

#FLCITIESWEEK

# 2019 Florida City Government Week

A time to showcase and celebrate cities throughout Florida

**F**lorida City Government Week is the opportunity for municipalities to shine in the spotlight.

During the week, cities educate and engage residents about the range of services their municipalities offer, and they celebrate and showcase what makes them stand out. Each city, town and village brings its own unique approach to the week. Activities foster collaboration and volunteerism in communities.

The roundup of activities that follows provides inspiration and ideas for this year's event, which will be held October 19-25, 2020.

## ATLANTIC BEACH

Atlantic Beach hosted activities that included a Government 101 class for residents, a reception honoring committee and board members, a city Facebook "Did You Know" series, an "If I Were Mayor" contest, a recognition lunch for city employees and an appreciation dinner for police staff.



## CAPE CORAL

Cape Coral residents celebrated the beauty of their city through a photo contest. Photos were judged in four categories: cell-phone photos, nature and landscape, digital manipulation and infrastructure. To celebrate Cape Coral's employees, photos were taken of employees on the job and shared on social media.



## CLERMONT



Clermont kicked off the week by displaying "My City: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It" bumper stickers, buttons and stickers at City Hall. The city made a Facebook post using the hashtag #FLCityWeek and included a link to learn more about the city manager and his duties.

The city also posted a poll about a lesser-known fact in Clermont's history. To wrap up the week, city leaders were proud to congratulate the Clermont Youth Council on being named a winner in the 2019 Municipal Youth Council Video Competition.

## COCOA



Cocoa hosted an open house. Each department set up a display table where they spoke with residents about the services they provide to the community.

This event was held before a City Council meeting, which residents were encouraged to attend. During the annual Fall Festival, a "touch-a-truck" event was held so younger citizens could see what services the city vehicles provided.

**CRESTVIEW**

Crestview kicked off the week with an open house. The city also hosted a "library day" pancake breakfast and a Facebook Live broadcast from City Hall where residents could ask questions. The week wrapped up with the monthly family movie night in Spanish Trail Park, part of the Mayor's Cultural Series. During the week, city leaders including the council members, city manager and city clerk popped up in venues around town.



**DAYTONA BEACH**

Daytona Beach launched a social media campaign to show how residents can be more engaged with city government. Each weekday, a video was posted on Facebook with the hashtag #FLCityWeek. Topics included joining a city board, attending a public meeting, attending an event, participating in upcoming elections and staying connected online.



**DESTIN**

Destin held its 35th anniversary open house. This year's theme was "Looking Back ... Moving Forward." More than 250 residents attended the event with 12 of the city's strategic partners. The partners answered questions and highlighted the work they do for the city. The city manager said that "this is a wonderful opportunity to engage the community we serve and showcase the work we do behind the scenes, along with our city partners."



**FERNANDINA BEACH**

Fernandina Beach hosted events for its youngest residents. Events included story time with the vice mayor and city manager at a local library and a school field trip to the fire station. Fire Department staff brought apparatuses and equipment to the municipal recreation center's preschool.



**FRUITLAND PARK**



Fruitland Park kicked off the week with story time and pumpkin activities for local preschoolers. Additionally, the city hosted the fifth annual "Trick or Trot" costume 5K,

where residents of all ages dressed in costumes to complete the run. All proceeds of the event benefitted the local school and the Parks and Recreation Department.

**GAINESVILLE**

Gainesville hosted three events. The week kicked off with Coffee with the Commission for residents to chat with their elected officials. The next day, the city hosted its 14th annual City Government Day. The day included a field trip for fifth-grade students to tour city facilities, visit with staff, record a government channel public service announcement and participate in a mock city commission meeting. Then, a City Commission meeting focused on some of the community's most pressing issues.



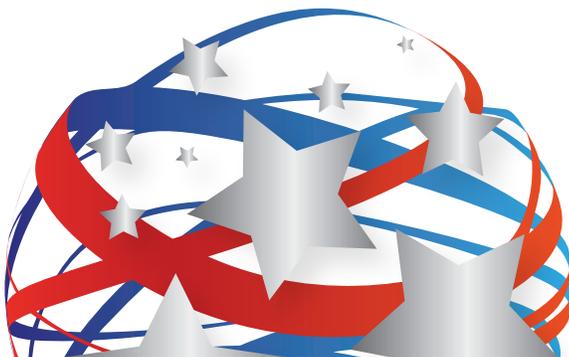
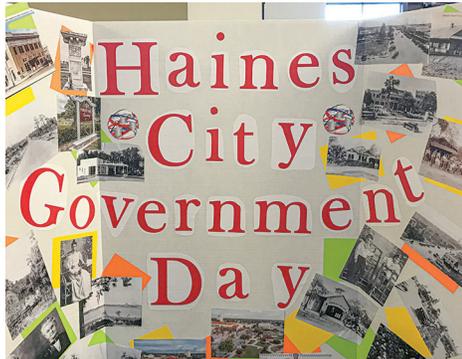
## GREENACRES

