

Survey to inform county's strategic plan process

By Hector Flores

As mentioned in a prior column, Charlotte County is working on a strategic plan update as part of Charlotte County's two-year budget process. As a member of our community your input is very valuable to us. Charlotte County would like your help in identifying the trends that will most significantly impact our community over the next 20 years.

This two-question survey is quick to take and an important part of the strategic planning process. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/trends to take the survey. Survey closes Jan. 31.

If you have any questions, please contact the Communications Department at 941-623-1092.

PIO Award

Congratulations to Social Media Manager Ashley Turner on being named PIO of the Year by the Florida Association of PIOs and Florida Fire Chiefs' Association. Ashley was honored at the Florida Fire & EMS Conference in Orlando for her dedication to keeping the community informed when it matters most.

The award recognizes PIOs who embody the mission of delivering the right information to the right people at the right time — a critical role during crises like hurricanes and floods. Ashley responded to three hurricanes in Charlotte County. Her efforts have not only helped Charlotte County navigate challenging events but have also contributed to the Florida PIO Deployment Team's success.

Ashley deployed to fulfill a state Division of Emergency Management mission request to assist Madison County after Hurricane Debby this past hurricane season and Hurricane Idalia, as well. Plus, she's among an elite group of graduates from Federal Emergency Management Agency's Master PIO program.

Water plan

Charlotte County has scheduled a public meeting for public input and discussion about the draft One Charlotte, One Water plan at 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2025 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., in Punta Gorda. Learn about the background and purpose of the plan, proposed activities for water protection and improvement, and next steps in the process. Bring your questions and insights into how we can work for and with you to protect our waters now and into the future.

For more information about the One Charlotte, One Water plan, visit
www.charlottecountyfl.gov/one-charlotte-one-water.

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