



# 2018 Florida City Government Week

The week held special meaning after hurricane

Florida City Government Week is set aside as a time to celebrate, showcase and engage citizens regarding all the people and services that make city government special. The 2018 event, held October 22-28, came shortly after Hurricane Michael had a devastating impact across Northwest Florida.

That disaster highlighted the importance of city government in a particular way, as municipalities scrambled to help each other and their residents recover. Government officials and staff were at their finest as they gave a helping hand to citizens.

City officials and staffs make their communities better every day. The summaries that follow recap how cities marked Florida City Government Week.

compiled by Eryn Russell  
Florida League of Cities



## PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2019 FCGW

This year's **Florida City Government Week** will be held October 21-27. If your city would like to participate, you can find additional ideas by going to [floridaleagueofcities.com](http://floridaleagueofcities.com). Under "Resources," select "Florida City Government Week."



**ALACHUA**



The City of Alachua celebrated Florida City Government Week by presenting a five-part video series on social media detailing what has made Alachua a special place to live since 1905, the year it incorporated. The videos were hosted by a different commissioner each day and featured a look into the city's history, public services, economic prosperity and quality of life, before culminating the week with Mayor Gib Coerper giving viewers a look toward Alachua's future.

**ARCADIA**

The City of Arcadia established a Citizens' Academy to coincide with Florida City Government Week. Academy members began with a visit to the Utilities Department and Water and Sewer Department. They viewed the water and wastewater plants to learn how they operate and their costs. Next, they visited the airport and golf course to see improvements. Finally, the members toured the Arcadia Police Department and became acquainted with the marshal and lieutenant.



**ATLANTIC BEACH**

The City of Atlantic Beach began Florida City Government Week with an essay contest for sixth-graders titled "If I Were a Mayor." The city also unveiled a program that will help residents understand their city government. The program will include hosting quarterly "Atlantic Beach Government 101 Overview and Q&A" classes, updating the city website to include a "Government 101" portal and city leaders going into classrooms to educate students. Atlantic Beach was also recognized as a Purple Heart City.



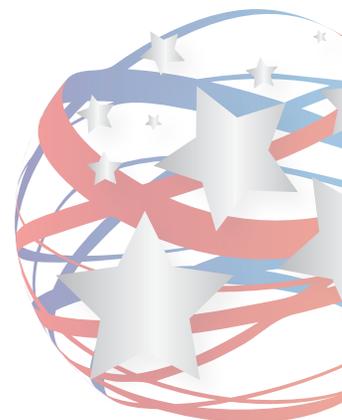
**BELLE ISLE**



To celebrate Florida City Government Week, the City of Belle Isle posted trivia questions each day at City Hall. If residents answered the questions correctly, they received Florida City Government Week buttons and bumper stickers. Belle Isle also hosted a Halloween event that included an invitation to residents to trick or treat and to tour City Hall to learn about the duties of Belle Isle's employees.

**BOCA RATON**

At the October 23 City Council meeting, the City of Boca Raton recognized student government bodies from local high schools and colleges/universities. The city also used social media to promote civic engagement. It informed residents through short, interactive videos about how to get involved with the city and how Boca Raton serves its residents.



**BRADENTON BEACH**

During Florida City Government Week, the City of Bradenton Beach and Mayor John Chappie announced the launch of a new pilot program: Youth in Politics, which is fashioned to introduce young children to local government. Additionally, the city opened its doors to 75 third-graders for one day to become “local politicians.” Since that time, Bradenton Beach has been contacted by multiple local schools, and the city is planning to host even more schools in 2019.



**BROOKSVILLE**

The City of Brooksville Fire Department held educational field trips and tours during October to incorporate Fire Prevention Week and Florida City Government Week. Fire Chief Ronald Snowberger arranged for groups of elementary schoolchildren to take tours of the station, which included firefighter and firetruck demonstrations.



**BUNNELL**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Bunnell held a “Meet ‘n Greet” that gave citizens time to talk with the mayor, vice mayor, commissioners, the new city manager and staff members to gain information about their city and how they can get involved. After the “Meet ‘n Greet,” the regular meeting of the Bunnell City Commission was held.



