

# **Charlotte and Lee Commissions Set Joint Meeting**

By Hector Flores

The Charlotte County Commission has scheduled a joint meeting with the Lee County Commission at 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center located at 75 Taylor Road in Punta Gorda. A range of topics will be discussed including water quality, coordination efforts on Boca Grande, regional solid waste, and Vincent Avenue.

County staff will present an overview of water quality efforts by both counties, including coordinated programs such as the Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network, Regional Ambient Monitoring Program and the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative.

Governance of Gasparilla Island is split between Lee and Charlotte and access to the island is controlled by the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority. This poses challenges during weather emergencies like we have experienced these past few years. Staff will provide a presentation of how those challenges were met and what agreements and potential policy changes the two boards and the GIBA may consider.

Charlotte County provides solid waste collection on the Lee County portion of Gasparilla Island, including Boca Grande, through its collection vendor, Waste Management. Lee County residents can also use Charlotte County's mini-transfer and recycling facilities, along with some Lee County programs, such as community clean-up events. The boards will review existing interlocal agreements and discuss proposed amendments.

Vincent Avenue travels partially through both counties and maintenance costs are shared. The road is scheduled to be repaved in 2025. The boards will discuss the how the paving will be shared by both counties or, absent that, what options are available, such as paving only half of the road in Charlotte County, which is funded through a municipal services benefit unit into which Charlotte County homeowners in the unit pay for road maintenance.

The joint meeting is open to the public and citizen input will be allowed. A videotape of the meeting will be broadcast on CC-TV (Comcast channel 20 or 97) when it is available.

## **Parking fees**

At its Tuesday meeting, the County Commission directed administration to temporarily waive parking fees at beaches and boat ramps. The board will have a discussion at a future workshop about whether to eliminate the fees permanently.

## **Website search**

The Communications Department recently completed the implementation of a new search function on the county website. The new search function improves the user experience by enabling communications staff to customize search terms to direct users to webpages most closely associated with the search term instead of simply returning all results associated with the search terms.

For example, a search for “license” returns results that will bring users to webpage links where they can obtain information on pet licenses on the Animal Control Division website and driver licenses on the Tax Collector’s website. A green check mark appears on the top result associated with search terms.

If you have any suggestions for improving the search function or to request a webpage that should be associated with search terms, you can submit it via the Charlotte County FL smartphone app or click Contact in the menu at the top of any page on the county website. Submit the suggestion in the Website Questions request type.

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