



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

2ND QTR 2025

The Power of Connection; Strategic Networking for Career Growth

Strategic networking is an essential skill in today's business landscape. Advancing relationships can lead to professional growth, collaboration, and opportunities. To maximize the effectiveness of networking, adopting specific strategies can be pivotal. Begin by defining what you want to achieve through networking. Are you seeking mentorship, job opportunities, industry insights, or partnerships? Clear objectives guide your approach and help you identify the right individuals to connect with.

Social media platforms are powerful tools for networking. Share valuable content, engage in discussions, and participate in relevant groups to increase your visibility. Regularly interacting with your network helps you fosters relationships. Attending events, conferences, seminars, and workshops offer excellent networking opportunities. Prepare in advance by researching attendees and speakers, then consider reaching out beforehand to establish connections. At the event, engage in conversations, ask thoughtful questions, and be open to sharing your insights.

After meeting someone, send a personalized follow-up message expressing your appreciation for the conversation. Mention something specific you discussed to reinforce the connection. This practice not only solidifies your relationship but also demonstrates your genuine interest. Networking is a two-way street. Look for ways to provide value to your contacts, whether through sharing information, offering assistance, or making introductions. When you help others, they are more likely to reciprocate, strengthening your network.

While it's beneficial to connect with individuals in your industry, don't overlook the value of building a diverse network. Engaging with professionals from different fields can offer fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and unique opportunities. Networking is not a one-off activity; it requires ongoing effort. Set aside time regularly to nurture your relationships, whether through casual check-ins, sharing relevant articles, or scheduling catch-up meetings.



Strategic networking involves intentional efforts to build and maintain professional relationships. By setting clear objectives, leveraging social media, attending events, and offering value, you can create a robust network that supports your career aspirations and fosters collaborative opportunities.

Bob White
Executive Director

Bob

Coming Up

Networking at Noon

Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Mayon Asian America
4300 Kings Hwy, Suite 412
Port Charlotte
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost \$20pp

Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Ctr.
75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
Sponsor: **EffectV**
Program: New Member Showcase

Business Card Exchange

Thursday, April 24, 2025
Chicken Salad Chick
1799 Tamiami Trail #103 & 104
Port Charlotte
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Stages of Success

Friday, May 2, 2025 9:00-10:00a.m.
Service learning for non/not-for Profit
Organizations
REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port
Charlotte North Port DeSoto Inc.
3320 Loveland Blvd. Port Charlotte

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

Contact us by email:

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

Visit us on the web:
charlottecountychamber.org

Recovery resources are
listed on our website.

Maybe the FUN things?

YOUR 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

President Elect:

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

Immediate Past President:

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

VP Leadership Division:

Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University

VP Membership Services Division:

Cristin Beverley, REALTORS® of Punta Gorda Port

Charlotte North Port DeSoto Inc.

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Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs

Secretary:

Rosa Benghttt, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

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Peri Bluemer, Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson

Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Shawn Gilstad, The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Craig Holt, Four Points by Sheraton

Dori Holtvoigt, Big Shot Marketing & Design

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance

Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun

Natalie Proctor, Lake Michigan Credit Union

Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Dev. Office

2024-2025 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM+

Charlotte County Ford

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center

Elite Hurricane Home Protection

HyperFiber

PLATINUM

AdventHealth Port Charlotte

Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, PA

Buffalo Graffix*

Farr Law Firm

GJC Window & Door

Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.

Life Care Center of Punta Gorda

McCrory Law Firm

Pool Boy, Inc.

Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

The Daily Sun

Waste Management Charlotte County

DIAMOND

AADisaster Restoration27/7, Inc.

Birch's Air Conditioning & Heating

Chapman Insurance Group

Crews Bank & Trust

Elite Inspections & Pest Control

Fedora's Cigar & Wine Bar

Florida Gulf Coast University

The Firm Advertisig Agency

The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty

The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad

Tommy's Express Car Wash

WhitCo Insurance - Alexia Martin Agency

EMERALD

Achieve Credit Union

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC

Charlotte Players, Inc.

Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside

Friendly Floors

J & J One Stop Gun Shop, Inc.

Port Charlotte Florist

Premier Photographic Events, LLC

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

South Port Square

St. Andrews South Golf Club.

