

## **Deadline approaching for Junior Commission applications**

By Hector Flores

The Dec. 15 application deadline is approaching for the County Commission's new Junior Commission youth civic education program. Applications may be hand-delivered to Executive Assistant Morgan Cook in the commission office, emailed to [Morgan.Cook@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Morgan.Cook@CharlotteCountyFL.gov) or mailed to Morgan Cook, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948. Selected students will be announced on Jan. 8, 2024.

The Junior Commission program is open to high school seniors enrolled full-time in a Charlotte County high school or accredited home school program. Applications and the program schedule are available online at [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/juniorcommission](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/juniorcommission) or in person in the commission office lobby on the fifth floor of the Charlotte County Administration Center.

Junior Commission participants will learn the functions of their local government by meeting with commissioners, attending a commission meeting, pre-agenda meeting, workshop and code enforcement special magistrate hearing and holding a Junior Commission mock commission meeting.

For information, call the commission office at 941-743-3000 or email [Morgan.Cook@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Morgan.Cook@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

### **Santa breakfast**

One of the highlights of the holiday season, is the Charlotte County Public Safety Department's Santa Firehouse Pancake Breakfast. The 24<sup>th</sup> annual event will take place this year from 9-11 a.m., Dec. 22 in the parking lot of the Charlotte County Public Safety Building, 26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, 33982.

The public is invited to the free pancake breakfast sponsored by HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital. Santa will arrive on a fire engine at 9:30 am. There also will be children's activities, live Christmas music, demonstrations by Charlotte County Fire & EMS and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, helicopters and equipment on display from the Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Florida Forest Service and more.

RSVP on Eventbrite by visiting [tinyurl.com/SantaPancakeBreakfast](http://tinyurl.com/SantaPancakeBreakfast).

### **Water town hall**

Staff will be providing an overview of the past, present and future of water management in Charlotte County at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

A variety of topics will be covered, including a brief history of water in Charlotte County and what we know about our current water quality, what we're learning, and what we plan to do next.

Staff will also discuss stormwater and potable water management. The session will wrap up with a preview of the soon-to-be completed One Charlotte, One Water plan

Throughout the Town Hall, participants will have opportunities to provide feedback on the county's water activities and direction of the One Charlotte, One Water Plan. For information, email [Brandon.Moody@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Brandon.Moody@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

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