



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 1

[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

No July Meeting 2023

Military Heritage Museum
 Auditorium, 1st Floor
 900 W Marion St.
 Punta Gorda, FL

6:00 pm—Open Forum

7:00 pm— Member Mtg

Zoom Available



CCCGC President's Message

Mary Fleenor, President



Members:

Happy Holidays! *The CCCGC office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th to celebrate Independence Day. Also, we will not have a general meeting for July because of the holiday.*

The next CCCGC general meeting will be on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. The monthly meeting will also be available via Zoom for those who are unable to meet in person. The link to the Zoom session is on the [http://cccgc.info/](http://cccgc.info) homepage. The Open Forum (general questions and answers) will begin at 6PM, followed by the main program at 7PM. The topic for next month's meeting will be published in next month's Bytes.

The Favorite of the Month for August will be identified in next month's Bytes..

Please check the Events Calendar for the course offerings and click the links to register. **A new class has been added to the schedule. George Kopenec will be conducting a new Beginner's Workshop on July 10th at 2:00PM in the CCCGC office and limited to 8 participants.** Remember all classes are free to members! Please notify the instructor if you have questions you would like answered in the scheduled session. Let us know if you have special knowledge you would like to share with us as an instructor or presenter.

Know anyone who needs a little sunshine due to illness, injury or loss of a loved one? Contact the office at cccgcoffice@gmail.com or **941-585-0356** and let us know.

If you would like to contribute to CCCGC by volunteering in the office on the front desk or providing technical support, becoming an instructor/presenter or have suggestions to improve CCCGC, please contact us. Looking forward to getting your input: cccgcoffice@gmail.com, **941-585-0356** or click on the **Suggestion Box** on <http://cccgc.info/>.

Stay safe and healthy!

Mary Fleenor, President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Message	1
Events Calendar Link	1-12
New Members	2
Board Members	2
May Member Drawings	3
Members Helping Mem	4
Future/upcoming Events	5
APUG program	5
Scholarships	6
Computer/Tech Info	7-11
Tech Sites	12



July



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 2

[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Welcome New Members

Latanya Anderson	Nancy Honstad
Evangeline Vangie Johnson	Patricia Landry
Rita McSharry	Mary Miragliuolo
Patricia Davis	
Sheldon Harris	
Miles McSweeney	
Ted Zawistowski	

The Executive Board of Directors and Members of CCCGC welcome each of you to the group. We're here to help. Membership has its privileges.

If you have any questions, concerns or need computer help, please contact us at the office, by telephone or via the website. We will endeavor to help you any way we can.

2023 Officers & Directors



**President
Mary Fleenor**



**Vice President
Gary Skillicorn**



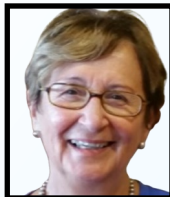
**Secretary
Ron Muschong**



**Treasurer
Lydia Rist**



Mary Burns



Karen Noonan



Tony Flores



Mark Krider



Fran Robitaille

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2023 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

Please help to spread the word about CCCGC to your friends and neighbors.



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 3

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

June Member Drawings



GiftCards

Nannette Simmons William Kelly Raphaela Rozanski CJ Metcalf



50/50

Sandy Wetchel



Computer Drawing

Allen Matson



July 2023 Page 4

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Members Helping Members

In 2021 we put a pause to the beginners help because of COVID and moving to Punta Gorda. We are now trying to rectify that, and we are starting a new beginner's Microsoft workshop starting on July 10th 2:00 PM to 3:30 at our office at 514 E. Grace Street, Punta Gorda.

There will be a limit of eight people per session so that everybody has a chance to get help and to help. This is a wonderful opportunity for users to get help with any problems that they have, and they will have the opportunity of getting help from other members of the club. We are hoping that this will be a once a month or twice a month activity. Hope to see you all there.

Sign-up soon before it is too late....



Sign Up

[Here....](#)

MEMBERS HELPING
MEMBERS



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 5

[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Future Events & Presentations

[July 2023 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

July 4 No Member Meeting

Military Heritage Museum Auditorium
 900 W Marion St, Punta Gorda
 6-7 PM Open Forum
 7-8 PM General Member Meeting

July 10 Member Helping Members
 2-4 PM Office
 George Kopenc

July 11 Open Forum
 2-4 PM, Office + Zoom
 Mary Fleenor
[Fleenor Class Link](#)

July 13 Maintenance & Backup
 2-4 PM Office
 Lydia Rist

July 19 Video Editing/Clip Champ In Person
 2-4 PM, Office
 Mark Krider

July 27 Maintenance
 2-4 PM, Office
 Lydia Rist

July 28 CCCGC Board Meeting
 2 PM—Office



July 28 Board of Director Meeting
 2:00 pm
 514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
[CCCGC BdMtg](#)



An International Association of Technology and
 Computer User Groups

As members of CCCGC, you are automatically members of Association of Personal Computer User group (APCUG) who offer free ZOOM classes and presentations to members. However, you must register with them to attend. Check the website for course options and registration: <https://apcug2.org/>

APCUG past presentations can be viewed on YouTube. These are handy links for review if you attended them or had to miss the original presentation. Click the link below to see all the options.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=apcug

General Meeting Zoom Link
 Click [HERE](#)

Board Meeting Zoom Link
 Click [HERE](#)

4TH of July Member Meeting is Cancelled



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 6

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Scholarships

Every year the Charlotte County Computer Group Corporation awards a \$1000 scholarship to one graduating senior from each of the Charlotte County High Schools: Charlotte High School, Lemon Bay High School, Port Charlotte High School and The Academy. Each Graduate Applicant met our CCCGC requirements and have chosen to continue his or her education in Information Technology or Computer Science at a Florida tech school or college.

