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VOL. XL - No. VI

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

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting
June 1, 2026

Presentation:
Crews Bank

Family Services Center
21500 Gibralter 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

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President's Message
Jane McDonald

Dear Members:

We had a nice turnout for our May 4th meeting. Matthew Beard of YMCA of Southwest Florida made a presentation of the many classes and offerings each of the YMCA's within our area has. We all participated in a fun exercise at the end of his talk. Matthew stayed around and answered questions from our group.

Our office hours for May will be Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call the office at 941-585-0356 or email cccgcoffice@gmail.com to schedule an appointment with one of our technical support volunteers (time slots are on the hour for an hour: 10, 11, 12, or 1). Please specify the assistance you need.

The next CCCGC Meeting will be held on Monday, June 1st 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 a representative of Crews Bank & Trust, Christine Hause. She will discuss investments and financial strategies. I hope you can join us!

A future heads-up notice: The Monthly General Meeting for Monday, July 6th and Monday, September 7th are cancelled due to the holidays. There are no meetings in these 2 months.

Classes for June will be Thursday June 4th – Maintenance and Backup and on Thursday, June 18th will be Windows 11 – Q&A. On our cccgc.info web page, click on Events – our monthly calendar will show – click on the class to get information. If you would like to attend, click the RSVP and fill out the form and click Submit or call the office 941-585-0356 to reserve a spot.

Please consider becoming a volunteer in the office. Check out the volunteer options within the Bytes.

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

Many of our members have left Charlotte County. Those who will be traveling, stay safe and enjoy your summer!

Thank You

Jane McDonald, President

June, often linked with sunny days and the arrival of summer, likely owes its name to Juno, the Roman Goddess of marriage, fertility and childbirth. In ancient Rome, Juno was celebrated as the guardian of women and a symbol of family and fresh starts—making June a prime time for weddings.

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Welcome New Members

Jean Finks

Florence Gudmundsen

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 Unfortunately Staples has changed some of their recycling policies. For bigger items such as monitors, they are now charging. Too bad.

Charlotte County E-Waste: Contact Waste Management 2 days ahead of you 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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May 2026 Scholarship Presentations

The Charlotte County Computer Group has for many years given scholarships of $1000 to three students, one from Charlotte High School, one from Port Charlotte High School and one from Lemon Bay High School. Those presentations were recently made to each of the students.

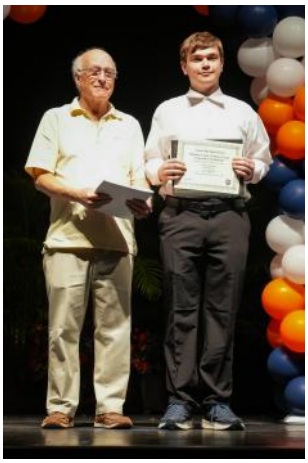
Students were selected from numerous candidates based on their high school achievements and plans to pursue an education in computer science.

Congratulations to all three of the winners.

Lemon Bay High School

Fran Robitaille Presenting

To James Downs



Charlotte High School

Jane McDonald Presenting

To Scott Mason



Port Charlotte High

Grover Mudd Presenting

To Phong Truong

Picture Unavailable

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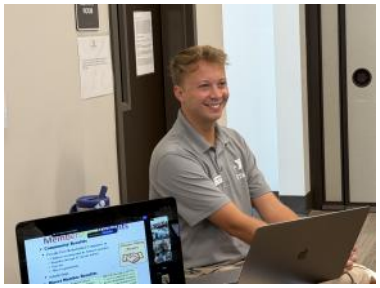
Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

May 4, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation





May's monthly meeting featured a presentation by Matthew Beard of the YMCA. Matthew spoke eloquently about all the things the YMCA has to offer including things like pickleball, tennis on clay courts in Punta Gorda and lessons. The benefits are numerous including of course all sorts of training equipment with help to use it. You should check it out.

Here's a link to Matthew's presentation: https://tinyurl.com/pfsdbw2u



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May 4, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Drawings

Attendance at the May 2026 meeting was 34 members and guests.

Victor Conte won the $25 Amex Card



Frank Lazar won the 50/50 - $25

He generously donated the funds

back to the club.



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Future Events & Presentations

[June 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs]

June 1 Family Services Center
3:00 PM Annual Meeting,

General Meeting Zoom Link

June 4 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

June 18 Windows 11 Q&A
2-4 PM

June 25 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
Board Meeting Zoom Link



June 25 Board of Director Meeting
2:00 pm
514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
CCCGC Board Meeting Zoom Link

apcug 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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Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info - Patch My PC

Patch My PC is a very useful piece of software that can be used to automatically keep most of the software on your computer up to date. It can even be set up to do it automatically. It's a pretty slick program and it's free.

What you want is the home updater. The company makes commercial versions for a price. The Home version is free.

Here's a link to the Home Updater website. https://tinyurl.com/5n96w498

You have 2 choices, an MSI file and an EXE file. What's the difference? For what we're doing none. Either will get the job done. The EXE file has everything included to install the program. The MSI file on the other hand needs installation software built into Windows to install properly. Again, either will do the job.

So, download either file then once downloaded, double click and run the installation.

Once it's installed, what can you do with it? First you can use it to keep most of your software up to date. Second, Patch My PC can be used to install new software from a list of more than 500 choices. Patch can also be used to Uninstall software from your system. Third, Patch can be set to automatically run in the background

automatically keeping things up to date without you having to do anything.