State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency

Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor

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

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



President's Note

Kevin Graham

Spring Into Enhancing Your Business

Spring is in full swing here in Charlotte County, and so is the momentum of our business community. As we move into the second quarter of 2025, I'm excited to report that We Mean Business isn't just our theme this year—it's our promise.

Our Chamber continues to serve as a vital connection point for businesses, government leaders, and community members. Together, we are fostering an environment where enterprise and opportunity thrive side by side. This edition of the Business Perspective offers valuable insight into the economic drivers shaping our region—from infrastructure investment and workforce development to tourism, real estate, and innovation.

It's clear that Charlotte County is on the move. Our local businesses are not just open—they're expanding, hiring, building, and serving. We're seeing strong collaboration between public and private sectors, and the entrepreneurial spirit here is as vibrant as ever. The Chamber is proud to be at the center of it all—advocating, promoting, and connecting.

Looking ahead, we're focusing on initiatives that support long-term growth, including expanding networking opportunities, developing talent pipelines, and ensuring our members have the resources they need to compete in a changing economy. Whether you're a small business owner, a corporate leader, or just passionate about our community's future, know this: We Mean Business—and we mean it together.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement. Let's keep the momentum going.

#WeMeanBusiness

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

Charlotte County Chamber Corner

F.U.N. Force presents: "May the Majority Be With You!" on May 29th.

This is a brand new kind of F.U.N. Force event - full of surprises, silliness, and standout moments you won't want to miss! We'll kick things off at 5:00 p.m. with light bites, soft drinks, and some good old-fashioned mingling. At 5:45 p.m., we'll dive into a game that's making waves: Majority Rules! What's Majority Rules? Teams of 4 to 6 players will answer a series of fun, personalized questions. No right or wrong answers here—your team just needs to match the majority to score points.

Think: "Which cookie goes best with milk?" or "Who had the oddest high school job?" The twist? The questions are based on a pre-event questionnaire, so the answers reflect the personalities of the people in the room! It's low-pressure, high-laughter, and full of unexpected moments.

Cost: \$10 per person. Everyone is invited to F.U.N. Force Events! Seating is limited—must register and pay in advance! Winning team scores trophy and EXTREME BRAGGIN RIGHTS and the satisfaction of knowing you think just like everyone else (or at least your teammates do). Sign up in the [Member Portal](#) or from the [Calendar Event Page](#).

What's F.U.N. Force? We're the Chamber's Fostering Unique Networking committee - bringing you playful, purposeful events that help members connect, laugh, and build meaningful relationships.



Mary Prows
Director of Business
Development

Welcome Mary Prows to the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce!

We're excited to introduce Mary Prows as our new Director of Business Development! Mary brings a wealth of experience in outside sales and marketing, she is eager to connect with our members and the community. You'll see her actively engaging at our events and building relationships throughout the area - be sure to introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome!

If you'd like to reach out to Mary, you can contact her at (941) 627-2222 or via email mprows@charlottecountychamber.org. We're thrilled to have her on board!



Jami Joannes
Director of Programs and
Events

Opportunity Knocks!

Would you like to be the Lunch Sponsor at our 14th Annual Charlotte County Chamber Classic Golf Tournament? The sponsorship is \$5,000 and it comes with some perks!

- one foursome for golf the day of
- Two foursomes for a later date.
- A Two bedroom Suite at Sunseeker Resort
- Your logo on the event banner
- A hole sign
- Marketing Recognition .

Call me 941-627-2222 or email JJoannes@CharlotteCountyChamber.org

Save time - set up AutoPay for your membership.

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

Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Community Resiliency

Having been impacted by multiple hurricanes over the past three years, Charlotte County has made it a priority to ramp up efforts to be more resilient. The means not just hardening structures, but providing training, resources and mental health services to our employees. It also extends to our natural resources, such as our beaches and waterways, which were severely affected by the recent storms. Last, but not least, we want the members of our community to be resilient, so we'll be emphasizing protective measures and personal safety in our preparedness messaging in the run-up to the next hurricane season, which begins June 1. Being more resilient will help us to recover from future storms by limiting impacts and having the resources and training to build back.

