



[Events Calendar](#)

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

**Next Monthly Meeting
 January 5, 2026**

**Presentation:
 Linux vs. Windows**

Family Services Center
 21500 Gibraltar Drive
 Port Charlotte, FL 33952

[Click Here For Directions](#)

**3:00 PM Q&A Session
 4:00 PM Presentation**

[General Meeting Zoom Link](#)

[Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)

**President's Message
 Jane McDonald**

Dear Members

I hope everyone is enjoying the festive holiday season as we welcome a new year! The office will be closed Thursday, January 1st. Our office hours for January will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Please call the office 941-585-0356 or email cccgcoffice@gmail.com to schedule an appointment with one of our technical support volunteers (appointments are on the hour for an hour) and please specify the assistance you need.

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I would like to thank our 2025 volunteers and board members for their time and dedication they have given to CCCGC. And I welcome our new 2026 board members. I look forward to working with you! A special thanks to Rosemary Sexton, Jan Krumwiede, Shirley Hammond, and Ron Muschong for their service on the board in 2025 and prior. Most have been volunteering with the club in some way for many years. Their service is appreciated. May we have a great 2026!

The next CCCGC Meeting will be held on Monday, January 5th from 3:00 to 5:00. We will hold a Q&A session from 3:00 to 4:00, and our presentation will be given by Allen Taylor on Linux Operating Systems: The Benefits and Drawbacks Of Using Linux as Your Primary Operating System. This will be a good overview of what Linux is, which we've had interest within our group.

Continued

Happy New Year 2026



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President's Message Continued **Jane McDonald**

We are in need of front desk and technical support volunteers, and other needs, if this is your area of expertise to assist, please let me know. On our cccgc.info web page click Join the Group – there is a Volunteer button and form you can fill out and Submit to the office.

Or email at cccgcoffice@gmail.com, with your information.

I am also looking to have more classes available to our members. We currently have a Maintenance and Backup class on the first and third Thursday of the month at 2:00. On our cccgc.info web page, click on Events – our monthly calendar will show – click on the class to get information and if you would like to attend, click the RSVP and fill out the form and Submit.

We are in need of donations of laptops and desktops, so we can refurbish to then give out to students and non-profits. We are running quit low with the high demand of need. There is more information concerning donations later in this newsletter, so please read as there are some changes of what we accept.

Happy 2026!

Thank You,

Jane McDonald, President



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Welcome New Members

Lawrence Blackbeer	Lois Duelley	Sherry Olmsted
Mae Promseemai	Linda Supakoff	Charlotte Vana
Patricia (Pam) Bayuk		

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.

2026 Officers & Directors



President
Jane McDonald
 cccgcpresident@gmail.com



Vice President
Fran Robitaille
 cccgcvp@gmail.com



Secretary
Stephanie Eller
 cccgcsecretary@gmail.com



Treasurer
Lydia Rist
 cccgctreasurer@gmail.com



Mary Fleenor



Mark Krider



Vera Hendricks



CJ Metcalf



Gus Rivero

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2026 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

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



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Important Notice - Changes in Recycling

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

Due to many factors including a lack of space, lack of volunteers and more specifically, low prices for scrap materials, the CCCGC has decided to reduce the amount of recycling that we do. This means that we won't be able to take everything members would like to give us.

Effective immediately, we will continue to accept all computer related equipment, monitors, mice, keyboards, laptops, and desktops. We will also accept computer speakers and cables. Computers should be less than 10 years old. No Windows XP machines, they're too old. For now, we will continue to accept printers.

Things we won't take include iPads, home phones, cordless and corded, cell phones, appliances, light bulbs, televisions and radios.

Staples has a wonderful recycling service. If you are a rewards member with them, you can get points to use for purchases. Here's a list of what they will take. <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#rec>

Charlotte County E-Waste: Contact Waste Management 2 days ahead of your regular pickup day to schedule a pick up of your electronics. Their phone number is: 941-629-1106 or 941-697-0012

Also, many police departments will take old cell phones. They likely want them reset and unlocked.

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



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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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December 1, 2025 Annual Meeting 2026 Elections and Social Gathering

The December 2025 elections went off without a hitch. The meeting had good attendance with multiple candidates for the open board seats. It was a nice change to have more candidates than open positions. After the voting was over, those attending enjoyed some social time and snacks with other members of the club. Sixty-two ballots were given out.

2026 Officer Vote Count

President - Jane McDonald	60
Vice President - Fran Robitaille	58
Treasurer - Lydia Rist	55
Secretary - Stephanie Eller	58

2026 Directors - 5 Open Seats

Mary Fleenor	56
Vera Hendricks	55
Mark Krider	53
Gustavo Rivero	46
CJ MetCalf	38

Thank You For Your Support



Charlotte Bytes

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December 1, 2025 Annual Meeting Elections and Holiday Get-together

First, a special thanks to the Nominating Committee that worked very hard to have the election run smoothly and securely.

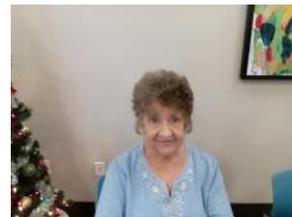
The committee consisted of the following members:

Bob Hardiman - Chairman

Leida Boyko, Rosemary Sexton

Mary Marto, Donna Whalen

Rob Moore and Harold Becker





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December 1, 2025 Annual Meeting
Elections and Holiday Get-together





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Future Events & Presentations

[January 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

January 5 Family Services Center
3:00 PM Annual Meeting,
Elections For Officers
And Directors
Followed The Holiday
Gathering
[General Meeting Zoom Link](#)

January 8 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

January 15 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

January 29 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
[Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)



January 29 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.



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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Windows 11 notification settings you should review

With so many members using Windows 11, I thought it might be useful to go over some settings that might improve your user experience.

Windows 11 comes with many default settings that allow various notifications to show up on your computer. Some are useful while others are simply Microsoft advertisements. Here are some of the notification settings you should review and possibly change. I turn most of them off.

1. Settings/Privacy and Security/General
2. Settings/Privacy and Security/Account Info
3. Settings/System/Notifications - for individual apps - most off
4. Settings/System/Notifications then all the way down to Additional Settings

The last one is the one you need to change to stop Microsoft from advertising on your computer.



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Final Thoughts

Stress Management Anyone?

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'... She fooled them all "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile.

Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. To 20 oz.

She replied , "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on." "As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... Pick them up tomorrow."



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Final Thoughts

Stress Management Anyone?

- 1 * Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
- 2 * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- 3 * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- 4 * Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- 5 * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- 6 * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- 7 * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- 8 * Never buy a car you can't push.
- 9 * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- 10 * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- 11 * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- 12 * The second mouse gets the cheese.
- 13 * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 14 * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you've lived.
- 16 * Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- 17 * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
- 18 * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- 19 * Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

- 20 * Save the earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!



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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

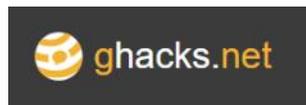
We're on the Web
www.cccgc.info



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