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Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting
August 3, 2026
No Meeting In July

Presentation:
Angela Hemstreet of Goodwill, SWFL
AI Presentation

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

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President's Message
Jane McDonald

Dear Members:

We had a nice turnout for our June general meeting. Our June 1st presenter was Christine Hause from Crews Bank and Trust. She gave us information on estate planning. Crews offer free seminars on estate planning, along with other financial topics.

Our office hours for July 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, August 3rd 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 Goodwill Industries, Angela Hemstreet who will discuss AI and training opportunities to use AI tools. I hope you can join us!

Special announcement: 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 July will be Thursday July 2nd – Maintenance and Backup and on Thursday, July 16th 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.
May everyone have a happy and safe 4th of July! Happy 250th to the USA!

Thank You
Jane McDonald, President



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Welcome New Members

Donald P. Smith	Yvonne Smith	Linda Bradfish
Susie Hunziker	Brenda Stone	Zara Villalba

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. We will no longer accept printers. Here's a link to Staples recycling service. Note the prices at the end of the list. https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling

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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June 1, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation



Christine Hause

Vice President, Senior Wealth Strategist

June's monthly meeting featured a presentation by Christine Hause of Crews Bank and Trust. Christine spoke about estate planning and things everyone should do to make sure one's children aren't left with a major headache.

Here's what Christine's objectives are: Christine utilizes her extensive financial and estate planning experience to develop new client relationships and works with them on estate and investment planning, including Revocable Living Trusts, IRA Rollovers, Investment Management Services and charitable giving strategies.

Here's a link to her Crews Bank website. https://www.crews.bank/meet-the-team

Feel free to call her with any questions.

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June 1 2026 Monthly Meeting

Drawings

Attendance at the June 2026 meeting was 24 members and guests.

Donna Whalen won the $25 Amex Card



Marie Mayberry won the 50/50 - $38



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Future Events & Presentations

[July 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs]

July 2 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

July 6 Family Services Center
No meeting due to holiday

No Zoom

July 16 Windows 11 Q&A
2-4 PM
Stan Galpers

July 30 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
Board Meeting Zoom Link



July 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.

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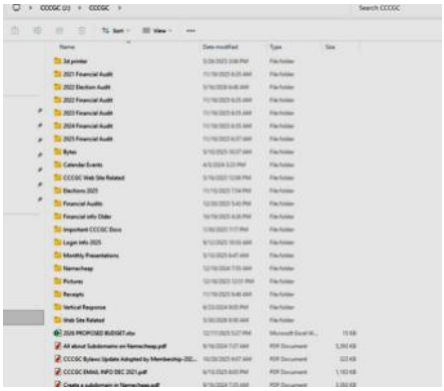
Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

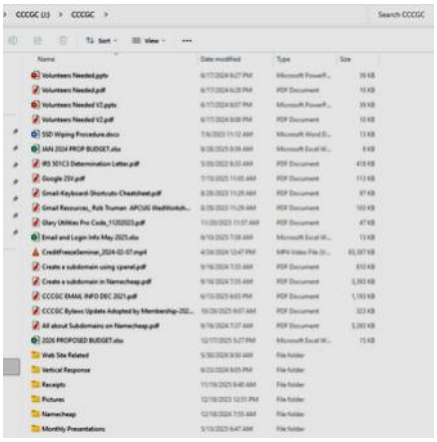
Tech Info

Questions from the June 2, 2026 meeting:

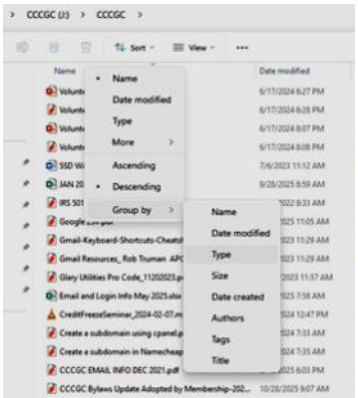
The question was asked as to whether you can sort things in Windows. I answered specifically that in File Explorer you can click on the top of the column with the names of the folders and files and that will sort the list alphabetically with folders at the top or bottom depending on the sort, a-z or z-a. In File Explorer, there's also a button at the top called Sort that allows the same as well as another sorting option called sort by group.



A-Z



Z-A



Other Options

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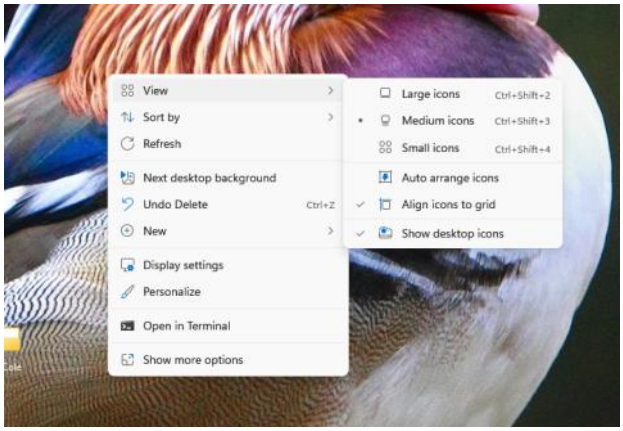
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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info Continued

Can you sort your Desktop or your main screen? It turns out you can. Most of us put icons on the desktop without thinking too much about it. It turns out that you can let Windows set up your desktop automatically or you can do it yourself manually.

