

## **County celebrates administrative professionals and counties**

By Hector Flores

This past Wednesday, the county recognized the valuable contributions of administrative professionals serving our community with a day of professional development and team-building exercises.

Administrative professionals keep organizations running smoothly in public-facing roles and behind the scenes, managing schedules, coordinating communication and resolving problems. The work in a range of jobs that support our many departments and keep the organization running efficiently and delivering exceptional service to our residents and visitors alike. In Charlotte County, 31 positions are classified as administrative professionals.

To all of my colleagues in these positions, thank you for the dedicated work you perform. Your professionalism and commitment are deeply appreciated.

### **County government month**

As National County Government Month winds down next week, I wanted to emphasize the vital role local government plays in serving the community. The services, programs and facilities provided to residents are almost uniformly funded and administered by local government, from public safety to road construction and maintenance, stormwater drainage, parks, beaches and libraries, potable water and sewer treatment, construction permitting and inspections, code enforcement, emergency management, mosquito control and much more.

The tax dollars property owners pay stays in the county. Elected officials are put in office by county voters for four-year terms. A large number of county employees are neighbors of the people they serve, making them even more invested in the health and safety of the community.

When the month started, I outlined the importance of public input. In one of the final meetings of the month, two departments presented agenda items that underscored that truth. To prepare for an item about right-of-way impairments on Palm Island, the Public Works Department traveled to the island for a town hall seeking input on the issue. That feedback was shared with the county commissioners before they debated possible resolutions to the issue.

For the Community Development Department's item on public use of county-owned land, primarily for installing docks in waterways, the commission chamber was filled with impacted residents and public input last for about a half and hour. After debate, the board directed staff to develop a solution that would allow docks.

To me, what I outlined above is what makes local government the most responsive to the people. Not every decision is going to make everyone happy, not every facility is going to be used for everybody, not every policy is going to please everybody. But services, programs,

facilities and policies are put in place to serve as many people as possible and we welcome feedback on what could we can do better.

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