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514 E. Grace Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Information: (941) 585-0356
www.cccgc.info facebook.com/cccgc.info
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

VOL. XL - No. X

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
October 5, 2026
No September Meeting

Presentation:
Alicia Oates
Punta Gorda IT Dept.
AI, Cloud, Security

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 have been enjoying some less humid days in Southwest Florida. Those traveling back, may you have a safe trip. We look forward to seeing you.

Our office hours are 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 a technical support volunteer (time slots are on the hour for an hour-long appointment: 10, 11, 12, or 1). Please specify the assistance you need.

Please note: The door to get into the building at 514 E Grace St is now locked. When you arrive, call 941-585-0356 and someone from the office will greet you and open the door.

The next CCCGC Meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th from 3:00 to 5:00. We will hold a Q&A session from 3:00 to 4:00. Our presentation will be given by Alicia Oates, Punta Gorda IT representative, who will discuss AI, Cloud, and Internet Security. I hope you can join us!

Classes will be Thursday October 1st – Maintenance and Backup and on Thursday, October 15th - 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.

Election time is approaching. Please consider being a bigger part of your club by running for any of the available positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director to be voted on and elected at our December 7th meeting.

A nominating committee Chairperson was appointed. Stan Galper has graciously accepted to be Chairperson. Bob Hardiman will be serving as the Co-Chairperson. Nominations for Officers and Directors for calendar year 2026 will be accepted by the nominating Chairperson. A nomination form will need to be filled out if you are nominating yourself. If you are nominating someone, you must get that person's approval. Please contact Stan Galper by email sgalper@compuserve.com from now until our November 2nd general meeting at which time nominations may be taken from the floor and then closed.

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

Thank You
Jane McDonald, President

Photo by Saira on Unsplash



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Welcome New Members

Deana Cadwell Bill Cadwell Janet Elias

John VanVranken

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



Bob Hardiman

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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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help Keep the Charlotte County Computer Group Running Strong

Our club runs on volunteers, and we need YOU! Whatever your interests or experience, there's a way to get involved. Opportunities are open now — take a look below and join us.

Front Desk Help
Greet members and visitors, answer questions, and help keep things running smoothly at the front counter. No technical background required — just a friendly attitude! Some specific help, membership and donation database maintenance.

Computer Help Volunteers
Have computer know-how? Help members troubleshoot problems, answer questions, and get the most out of their computers and devices. All skill levels welcome; every bit of experience helps someone.

Leadership — Run for Office
Club elections are coming up in December! We're looking for members interested in running for a leadership position on the board. Help guide the club's direction and make a lasting impact.

Website Volunteers
Help maintain and update the club website. Experience with web design, content updates, or basic troubleshooting is a plus — training and support provided.

Bytes Newsletter Volunteers
Enjoy writing or enjoy putting things together? Help produce the Bytes, our monthly newsletter — write an article, contribute a tip, or help assemble each issue. Contributions of any size are welcome.

No experience needed for many roles — just a willingness to help. We'll show you the ropes!

Interested? Get in Touch!

Charlotte County Computer Group
514 E. Grace St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950 • 941-585-0356 • mailto:cccgcoffice@gmail.com • www.cccgc.info
Stop by during club hours or reach out anytime — we'd love to have you on the team!

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Proposed Bylaw Changes

During the September 24, 2026 board of directors meeting, several proposed changes to the bylaws were voted on and approved by the board. Those changes are being requested to reduce the number of board members from 5 to 3, codifying the club's ability to make certain members "Honorary Members", allowing the President to create titles for club volunteers that benefit the club, and finally only allowing voting on Bylaw changes by members who are physically present, not online. The proposed change in the number of board members was made in consideration of the clubs recent struggle to find volunteers. The change to a smaller number of board members fits within Florida law. These changes will be voted on at the November 2, 2026 General meeting.

Below are the bylaw paragraphs with proposed changes (in yellow highlight).

1.2 Definition:
Board of Directors Charlotte County Computer Group Corporation Board of Directors: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and three (3) directors.

4.1.2 **Honorary Lifetime Membership**: Lifetime Membership may be awarded to members who have had at least a decade of volunteer work, leadership, or support. This honor requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon which all future membership dues will be waived.

5.1 **The elected officials** of the Corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and ~~five (5)~~ three (3) directors. These elected officials shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Corporation.

