

County employees graduate from Leadership Charlotte

By Hector Flores

This past Friday, the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2024 celebrated their graduation from the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's annual program.

Congrats to all of the graduates, especially our teammates Community Services Public Relations Manager Breanna Benevenga, Budget and Administrative Services Financial Manager Francine Lisby, Tourism Marketing Manager Maureen Morgenthien and Facilities Security Manager Tony Pribble.

The class had a purposeful, productive year and will leave a legacy impact within our community via their class project that raised awareness and support for local non-profit agencies.

Thank you Breanna, Francine, Maureen and Tony for representing the county, establishing new relationships, and strengthening our existing partnerships with many businesses, non-profits organizations, and other agencies.

FACM president

Some personal and professional news this week. On Thursday I began a one-year term as president of the Florida Association of County Managers. I was elected by fellow members of the FACM board of directors at the organization's annual business meeting in 2023.

It's an honor to be able to lead such a distinguished group of public servants as president of the Florida Association of Counties. I've learned in my decades of public service in Charlotte County that leadership starts with listening. I plan to do that a lot this year and focus my energy on helping my fellow county administrators to improve their communities by improving the way they provide services.

Burn ban

With the onset of seasonal rains, the County Commission on Tuesday lifted the burn ban it adopted in early June when the drought index indicated dangerous conditions for wildfires. As always, even with the ban lifted, caution is key whenever burning waste or using a fire pit. Never leave a fire unattended or burn during dangerous conditions, such as high wind.

With Independence Day approaching next week, please keep personal safety at the top of your mind when lighting fireworks. July 4 is one of only three days when using fireworks is legal in Florida. The other days are New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Keep in mind, if you live on or near a beach, it is illegal to set off fireworks between sunset and sunrise to protect sea turtles during nesting season.

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