Recently, dozens of senior staff and administration officials met to kick off a new recovery and resiliency initiative that will include every department in the county. Each department will appoint a liaison to the recovery and resiliency group that will meet regularly to identify areas of responsibilities, available resources, and training opportunities. The liaisons will report back to their chain of command and document progress on new initiatives.

Our Emergency Management Director Patrick Fuller outlined his vision for developing a structure and procedures that best position the county to recover from future storms and take steps to lessen our vulnerability. He identified five goals for the initiative:

1. Foster a culture of preparedness that embraces resiliency in every we do.
2. Enhance the overall resiliency of our organization and community through a coordinated recovery process.
3. Create standards and processes that streamline our recovery and meet the requirements of external agencies.
4. Use the collective knowledge and resources of the organization to overcome obstacles.
5. Create solutions and leverage best practices that eliminate or reduce the impacts of future disasters through mitigation efforts.

We have a good head start due to our recent experiences and we have filed applications for tens of millions of dollars in grants to fund generators, safe rooms, an expansion to the Emergency Operations Center and more.

We can only hope these investments and this new initiative will not be needed, but our geographical location and the growing frequency tropical weather make it imperative to prepare.

Reminder to make sure you're prepared from a business and personal perspective. Let's all become more resilient!

Chamber Community Connections



Pamela Smith
Chief of Police
Punta Gorda

Crosswalk Safety and Florida Law: Punta Gorda Police Department

Like many other states, Florida's rules governing crosswalks are designed to ensure pedestrian safety while allowing for smooth traffic flow. One key point drivers often misunderstand is when they must stop at a crosswalk. According to Florida law, drivers are not always obligated to stop at a crosswalk unless a pedestrian is in the roadway.

Florida Statutes: The Law on Crosswalks - Florida's traffic laws are clearly outlined in Florida Statutes Section 316.130, which governs pedestrian rights and responsibilities on roadways. The relevant portion of this statute for drivers is Section 316.130(7), which specifies the conditions under which a vehicle must yield or stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk.

Here's the crux of the law:

- Drivers are only required to stop when a pedestrian is actively crossing the road within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- Pedestrians have the right of way only when they are in the crosswalk, not when waiting on the sidewalk to cross.

This means drivers are not required to stop if a pedestrian is standing at the sidewalk's edge waiting to cross but hasn't stepped into the crosswalk. It's only when the pedestrian actually enters the roadway—into the crosswalk—that the driver must yield or stop.

Why the Distinction Matters - This rule exists to balance pedestrian safety with the efficient flow of traffic. If drivers were required to stop for every pedestrian standing near a crosswalk, it could create significant disruptions to traffic, especially in busy areas. The law ensures that drivers remain aware of pedestrians but also allows them to proceed when no immediate threat exists.

For example, imagine a pedestrian standing at a crosswalk waiting for traffic to clear. A driver approaching the crosswalk is not obligated to stop unless the pedestrian steps off the curb and into the roadway. Once the pedestrian enters the crosswalk, the driver must yield to them and allow them to cross safely.

Additional Pedestrian and Driver Responsibilities - Florida Statutes also make clear that pedestrians have their own responsibilities when it comes to crosswalks:

- Pedestrians should not suddenly enter a crosswalk, forcing a driver to stop. Instead, they should wait for a safe gap in traffic before crossing.
- Pedestrians are also prohibited from crossing at locations other than marked crosswalks, except at intersections where the pedestrian has the right of way.

Drivers should always remain aware of pedestrians near crosswalks, even if they haven't yet stepped into the roadway. Failing to yield to a pedestrian actively crossing a crosswalk can result in fines, penalties, or even more serious consequences in an accident.

Conclusion - Florida law does not require drivers to stop at a crosswalk unless a pedestrian has entered the roadway. Drivers should remain vigilant around crosswalks but only need to yield or stop when a pedestrian is actively crossing the road. Pedestrians, for their part, should wait for a safe opportunity to cross and only enter the crosswalk when traffic has cleared or it is safe to do so. Understanding this balance of responsibilities can help keep pedestrians and drivers safe on Florida's roadways.

For more information on pedestrian and driver laws, drivers and pedestrians alike can consult Florida Statutes Section 316.130.

