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center
75 Taylor Street • Punta Gorda, FL



PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Phone Alt. _____

Email _____

Website _____

* All participants must be or become Charlotte County Chamber Members

AGREEMENT SUMMARY

- Sponsorship Including Booth(s) \$ _____
(See Reversed Side)
- Single Booth Exhibitor \$ _____
\$395
- Single Non-Member Booth \$ _____
\$745 (Includes New One-Year Chamber Membership)
- Additional Booths @ 25% discount
\$ _____
- Total Investment \$ _____

Electricity Requested

NOTE: Booth Placements for exhibitors are assigned on a first come, first served basis. They however, are not assigned until Sponsor Booth placements have been finalized. All sponsors and exhibitors must be paid in full to receive a booth assignment.

INVOICING INFORMATION

- Visa MC DISC AMEX

Full Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Billing Address _____

Billing Zip Code _____ Expiration Date _____

Three Digit Security Code _____

- Check Attached Invoice in Full

#ConnectingBusinessTogether
Nicholas Worden, Charlotte State Bank & Trust, part of the Crews Bank Corporation,
President Elect, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

I understand detailed EXPO Exhibitor information will be coming soon for the 13th Annual Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO.

Signed _____ Print _____ Date _____

For more information Contact: Janet Caffee • jcaffee@charlottecountychamber.org
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