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Proposed Bylaw Changes Continued

5.3.1 **President:** The President will be the Chief Executor Officer of the Corporation and will, along with the, Directors and other elected officers supervise and control the affairs of the Corporation. The President will perform all duties incident to the office and other such duties as may be provided in the Bylaws or prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President and the Board of Directors shall designate or appoint another member of the Corporation to serve as Vice President for the remainder of the present term of office. Should the President and Vice President positions become vacant, the Board of Directors shall designate other members of the Corporation to fill the positions for the remainder of the present terms of office.

President will recommend to the Board of Directors the creation of volunteer titles as needed to perform tasks beneficial to the organization. These roles—which may include Office Manager, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Zoom Coordinator, Database Administrator, and Sunshine Chair—will be established and retired with a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

The President shall from time to time appoint committee chairs for such purposes as he or she may deem necessary, or as directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Appointed officers or committee chairpersons will have such powers and duties as the President or the Board of Directors may assign to them.

7.2 **A quorum** shall consist of ~~five (5)~~ four (4) Board of Director members at least one of whom is President, Vice President or Secretary.

11.1 **These Bylaws may be amended,** revised or re-written at any regular meeting of the Corporation by a two-thirds vote of members in physical attendance, provided that the amendment has previously been approved by a vote the Board of Directors and submitted in writing at the previous Board of Directors meeting or otherwise published to the membership.

Here's a link to the draft version of the entire bylaws with the proposed changes.

https://tinyurl.com/ytcjevjs

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Events Calendar

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September 7, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation

No September Presentation or Drawing Due To The Labor Day Holiday

The October 5, 2026 presentation will be by Alicia Oates from the Punta Gorda IT Department. She will speak about what's going on with AI, cloud computing and computer security.

Punta Gorda IT Department

October 5, 2026



Photos courtesy of Pexels.com Yan Krukau



Nemuel Seretl

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Events Calendar

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Future Events & Presentations

[October 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs]

October 1 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

October 5 Family Services Center
3:00 PM General Meeting
Alicia Oates
Punta Gorda IT Dept.
General Meeting Zoom Link

October 15 Windows 11 Q&A
2-4 PM
Stan Galpers

October 29 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
Board Meeting Zoom Link



October 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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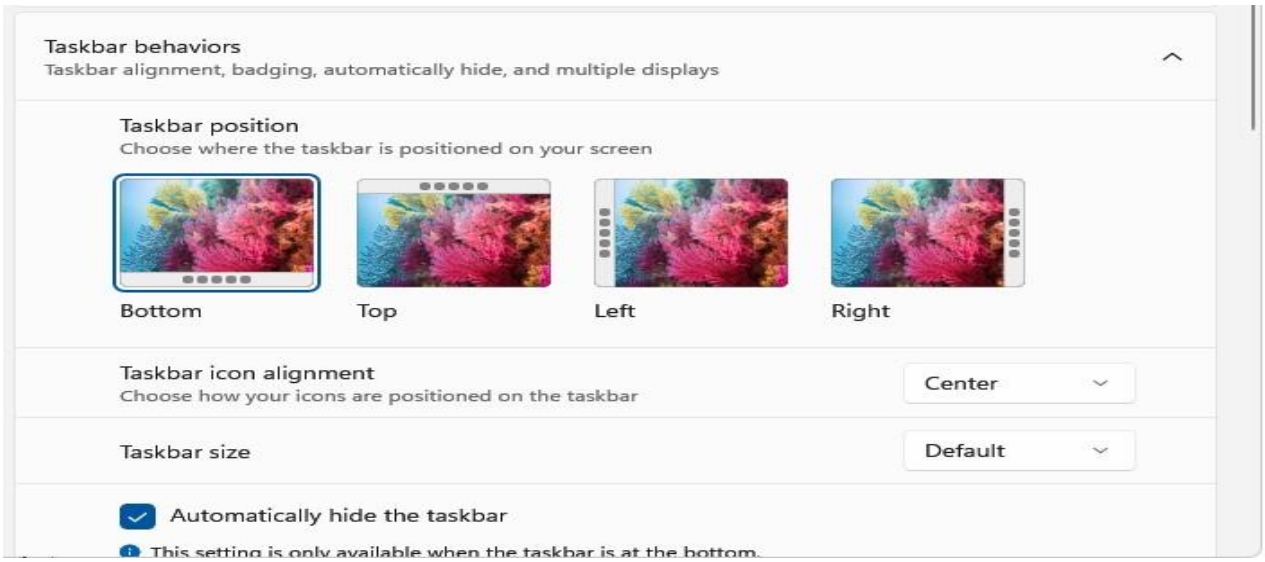
Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Two quick updates to Windows 11. Two changes to Windows that have been talked about have finally happened. One allows you to move the Taskbar to a different location like either side or to the top. The other allows changing the size of the Start Menu. Both were part of Windows preview update 2026-09 Preview Update (KB5124010) (26200.9550).