Chamber Community Connection



Mark Vianello
Superintendent
Charlotte County
Public Schools

Did you know that construction is now underway on the new Aviation Hangar at the Airport, with the Charlotte High School hangar set to follow shortly? These cutting-edge facilities will serve as vital training grounds for students pursuing careers in aviation, aerospace, and related industries. Equipped with industry-standard tools, technology, and resources, these hangars will provide hands-on learning experiences that align with workforce demands and prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers.

The Airport Aviation Hangar will serve as a hub for real-world training, allowing students to engage in aircraft maintenance, repair, and operational studies in a professional setting. This facility will foster connections with industry experts, providing opportunities for mentorships, internships, and direct career pathways. Meanwhile, the Charlotte High School Hangar will offer an advanced learning environment where students can build foundational aviation knowledge, develop technical skills, and gain certifications that will propel them into higher education or immediate employment in the field.

Through our partnership with Space Florida, Charlotte County Public Schools has also established several Space Florida Academies—the first of their kind in the State of Florida. This collaboration between the school district, Space Florida, and the local business community is a transformative initiative, equipping students with industry-recognized skills and certifications that prepare them for high-demand careers in aviation, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and other related fields. These academies not only enhance educational opportunities but also contribute to the development of a highly skilled workforce that supports economic growth in our region.

This coming July, we will celebrate our first class of Space Florida Academy graduates, who will enter the workforce with the training and credentials necessary to succeed in their respective careers. The collaboration between education and industry is essential to shaping the future of workforce development in Charlotte County, and we appreciate the continued support of our local business community.

We look forward to keeping you updated as we continue building a strong foundation for aviation and aerospace education in our community.

Chamber Community Connection



Melissa Reichert
City of Punta Gorda

Every year, alongside the budget formulation process, the City of Punta develops a strategic plan that directs municipal resources toward our goal of preserving the charm of our small town while promoting diversity, economic growth, and sustainability. This plan, shaped by input from residents, has historically outlined five key strategic priorities identified by the City Council: financial and economic sustainability, infrastructure maintenance, building partnerships, effective communication, and improving the quality of life.

A cornerstone of our community's long-term success is ensuring financial and economic sustainability. This includes efficiently delivering vital public services to support residents' economic well-being, which is possible only when revenue and expenditures are well-balanced. The city adheres to sustainable spending policies and embraces the latest technologies to improve operational efficiency. Examples of this include digital plan reviews, public records request software, paperless automated invoice processing, and technological upgrades to ordinance codification, all designed to enhance the user experience with city services.

Infrastructure sustainability involves the upkeep and enhancement of the city's physical assets and public facilities. The city manages an extensive array of infrastructure, including public buildings, streets, streetlights, bridges, seawalls, water and sewer systems, parks, pathways, equipment, and technological infrastructure. Ensuring the maintenance and improvement of these assets is crucial, with projects ranging from quality-of-life enhancements to vital public health and safety initiatives.

Partnerships and collaborations are a key element of the city's strategy, representing how services are delivered to our community. While the city government doesn't need to provide all services directly, it plays a key role in facilitating action. As a result, the city works with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to offer a wide range of services, including recreational, cultural, educational, administrative, and operational programs. These partnerships cover initiatives such as housing projects, beautification efforts, collaborations with state agencies, and the Citizen's Academy.

Effective communication and strategic marketing are essential in understanding, anticipating, and meeting the needs of our stakeholders, helping to achieve the city's goals. This includes working with various nonprofits, civic and homeowners' associations, and promotional partners. Notable projects include city marketing efforts, tools for resident engagement, the creation of informative materials like maps and brochures, and the dissemination of important public safety information.

This year we are working to streamline and hone in on the most important strategic priorities as the FY2026 is developed. Please send any comments you would like to share regarding the budget and strategic plan to mreichert@cityofpuntagordafl.com.

Chamber Community Connection



Bill Prummell
Charlotte County Sheriff

Greetings, Charlotte County! What a busy few months we have had to kick off 2025. As you know, I have been serving our incredible community at the local level and at the state level in multiple capacities. It is my honor to represent you as the Florida Sheriffs Association President and now as the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Chairman, as well as through my appointments to the Mental Health and Substance Use Committee and the newly-formed Immigration Enforcement Council. Who needs sleep, right?

