

County earns 38 National Association of Counties awards

By Hector Flores

Charlotte County has earned 38 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, the organization announced recently. The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. The award total exceeds a record set last year by 15 awards.

Each year, NACo's Achievement Awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and more. Launched in 1970, the program is designed to recognize innovation in county government.

"The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day," said NACo President Denise Winfrey. "This year's winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in over 50 years of presenting these awards."

These awards confirm that the many ways we deliver exceptional services to our community are models to follow across the country. We pursue awards from trade organizations like NACo as a way to illustrate to our residents and stakeholders the commitment county employees have to fulfilling the mission, vision and values of Charlotte County government.

To view the full list of awards and read a synopsis of the programs that earned them, visit <https://www.naco.org/resources/awards-programs/achievement-awards-program-search>. Enter Charlotte County in the search box. To learn more about the National Association of Counties, visit www.NACo.org.

Congratulations to everyone involved in creating and administering these programs and services.

Hurricane season

Hurricane season just began earlier this week and right on cue a tropical disturbance formed in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. As I write this on Thursday, there's a chance of development into a tropical storm, but moving away from us to the south. Stay tuned to local news and emergency alerts. The system is a stark reminder that the early part of hurricane season is when we see these types of storms flare up with little warning or time to prepare.

This is why we preach preparedness. Having your disaster plan and supplies in place at the start of the hurricane season puts you in a position where you can quickly take care of other important tasks, such as clearing potential wind-borne items from your yard.

If you haven't created your disaster plan, Disaster Guides are also available at our libraries and on the Emergency Management website. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/disasterguide.

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