

## County celebrates National County Government Month

Hector Flores

April is National County Government Month. Charlotte County will celebrate with a series of events and outreach material highlighting the range of services, facilities and programs we provide to help our community be strong, safe and healthy.

The County Commission on March 25 passed a proclamation emphasizing the county's role serving its constituents and working with our regional, state and federal governmental partners to enact programs to address the needs of our residents.

County staff will be setting up at the Englewood Charlotte Library and the Port Charlotte Public Library to host a county trivia spinning wheel. Patrons will get a chance to win county swag by answering questions about the county and its officials. Our Facebook page will be featuring a weekly trivia contest every Tuesday in April. Winners will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

Keep an eye out for a series of videos highlighting our dedicated employees talking about their public service. Staff will also be mixing with the public at a high school career fair April 22 and members of the county's Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization's Beyond the Walls mock interview event April 19.

One of the most important things the county does to ensure it is serving the community is to engage with the public. There are a series of events scheduled in the coming weeks to do just that.

Our Communications Department just announced its next Government Academy, scheduled for April 29. The free, one-day program informs and educates attendees about the programs and services provided by the county. Register online at [CharlotteCountyFL.gov/Academy](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov/Academy) or by phone 941-623-1092. Register soon We're at 31 registrants as of this writing and the maximum size of the class is 40. Registration closes April 8.

The Human Services Department has scheduled a meeting for 6 p.m. on April 22, at the Family Services Center to solicit public comment about its Community Development Block Grant plan. CDBG funds may be used to support eligible activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons, including housing, public services, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and other eligible community development activities.

The Community Development Department is holding Town Hall meetings to provide an overview of how the county approaches planning, growth, land use, and redevelopment decisions, as well as the role the Community Development Department plays in shaping our community. The first was held March 24. The next two are scheduled for April 8 at the county Administration Center in Room 119 and April 21 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center in Punta Gorda. Both events begin at 6 p.m. Public input is encouraged.

The Public Works Department has scheduled a public meeting about the Don Pedro Beach renourishment and Bocilla Lagoon dredging projects on April 7 and one about the Manasota Key Beach renourishment project on April 6. Both start at 10 a.m. at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Recreation Center in Englewood.

The Utilities Department has scheduled a guided tour of the Burnt Store Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility for 10 a.m.-noon, April 22.

A couple days ago, the Community Services Department held its final public meeting on master plans for Englewood East, Rotonda Community and Deep Creek Community parks.

Please join us in celebrating National County Government Month and sharing your views at the many events we have throughout the year to solicit public input.

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