Your Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is excited to have multiple events scheduled where we can be together with you again. On April 4 and 5 at Founder's Square in Babcock Ranch, we will be hosting the 3rd Annual First Responders Dive Team Challenge, with proceeds benefiting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. April 5 will also be Babcock's Public Safety Appreciation Day, a fun-filled event for all ages. These are free to attend, and we hope you will come and cheer your CCSO Dive Team to victory. On April 12, we will host the FantaSea Fishing Tournament at TiTi's Tiki Hut in Punta Gorda, with proceeds again going to the Youth Ranches. This event typically sells out. I want to express my sincere thanks to all who support these events, both by attending and by sponsoring.

In May, we invite you to join us for the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony. This will be held at William R. Gaines, Jr. Veterans Memorial Park on May 20 from 6-7pm. Here, we will honor the sacrifices of all law enforcement who gave their lives in the line of duty – and this year, that will include Sgt. Elio Diaz, who was shot and killed during a traffic stop on December 15. We will never forget Elio; nor will we forget Chris Taylor, Mike Wilson, or Curtis Moore – all who made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

I hope to see you at these events, as you are a part of our CCSO extended family.

Be strong. Be Safe. And never quit!

RIBBON CUTTINGS



David Sussman Photography - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
January 7, 2025



Simpay Merchant Services/Juergen Hinz
Email or Call for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
260-431-7884
Juergen Hinz
jhinz@simpay.net
<http://www.simpay.net>

Restoring Oaks, Inc,
3280 36 Tamiami Trail #255
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-421-0474
William Hickner
info@restoringoaks.org
<https://www.restoringoaks.org/>

Dynamic Stream Solutions
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941-313-7993
Chris Morales
cmomofree85@gmail.com

Revive IV & Wellness
24075 Peachland Blvd., Suite 212
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
941-376-7717
Nicole & Brandon Howard
ReviveIVandWellnessLLC@gmail.com
<http://msha.ke/reviveivandwellness>

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Caring Way Dentistry - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
January 28, 2025



Punta Gorda Car Consulting - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
February 4, 2025



Merry Maids of Charlotte & DeSoto Counties - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
February 6, 2025



Peace River Wildlife Center - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
February 7, 2025



M Squared Pest Control
26147 Glaspell Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
941-621-3365
Karen Mensing
karen@msquaredpest.com
<http://www.msquaredinspections.com>

Sunny Day Gift
Call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
513-218-3165
Diane Ashworth
Sunnydaygiftdesigns@gmail.com

Falcon Life and Health Insurance
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-412-2362
Rick Caso
rick@falconlifehealth.com
<http://www.falconlifehealth.com>

Maximum Impact Life in Business
Call or Email for Information
North Port, FL 34288
941-586-8705
Cliff Wilt
info@maximumimpactlb.com
<http://www.maximumimpactlb.com>

Monkee's of Punta Gorda
1200 W. Retta Esplanade, P49
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Julie Price
julie@monkeesofpuntagorda.com

Event Groupie, LLC
483 Collingswood Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Mynisha Crenshaw
(941) 661-2199
theeventgroupie@yahoo.com
www.eventgroupie.com

ActivAge Home Care
3626 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Melissa Robert
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mrobert@ActivAgeCare.com
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Gulf Storm Electric
6067 George Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
Talor Lundstrom
(941) 909-7667
talor.stormelectric@gmail.com
<http://Gulfstormelectric.com>

Your CBD Store
4300 Kings Highway
Punta Gorda, FL 33980
Jim Harrington
(941) 587-9029
shopfl460@getsunmed.com
<http://www.getsunmed.com>

Seaside Expressions, LLC
16500 Burnt Store Rd., Suite 110
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Nancy Gaston
(941) 949-6467
seasidestudio110@gmail.com
<http://seaside-expressions.com>

Renewal by Anderson
16171 Premier Park Dr., #100
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Allie Reich
417-425-7478
allison.reich@andersencorp.com
<http://www.renewalbyandersen.com>

Handle-Man
2033 Bonito Way
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Bob Miller
941-875-8932
handleman2024@gmail.com
<http://www.handleman.net>