President Mary Fleenor and Scholarship Chairperson Rose Kopeneck attended and delivered the awards on behalf of the Organization. This year the Board of Directors chose to award scholarships to the following recipients for 2023



Pierre Gongora
Charlotte High School
Punta Gorda



Brian Vo
Lemon Bay High School
Englewood



Gian Lucca Alvarado-Lowe
Port Charlotte High School
Port Charlotte



July 2023 Page 7

[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Computer/Tech Information

What You Should (and Shouldn't) Unplug or Turn Off When You Go On Vacation

Jason Fitzpatrick / How-To Geek

From saving money on your electric bill to protecting sensitive electronics from damage, there are plenty of good reasons to unplug things when you go on vacation. Here's what you should shut down, what you shouldn't, and when.



Table of Contents

Why Unplug and Turn Things Off When You're On Vacation?

Unplug or Turn Off These Things If You'll Be Gone

TVs, Game Consoles, and Cable Boxes

Computers and Related Accessories

Non-Critical Smart Home Equipment

Battery Chargers

Your Water Home's Water Supply

Don't Unplug Or Turn Off These Things

Wi-Fi Routers and Modems

Critical Smart Home Equipment and Monitors

Circuit Breakers

HVAC Systems

Sump Pumps and Abatement Systems



July 2023 Page 8

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Computer/Tech Information cont.

First, the low stakes reason. You'll save money. Even with energy efficiency improvements over the years, the standby power consumption of many devices around our homes is surprisingly high. Why spend money keeping your home in a ready-to-go state when you're hundreds of miles away enjoying your vacation?

In addition to saving money, unplugged devices are safe from power surges. You won't be home to deal with power outages and manage your home, so it's best to take precautions in advance. And the single best precaution you can take to protect your electronics and appliances from power outages is to unplug them.

Finally, you're proactively managing the small (but always present) risk that something will go catastrophically wrong while you are away. If a particular appliance is going to catch on fire or a plumbing fixture is going to leak eventually, better those things happen when you are home and can immediately deal with them than when you're out of town.

So with that in mind, let's look at some things you should unplug and turn off when you'll be out of town—and some things to leave on.

But before we jump in, a quick note. Millions of people go on vacation every year without ever unplugging a thing or turning anything off, and they come back to homes that are intact without any fires, flooding, or fried electronics, so we certainly don't want to fearmonger about the matter. However, the following advice is easy to follow and stacks the deck in your favor to avoid mishaps and damage.

Unplug or Turn Off These Things If You'll Be Gone

For the most part, you can unplug nearly everything in your home before going on vacation without any problem. And, if you're being very cautious about avoiding power surges or accidents, there's nothing wrong with an unplug-all-the-things approach to the problem (with a few exceptions we'll discuss in the next section.) But let's highlight some key things you should unplug or turn off before heading out.

TVs, Game Consoles, and Cable Boxes

You'd be surprised how much energy your home media center consumes in standby mode. But over the days you're away on vacation, the bigger goal isn't saving money by unplugging but protecting expensive electronics from harm. Nobody wants to return from vacation to find out they need to replace their TV and everything else attached to it.

So before you head out, unplug your TV, game consoles, media players and streaming devices, and your cable or satellite box. We don't usually recommend unplugging your cable or satellite box (because they take so long to boot up and become fully operational again). But it's not a big deal to wait out the long reboot time a few times a year when you return from vacation.

Computers and Related Accessories



July 2023 Page 9

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Computer/Tech Information cont.

If returning from vacation to find a power surge nuked your TV is bad, returning to find that it took out your computer and everything on it is far worse. (No time like the present to ensure you're properly backing up your computer.)

Before you head out on vacation, unplug your computers, monitors, printers, and other related equipment from the wall. It won't harm your computer to leave it unplugged, and it will protect it from any power events in your absence.

Non-Critical Smart Home Equipment

Most smart homes are a mix between critical equipment (like security cameras or smart smoke detectors) and non-critical equipment (like smart speakers or smart mood lighting).

You should unplug all the non-critical smart home devices in your house, especially the ones plugged into regular outlets and not protected by a surge protector.

Battery Chargers

The popularity of lithium-ion-powered tools for use in and around the house has skyrocketed over the years. Many people have stick vacuums, power tools, and even entire lawn and garden platforms powered by high-capacity batteries.

As a general rule, you should only leave such batteries on the charger just to charge them. But it's extra important to avoid leaving them on the charger while away from home. Modern batteries and chargers have robust protections built in, but a lithium-ion battery failure is a disaster in the making. The last thing you want while on vacation is your lawn mower battery burning your house down.