Participants in Greenacres' Youth Programs Division toured city departments and learned about their functions and key personnel. Middle school students met with the Planning and Engineering and Public Works directors to discuss the students' ideas for a future capital improvement project that would affect a building the youth use. The students drew up site plans and presented their ideas to the City Council. High school participants met with the mayor and city manager to schedule job-shadowing opportunities. The city also worked with L.C. Swain Middle School to host a mock city council meeting.



## HAINES CITY

The City Clerk's Office hosted a Haines City Government Day. City departments educated the public about local government and the city's history and provided information about upcoming city events and programs. The Community Redevelopment Agency and the Human Resources, Parks and Recreation, Technology Management, Development Services and Police departments participated. The minutes from the first City Commission meeting held in 1914 were available so attendees could read about the city's establishment.



## HILLIARD

Hilliard invited the third-grade classes of Hilliard Elementary to participate in an essay contest titled "If I Were Mayor of the Town of Hilliard." The essays were reviewed by the mayor, and three winners were chosen. Winners and their families attended a regular Town Council meeting where they were presented with a certificate and prizes of \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place.



## HOLLY HILL



Students from United Brethren in Christ Academy and Holly Hill School (K-8) spent the day at Holly Hill City Hall. The day included a tour of the Police and Fire departments, and Public Works Department staff showcased heavy equipment trucks and showed students how

to operate them. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions of staff members and elected officials. The employees and students ate lunch together before ending the day with a group photo on the front steps of City Hall.

## INDIANTOWN

Indiantown's mayor and vice mayor visited more than 100 students at Indiantown Middle School to talk about the village, which is Florida's newest municipality. Students were shown the City Government 101 video, played a Jeopardy-style game and reviewed information about the council and the village.



**LADY LAKE**

Lady Lake read a proclamation declaring the week of October 21-27, 2019, as Florida City Government Week. During the week, treats were given to every resident who visited Town Hall. The town also hosted an information booth at the local "Not Too Scary Halloween Party," where staff members distributed buttons, bumper stickers, license plates, pens and candy to residents.



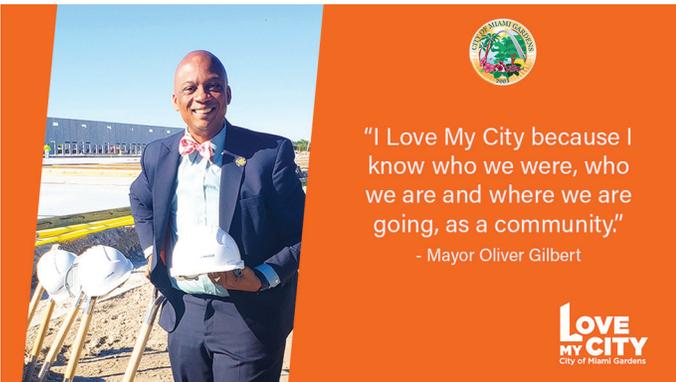
**MARGATE**

Margate's Magnet Middle School students participated in the city's annual "Student Government Day." Hosted by the City Clerk's Office, the school's student council members learned about the policy-making processes and operations of their city in a fun and engaging way. The students participated in a mock commission meeting alongside city officials, toured various departments and learned about the services each one provides. They learned firsthand how the city enhances the quality of life for residents.



**MIAMI GARDENS**

The City of Miami Gardens created a #LoveMyCity social media campaign that consisted of quotes from the mayor on why he loves his hometown. It garnered many shares and encouraged others to share why they love Miami Gardens.



**MOUNT DORA**

Mount Dora kicked off the week with "Coffee with Firefighters" for citizens to talk to firefighters. The next day, Electric Utilities Department staff members visited Head Start Day-care to show students their equipment and talk about electric safety. Mount Dora police hosted two community neighborhood watch meetings, informing citizens about neighborhood safety and how to report things that look suspicious. The W.T. Bland Public Library also hosted an event to teach people how to win government contracts, reviewing the bidding process and ways to stand out.