Marina Park Realty
150 Laishley Ct., Unit 114
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Tara Cudjo, Kim Weger
941-205-0888
tara@marinaparkrealty.com
<http://www.marineaparkrealty.com>

Advanced Hurricane Technology
16501 Airport Haul Rd.
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Sam Corbett
239-216-7720
sales@aht-usa.net
<https://advancedhurricanetech.com/>

RIBBON CUTTINGS



My Apex Marketing - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
February 19, 2025



The Event Groopie - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
March 5, 2025



Monkee's of Punta Gorda - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
March 6, 2025



Pelican Patrol Home Watch Service - Ribbon Cutting
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
March 19, 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Kalindi L. McCall Notary Loan Closing Agent
18119 Lake Worth Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Kalindi McCall
352-631-4827
CallMcNotary@gmail.com
<http://www.123notary.com>

Jay's Smokin BBQ
10175 Tamiami Trail
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Chris Lansdale & Sara Cammarata
941-646-8589
jayssmokinbbqfl@gmail.com
<http://jayssmokinbbqfl.com>

Mayon Asian American Restaurant
4300 Kings Hwy.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Chris Lansdale & Patrick Denn
941-291-0055
cpatl377@gmail.com
<http://mayoneats.com>

Sunstate Contracting
130 Palmetto Circle, NE
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Michael Krupko
941-275-6107
support@sunstatecontracting.com
<http://www.sunstatecontracting.com>

Friendly Floors
3785 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Dan Collins, Pattie Turner
941-624-0077
dan@friendlyfloors.com
<http://www.friendlyfloors.com>

Mudslide Coffee
24901 Sandhill Blvd., Unit 15
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Anna Syrykh
267-334-2292
wealthwavellc@gmail.com
<https://mudslidecoffee.com/>

Warrior Beats Entertainment
DJ Services, LLC
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
Joshua Boughton
920-277-2967
joshstylz@warriorbeatsdjservices.com
<http://www.warriorbeatsdjservices.com>

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6210 Scott St., Suite 117
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Katharine Payne
941-655-8970
kking@kpaynelaw.com
<http://www.kpaynelaw.com>

Fenceman Fencing
Email or Call for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Ed Heyse
941-440-6377
ed@fencemanfencing.com
<http://www.fencemanfencing.com>

Big Waters Land Trust
400 Palmetto Ave.
Osprey, FL 34229
Connie Brown
941-918-2100
info@BWLt.org
<https://bigwaterslandtrust.org/>

MainStreet Solutions
Email or Call for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
866-973-9988
Michael Carroll
Michael@mainstreetsolutions.com

Dann Betts, Wedding Officiant
Email or Call for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
330-503-1905
Dan Betts
danbettsweddings@gmail.com

Edward Jones – Financial Advisor, Kristin Cardona
311 Taylor St.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-621-5728
Kristin Cardona
kristin.cardona@edwardjones.com
<https://www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/kristin-cardona>

My Buddies Petcare
3681 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-258-3647
Kathleen MacDougall
mybuddiespetcare@gmail.com
<http://www.mybuddiespetcare.com>

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Homes & Cremation Services
Ribbon Cutting - Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
March 25, 2025

EVENTS



Premier Photographic Events February 2025



Premier Photographic Events January 2025



Home Services Unlimited
Call or Email for Information
Englewood, FL 34224
585-201-9180
Jose Martinez
Martinezjose334@yahoo.com

Blue Collar Coach, LLC
Please call or Email for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33980
320-761-9526
Mark Hendrickson, Lyle Pedersen
mark@bluecollarcoach.us
www.bluecollarcoach.us

R&C Coffee House Enterprise, Inc. DBA
Kahwa Coffee Roasters
19580 Cochran Blvd., Suite 201
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
727-277-0508
Ryan Runge
ryan@rccoffeehouseenterprise.com

SelectSource
120 S. Orlando Ave., 450
Winter Pak, FL 32789
814-573-7735
Stephanie Boomgaarden
sboomgaarden@selectsourceone.com
http://www.selectsourceone.com

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-875-4891
Chad Fox, Jenesse Fox
Staghorn2025@gmail.com
http://Staghornmensapparel.com

Shell Creek RV Park
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Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941-639-4234
Natalie Clark
Nclark2@suncommunities.com
https://www.sunoutdoors.com/florida/shell-creek-rv-community