To change the Taskbar you can right click on it then left click on Taskbar Settings. Scroll down to Taskbar Behaviors where you should see the option to change the location of the Taskbar.



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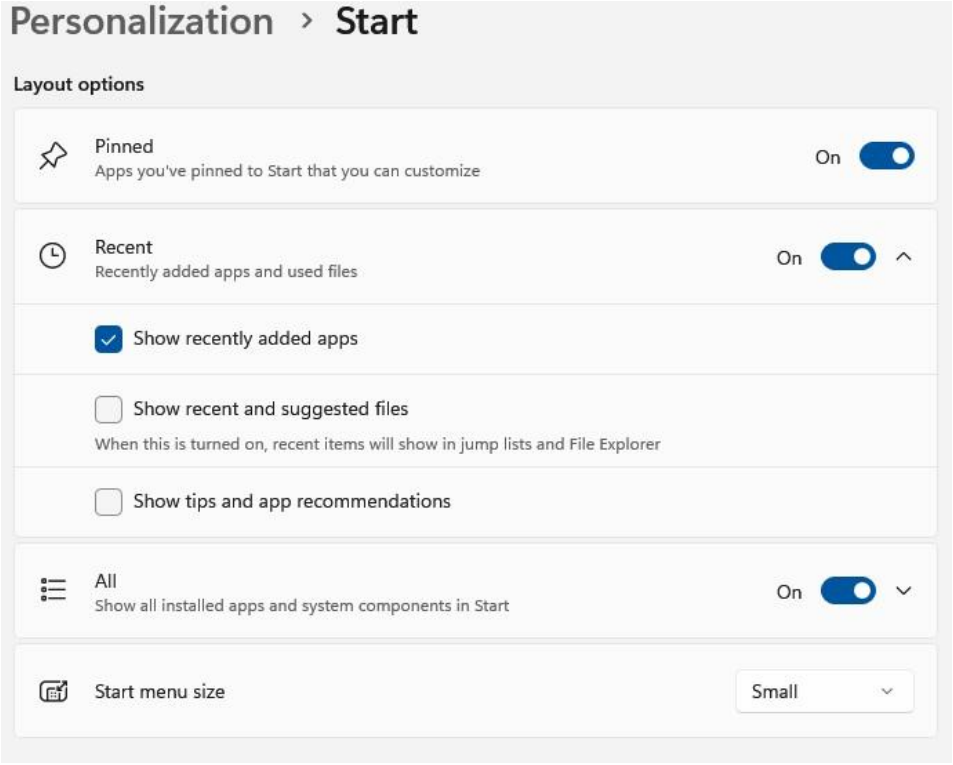
Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info Continued

The second change involves the size of the Start Menu. I tried it and decided I like it smaller. To access, click on the Start button then right-click on any open space on the Start menu. This will take you to Settings, Personalization, Start. Here you can tweak what shows up on the Start Menu as well as the size of that menu.



My understanding is that these changes are being rolled out by Microsoft so it's possible your computer won't be updated yet. Be patient. When I looked at my settings/Updates, the update was available but not installed yet. I was able to click on Download and Install and it took care of itself.