**CAPE CANAVERAL**



The City of Cape Canaveral marked Florida City Government Week with three activities that gave local elementary students a behind-the-scenes look at municipal government. Fourth-grade students were treated to a presentation by the Culture & Leisure Services Department. Third-graders participated in a mock city council meeting, where they discussed single-use plastics and their impact on the environment. Cape Canaveral wrapped up the week by hosting a tour of city facilities and departments for fifth-grade students.

**COCONUT CREEK**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Coconut Creek filmed and highlighted 17 city employees on social media and the city’s website; posted historical facts about the city on social media; placed Florida City Government Week banners on local streets; and promoted city facts, classes and initiatives on the city’s website. Speakers, including the vice mayor, visited local schools to discuss topics such as safety, engineering and sustainable development.

**CORAL GABLES**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Coral Gables held a social media photo contest for residents and visitors to showcase their favorite spots in the city by using the hashtag #PartofGables. Additionally, the second annual poster was launched that celebrates employees and the services that local government provides. Coral Gables closed out the week with an ice cream social for employees.



**DADE CITY**



The City of Dade City hosted fifth-graders from Pasco Elementary and R.B. Cox Elementary School at City Hall. The students interacted with city staff, members of the Police Department, public works employees and several commissioners. Students also participated in a mock commission meeting, “Touch a Truck” with the street sweeper and a tour of the Police Department.

**DAVIE**

For Florida City Government Week, the Town of Davie hosted a tour of Town Hall for 98 students and teachers. Students met Mayor Judy Paul, Town Attorney John C. Rayson and Councilwoman Susan Starkey. They also met with town staff members from the Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Cultural Arts, Fire and Police departments.

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS**

During Florida City Government week, 30 students toured the DeFuniak Springs Police Department and were treated to doughnuts during a Q&A meeting with Marshal Mark Weeks. An additional 100 students toured City Hall council chambers, met the mayor and city manager, and heard presentations from the Public Works and Sanitation departments. During a city government “Meet and Greet” public reception, residents met with new City Manager Mell Smigielski and members of the City Council.



**ESTERO**



During Florida City Government week, Mayor James R. Boesch, Vice-Mayor William F. Ribble and Councilmembers Jim Wilson, Jon McLain, Katy Errington and Nicholas Batos participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first residential building in Genova. Genova is the first residential community to be approved in Estero’s newly created Village Center.

**FORT PIERCE**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Fort Pierce hosted a scavenger hunt that led citizens throughout the city. At each stop, city staff gave citizens puzzles to solve before hunters could proceed to the next stop. Each stop showcased an important spot for art, culture or history in Fort Pierce.



**GOLDEN BEACH**

At Golden Beach’s October Town Council meeting, the town displayed special items from its Police Department, which included a canine unit and a pink Breast Cancer Awareness police cruiser. During Golden Beach’s annual Halloween event, residents interacted with the Police Department and received “My Town, I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It” buttons.



**GREENACRES**

The City of Greenacres hosted approximately 45 students from the L.C. Swain Middle School pre-law program during Florida City Government Week. They held a mock city council meeting and toured all the city departments. City Attorney Glen J. Torcivia and City Clerk Joanna L. Cunningham talked to them about elections, passports and opportunities in government.



**HOLLY HILL**



The City of Holly Hill invited local students to City Hall for Florida City Government Week. The mayor and commissioners each selected a student and prepared him or her about how to conduct a city commission meeting. Other students acted as the audience. They could ask questions, share their concerns and vote on items being discussed. Additionally, staff from the Public Works Department showed students the heavy equipment they use, and the Police and Fire departments discussed their work.

**LADY LAKE**

The Town of Lady Lake celebrated the week with a photo contest that asked residents to enter an image that celebrates “My Town: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It.” The town hosted a meet and greet with the commissioners, town manager and staff members and held an event with the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments where residents could ask questions and view equipment demonstrations. Residents also met with police officers and asked questions about their work.



**LAKE PARK**



The Town of Lake Park celebrated Florida City Government Week with 65 fifth-grade students and five teachers from Lake Park Elementary School and Lake Park Baptist School. The students and teachers participated in a mock commission meeting; department skits; a public works’ demonstration; and a tour of Town Hall, the library and the sheriff’s office. Students and teachers were also greeted by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Mounted Unit and Motorcycle Unit.

