

Charlotte County Commission imposes burn ban

By Hector Flores

The Charlotte County Commission has imposed a ban on all outdoor burning, including the use and discharge of fireworks and sparklers, due to ongoing drought conditions and increased fire risk.

Charlotte County Fire & EMS Chief Jason Fair recommended the ban, citing the potential for extreme fire behavior resulting from current drought conditions, that could cause fires to ignite easily, burn intensely, and spread rapidly.

The ban prohibits recreational fires, the burning of yard waste, and pile burning for land clearing. Agricultural and silvicultural controlled burns authorized by the Florida Forest Service are exempt. Commercial and permitted fireworks displays may be allowed on a case-by-case basis with approval from the local fire marshal.

The burn ban does not prohibit the use of grills.

The burn ban will remain in effect until the Commission votes to lift it.

For information, contact Ashley Turner at Ashley.Turner@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Disaster workshop

FloridaCommerce will host a series of community workshops to gather input from Floridians about their unmet disaster recovery needs from the 2023 and 2024 storms. The workshop will take place on Monday, March 3 in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle in Port Charlotte. The event will include a stakeholder workshop at 5 p.m. followed by a citizen workshop at 6 p.m.

The workshops will provide an overview of the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program and the upcoming State of Florida Action Plan. The plan will outline a high-level strategy for allocating funds to address long-term recovery needs in affected communities.

For those unable to attend in person, a virtual workshop will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 7. The virtual event will include a stakeholder workshop at 10:30 a.m., followed by a citizen workshop at 11:30 a.m. Stakeholders can register at <https://tinyurl.com/FCVirtualStakeholder> and citizens can register at <https://tinyurl.com/FCVirtualCitizen>.

FloridaCommerce combines the state's economic, workforce, and community development efforts, expediting economic development projects to fuel job creation in competitive communities and promote economic resiliency.

Plant tours

The Charlotte County Utilities Department is offering tours of three facilities to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at the process involved in providing water and wastewater treatment and reclamation services to the community.

Tour dates are as follows: West Port Water Reclamation Facility, 15005 Cattle Dock Point Road, Port Charlotte, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Tuesday, March 4; Peace River Water Treatment Facility, 8998 SW County Road 769, Arcadia, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Friday, March 28; Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility, 3740 Kendall Road, Rotonda West, Tuesday, April 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Readers may reach County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.