

Clerk of Courts Promotes Sunshine Week in Collier County

March 11 - 17, 2012



Press Release:

March 11 - 17 is Sunshine Week in Collier County, which corresponds with the national initiative underscoring the importance of "open government" and serves as a reminder to all citizens of their right to access public records and public meetings.

To mark Sunshine Week, Dwight Brock, Clerk of Courts, gave a seminar to about 150 citizens at the South Regional Library on Lely Cultural Boulevard on February 21st which demonstrated how easy it is to access public records using the Clerk's website, www.CollierClerk.com. The seminar was open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, on March 6, 2012, at 10:00 AM the League of Women Voters of Collier County will present *Searching Public Records* at their "Lively League" meeting at the Naples County Club. Dwight Brock, Clerk of Courts, will present.

The Office of the Clerk of Courts will accept a Proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners on March 13th, declaring March 11 – 17, 2012, Sunshine Week in Collier County.

The [Florida Society of Newspaper Editors](#) (FSNE) launched Sunshine Sunday in 2002 in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create scores of new exemptions to the state's public records law. FSNE estimates that some 300 exemptions to open government laws were defeated in the legislative sessions that followed, in part, because of the increased public and legislative awareness that resulted from their efforts.

Several states followed Florida's lead, and in June 2003, the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) hosted a Freedom of Information (FOI) Summit in Washington where the seeds for Sunshine Week were planted.

With an inaugural grant from Knight Foundation, the ASNE FOI Committee took up the challenge and launched Sunshine Week in March 2005. It continues to be celebrated each year in March, coinciding with [National FOI Day](#) and James Madison's birthday.

Sunshine Week is a national initiative intended to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants utilize print, broadcast and online media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that is intended to make their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and everything in between. The only requirement is that you do something to engage in a discussion about the importance of open government. It could be a large public forum or a classroom discussion, an article, editorial or series of articles about access to important information.

For additional Sunshine Week information, visit
<http://www.collierclerk.com/CommunityOutreach/GovintheSunshine>

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