

Charlotte County Centennial Update



BCC Workshop
July 21, 2020

Background

IMPROVEMENTS
Punta Gorda is an up to date town, having more improvements than many much larger

The Punta Gorda Herald

POPULATION
Punta Gorda's population increased 28 percent during 10 years. Population 1920, 1,395

Punta Gorda, in Tropical Southwest Florida, is Advantageously Located on Charlotte Harbor, One of the Largest Land-Locked Bays on the Gulf of Mexico, and is a Town with a Bright Future, Commercially and Agriculturally

Volume XXXIII—Number 16.

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, APRIL 21st, 1921.

Five Cents a Copy; \$2.00 a Year.

DIVISION BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

Legislature Carves Four New Counties Out of Old DeSoto

NEW 'MANAGER' CHARTER PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

Three City Commissioners to be Elected on the Second Tuesday in July.

The legislature has enacted into law the commission-manager charter approved by the people of Punta Gorda a few weeks ago, making it a legal document in every respect.

The first election to be held under the new charter will be that for three city commissioners on the second Tuesday of July, 1921. Immediately following their election, these commissioners take over the reins of city government, taking the place of the present mayor and City Council, and as soon as practicable after they are installed they must employ a city

The 30-year fight to divide DeSoto county ended in victory for the divisionists Wednesday, when, at one o'clock, the house of representatives passed the five-county division bill by unanimous vote, creating four new counties—Charlotte, of which Punta Gorda is the county seat; Hardee, of which Wauchula is the county seat; Highlands, of which Sebring is the temporary county seat; and Glades, of which Moore Haven is the county seat.

Immediately upon receipt of a message announcing that the bill had passed, the news spread like wildfire over the town and country and pandemonium reigned for a time. The first message was from W. H. Johnson, Punta Gorda committeeman, to H. R. Dreggers, and was characteristic of the sender. "We have met the enemy, they are ours, and DeSoto is divided into five parts," it said. The next message came to the Herald and was from W. M. Reck, secretary of the division committee. "Five county division passed house at one o'clock unanimously," it said.

At the time this paper was printed it was not known whether the division bill was passed upon first reading only or whether the rules were waived and the vote taken upon third and final reading, but even if the vote was upon first reading, the fact that it was unanimous practically insures its final passage. Before it becomes a law the bill must be signed by the governor, but there is no doubt felt as to his course in the matter. The division bill becomes effective immediately upon its passage.

The fight then was for two new counties with Wauchula as the capital of one and Punta Gorda of the other. This fight was taken before the legislature of 1907 and lost. At that time, J. H. Humphries was in the senate and he was in the senate of 1909 also. His position was that he would support division, if the people of DeSoto voted for it.

Division was the chief issue in the primaries of 1908, when Joseph H. Brown, anti-divisionist, was nominated for representative. Again was

CITY 'DADS' MAY HAVE 'WELCOME' ARCHES ERECTED

Arcadia Concern Proposes to Erect and Maintain Two Arches Free of Cost to City.

At the last meeting of the City Council, a proposition to erect arches over the streets at both entrances to the town was received by the council from an Arcadia concern and the proposition seemed to meet with general approval.

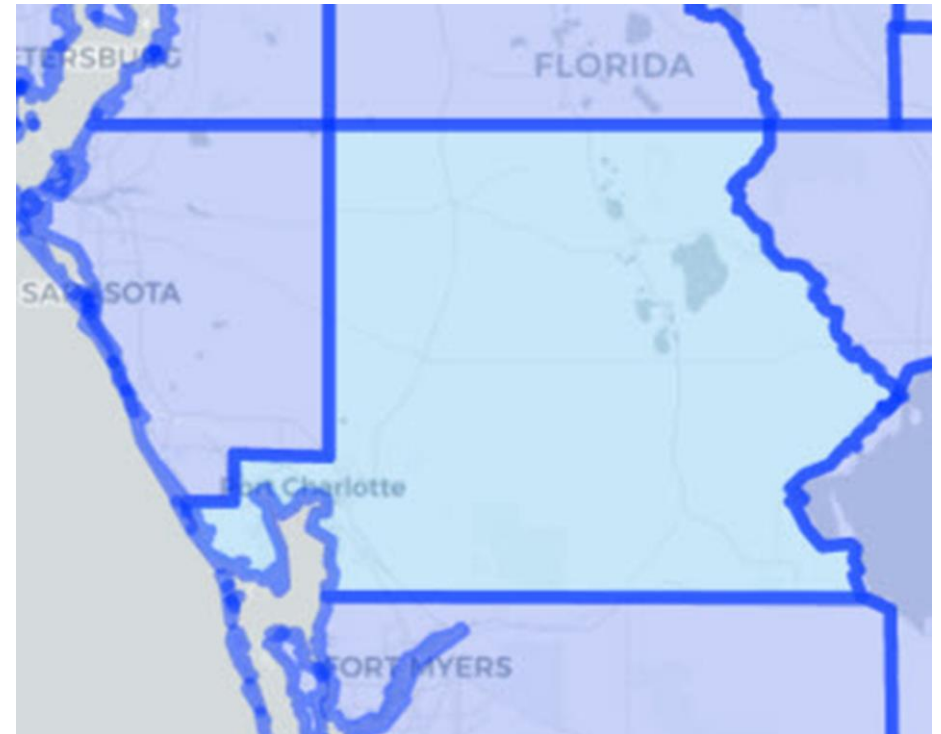
The Arcadia concern proposes to erect and maintain for a period of years two "welcome" arches similar to those recently erected over the main entrances to Arcadia, without charge to the town. On the side that would be seen by people coming into the town the words "welcome to Punta Gorda" or something sim-