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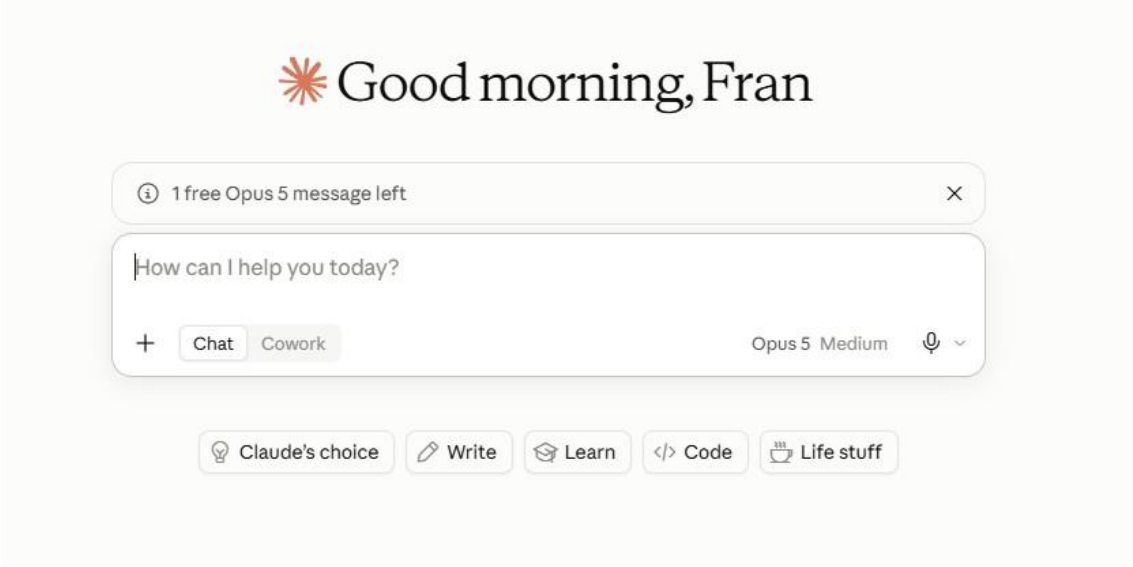
Tech Info Continued

AI Information - Blood Tests and AI

Did you know you can upload your blood test results to AI and get an AI generated interpretation of those results? Recently I had my annual physical. Fortunately I'm fairly healthy, I hope, so I don't mind sharing the results with you.

I look at the results and ask what most of them mean. AI will give an interpretation you can understand. Now, I don't consider AI to be a substitute for a doctor's interpretation but it can give good insight into what each number means. I used Claude to interpret mine and then my doctor gave me his interpretation. He said he sees nothing that he's worried about so I'll relax for another year.

So how do you do this. If you want to use Claude, you can go to Claude.ai and create a free account for yourself. Here's what Claude looks like on my computer.



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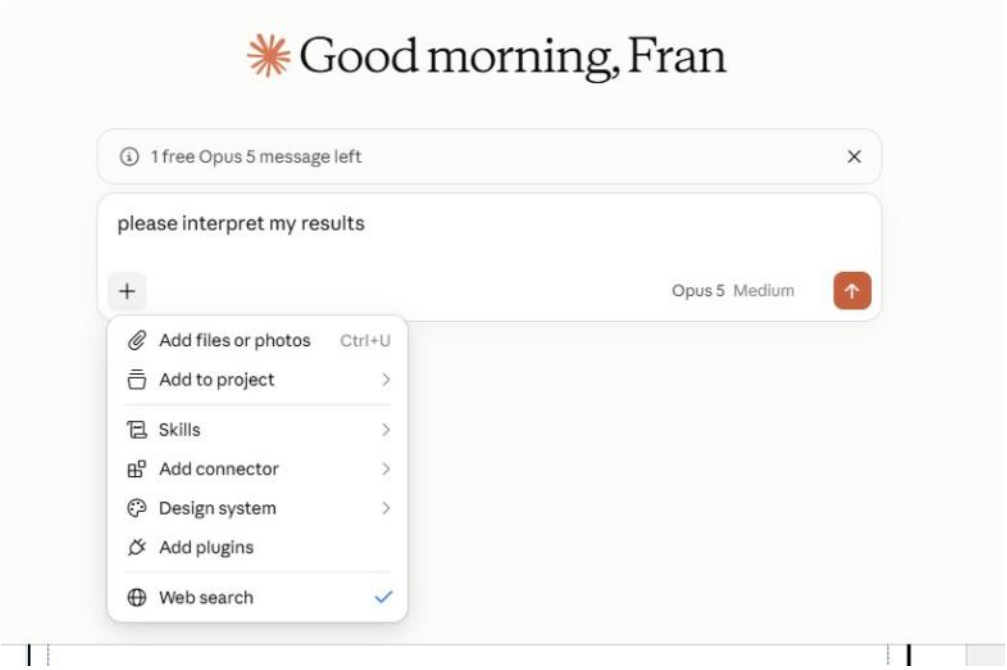
Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info Continued

AI Information - Blood Tests and AI Continued

In Claude I typed in "please interpret my results". Notice I said please. I then clicked on the + sign at the bottom where I found I could add files such as my results which were saved as a pdf file. I took my name off of the pdf file for privacy reasons though I am signed into Claude under my email address. I suppose I could make up results and have Claude interpret them so I guess I don't see much of a difference, mine or someone else's.