Absolute Window LLC
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Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 916-9003
Christine Leonard
office@absolutewindowllc.com
https://absolutewindowllc.com/

Hopeful Days Therapy, LLC
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Punta Gorda, FL 33983
941-206-7048
Rachael Cohen
info@hopefuldaystherapy.com
http://www.hopefuldaystherapy.com

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Alfred Current
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http://www.wamplerins.com

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Christopher Derkovits
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https://dercomedtrans.square.site

Aflac Insurance
Email or Call for Information
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805-729-0822
Jennifer Voight
jennifer_voigt@us.aflac.com

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http://www.fritschlawfirm.com

T. Wall Enterprises Florida
115 N. Marion Court
PO Box 510306
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
941-740-2964
Jeffery Murray
jeff@twallenterprises.com
http://www.twallenterprises.com

UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL IN 2025

STAGES OF SUCCESS WORKSHOP SERIES

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

Classes Include

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

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

Classes Include

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

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

**WE
MEAN
BUSINESS**

Classes Include

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



941-627-2222



www.charlottecountychamber.org



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**



PICKLEBALL Poker Tournament

\$75/PLAYER
INCLUDES 6 ROUND-ROBIN GAMES
& SWAG BAG VALUED AT \$80+

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
6:00 - 9:30 PM

PICKLEPLEX 26300 AIRPORT RD, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

Join the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 for raffles, food and prizes while making a difference in the lives of local children! Your support directly benefits The Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County, providing financial assistance for extracurricular activities like sports, music programs, and summer camps, ensuring all children have access to enriching experiences.

SCAN FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND TICKETS →



HOSTED BY:



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For more information, please contact:
LeadershipCharlotte2025@gmail.com



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 on Friday, April 25, 2025 from 6:00 - 9:30 PM for fun & friendly competition benefitting the Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County

Tournament Sponsor \$5,000 <i>Exclusive - Only 1 Available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier logo placement on all event materials, signage and website 3' x 5' banner displayed at the event Recognition in media, PR efforts, and social media before and after event Opportunity to present awards at the closing ceremony Poker WILD Cards with sponsor name Opportunity to include promotional materials in player swag bags
Paddle Sponsor \$2,500 <i>Limited - Only 2 Available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent logo recognition on event signage and on the event website 2' x 4' banner displayed at the event Targeted social media mentions before and after the event Verbal and printed recognition in event program Opportunity to include promotional materials in player swag bags
Level Sponsor \$1,000 <i>Limited - Only 3 Available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor sign on one of the three main tables of the event Logo recognition during the event and on the event website Verbal and printed recognition in event program Social Media mention before and after the event Opportunity to include promotional materials in player swag bags
Gate Sponsor \$500 <i>16 Available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor sign on one court gate Logo recognition during the event and on the event website Verbal recognition at the tournament and printed acknowledgment in the event program Social media mention before and after the event Opportunity to include promotional materials in player swag bags
Net Sponsor \$250 <i>16 Available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor sign on one court net Logo recognition during the event and on the event website Verbal recognition at the tournament and printed acknowledgment in the event program Social media mention before and after the event Opportunity to include promotional materials in player swag bags

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS

For more information contact: LeadershipCharlotte2025@gmail.com
The Charlotte Chamber Community Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Tax ID #65-0492790.



MYSTERY ON THE HARBOR

A Murder Mystery Dinner Party

Benefiting the Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County

SATURDAY JUNE 7 6:00 - 10:00 PM

TT's Tiki Bar | 33 Tamiami Trail Punta Gorda, FL 33950

\$100/PERSON INCLUDES: DINNER, MURDER MYSTERY SHOW, CASH BAR & LIVE MUSIC BY "ALMOST THERE"

Step into a night of mystery and intrigue at our Murder Mystery Dinner, hosted by the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025! Dress in your best flapper, dapper or detective attire and enjoy an evening filled with suspense, fun and great food—all while making a difference. Your support directly benefits The Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County, providing financial assistance for extracurricular activities like sports, music programs and summer camps, ensuring all children have access to enriching experiences.