**MULBERRY**

The City of Mulberry hosted a variety of events and programs. One of the city's favorite events was visiting Mulberry Middle School to host stations that eighth-graders walked through. Each station was facilitated by a city department head. Students learned about the department heads' roles in local government and the different life skills they use in their jobs.



**NEWBERRY**



Newberry, with Newberry Branch Library, held a "Touch-a-Truck" event. The city hosted a utility bucket truck, firetruck, road grader and backhoe for participants to explore. City staff demonstrated how equipment is used to provide municipal services. The library hosted a local government trivia station and craft table. The mayor and a commissioner discussed city services with students.

**NICEVILLE**

Niceville hosted an open house for residents. The city set up booths for each city department at the Niceville Community Center and included vendors and businesses that support the local community. Citizens were able to talk to vendor representatives, in addition to learning what each city department does. Refreshments were served at the Niceville Senior Center for a nominal cost.



**NORTH LAUDERDALE**

North Lauderdale hosted a Student Government Day with the participation of two elementary schools and one middle school. Students from the schools enjoyed a city facility tour, which included a demonstration by the Fire Department and the Broward County Sheriff's Office motorcycle officers and a tour of the Police Department. Also, the middle school students participated in a mock city commission meeting.



**NORTH MIAMI**



The city clerk participated in story time at the North Miami Public Library. She read her favorite childhood books: "And Two Boys Boomed" and "Thank you Omu!"

**OAKLAND**

The Town of Oakland held a State of the Town event in which the mayor presented updates and future plans. The town handed out "My Town: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It" stickers, bumper stickers and buttons.



**PALM SPRINGS**



Palm Springs hosted special events to promote the important role municipal government plays. Village staff visited students at Palm Springs Community Middle School

to discuss the role the village plays within the community and led students in a mock council meeting. Additionally, several students participated in a Village Council meeting and met the council members in an informal meet and greet, while enjoying refreshments and a tour of the Utility Department offices.

**PARKER**

The City of Parker and Parker Elementary hosted a "Mayor for the Day" event. Fifth-graders submitted essays about what they



would do if they were given \$100,000 to make the city better. Contest winners participated in a mock city council meeting and played the roles of the mayor, councilmember, fire chief, police chief, public works supervisor, city clerk and city attorney. Students then toured city departments, talked with city staff and rode in a firetruck.

**PARKLAND**

Third-grade students were invited to Parkland City Hall to learn about all facets of government. They learned important information about the Parkland City Commission, Police Department, Fire Department and waste disposal, as well as how to vote. Students were given a bag that contained goodies from each station they visited throughout the day.

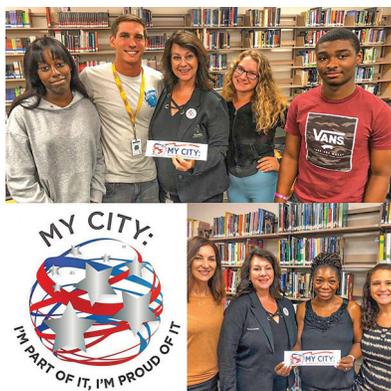


**PEMBROKE PINES**

The City of Pembroke Pines invited residents to participate in a social media trivia game and a "Coffee with the Mayor" event. The week was promoted in the city newspaper "City Connect," the city website, via press releases, on Pines Media TV and on social media.



**PLANTATION**



The City of Plantation engaged its residents through several events. A councilmember visited local schools to discuss city government. At the City Council meeting, student council members from Mirror Lake Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance, and they met their real-life counterparts (mayor, attorney, clerk and councilmembers).

The city also hosted a "Cups and Cones with the Council" event at a local ice cream shop, where residents were able to order custom council creations.



**PORT ORANGE**

Port Orange kicked off the week with 20 Girl Scouts visiting City Hall to earn their Inside Government badge. The scouts learned about city government, toured City Hall and met with the mayor and councilmen. The week continued with 30 residents completing their last class of the city's Citizens Academy with a presentation from the Police Department. Then the group enjoyed cake in honor of the week.



**PORT ST. LUCIE**



Fifteen Port St. Lucie high school students traded in their textbooks and classroom lectures to participate in Port St. Lucie's "Job Shadowing Day." They had the opportunity to work with city employees. The students witnessed a range of jobs and job skills, asked questions, picked up information and learned firsthand the

responsibilities and rewards of being a government employee. Several students took home volunteer packets in the hopes of becoming a part of the organization.

