

County Commission to Hold Budget Public Hearing Thursday

By Hector Flores

The Charlotte County Commission has scheduled a public hearing at 5:01 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center located at 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda, Fla. Topics will include a review of the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget process, millage rates, a presentation of the budget, the adoption of the tentative millage rates for countywide, environmentally sensitive lands, and MSBUs; and the adoption of proposed budgets for special revenue, debt, enterprise, and MSBU funds.

The meeting is open to the public for public input.

Charlotte County property owners should have received or will soon be receiving TRIM notices from the Property Appraiser in the mail. TRIM stands for the State of Florida's Truth in Millage Act. TRIM notices inform taxpayers which governmental entity is responsible for the taxes levied and the amount of tax liability taxpayers may owe to each taxing authority.

TRIM notices reflect the maximum tax rate that can be levied on a property. The County Commission set the maximum rate at a July board meeting. This is not a tax bill. The actual millage rate is set by the County Commission at its September budget public hearings. The second budget public hearing is scheduled for 5:01 p.m., Sept. 24 at the event center.

At its Aug. 19 meeting, the County Commission directed the budget director to present a budget that would lower ad valorem taxes on most Charlotte County homeowners. A homeowner whose home is assessed at \$200,000, would save \$67.70 versus what they would have owed if the millage rate was the same as in 2023. A homeowner whose home is assessed at \$300,000, would save \$112.23 versus what they would have owed if the millage rate was the same as in 2023.

Library Card Month

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. Throughout September, residents who sign up for their first Charlotte County Libraries and History library card will receive a certificate for one free sunset cruise with King Fisher Fleet. Locations for sign up are the Port Charlotte Public Library, the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library and the Englewood Charlotte Library.

For more information, visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov/libraries or contact your local Charlotte County library branch.

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