For more information, please contact:
LeadershipCharlotte2025@gmail.com

MYSTERY ON THE HARBOR

A Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025
Benefiting the Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Mastermind Sponsor (Only 1 Available) - \$5,000
Reserved table of 10 in a premier location. 20 drink tickets. Listed as presenting sponsor on program and advertising material. Social media shout-outs. Representative from The Mastermind Sponsor to draw for vacation & booze wagon raffle winners.

The Detective Sponsor (3 Available) - \$2,500
8 tickets to the event. 8 drink tickets. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs.

The Prime Suspect Sponsor (5 Available) - \$1,500
6 tickets to the event. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs.

The Clue Collector Sponsor (10 Available) - \$1,000
4 tickets to the event. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs.

The Crime Scene Sponsor (10 Available) - \$500
2 tickets to the event. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs.

UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

The Suspicious Spirits Bar Sponsor (1 Available) - \$2,500
2 tickets to the event. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs. Company name signage on the bar.

The Killer Tunes Band Sponsor (1 Available) - \$2,500
2 tickets to the event. Program recognition. Social media shout-outs. Company name signage by the band.

The Bouquet Bandit Floral Sponsor (Sold Out) - \$1,500
Program recognition. Social media shout-outs. Company name on centerpieces.

Murder Mystery Memories Photo Booth Sponsor (1 Available) - \$1,500
Program recognition. Social media shout-outs. Company name on photo prints.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

The Mystery on the Harbor Committee is collecting donations of in-kind goods and gift certificates for silent auction items at the event. All donations are greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute a good, service or gift card for inclusion in the silent auction, please provide a description and the estimated retail value. Donations with a retail value of \$1,000 or more will be recognized at the event as an in-kind donor.

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS >>>

For more information, please contact: LeadershipCharlotte2025@gmail.com
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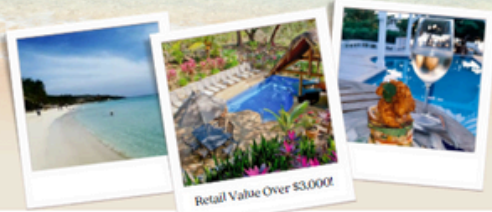




CARIBBEAN Vacation

Spectacular Chance Drawing

Win a Luxurious 7-night Caribbean Vacation for Two



Retail Value Over \$3,000!

Escape to paradise! Enter to win a 7-night Caribbean Vacation for two on the stunning island of Roatan, Honduras!



This extraordinary trip for two includes:

- A 7-night stay for two at Upachaya Resort on the island of Roatan, Honduras including a snorkel or dive package
- \$750 voucher toward airfare
- \$100 certificate for Silversides Restaurant in West End
- \$60 certificate for Roatan Island Brewing Company

www.upachaya.com

1 Chance for \$20 | 6 Chances for \$100

Your support directly benefits The Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County, providing financial assistance for extracurricular activities like sports, music programs and summer camps, ensuring all children have access to enriching experiences. Winning tickets will be drawn on June 7, 2025 at the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 "Mystery on the Harbor" event. You do not need to be present to win.

For more information, please contact: LeadershipCharlotte2025@gmail.com.



BOOZE Wagon Chance Drawing

Win a Beach Wagon Fully-Stocked with Premium Spirits



Retail Value Over \$1,000!

Don't miss your shot at this incredible prize! Enter to win a beach wagon packed with everything you need to host the perfect party!



This epic party prize includes:

- Durable beach wagon
- Premium selection of high-end alcohol
- Four YETI tumblers to keep your drinks ice-cold
- Two plush beach towels

1 Chance for \$20 | 6 Chances for \$100

Your support directly benefits The Children's Enrichment Fund of Charlotte County, providing financial assistance for extracurricular activities like sports, music programs and summer camps, ensuring all children have access to enriching experiences. Winning tickets will be drawn on June 7, 2025 at the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 "Mystery on the Harbor" event. You do not need to be present to win.

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& PARKING**

SAVE *The* DATE
SATURDAY, MAY 17 • 10 AM - 3 PM

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HURRICANE
expo
IS ALMOST HERE!**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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- Expert speakers: Learn how to prepare, survive & recover from hurricanes
- Charlotte County Emergency Management Services
- WINK Meteorologists

**Where: Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor St. in Punta Gorda**

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