All in all it was pretty quick and easy.



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Tech Info Continued

AI Information - Blood Tests and AI Continued

So what did the final results look like? Here are the normal readings followed by the out of range readings.

Here's a plain-language walkthrough of your September 15 labs. Most things look solid — a few values are outside the reference range and worth flagging for your doctor.

Looks normal

- **Kidneys:** Creatinine 1.18, eGFR >60, sodium, potassium, chloride, CO2, anion gap — all within range.
- **Blood sugar:** A1c 5.6% (non-diabetic range), random glucose 105 — both normal.
- **Thyroid:** TSH 1.18 — normal.
- **Calcium:** 9.0, normal (and up slightly from 8.3 back in July).
- **PSA:** 2.73 — within the normal range for your age.
- **Urinalysis:** specific gravity, pH, protein, blood, glucose, nitrite, leukocyte esterase all normal; urine clear and yellow as expected.
- **Red cell indices** (MCH, MCHC, MCV, RDW, MPV): all normal — so no signs of a specific vitamin deficiency (like B12/iron) pattern.

Outside the reference range — worth a look

Test	Your result	Normal range	Note
BUN	24	9–16 mg/dL	High. Can reflect mild dehydration, diet, or kidney function — but creatinine/eGFR are normal, so likely not a kidney concern on its own.
Hct	41.1	42.0–52.0%	Mildly low.
RBC	4.42	4.60–5.80	Mildly low.
Hgb	14.2	14.0–18.0	Right at the bottom edge of normal.
WBC	4.3	4.8–10.8	Mildly low.
Platelets	136	160–400	Mildly low (mild thrombocytopenia).
Urine Ketones	40 (positive)	—	Ketones showing up in urine — can happen with fasting, low-carb eating, or dehydration; since your glucose and A1c are normal, diabetes-related ketosis is unlikely, but still worth mentioning to your doctor.

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Tech Info Continued

AI Information - Blood Tests and AI Continued

And finally, here's Claude's final comments.

The bigger picture

The red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets are all a touch below range at the same time. Individually, each one is only mildly off, but seeing all three lines trend low together is a pattern your doctor will want to look at — it could be nothing significant, but it's worth checking, especially if there's a prior baseline to compare against or if you have symptoms like fatigue, easy bruising, or feeling run down.

I'd bring this printout to your primary care doctor (looks like you have a visit on file) and ask specifically about the combined low blood counts, the elevated BUN, and the urine ketones — they can put it in context with your history and prior results.

So, my doctor has seen these and doesn't seem concerned. I looked back at the last few years results and they were pretty similar so no big changes. I'll take it one day at a time and if nothing changes, I'll see him next year. You can ask Claude or ChatGPT to explain any of the results specifically if you want more detail.

Stay healthy my friends.

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Final Thoughts

Ron Muschong

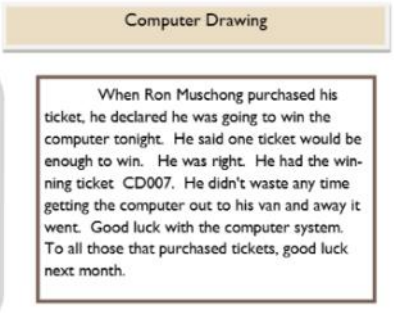
Ron is another volunteer that I thought should be recognized. I went back to January of 2012 to see if I could find when Ron joined the CCCGC. I'm thinking it was prior to that. It's been a long time. Ron has served the organization as both a member of the Board of Directors and as Secretary for many of the years since 2012.

Ron served as Secretary for 2014 through 2016, 2021, and 2023 through 2025. He also served as a Director from 2017 through 2019. That's 10 years by my count.

We thank him for his many years of service and his invaluable advice on Robert's Rules of Order and how to run a meeting.

2012

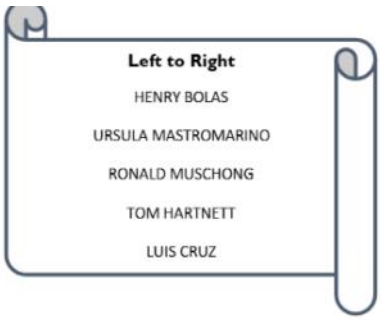




2018







2012

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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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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

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

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apcug
An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups

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