To change these settings right click on any empty space on the desktop then wave the mouse over View to see your options. Here's a screenshot.



Notice the checkmark next to Align Icons to Grid. That keeps the icons on your desktop in straight rows and columns. Uncheck it and you can drag icons anywhere you want on the desktop. I like them orderly. That's my preference. The other setting that's checked is Show Desktop Icons. If you uncheck it your desktop will be empty. Icons aren't gone, they're just hidden. We've had a few members come in with an empty desktop.

Notice some of the other choices. Under View is Sort By where I'm assuming your can sort the desktop anyway you want. On the right Auto Arrange and Icon size. I've chosen not to Auto Arrange or sort because I have things where I want them and can also find them. How you set up your desktop is up to you.

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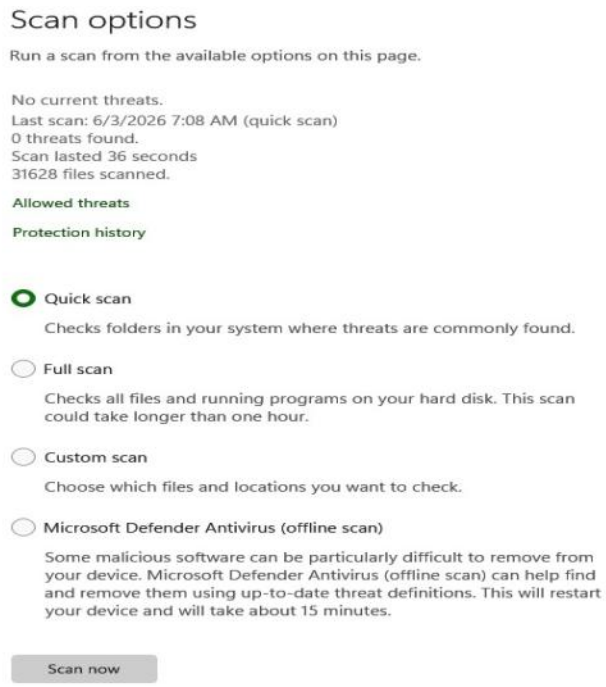
Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info Continued

Windows Defender Manual Scans:

If you're afraid that your computer might be infected you can run manual scans at any time. Click on the Windows button then Settings, Privacy and Security, Windows Security, then Virus and Threat protection. That's a lot of clicking. You can also search for Windows Security and the option will pop right up.

From there you can run a Quick Scan or click on Scan Options for more choices such as a Full Scan or Custom Scan and finally an offline scan. The offline scan can be a good option if you really believe you've been infected. None of these are guaranteed but if I'm worried that I might have clicked on something I shouldn't have, I'll usually run a Full Scan and then an Offline Scan to cover as many bases as I can.



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Tech Info Continued

Pros and Cons of Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile internet service. I know several people who have no complaints. It's also portable so you can take the box anywhere for internet service subject to the Cons listed below.

👍 The Pros: Why People Love It

- **Unbeatable Pricing**: Most plans range from **$40 to $70 per month**. If you bundle the service with your existing cell phone plan, companies often drop the price to **$35 to $45 per month**. YouTube · Michael Saves +3
- **No Hidden Fees**: Unlike cable providers, phone companies generally include the router equipment for free, offer a **price-lock guarantee**, and require **no annual contracts**. YouTube · Michael Saves +1
- **Dead Simple Setup**: You do not have to wait for a technician to drill holes in your wall. They mail you a wireless "gateway" box, you plug it into an outlet near a window, and activate it via a smartphone app. YouTube · Max Hietpas +3
- **Great Customer Satisfaction**: Because they lack hidden fees and data caps, 5G home internet providers frequently beat traditional cable companies in consumer satisfaction rankings. YouTube · Michael Saves +1

👎 The Cons: The Risks and Limitations

- **Inconsistent Speeds**: Your internet speed is tied directly to network traffic. During "peak hours" (usually 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM), mobile phone users take priority on the cell tower. This can cause your home internet speeds to suddenly drop or cause video streams to buffer. Reddit · r/tmobileisp +4
- **Poor for Competitive Gaming**: Because the signal travels through the air to a tower, it has a higher "ping" or latency. If you play fast-paced online games (like Call of Duty or Fortnite), you may experience frustrating lag. Reddit · r/tmobileisp +4
- **Location Dependent**: If your house has a metal roof, heavy foliage outside, or sits far from a tower, your speeds might top out at a sluggish 10 to 25 Mbps. Reddit · r/tmobileisp +3
- **VPN Issues**: Some remote workers report that corporate VPNs struggle to maintain a stable connection over fixed wireless networks. Reddit · r/tmobileisp +1

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Final Thoughts

Lawrence Livermore Laboratories has discovered the heaviest element yet known to science.
The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from four days to four years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2- 6 years; It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons. Remember that if someone says they're from the government and are here to help, don't believe it.

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INTO WINDOWS

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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