**MARCO ISLAND**



During Florida City Government Week, the City of Marco Island hosted activities for its residents including a movie in the park, a workshop on local iguanas and a citywide cleanup event. Third- and fifth-graders joined the Parks and Recreation Department staff for the cleanup. Additionally, Marco Island hosted a City Hall open house at which residents were invited to eat and meet with city officials and staff.

**MOUNT DORA**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Mount Dora produced videos highlighting city departments. Mount Dora focused on public safety, events, public works and the city’s library programs. The city’s electric crew spoke with students at Head Start and showcased their equipment. On Saturday, the largest event of the year, the Mount Dora Craft Fair, brought thousands of Florida citizens into Mount Dora. Residents interacted with city staff, police officers, firefighters, the mayor and councilmembers.



**MULBERRY**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Mulberry hosted an informative week for the city’s young people. City department heads visited Mulberry High School and Mulberry Middle School, while the two local elementary schools visited City Hall. Additionally, the Mulberry Civic Teen Advisory Board was announced as a winner in the Florida League of Cities’ 2018 Video Competition.



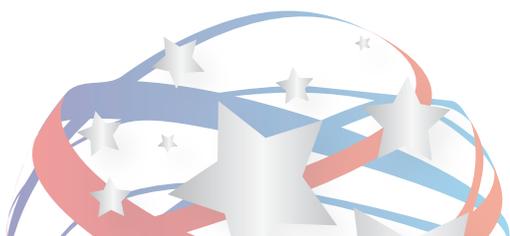
**NEWBERRY**



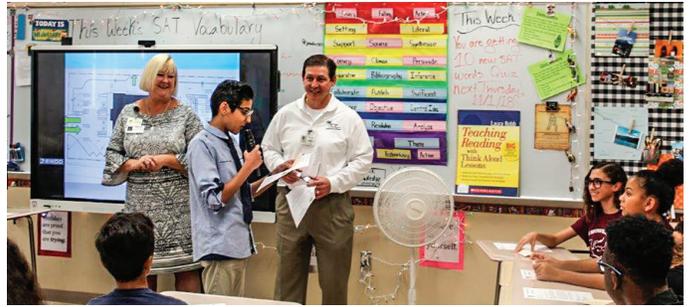
The City of Newberry held a “My City” event at the Newberry Branch Library. The event included activities for all ages that promoted municipal government and the services it provides to Newberry citizens. The city hosted a utility bucket truck and a firetruck on site for participants to explore and interact with staff. The mayor and commissioners were available for questions. The library also hosted Newberry trivia, municipal trivia and a craft for kids.

**OCEAN BREEZE**

For Florida City Government Week, City of Ocean Breeze Mayor Karen Ostrand spoke about the history of Home Rule at the Town Council meeting. Council Vice President Ann Kagdis distributed “Our Town” buttons and stickers and gave a historical overview of the Town of Ocean Breeze, one of the smallest towns in Florida.



**PALM SPRINGS**



Village Manager Richard J. Reade and various department directors visited Palm Springs Middle School during the week to engage students in a discussion about city government, including the city’s responsibilities and the services it provides. Seventh-grade students held a mock council meeting to consider a proposed redevelopment project. The students were invited to a Village Council meeting, where they sat with the mayor, council and staff members. Students assisted with running the meeting, presenting staff recommendations and considering agenda items for approval.

**PARKLAND**

The City of Parkland hosted 600 third-grade students from local elementary schools at City Hall. Students had the opportunity to visit with the mayor to learn about her responsibilities, explore police and fire equipment and trucks, learn the ins and outs of recycling and waste pickup, and participate in an election at the Parkland Library.



**PORT ST. LUCIE**



For Florida City Government Week, the City of Port St. Lucie hosted a group of fifth-grade students who spent the day immersed in the work of their local government. They participated in a mock city council meeting, were able to see the city’s Swamp Meister in action, see the Police Department’s K-9s at work and learn about how recycling can benefit their neighborhoods.

**SANFORD**

#FCGWeek in Sanford began when Mayor Jeff Triplett called on city staff and his fellow commissioners for a “family photo” as he read the Florida City Government Week proclamation. Members of the Mayor’s Youth Council and Seminole High School’s Young Men of Excellence Program met at City Hall to learn about local government initiatives and to share peer-to-peer their own ideas about what local government means to them. Additionally, the city held its groundbreaking event for the RiverWalk Phase 3 Seawall.



