



October 2025 Page 1

 Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting October 6, 2025

Family Services Center
21500 Gibralter Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

[Click Here For Directions](#)

3:00-4:00 Q&A Session
4:00-5:00 Presentation

[Zoom Link](#)

**Summer office hours
are in effect**

President's Message Jane McDonald

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is well and staying cool while awaiting some less humid weather. Safe travels to our members returning to the area from other parts.

Our club has undergone some changes. As most of you are aware, Mark Krider has resigned as our President in August. We all wish Mark and Debbie the best, and may they enjoy being 'snowbirds'. We Thank them both for their service and dedication to our club. They will be missed.

According to Section 5.3.I of the by-laws where the VP will assume the duties of the President when that office is vacated and the Board will select a VP for the remainder of the term of office (December 31, 2025.) To be completed at regular BOD meeting August 28, 2025.

With this said, I, as VP, called a special Board meeting that was held on August 19th to discuss our future direction and needs, then at the Board meeting on Thursday, August 28th Jane McDonald was appointed the President and Fran Robitaille was appointed Vice President. The position for the vacant Board of Director was voted on by the Officers and Board members, of which, Gustavo Rivero (one of our techs in the office) was appointed. These positions will fulfill the term(s) of office through the calendar year 2025 until new Officers and Board are elected and seated.

A nominating committee Chairperson was appointed. Bob Hardiman has graciously accepted to be Chairperson. Donna Whalen will be serving as the Co-Chairperson. Nominations for Officers and Directors for calendar year 2025 will be accepted by the nominating Chairperson. Please contact Bob Hardiman by email bobhardiman@gmail.com from now until our November 3rd general meeting at which time nominations may be taken from the floor and then closed.

Please consider being a bigger part of your club by running for any of the available positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) Directors to be elected at our December 1st meeting.

The next CCCGC General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 6th at the Family Services Center - 21500 Gibralter Dr. - Port Charlotte, FL 33952 or by [Zoom](#). Open Forum (Q&A) will begin at 3PM, the main presentation at 4PM.

We are in need of front desk and technical support to volunteer in the office Tuesday thru Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. If interested, from our website: cccgc.info - Join the Group - Volunteer - fill out the form and submit.

Thank You

Jane McDonald

President, CCCGC

Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
New Members	2
Board Members	2
Important Notice	3
Volunteers Needed	4
September Presentation	5
Future Events	6
Tech Info	7-9
Final Thoughts	10
Tech Sites	11

October 2025



October 2025 Page 2

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Welcome New Members

Carol Casal

Mike Astle

Sharon Astle

Mark Vaswani

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.

2025 Officers & Directors



President
Jane McDonald
ccgcpräsident@gmail.com



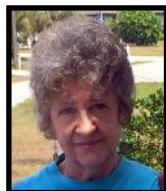
Vice President
Fran Robitaille
ccgcvp@gmail.com



Secretary
Ron Muschong
ccgcsecretary@gmail.com



Treasurer
Lydia Rist
ccgcgtreasurer@gmail.com



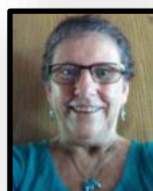
Rosemary Sexton



Shirley Hammond



Vera Hendricks



Janice Krumwiede



Gus Rivero

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2025 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

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



October 2025 Page 3

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Charlotte County Computer Group (CCCGC) Needs Volunteers!

Important Notice

The board of directors has voted to implement the following changes.

If members would like to have someone look at their computer in the office, they should **call and make an appointment** to sit with someone. Walk-ins are welcome but they will be taken based on the availability of tech help. Appointments will be for a maximum of one (1) hour.

Members may also drop off their machine for someone to look at later.

Please call CCCGC for more information at
941-585-0356



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

October 2025 Page 4

Events Calendar

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Charlotte County Computer Group (CCCGC) Needs Volunteers!

If you love technology, we need your help in any of these areas: teaching, presenting, troubleshooting, hardware, software and leadership of the organization. General office help is also needed. We can use your help.

CCCGC is a nonprofit with the mission to promote computer literacy. We are an all-volunteer run agency that refurbishes computers that are then distributed to non-profits, to students, and Veterans. Members can drop off their computers for repair and they can stop by our office if they have a computer challenge. Monthly, we provide computer classes and technical presentations.

Please call CCCGC for more information at
941-585-0356



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October 2025 Page 5

Events Calendar

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September 1, 2025 General Meeting

No meeting or drawing due to
Labor Day holiday





October 2025 Page 6

 Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Future Events & Presentations

[October 2025 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

October 2 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

October 6 Family Services Center
Monthly Meeting
3-5 PM
[Zoom Link](#)

October 16 Maintenance & Backup
2-4PM
Lydia Rist

October 30 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
[Zoom Link](#)

October 30 Board of Director Meeting
2:00 pm
514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
[CCCGC Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)



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

Please register for a class by
first clicking on this link.

[Events](#)

Next, click on the desired class
on the date you wish to attend.
Finally, click on and complete
the RSVP form.





