

## County stresses preparedness ahead of busy storm season

By Hector Flores

Charlotte County Emergency Management Director Patrick Fuller appeared in a Facebook Live video with Public Safety Department Public Relations Manager Todd Dunn at the CC-TV studio in the Emergency Operations Center, to discuss the importance of preparedness this hurricane season.

With a potential Tropical Storm Debby looming in the Atlantic Ocean, it's a reminder we're entering the busiest time of what has been forecast to be an active hurricane season.

"Now is the time to begin your preparations, if you haven't already done so," Fuller said. "Those include understanding your risks, knowing what hurricane evacuation zone you reside in, knowing the type of construction of your home. If your home was built during earlier building codes, you need to know that. [Build] a plan that addresses where you're going to go if you have to evacuate, how you're going to get there, what you're taking with you, how you're going to remain informed."

Below are some sources of preparedness information:

[www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/knowyourzone](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/knowyourzone)

[www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/disasterguide](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/disasterguide)

To receive alerts about emergencies, sign up for Alert Charlotte. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. You can choose whether you want to receive alerts on your home phone, a text or call to your mobile phone, an email to your phone or computer or all of the above. To download Alert Charlotte, visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/alertcharlotte](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/alertcharlotte).

To view the entire video, visit [www.Facebook.com/Charlotte\\_County\\_Florida](https://www.Facebook.com/Charlotte_County_Florida).

### Junior Commission

The application deadline for the Charlotte County Commission's Fall 2024 Junior Commission program has been extended to Aug. 12.

Junior Commission participants will learn the functions of their local government by meeting with commissioners, touring county facilities, attending a commission meeting, pre-agenda meeting, workshop and code enforcement special magistrate hearing and holding a Junior Commission mock commission meeting.

The Junior Commission program is open to high school juniors and seniors enrolled full-time in a Charlotte County high school or accredited home school program. Applications and the program schedule are available online at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/juniorcommission](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/juniorcommission) or in person in the commission office lobby on the fifth floor of the Charlotte County Administration Center. Each county commissioner will select applicants to make up the Junior Commission.

Applications may be hand delivered to Executive Assistant Diane Whidden in the commission office, emailed to [Diane.Whidden@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Diane.Whidden@CharlotteCountyFL.gov) or mailed to Diane Whidden, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948. Selected students will be announced on Aug. 21, 2024. The program will run from Sept. 12 to Nov. 19, 2024.

For information, call the commission office at 941-743-1300 or email [Diane.Whidden@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Diane.Whidden@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

*Readers may reach County Administrator Hector Flores at [Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).*