**SURFSIDE**



During Florida City Government Week, the Town of Surfside hosted a behind-the-scenes Town Hall tour. Participants met members of town departments and walked through the police facility. After the tour, participants enjoyed an ice cream social with Mayor Daniel Dietch. Additionally, the Town of Surfside held a special edition of its “Coffee with the Cops” with Surfside Police Chief Julio Yero and his officers.

**TALLAHASSEE**

The City of Tallahassee produced a video highlighting its residents to kick off Florida City Government Week. During the week, the video was shared on the city’s social media platforms and aired on the city’s television channel more than 300 times.



**TARPON SPRINGS**

Mayor Chris Alahouzos visited with students at Tarpon Springs Middle School to celebrate Florida City Government Week. Alahouzos shared with the students the important role that city government plays in their lives, and students watched the City Government 101 video.



**TEMPLE TERRACE**

The City of Temple Terrace partnered with Florida College for its Second Annual Florida City Government Day program. Eleven college students selected a city director to shadow and learn about the director’s responsibilities. The students then researched how transitioning to a four-day workweek would affect their chosen departments. After spending an hour with their city mentors, the students held a mock city council meeting debating the merits of the hypothetical schedule change. A reception followed where students networked with elected officials and staff.



**VENICE**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Venice held poster contests in two elementary schools. Participants drew or painted to the theme, “My City, I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It.” Their works will be installed at City Hall. Seventeen city officials and staff members read aloud to students in kindergarten through second grade at Venice Elementary School. Venice also hosted a “Make a Difference Day” in which more than 440 volunteers turned out to beautify the city’s parks.



**WEBSTER**



The City of Webster is a designated “Bee City.” During Florida City Government Week, Webster invited residents to City Hall to learn about pollinators and what the city does to help establish plants for pollinators. They also learned how to make bee condos. The Public Works Department taught residents how to read water meters, and staff members spoke about the proper care of grinder pumps. During the week, Congressman Daniel Webster, city councilmen and staff members were available in City Hall to meet and speak with citizens.

**WESTON**

During Florida City Government Week, the City of Weston kicked off the 17th annual Weston University Program. The program exposes students to local government, giving them firsthand insight into the work that goes into running a city. As customary, the first program day, held during Florida City Government Week, included an overview by City Manager John R. Flint, a session with Mayor Daniel J. Stermer, and ethics and legal perspectives by City Attorney Jamie A. Cole.



**PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

- |                            |                     |                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Governor Rick Scott</b> | <b>Golden Beach</b> | <b>Palm Springs</b>   |
| <b>Alachua</b>             | <b>Greenacres</b>   | <b>Port St. Lucie</b> |
| <b>Arcadia</b>             | <b>Holly Hill</b>   | <b>Sanford</b>        |
| <b>Atlantic Beach</b>      | <b>Indian Town</b>  | <b>Surfside</b>       |
| <b>Boca Raton</b>          | <b>Jupiter</b>      | <b>Tarpon Springs</b> |
| <b>Bradenton Beach</b>     | <b>Lake City</b>    | <b>Temple Terrace</b> |
| <b>Brooksville</b>         | <b>Lake Park</b>    | <b>Webster</b>        |
| <b>Bunnell</b>             | <b>Lakeland</b>     | <b>Wellington</b>     |
| <b>Coral Gables</b>        | <b>Mulberry</b>     | <b>Wilton Manors</b>  |
| <b>Crestview</b>           | <b>Newberry</b>     | <b>Winter Haven</b>   |
| <b>DeFuniak Springs</b>    | <b>Ocean Breeze</b> |                       |

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**WINTER HAVEN**



During Florida City Government Week, the City of Winter Haven’s city commissioners made presentations to over 200 school-aged children at three locations. The city also conducted a bingo night, “Meet with the Mayor” and Police Department tours. Staff from Technology Services and the public library hosted a “Technology Petting Zoo” to offer residents hands-on technology experiences, creating greater engagement and more powerful learning opportunities. The week ended with a fun “Ghouls’ Day Out” Halloween event for hundreds of children.

**WINTER PARK**

For Florida City Government Week, the City of Winter Park hosted a behind-the-scenes look at the Public Works Department. The session featured how city signs are made, as well as how a traffic control device is wired to alleviate traffic. Winter Park also promoted the Fire Department’s hands-only CPR event to empower its community members to feel confident about stepping in to help save a life.