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- Created April 23, 1921
- DeSoto divided into Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands
- Name chosen in a newspaper contest
- 275 days till Centennial

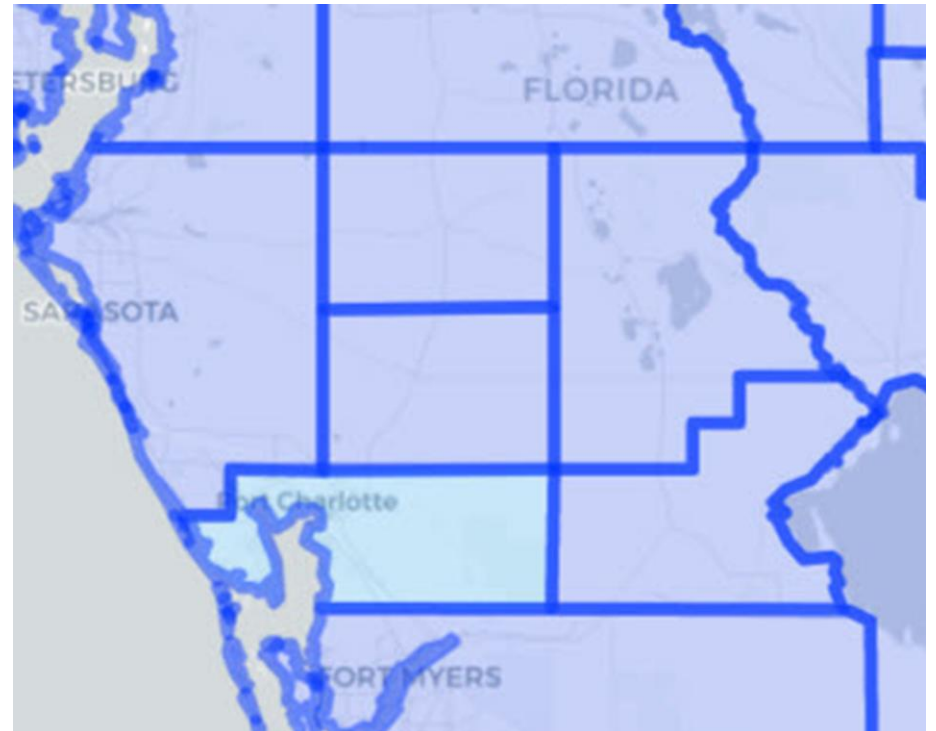


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Centennial Planning

- Kickoff meeting, May 2018
- Historical Advisory Council, Sept. 2018
- Centennial partner meeting, Nov. 2018
- Staff planning meetings
- Administration & Commission updates
- Centennial seal adopted July 23, 2019



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Centennial Planning

- North Charlotte Regional Park renamed Centennial Park Dec. 10
- O'Donnell Boulevard renamed Centennial Boulevard April 14
- Centennial partner meeting July 29 at Tringali Park
- Centennial partner meeting Oct. 28 at Punta Gorda Charlotte Library
- Centennial commemorations to begin in December 2020

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Centennial Events

- County proclamation, Dec. 8, 2020
- Federal/state proclamations
- Centennial Park sign dedication
- Centennial-themed events
- Quarterly events
- Centennial Ball, April 23, 2020