October 2025 Page 7

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

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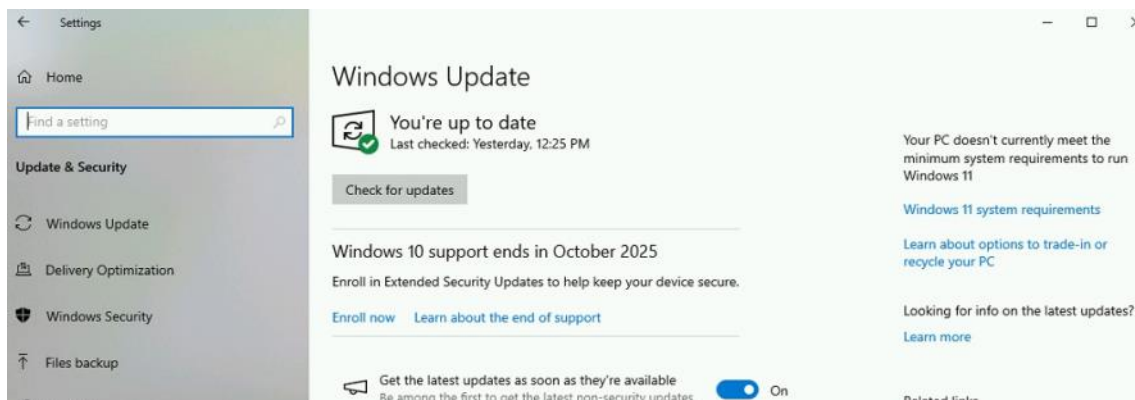
Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Windows 10 End of Support

It's finally here. We've been talking about this for a long time. Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 10 on October 14, 2025. If you are still running Windows 10, what should you do?

1. Don't panic. Your computer will continue to work. Over time the operating system will become less secure but that won't happen overnight. Microsoft will continue to update Windows Defender with anti-virus updates for at least 3 years.
2. Take advantage of inexpensive (or free) Extended Security Updates from Microsoft. They finally became available on my computer mid-September. Go to your settings/updates. You need to be signed into your Microsoft account and your computer must be up to date. Hopefully you will see a link to sign up or Enroll for ESU's.
3. You can use 1000 Microsoft Rewards points (see the top of the Settings page to see how many you have) or you can use OneDrive to backup some portion of your system. Backing up the entire computer to OneDrive generally isn't a good idea. I'm backing up my computer settings to OneDrive and Microsoft allowed me to get Extended Updates for that one machine for one year for free. Finally, if you don't have enough points or can't use the backup option, Extended Updates are \$30 per machine.





October 2025 Page 8

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

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Tech Info

Windows 10 End of Support

4. If using Microsoft's options doesn't work for you, there is a 3rd party option that is very reasonable. It's called 0Patch or Zero Patch. 0patch will provide operating system updates for years to come. Cost appears reasonable or maybe free. Here's a link to check them out. 0patch Pro plan costs \$28 per year. Here's a link to their website.

<https://0patch.com/Win10.html>

5. You could always buy a new Windows 11 computer.

I generally consider running Windows 10 for another year to be reasonable but the bigger risk to me is that some new software might not be compatible with it. TurboTax has already announced that their 2025 tax software (running on your computer and not online) will not be supported on Windows 10. TurboTax wants to make sure that the computer that's running their software is as secure as possible. I get that. Many TurboTax users aren't as understanding.

Here's a link to the announcement; <https://tinyurl.com/5ak6yvsu>

As I said, don't panic. If you're not signed up for ESU's by October 14th, not a big deal however you should get it done.



October 2025 Page 9

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

AI Browsers and Search

AI is everywhere. Now if you search on Google, there's a button at the right that says AI Mode. I'm not sure I see a difference between AI Mode and regular mode but AI is definitely taking over. Here's an article from PCWorld that discusses the merger of AI with search and now browsers.

<https://tinyurl.com/3c43uuyz>

The world of “**agentic browsers**” is here. So what's an agentic browser? Here's a Google definition.

“An agentic browser is a web browser powered by artificial intelligence (AI) agents that can understand a user's intent and autonomously perform complex, multi-step tasks across the internet. Unlike a traditional browser that simply displays web pages for manual interaction, an agentic browser actively navigates, analyzes, and executes actions on a user's behalf. “

I guess you could say the browser could be acting as your agent, doing things for you. Here's Google's version.

Google's Gemini: This company is integrating agentic capabilities into Chrome. The AI assistant can perform multi-step tasks, such as ordering groceries.

As in everything in life, AI empowered search and browsers are not completely risk free. There's a risk called prompt injection where bad actors plant malicious code that intercepts the user's instructions and possibly critical data such as login information to hack into one's accounts. Here's an article about those risks.

Prompt injection: <https://tinyurl.com/5yvy8mrr>



October 2025 Page 10

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Final Thoughts

As we enter the last quarter of 2025 we have a couple of important events happening. First is the end of support for Windows 10. Take a look at page 6 for information on your options if you are still running 10. I am. The important thing is to not panic. It's not the end of the world. Your computer will continue to run and it will be just as secure on October 15 as it is on the 14th. Over time it will become less secure but that will take time.

Again pages 6 and 7 speak to what steps you can take to keep your machine secure for another year.

The other upcoming event is the elections for the club in December. We need more people involved in both the managing of the club as well as helping as a volunteer as office staff or working with members. If you have some technical skills, we can use your help. You don't have to be an expert.

The club can't function without volunteers. This past summer we were only open 3 days a week. That's because we didn't have enough tech support volunteers to man the office 5 days a week.

Think about it.



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October 2025 Page 11

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Please register for a class by first clicking on this link.

[Events](#)

Next, click on the desired class on the date you wish to attend. Finally, click on and complete the RSVP form.

For more information

www.cccgc.info

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