**SANFORD**

The mayor, communications officer and a firefighter visited Seminole High School to offer insight about city government and their respective roles. The mayor spoke with the school's government class about local government responsibilities. Also in attendance were members of the Mayor's Youth Council. The mayor also stopped by the Young Men of Excellence classroom for handshakes and a photo.



## SARASOTA AND SARASOTA COUNTY



The City of Sarasota, Sarasota County Libraries & Historical Resources and the Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center co-hosted a "Mobility Challenge" in

honor of White Cane Safety Day. Lighthouse staff set up stations to help visitors understand how individuals with vision loss engage in everyday activities with assistive devices and training.

## ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH



The City of St. Augustine Beach took a "step back in time" to reflect on its 60 years as a municipality. The city hosted an open house that included a historical display with pictures and artifacts from the city's past,

a trivia table and refreshments. In addition, Max Royle was honored for his 30 years of service as St. Augustine Beach city manager and was surprised with a cake.

## TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee kicked off the week with a Youth Government Day at City Hall. During the event, high school students participated in a mock city commission meeting. Florida's attorney general swore in the high school mayor, mayor pro tem and three commissioners. The city also invited residents to City Hall for an open house with refreshments, entertainment and giveaways. Attendees spoke one-on-one with city employees from various departments and divisions.



## TAMARAC

Tamarac kicked off the week with a mock commission meeting for high school students. At its regular commission meeting, the city welcomed elementary students from Tamarac Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Renaissance Charter School at University and BridgePrep Academy. Photos from Renaissance Charter students were featured in a PowerPoint presentation, and students from Tamarac Elementary shared their "Why I Love My City" essays and artwork. Also, commissioners visited high school and elementary schools to share the City Government 101 video, talk about city government and answer students' questions.



## TEMPLE TERRACE

Temple Terrace partnered with Florida College for its third annual Florida City Government Day event. Eleven students met with elected officials, city directors and other municipal staff members to learn more about their roles in governing and maintaining city services. The students supplemented these interactions with information shared at a planning day held at the college two weeks prior and with independent research to participate in a mock city council meeting focusing on real city issues. Afterward they networked further with city staff. The mock meeting can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/ttgovtday](http://tinyurl.com/ttgovtday).



**WELLINGTON**

The Village of Wellington celebrated the week by engaging young leaders and residents in the work of municipal government through the Tom Atkins Civics 101 Program, a special Town Center Boardwalk groundbreaking ceremony, the Keely Spinelli Education Grant presentation and Wellington's social media pages. They also created the inaugural Wellington Youth Council.



**WINTER HAVEN**

Winter Haven hosted several celebrations. A double ribbon-cutting recognized two significant city projects. The Public Safety Department engaged residents with a "Pumpkin Painting with Your Public Safety Team," "Lunch and Supper with Your Public Safety Team," a prescription pill take back, Police Department mini-tours and "Tweet the Public Safety Beat" on social media. A wastewater treatment plant tour showed citizens the importance of water and proper treatment and use of wastewater. Winter Haven Recreational and Cultural Center afterschool program participants learned more about local government with guest speakers and an ice cream party.



**WINTER PARK**

The City of Winter Park made a social post to Facebook and Twitter asking residents why they're proud to be part of the Winter Park community. City staff went to a seventh-grade civics class to talk about local government and how it works. The Parks and Recreation Department continued the celebration with elementary students in its afterschool program. The students learned about city-owned buildings and that their favorite afterschool counselors are city employees.



**Proclamations and Resolutions Adopted**

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Auburndale         | Naples          |
| Brooksville        | Newberry        |
| Crestview          | Niceville       |
| Deerfield Beach    | Oakland Park    |
| Destin             | Palm Springs    |
| Fruitland Park     | Plantation      |
| Greenacres         | Port Orange     |
| Hillard            | Sanford         |
| Holly Hill         | Sarasota County |
| Indian Rocks Beach | Tallahassee     |
| Indiantown         | Tamarac         |
| Jupiter            | Tarpon Springs  |
| Lady Lake          | Temple Terrace  |
| Lake Butler        | Wellington      |
| Madison            | Winter Haven    |
| Margate            |                 |
| Mount Dora         |                 |

**2020 Florida City Government Week**

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 19-25**

For information and resources, go to [flcities.com](http://flcities.com).  
Under "Education + Events," select "City Gov. Week."