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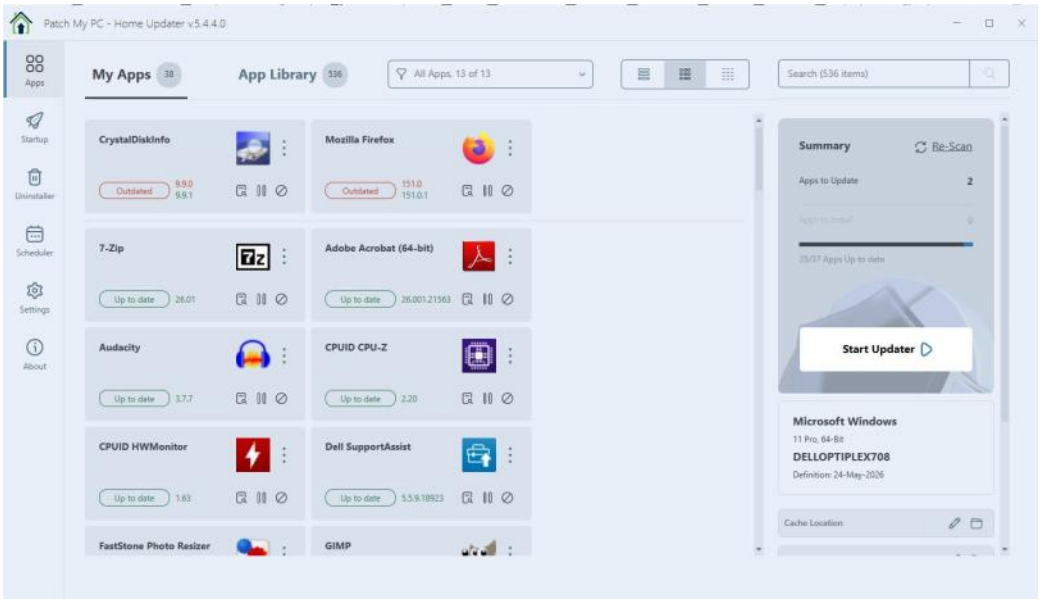
Charlotte Bytes

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Tech Info - Patch My PC (Continued)

Here's a picture of Patch My PC running on a computer.



Apps are highlighted at the top, to the right it says My Apps showing 38 installed apps on this computer. To the right again, the App Library shows 536 apps available for installation. Once more on the right, the Summary box says there are 2 apps to update. I can start the process by clicking on the Start Updater button or it can be automated in the settings.

What are some of the buttons on the left edge? Startup has a list of programs that start with your computer. You can disable them from the list. Uninstaller can be used to remove programs from your computer. Scheduler can be used to schedule scans of your system to look for needed updates. Finally, Settings is where you go to tell Patch how you want it to run.

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Tech Info - Patch My PC (Continued)

When you first install the software a screen pops up that asks whether you want to use the default scheduler settings. The Scheduler tab is set to check every 2 hours and update automatically once a day. If that works for you, you can leave it alone. Whatever you choose can be changed later in the Scheduler tab.

Finally in terms of settings, I left most settings at the default settings. The only one I changed is the setting to remove desktop shortcuts for apps after installation. I like to install many apps without the shortcut on the desktop. I do this to reduce the clutter on my desktop. The program can later be found in the Start menu after clicking the Start button. I turned the setting on.

To sum it all up, Patch My PC is a nifty little program that will help to keep most of your installed programs up to date. Costs you nothing to try it.

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Final Thoughts

Before I get serious, I found an interesting website for people who want to learn about AI. It has many articles about AI, how it works, what it's for, what works and what doesn't work as well as many other topics. It's called What's In AI. You should check it out.

Here's a link to that website. https://www.whatsinai.com/

Now for the serious part. There is a robot in the story
so that makes it computer related, right?

John was a salesman's delight when it came to any kind of unusual gimmick.

His wife Marsha had long ago given up trying to get him to change.

One day, John came home with another one of his unusual purchases.

It was a robot that John claimed was actually a lie detector.

It was just about 5:30 that afternoon when Tommy, their 11 year old son, returned home from school. Tommy was over 2 hours late.

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'Where have you been? Why are you over 2 hours late getting home?', they asked.

'Several of us went to the library to work on an extra credit project' said Tommy.

The Robot then walked around the table and slapped Tommy, knocking him completely out of his chair.

'Son, this robot is a lie detector, now tell us where you went after school.'
'We went to Bobby's house and watched a movie.'

'What did you watch?' asked Marsha.

"The Ten Commandments.' answered Tommy. The Robot went around to Tommy and once again slapped him, knocking him off his chair.

With lip quivering, Tommy got up, sat down and said, 'I am sorry I lied, we really watched a tape called Sex Queen.'

'I'm ashamed of you Son,' said John. 'When I was your age, I never lied to my parents.'

The robot then walked around to John and delivered a roundhouse right that nearly knocked him out of his chair.

Marsha was bent double laughing, almost in tears. 'Boy, did you ever ask for that one! And you can't be too mad with Tommy. After all, He is your son!'

The Robot immediately walked around to Marsha, and slapped her three times.

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Events
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For more information

www.cccgc.info

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TechRegar
just tech stuff

dotTech

Digital Citizen

ghacks.net

The How-To Geek Daily Article
Daily Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

MUO
makeuseof

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