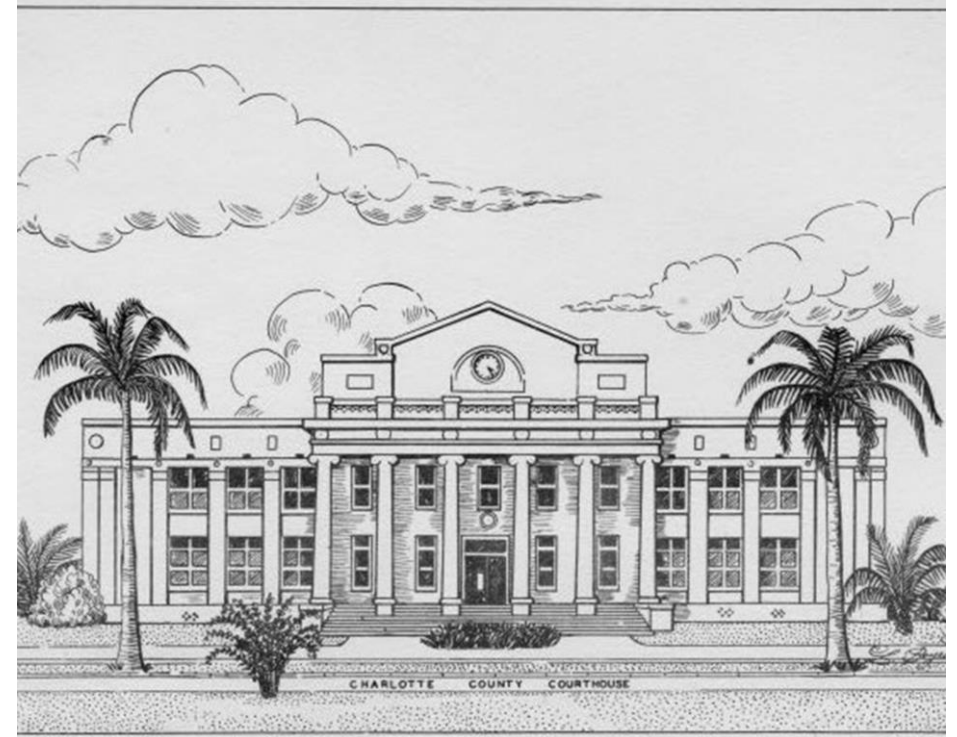


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Centennial Events

- Centennial student art contest
- Centennial writing contest
- Community events
- Traveling exhibits
- Tree lighting



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Centennial Markers

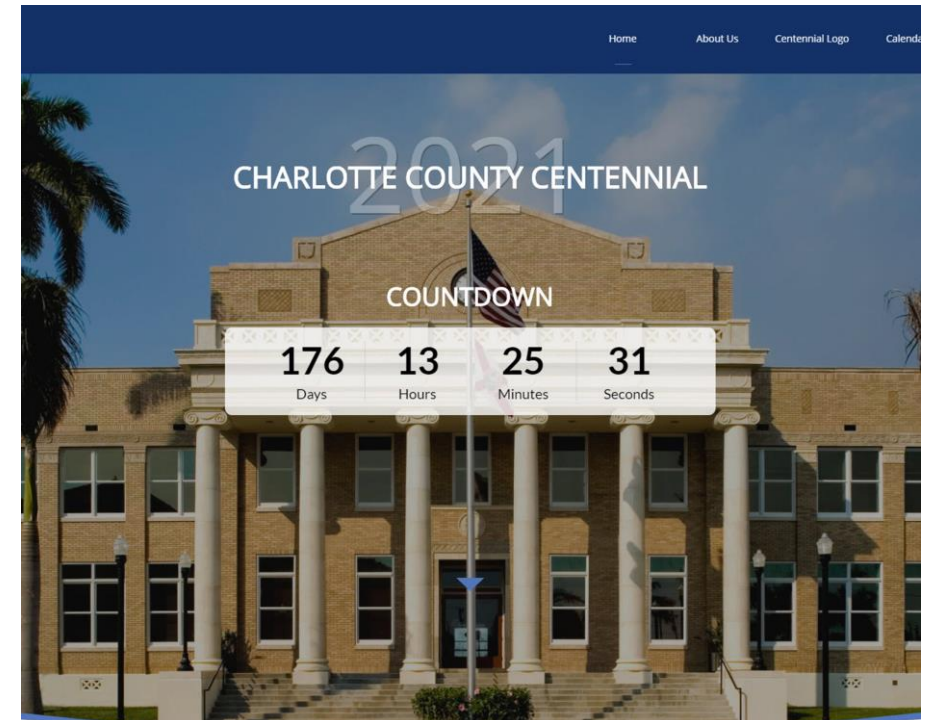
- Gilchrist/Collier bridge banners
- Utilities manhole covers
- Logo on select street signs
- Displays in county facilities
- Flutter flags in designated areas
- Gateway additions

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Centennial Resources

- www.CharlotteCounty100.com
 - Articles, photos, archive
 - Event/meeting calendar
 - Media coverage
 - Countdown
- Facebook page



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Questions?

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