Your Water Home's Water Supply

Somewhere in your home, there is a point where the water enters the premises and branches out to supply your sinks, showers, and so on. When you're away from home for more than a day, it's wise to turn off the main water supply valve.

By doing so, any leaks that might arise from a cracked seal, a failed water heater, or any issues, are limited to just the water in the leaking device (and the small amount of water left in the line supplying the device). If your water heater's tank finally cracks when you're away, turning off the supply is the difference between coming home to a big puddle on the floor or extensive water damage.

Don't Unplug Or Turn Off These Things

Most things in our homes aren't critical (especially when we aren't there to enjoy them). Whether or not our TV and cable box are ready to go when we're not home doesn't matter, nor does it matter if our computer automatically downloads updates while we're away.

As a general rule, if your goal is to minimize the risk of electrical damage, flooding, and such, the only things you should leave plugged in or turned on when you're away are the things that are critical to your



July 2023 Page 10

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Computer/Tech Information cont.

health, the “health” of the home, or your ability to monitor the home while away. Some things in that category are obvious. Nobody unplugs a full fridge before they head off for a holiday or turns off the pump for their fish tank. But some things are less obvious, however.

Wi-Fi Routers and Modems

Turning your Wi-Fi router and modem doesn’t save much power, and we recommend people keep their router and modem turned on all the time.

More importantly, shutting down the network link to your home cuts you off from any smart home gear you might have inside. That means no alert from your smart thermostat if things go awry, for example. And even having your modem and network up and active can serve as a simple way to check if your power is on. That offers peace of mind if you get an alert from your electric company that a storm knocked out power to your neighborhood, and you’re debating heading home early to deal with it.

Critical Smart Home Equipment and Monitors

If a piece of smart home equipment has a function that is useful to you while you are away from home, leave it plugged in.

Here’s How to Use Your Smart Home to Fool Burglars

Smart lights that mimic home occupancy for security fall in that category, but smart lights that are just part of your Twitch streaming setup aren’t (and you can unplug them along with your gaming rig). Anything related to your smart security system is critical too, of course.

Even things like air quality monitors are useful while you’re away. You might have bought them to tell you how healthy (or not) your indoor air quality was, with an emphasis on the quality while you’re living (and possibly working too) in your home. But an alert that a particular metric like particulate or moisture is off the charts while you’re away is a good reason to call a neighbor to investigate.

Circuit Breakers

Rather than unplug things, some people have a habit of flipping some of their circuit breakers off before heading off on vacation. There are a few problems with that approach, however. First and foremost, unless you know exactly what is on a particular circuit, you always risk turning off something you don’t want to turn off.

Over the years, I’ve seen so many homes where the circuit panel label says something like “Main Floor Half Bath” or “Kitchen,” but that circuit is also connected to the outlets in one of the garage walls or some such thing. So you might think you’re taking a shortcut to avoid unplugging all the electronics in the den, but you’re also inadvertently turning off the chest freezer in the garage.

HVAC Systems

It might seem like your heating and cooling system exists for your personal comfort alone, but it also



[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Computer/Tech Information cont.

exists to protect your home.

Adjust the temperature range to save money instead of turning off the furnace or AC while you're out of town. You can set your thermostat back in the winter, within reason, to avoid keeping an empty home toasty. And you can turn the thermostat up in the summer to lower your AC costs. But leaving them on, with adjustment, ensures the HVAC system keeps your home stable while you're away.

Sump Pumps and Abatement Systems

Any system that ejects water, waste, stale air, or anything else from your home should always stay plugged in, no questions asked. If you don't know what something does, it should stay plugged in until you figure it out.

This is also a strong argument against the flip-the-breakers method of turning things off. The circuit breaker label might say "Rec Room Outlets" but fail to mention the crawl space sump pump is on the same circuit.

Water Heaters

If you're only gone for a few days, it's probably not worth fiddling with your water heater at all. You should skip turning off your water heater for longer trips and instead put it in vacation mode. That keeps the heater operating (and the water in a safe temperature range).

In addition to water safety concerns, turning off the water heater completely can subject it to temperature stresses which can cause leaks. There's a point in every water heater's life when it's held together by calcification and cobwebs, and coming back from vacation to find out that your water heater now leaks isn't a fun welcome home present.



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

July 2023 Page 12

[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

Please register using the link on a calendar date or sign-up form on the website if you are planning to attend a class:
www.cccgc.info

For more information

www.cccgc.info

Forms, Supplements, Membership, Classes, Bytes, etc.

The Charlotte County Computer Group Corporation

Is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization as classified by the Internal Revenue Service.

Donations, gifts, bequests, legacies, devices and transfers are deductible under federal laws.

Articles in the Bytes are courtesy of these Tech Sites

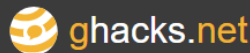
We're on the Web
www.cccgc.info



An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups



Digital Citizen



DavesComputerTips

INTO WINDOWS



AskWoody

News, tips, advice, support for Windows, Office, PCs & more. Tech help. No bull. We're community supported by donations from our Plus Members, and proud of it